



**ABHIVYAKTI**  
**हल चल**  
OCT TO DEC 2021



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## Hulchal Means Activity



It seems the Covid virus is not going to let us breathe freely. New variants come up, spreading anxiety and host of hurdles. The 3rd wave in the form of the fast-spreading Omicron was upon us, affecting most of us. Once again, major Institutions were closed, travel restrictions and other limitations were imposed which made regular functioning difficult, impacting connections, travel and work. Is this pandemic asking us several difficult questions related to our work-life, consumptive nature, relationships and ties and life in general? Good time to re-think and prioritise whats important, isn't it? Do inform us your thoughts on this important issue which has touched us all. We are bringing another issue of 'Hulchal' to you to read and understand our key activities for this period. Do let us know what you think!



## Shodhini Update

## Data analysis workshop - YAR on Mental health

The workshop on data analysis on mental health was conducted from 24th to 30th November 2021 at Leslie Sawhney Training Centre with 17 participants from the villages of Hirdi, Velunje, Malegaon & Boripada. During the workshop the young girls learnt to segregate and analyse the data. They also learnt basic report writing. Some key findings of the workshop are as follows - loss of livelihood, online education and digital divide, lack of awareness about Covid 19 and superstitions and lack of human connections and communication due to strict lockdown rules.



## **Workshop on Patriarchy, Gender & Sexuality**

About 17 youth participated in a workshop conducted on patriarchy, gender and sexuality from 7th December to 9th December 2021. For the first time, we were facilitating a workshop with both Shodhak and Shodhini on a sensitive topic of gender and sexuality. Through the use of books like 'What is a girl? What is a boy' we established the concept of gender and sex. By screening popular movies like 'Natrang' we discussed basic concepts around sexuality and sexual orientation. Developing a lens of understanding gender and sexuality was necessary to identify, understand and act upon the discrimination based on gender, caste, class and sexuality. In order to initiate discussion on taboo topics, participants were asked to put their questions anonymously in a bowl. The notes were read out loud, discussed and inputs were given. A Marathi web series on sexuality was also screened later followed by short discussion to sum-up the process.



## Workshop on YAR toolkit

The workshop was facilitated by Kajal on 20th & 21st November 2021. The Shodhini and Shodhak along with the new participants since the last five years have undertaken the process of research in different villages across Nashik and training has turned out to be an important aspect of this YAR process. To transform these co-learning into a learning module or toolkit, the inputs of the process were taken from alumni Shodhak and Shodhini, and the following important tools were developed like Patriarchy Square, Comic Book, Puppet, Case Story, Photo Language and Community Mapping.



## Media Skills & Career Guidance

A one-day workshop on career, education and media skills was organised at one of the project villages named Hirdi on 26th December 2021. In the first half, Khadeshwar who has gained field level experience in understanding the challenges faced by rural youth in education and career gave inputs on how participants can avail government schemes for education and jobs. In the second half, Pravin Pagare, a professional filmmaker and photographer conducted a session on techniques of photography and videography using mobile handsets with participants.



## Learning Journey

The learning journey to Mumbai in the second week of December consolidated the learnings of the entire youth constituency building programme. Throughout the 3 days we were able to understand the meaning of emotions. On a few instances the Shodhak and Shodhini observed random people on Mumbai roads and shared that the person was sad, or distressed. We visited the office of Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal, Paani Foundation, and interacted with Prof. Nene and Ganga, who discussed issues of rural employment. Sharing of experiences, lived realities and travelling made us learn from each other. Our journey began on 10th December & ended on 12th December 2021.



## Community map designing

In December, two collective sessions were conducted in Nutan school & Nanamalusare school on community map drawing. A total of 22 participants participated from Shirasgaon, Dhumodi, Sapgaoon, Ambai & Pahine. Four shodhaks from Ambai village also participated in sketching the map. The girls marked important locations like administrative offices, safe, unsafe places in the village, community seating arrangements for men & women or collectively. The girls hesitated initially to draw the maps, but every village group with each other's help & guidance from Manisha drew rough maps which were finalised.





## Workshops



## Facilitated Workshop on Self Identity and Communication Skills

We were invited by Sarva Vikas Deep Sanstha based in Mangoan to facilitate a 2-day workshop on communication skills for their team members. The workshop was held in October and was attended by twenty team members. The workshop was interactive and inputs on self and communication was shared with the participants who found the various exercises, team interaction and inputs relevant and meaningful.



## Hosted Workshop for ASPBAE on Basic Leadership

ASPBAE's flagship workshop on Basic Leadership was hosted by Abhivyakti in Nashik from 25th to 30th October. It was first time ASPBAE was organising this workshop in a blended way which was mix of online workshop for the participants of three countries, namely India, Mangolia and Timor Leste, and off-line skill-based workshops facilitated by local hosts in their respective countries. After the online workshop on leadership and important concepts facilitated by the ASPBAE team, the Abhivyakti team facilitated workshops for ten partners of ASPBAE on communication skills, mental health and photography skills. It was first time a blended workshop was being organised, and due to diligence and preparations the workshop went off smoothly with lots of learnings.



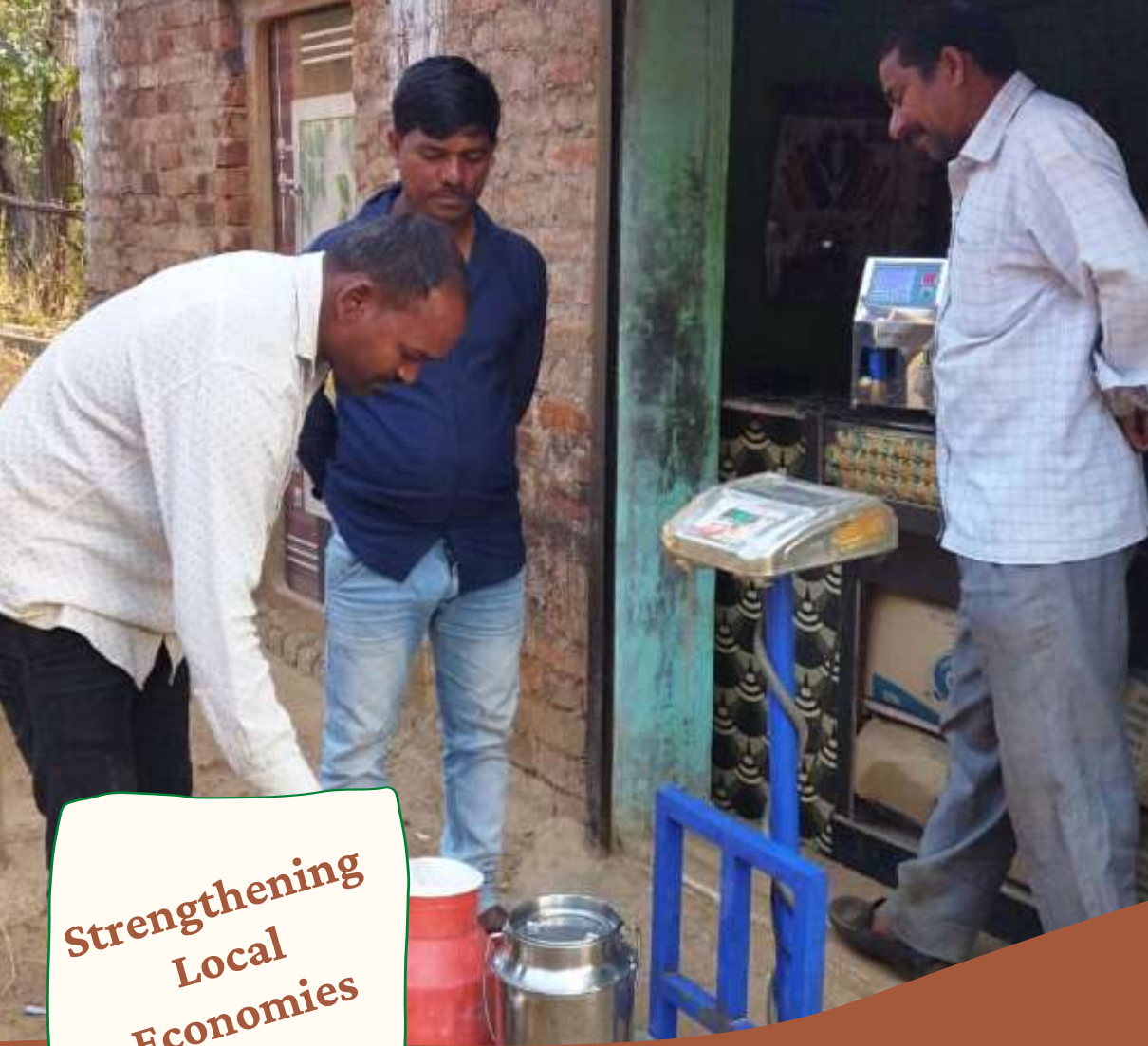
## Workshop on Self Awareness module

Abhivyakti had designed the self-awareness module for PAHAL and was ready to test it with participant-trainers to see its relevance and ease of understanding. The workshop on self-awareness was facilitated in the second week of December in Karjan, Gujarat. There were 18 participants in total with 12 young girls and 8 young men. Various concepts in the module on self-awareness like personal and social identity, power equations, diversity, discrimination among other concepts were facilitated through interesting simulation exercises which led to lot of discussions among the participants. The module was appreciated as it brought to light many aspects of the self and its connection to the larger context.



## Online workshop on Photography and Video

The online workshop was for the participants of Youth4jobs, Hyderabad who work with physically handicapped young people. The organisation equips them with different skills to raise their competencies. Abhivyakti was invited to give inputs on photography and video documentation. About 30 youth participated and learnt skills of visual documentation.



**Strengthening  
Local  
Economies**



**Dairy at Kharwal**

Abhivyakti has been working in the ten villages of Trimbakeshwar taluka to start local small-scale business enterprises to strengthen the economies of these villages. Here is an update on the progress made.

After much struggle, the milk diary was started on the day of Christmas. About hundred litres of milk is being collected from the villagers and its fat content measured. Later, the milk is sold to local dairies in Harsul town. The people are cooperating in running this dairy as lot of factors go into managing it.



## Surface Cleaner

Two villages of Boripada and Hathlondhi have been active in producing Surface Cleaner. However, its marketing is still an issue. One opportunity came in the month of October. Nashik Bazar Haat was being organised in Nashik promote indigenous products. Women from both the villages set up their stall of Surface Cleaner and were able to sell nearly 200 litres. The women faced many visitors and impressed them with their honesty and vulnerability. For the women it was a wonderful learning opportunity and it certainly strengthened their confidence and motivation.



## Capacity Building efforts

Two training were organised in this period. One was on basic accounting and financial management which was facilitated by Abhivyakti's accounts team. Twenty-five women from Boripada, Hathlondhi, Ganeshgoan, Berwal and Gavtha participated enthusiastically in the last week of November. The second workshop was on learning production techniques of Surface Cleaner and other products like Hand wash and Toilet Cleaner. The workshop was facilitated by Atul Kothmire who gave inputs on efficient production values and tips on marketing. 17 women participated from Hathlondhi and Boripada villages who were keen to improve their production.



## Humsafar Trust, Lucknow

Collaboration

Abhivyakti is always keen to collaborate with other partner organisations to upgrade their media and human resources.

We are producing social media for Humsafar Trust on the issue of gender and sexuality. It includes memes, video films and posters. The first lot of Memes was created on gender and shared with the team of Humsafar who appreciated our work and suggested a few changes in the content to make it sharper and more relevant to their context. The collaboration has been important to us in strengthening our perspective on gender and sexuality as well as in developing our creative inputs.





*Consultancy*

Abhivyakti senior member was invited to facilitate the review of an important ASPBAE programme called 'Youth-led Action Research' (YAR) and document important lessons from it from its nine partners located in different Asia and Pacific countries. The dialogue with the senior team members of YAR partners and its directors from seven countries based in India, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Timor Leste, Nepal, Philippines and Indonesia was interesting and insightful. The online interaction was based on different themes that were important for the partners in implementing the YAR project in their country. The highlight was the stories of empowerment that the youth members shared while engaged in the action research process.



a. Abhivyakti took the responsibility of collecting information from marginalised tribal communities based in Surgana, Trimbak and Nashik blocks. The Hunger Watch survey was for Right to Food Campaign, Maharashtra and Human Rights Law Network, Mumbai.



b. Two students, Arpita and Pooja interned in Abhivyakti to learn about media and social issues.



c. Abhivyakti organised its media stall at the 94th Sahitya Sammelan held in Nashik where it managed to distribute its books to various people who visited its stall. The interaction was helpful in sharing the work of Abhivyakti. Similarly, another stall was held at the Vidrohi Sahitya Sammelan in the first week of December.



d. Abhivyakti is also collaborating with Satori Film Club, Nashik in screening films and documentaries every fortnight on important social issues related to gender discrimination, violence, caste, oppression, etc to create awareness and discussion among the audience to come to watch it.

e. Shodhini Vidya Maule participated in the Global Campaign for Education event and shared her experiences of intergenerational learning and its benefits, which was appreciated by the audience.

f. We have been in several online discussion with Felix Bivens and Illana from the Regenerative School, USA about including a few Shodhini as community guides to share their experiences of action research and community work with the participants of a proposed online course on participatory action research on Peace Building.

We continue with the new feature in which we bring to you a brief introduction of Abhivyakti team members who are involved in our various activities.

This time we feature Ranjeet Gadgil. Ranjit is a computer engineer and sound recordist by formal training but there is more to him than these professional labels. He has a quiet demeanour, almost distant but don't be fooled by this as behind this mask lurks a sensitive soul. Some of the actions in his personal life bear ample testimony to his thoughtful values. Perhaps that's the reason he decided to commit his career to the development profession and not to the film studios of Mumbai. He has been with Abhivyakti for more than fifteen years, combining his passion for films with development initiatives like community video. His critical reflections, observant mind and readiness to learn from his various experiences had made him a valuable asset, contributing to charting the growth of Abhivyakti especially in the troubled times of the pandemic. He has been thrust into the leadership role along with Bhikan, which he has nonchalantly taken into his stride and is busy in giving strategic direction to the programme and to the organisation.

HULCHAL  
FACE





*Before  
we say  
Goodbye*

One of the impacts of COVID pandemic has been in the surge in child and early marriages of young girls throughout the country. Early marriage means both the groom and the bride could be above their legal age of marriage but are forced to get married without their consent. The families and the community are largely responsible for this as they are bound by societal traditions and patriarchal control and structures. The young couple forced into marriage is hardly ever consulted and the decisions are made by the elders in the family following the norms of endogamy, and taking care not to challenge the existing societal customs and order. Due to the practice of endogamy, marriages are fixed within a specific social group, caste and religious denominations. It is estimated that in India more than 40,000 such caste groups exist. Marriages outside such social groups or kinships are not encouraged or culturally sanctioned. Due to this practice of endogamy within social groups, arranged marriages flourish which also perpetuate social hierarchy of maintaining caste and religion intact. The need to challenge such endogamous practices would be a welcome change and give the young people the freedom to choose their partners as per their liking and choice.

What are the ways in which this can move forward? What do you think?

Please write to - [admin@abhivyakti.org.in](mailto:admin@abhivyakti.org.in) and visit our website [www.abhivyakti.org.in](http://www.abhivyakti.org.in)

