ABHIVYAKTI FMTC

JANUARY TO MARCH 2021



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हलचल Means Activity

Just as we were beginning to come to terms with the aftermath of the pandemic and planning the next phase of our intervention, the rising number of affected COVID 19 patients filled not only the pages of newspapers but became a part of our daily discussions. It filled our team with concern and trepidation. Some started planning alternatives while others started discussing plans in wake of another lockdown. The future once again became uncertain and hazy. The second wave of COVID 19 was unexpected and it has left us unprepared. What does it say of our approach? What can we do better? If you have interesting idea do share it with us.

We are happy to share a few glimpses of our varied activities through yet another edition of Hulchal. Do go through this edition and hopefully it will provide you with an opportunity to dialogue with us.



Another Phase of Shodhini begins

Abhivyakti's work with young girls in ten villages set the tone for expansion. From January we began exploring another five villages in the Trimbakeshwar Block with the intent of working on the issue of early marriage of girls. The issue was rampant, and we had experienced it when some of our active Shodhini were married at an early age without their consent. After many visits to different villages, we identified five villages and group of young girls who were willing to walk on the path of transformation. A survey form based on selection criteria was designed and we collected information from more than twenty villages. This process helped us identify six villages of Ambai, Waghera, Sapgoan, Shirasgoan, Ghumodi and Chikhalwadi(Pahine).

Workshop with Shodhini

A series of workshops were facilitated with the young girls of these new villages. As the girls were shy and hesitant, an introductory workshop on orientation and communication helped in getting the process started. The second workshop on understanding research was organised at Abhivyakti office in March. Girls from Sapgoan and Pahine attended. The aim was to familiarise the girls on the concept of research, steps involved and why it was needed. The girls also practised conducting interviews. Due to rising Covid cases, next set of workshops were planned in each village separately where girls took the initiative to help us organise it. The second workshop took place in Ambai village where twelve girls attended the workshop on research. The workshop helped to plan the next phase of our workshops. Old Shodhini participated actively.





Livelihoods taking roots in villages

We had written about our new initiative in focusing on livelihoods in ten villages of Trimbakeshwar. It was our first venture into starting a project on livelihoods. We are happy to share that the work on six new enterprises has begun and showing promise. Villagers are cooperating with enthusiasm and curiosity. They are also a bit apprehensive about the success of the business. The initial registration process, identifying space, forming groups and meetings happened smoothly. This helped in setting the milk centre at Kharwal, the Seed Bank at Ganeshgoan, Honeybee centre at Aadgoan and Khadakohal, Pheny making from Mahua flower at Boripada and Hatlondhi, Nagli process centre at Berwal and Baradpada, and Horticulture farming at Bheadpada and Chirapalli villages. Various processes went into making this possible for instance 40 Honeybee collection units were purchased. Similarly, construction of Shed for seed collection, two Grind Mills have been purchased for processing Nagli among other.



Workshops on livelihoods

As we were setting up different social enterprises in villages there was also a need for capacity building of people about various aspects of livelihoods. The workshops were organised at village sites or villagers travelled to different locations to get acquainted with the perspective and skills. Women from Berwal and Baradpada went to Open University at Nashik and learnt the techniques of making naglisatwa. Women from Boripada and Hathlondhi went to 'Gram Vigyan Kendra' in Wardha in March to learn to make Phynl from Neem and Mahua flowers and other aspects of business. Similarly, villagers were given skills training in collecting and managing Honey Unit in the villages of Aadgoan and Khadakohol. Preparing and managing quality seeds was given to women of Ganeshgoan by older women who had such experience. One day workshop was organised on composting and managing the Dairy business in the respective villages of Behadpada, Chirapalli and Kharwal. The response from the villagers to learn new skills and manage business was very high.

Collaboration with Water for People Trust

Our collaboration with 'Water for People Trust' based in Amravati on strengthening their media understanding and skills began in January with planning to host several workshops on puppet-making and video film-making. One Puppet making workshop and four community video workshop were facilitated by our team members from January to March. Most of the participants were women and young girls who were new to the process and had no prior experience of handing any media including mobile phone. For us it meant making changes to our training design and the facilitation methods. We quickly adapted to the new challenge and made the process easy to relate and deal with for the young participants. It is to their credit that the participants were able to create one puppet show and four video films on the issue of water and how it impacts their lives. The shows were then disseminated in the villages.



Production news

4 Feb · 🕙



Abhivyakti Media For Developm… . 🌲



AMD: Shodhini: on marriage.



लग्नाचं वय म्हणजे नक्की काय?



कोण टरवतं ?

ते कसं ठरतं ?

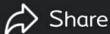


Prajwali Naik and 26 others

7 shares · 900 Views







Shodhini Video on **Early Marriage**

Production unit started work on a short video content related to gender issues following the findings of research conducted by Shodhini on the issue of early marriage. As early marriage was an issue of concern to most of the young girls, we met many Shodhinis and asked them their views on marriage and their dreams. These discussions was the basis of the short film that we produced on marriage and age of consent. The film adds to the dialogue on the government's view to change the age of consent to marriage for girls from 18 to 21. We published this video on our social media: Facebook. Youtube and Instagram which received response from different strata of audience.

Impact of Lockdown 2.0 on Shodhini

There was a growing feeling that another lockdown will be soon upon us. Hence, we decided to bring into focus the impact of lockdown on marginalized women, based on the experiences of Shodhinis and the fear they felt regarding their future. We covered various aspects of impact like education, health, workload, violence, mental health, digital divide etc.

#shodhini #abhivyaktimediafordevelopment ···See More

Girls face psychological stress, they have a headache about which they can't complain about.

We published this video on our Social Media platforms and tried to draw the attention of the audience towards 'when will we listen to the margins and is the impact of lockdown just a matter of economy?'



Public Events

We organised two public events online for our audience. One was the occasion of womens day and other was the organisation of 'Ankur' film festival.



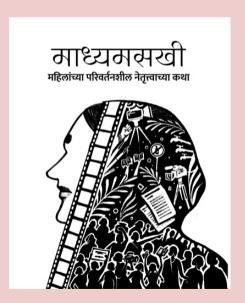


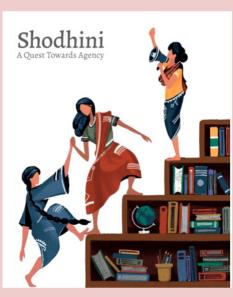


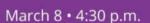


A. The Ankur film festival was a small event since it was online, and we were not sure of its reception. We screened two films on the eve of womens day. One was a made by Ravinol Chambers, U.K based filmmaker on the issue of the girl child titled 'Road to Vrindavan' which covered many sites of struggle including Abhivyakti's work with young girls. Ravinol was invited to present his film and talk about it with the online audience. The second film was 'Jal, Jungle, Jameen' made by grassroots women involved with 'Khabar Lehriya', a part of 'Nirantar' initiative in M.P villages to encourage rural women to become grassroots reporters. Sangita presented the film and talked about her experiences in making of the film on an important issue which affects the lives of rural communities.

B. On womens day on 8th March two of Abhivyakti's publications were launched in an online event which was attended by many of our partners, community members and friends. The first book was 'Madhyam Sakhi' on the work of grassroots women in using media to deepen Panchyati Raj in villages of North Maharashtra. The second book was 'Shodhini - A Quest for Agency' based on the stories narrated by young Shodhini on becoming community researchers and their work in different villages of Nashik. The Books were released by Archana Diwedi, director of 'Nirantar Trust', Delhi. She talked about the importance of empowering young girls and grassroots women and shared her vast insights and struggles of using media in promoting grassroots development work.









Virtual B O O K

Join us as we launch these Books with the Stories of Women and young girl's struggle for Sustainable Change in our surroundings.





Madhyamsakhi

Web Sessions/workshops

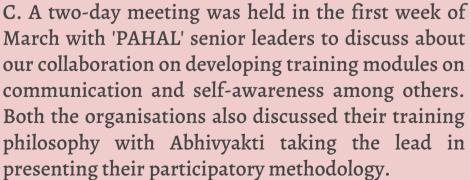


A. We hosted a webinar on 5th March on 'Food and Mental Health' in which Dr Shalaka Shinde spoke on the topic. She elaborated on how Covid had impacted food and mental health, and therefore why it was important to focus on it. She further emphasised on choosing the right diet and keeping ourselves fit was one way we could tackle the Covid crisis. She later answered the questions raised by the audience.



B. Communication Skill workshop was held for 37 grassroots men and women (25 women and 12 men) of SRE project at Hatlondi Taluka, Trimbakeshwar on 22nd March 2021. We focused on the importance of dialogue and communication.



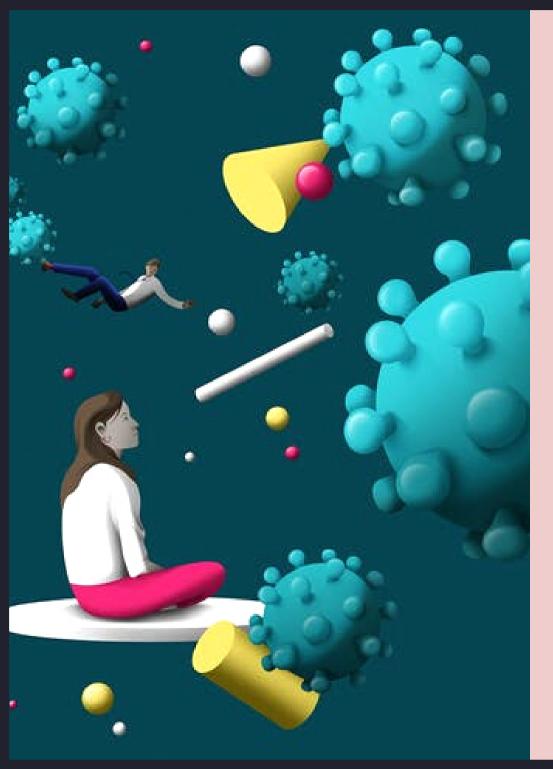




D. We organized a one day training on Entrepreneurship skills for 80 grassroots women from the villages namely Hatlondi, Berval and Khadakohol. Mrs. Archana Deshmukh and Ms. Sonali from YCMOU (Open University), Nashik facilitated the workshop. A proper guidance on how to do business at local level effectively, how to assess market and how to promote the business and other details of business was included in the training.



- A. Prabhakant Jain, senior member of the DS Group, Noida visited Abhivyakti and villages of Berwal, Kharwal and Boripada in the Harsul area on 18 19 January 2021. He also held meeting with Abhivyakti team to discuss about the progress of the project.
- B. Abhivyakti's Board meeting was held online on 14th March to discuss important issues related to Abhivyakti's performance and its future direction.
- C. We also facilitated 2-hrs online session on formal and non-formal Education for students of a diploma course on youth development organised by Lifelong Learning of TISS, Mumbai. Similarly, a few sessions were facilitated for the students of Architecture and Design colleges based in Nashik.
- D. We also held several online meetings with different organisations to discuss collaboration or online workshops. One such was with SNEHA to discuss a possible workshop on research for their youth workers.
- E. We also facilitated a half-day session with the faculty of Design of College of Architecture, Nashik on making the teaching learning process interesting. It was interactive and based on teachers experiences.



Before we say Goodbye

Several of our friends, partners, collaborators, and dedicated development professionals who worked tirelessly on important social issues tragically succumbed to COVID 19. Sunil Pote of Yuva Mitra worked tirelessly on several issues affecting village communities and instituted several livelihood programmes for the rural populace in Sinnar taluka of Nasik. Rajesh Kuruvilla co-founded RSCD and was a pioneer in developing the concept of networking as a tool for empowerment, and lastly, Anita Pagare founder of Sangini Trust, Nashik, widely known for her work on gender equality and involvement in several social movements including 'Samata Parishad' and NAPM. They were enthusiastic, dedicated, and passionate leaders. Their loss is huge for the development sector. We miss them dearly and hope the dreams they nurtured in the hearts of many will be pursued with equal determination and diligence. Their ideals and immense contribution will continue to inspire us.

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