

ABHIVYAKTI

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JULY TO SETP 2022



www.abhivyakti.org.in



admin@abhivyakti.org.in



[abhivyakti.nasik](https://www.facebook.com/abhivyakti.nasik)



[Abhivyaktimedia1987](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



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MEANS ACTIVITY

Abhivyakti has two kinds of activities. One that is project oriented wherein the teams are engaged in fulfilling the project objectives. The other focus is on our own initiated activities which are designing need-based training workshops and producing audio-visual material for grassroots organisations and NGO functionaries. Given the wide range of demands made on our team, it is a challenge as well as exciting to fulfil the diverse demands. It keeps us on our toes and makes the process stimulating. Another issue of Hulchal is ready. Do read and inform us about what you think? We really like to read your comments and views.



SHODHINI UPDATE

► Opening of Community Learning Centers

Community Learning Centres is our strategy to make resources like books, audio-visual material, and information accessible to young girls and women in the rural areas. In this regard, we were able to open two Learning Centres in the villages of Pahine and Sapgaon. In Pahine village, it was organised coinciding with Independence Day Gram Sabha. The young boys of the village were invited so that they could understand the concept and support the girls in managing the learning centre. The Sarpanch and Council members, Police Patil were invited to the opening which was inaugurated by the Self Help Group Chairperson Jyotsna tai who is very active in the village. The girls presented a skit on the theme of early marriage and its impact on the young girls lives. The villagers who were present appreciated the efforts.

Similarly, the Community Learning Centre was also opened in the village of Sapgoan in the month of September. Hema tai Patwardhan of 'Mahila Haque Sarkshan Samiti', Nashik inaugurated the learning centre. The local Council Sarpanch, Gram Sevika and other members were present for the opening. The School-going girls of the village organised a Prabhat Feri (morning walk) in the village with posters and banners on the issue of early marriage of girls and why it needed to be stopped. Many school teachers were also present and supported the girls efforts in creating awareness about early marriage of young girls.



► Parent Workshop on gender sensitization

In our work with young girls we also involve the parents so that they understand the significance of empowering the young girls. In the first week of September a one-day workshop on gender was organised for the parents of Pahine, Sapgoan, Shirasgoan, Ambai and Dhumodi who participated by raising many questions related to our work and also expressed their fears regarding girls sexuality.

► Workshop on Street Play

In the third week of September, a one-day workshop was organised in Abhivyakti office. About twenty girls from villages of Pahine, Ambai, Sapgoan and Shirasgoan participated and learnt the skills of street play. They chose the theme of Early Marriage of girls and were able to dialogue amongst themselves on the theme and their own experiences. Some of the experiences were then woven into a street play which was rehearsed. It was decided that the Street play would be performed on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl on 11th October in Nashik.





► Facilitating a Workshop on Action Research

Shikshantar Sanstha invited a few Shodhini to participate in a Learning Exchange held in Udaipur in the last week of July. Shikshantar was also working with urban girls from marginalised communities and wanted Shodhini to share their experiences of Action Research with the urban girls. Girls from the organisation 'Adimanav', Raigad also participated. Three Shodhini- Chhaya, Pallavi and Pranita were joined by Abhivyakti team members Manisha and Shubhangi in facilitating a few learning session on action research. It was challenging for the Shodhini team to share their knowledge and perspective with urban girls as their context was different but the team managed to create an enabling environment for all to participate and learn from each other.

WORKSHOPS

We give below the details of the workshops which were organised during this period.

► Workshop on Identity

A one-day workshop on identity and its relation with our Constitution was organised for the students of Government ITI College, Dindori. 25 students participated in a very enriching session on the self.



► Orientation workshop on Self Awareness

Two day-long workshops were organised for the students and faculty of Psychology, KTHM College, and College of Social Work, Morane, Dhule. Various aspects of the self and communications were facilitated by our training team.

The training team also participated in various meetings organised by other organisations and Institutions on capacity building process.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL ECONOMIES

Our work in Trimbakeshwar taluka to manage local small-scale business enterprises to strengthen the economies of these villages is moving forward. Here is an update on the progress made.

- ▶ Domnic and Nafisa, team from Laya, Visakhapatnam visited the Kesar mango orchard farm at Behadpada and guided them on what care should be taken while managing orchards. Farmers happily shared their resolve to protect the trees and reasons for not migrating. They also expressed a need for regular water supply.



- ▶ At present, due to heavy rainfall in Harsul belt, Nagli processing unit has slowed their operations. In order to sustain the confidence of women in the business, Anand Shinde, a food processing entrepreneur from Dindori, visited the Nagali processing unit in Berwal and interacted with the women entrepreneurs and brainstormed about what can be done next to increase their production.
- ▶ A one-day meeting was held with the officials of Trimbakeshwar Taluka Krishi Department in order to maintain the confidence of women entrepreneurs in the business and to inform them about government schemes. In this meeting information was given about PMFME- 'Prime Minister's Micro Food Processing Scheme'. The officials promised to support the women of two villages so that they could buy a large capacity 'Papad' machine.



► Student of Social Work College of North Maharashtra University, Jalgoan helped us to market the various products by the villagers. They assisted in setting up stalls in Harsul, Thanapada and Trimbakeshwar, went door to door to sell the products and also visited government offices and discussed with government officials, medical officers about the various products. They also were given a survey form to collect information from women and discussed with them about how to make businesses more viable and prosperous.



ENABLING LEARNING IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

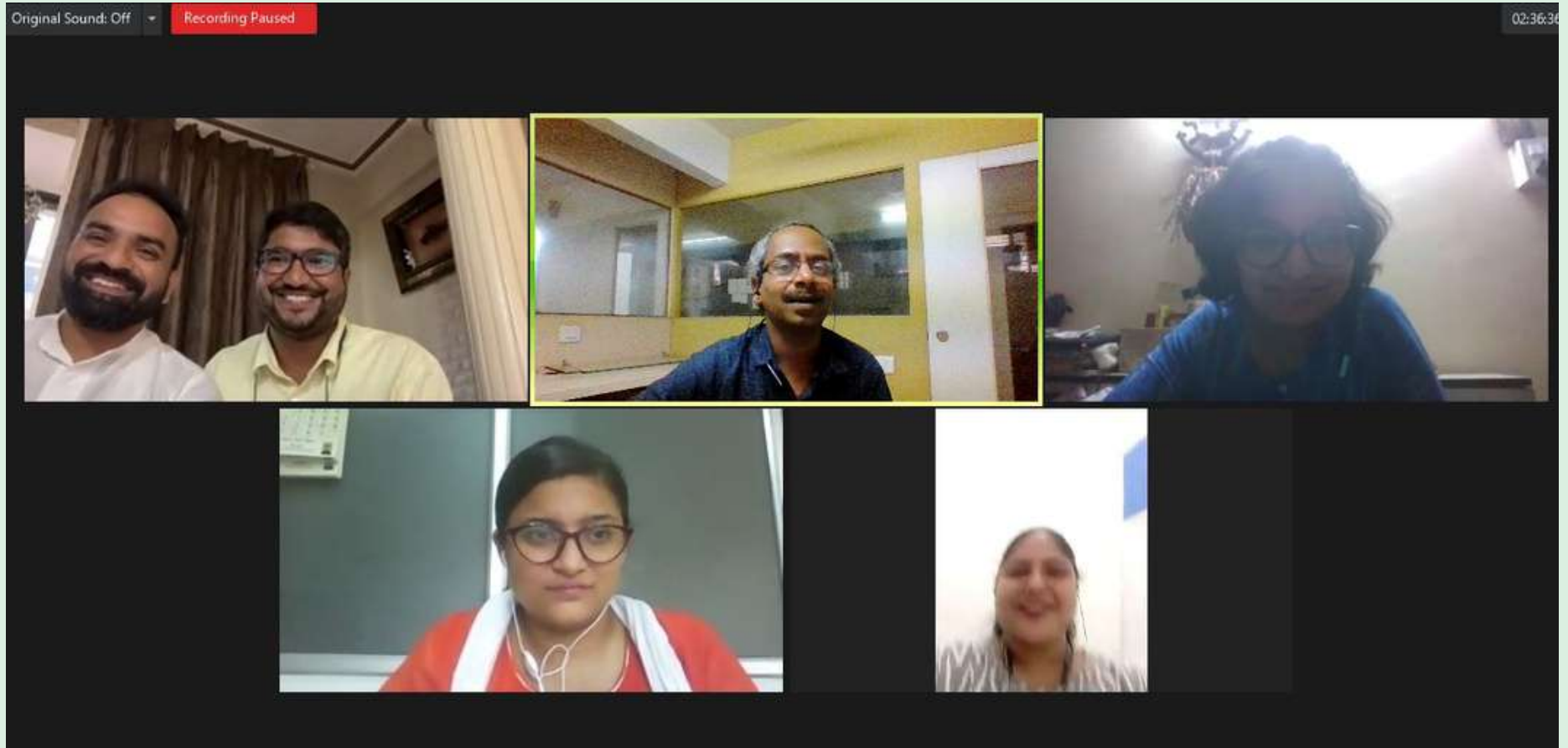
The project supported by Mahindra and Mahindra, Nashik is based in the ITI, Dindori near Nashik and aims to enable the students to learn technical skills as well as life-skills. The paint shop course commenced with a batch of eight students from the carpenter trade and second batch of ten students from the metal sheet trade. Along with technical aspects, inputs on self and communication skills were given to the students by Abhivyakti team. The inputs would help students to gain confidence and overcome their fear about their rural and tribal background and be prepared to gain employment.



COLLABORATIONS

► Designing Modules for Pahal

The work on designing training module for Pahal is in process. The work on communication module has begun. A few meetings were also held to discuss about the past module on awareness and how it was being practised by their trainers. Based on their feedback and suggestions the module on awareness would be finalised.



▶ Youth for Change

Abhivyakti and Akshara, Mumbai are collaborating on creating awareness in six Colleges of Nashik on gender equality. The collaboration started in August with an online session on orienting the students about the Youth for Change. This was followed by a meeting in Akshara office in September in Mumbai to understand the workshop module on gender and citizenship. The meeting was also attended by YCP from Pune. Akshara team explained the module and discussed the approach of making the workshop participatory and interesting. The meeting enabled the partners to get clarity about the Youth for Change project.

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Youth for Change Program - 2022-23

2 Interactive workshops
online or offline as required

Social campaigns
online or offline as required

2 Social Action Project
online or offline as required

vivo 1938		Manjit
NSS Sophia Ars...		Sanchita mene
Iqra	SIES NSS ADITI...	Shezad Sayyed
Qunut Ansari	Ameesha	Al-Mamoon Sar...
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LEARNING HUB

The purpose of creating Learning Hub is to provide students from various institutions to intern at Abhivyakti. During this period the following interns participated –

- ▶ Cynthia from Azim Premji University, Bangalore completed her 40 days learning process at Abhivyakti. She created a photo film on the workshop on leadership for Shodhini and also documented the impact of our community video in promoting development work in villages.
- ▶ Four students from North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon took active participation in Abhivyakti's programs like the CLC opening in the villages, promoting and marketing the various products of the livelihood project.



HAPPENINGS

- Avinash participated in a meeting on Village Development Module organised by Yashavantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik.
- Mayuri from Shodhini team and a few Shodhini participated in the two-day Summit - 'Leaders for Change' organised by Shadika in Kolkata in July and shared about their activities with others young girls who were participating from different regions.
- Sandip Medhe attended the meeting organised by ASPBAE on 'Advocacy for Adult Learning and Education (ALE)' in Bangkok in July 2022.
- Nitin attended a 2-day Leaders Retreat organised by VSP in Pune in August and shared about his experiences of being a leader and the challenges he faced.
- Mayuri and Mahesh attended a 3-day meeting in Thailand organised by ASPBAE in August on Education Financing and were able to present Abhivyakti's work with other participants.
- Senior Abhivyakti team attended a meeting organised by AKSHARA in Mumbai to discuss about the collaboration on creating gender awareness in Colleges of Nashik.
- Abhivyakti team also attended a one-day seminar on Financial management and Investment for NGOs organised by Mahavan network in Pune in August.
- Abhivyakti's Media Resource Centre organised a stall in the exhibition for products made by different SHG in Nashik in September. We displayed our various publications which was appreciated by many visitors.
- Nitin was invited to guide the gender audit process in HPT College of Nashik in the last week of September



HULCHAL FACE



JITESH PAGARE

We are happy to continue with the new feature of introducing a member of Abhivyakti team to Hulchal readers. This time it will be a dynamic young leader from our production team.

Many grassroots organisations who have partnered with us on production of audio-visual material know Jitesh urf Jitu well. He has been the face of our video documentation for many years. Jitu joined Abhivyakti as a rookie to support his mother who was the sole earner of his family. At a very young age he took his role – both personally and professionally – with seriousness. He was a fast learner, and was keen to join the production unit to channelize his unbound creative energies. He took to camera like a fish to water, and was rolling with the team to uncharted areas to document on video important events – peoples struggles – which were discounted by the popular TV channels. Soon enough he was in midst of many creative videos. He had learnt the skills of videography from his own experiences and efforts. Side by side, his photography had improved by leaps and his images from the grassroots looked real and eternal. It seemed he had found his ‘calling’! He is always ready to take responsibilities, likes to experiment and his infectious enthusiasm enables him to makes friends easily. His unwavering commitment towards marginalised communities is spot on and perhaps the reason behind our first community video on rag-picker women of Nashik which inspired Maya tai to become a film-maker in her own right. Years have rolled on, Jitu now is a proud father of endearing twins, has many beautiful videos to his credit but his youthful charm is always driving him to new adventures. March on Jitu with camera in hand, and let beautiful images and films keep flowing, bringing hope and buoyancy to the countless overlooked and ignored communities!



Before we say
Goodbye

Abhivyakti's development communication philosophy is one of its kind and relevant in the fast expanding social media presence. The main strategy has been to make development professionals and organisations aware of the immense potential of the media and communication has in deepening development goals. We believe that while media is like an aid, a tool for the development professional to use, its real power lies in fostering authentic conversations with the communities we work. Media is a potent tool in the hands of the development professional and much depends on how it is used to nurture change that we desire. It needs to be remembered that the media is the starting point and not the end. It enables genuine communication and is a powerful process to break the culture of silence that pervades in many marginalised communities. Many voices need to be heard. The domination of a singular voice needs to be challenged. Communication is the main key in our work and in its heart lies true nature of educational process which is to encourage sharing of experiences, fostering relationships and creation of knowledge. We collaborate with organisations to create such spaces where there is free flow of communication which challenges exclusion, standardisation and which allows inner subjective experiences to surface and to strengthen the process of community action and grassroots solidarity!

What do you think? Can we develop such models of interventions?

Please write to – admin@abhivyakti.org.in about your ideas and insights, and do visit our website www.abhivyakti.org.in