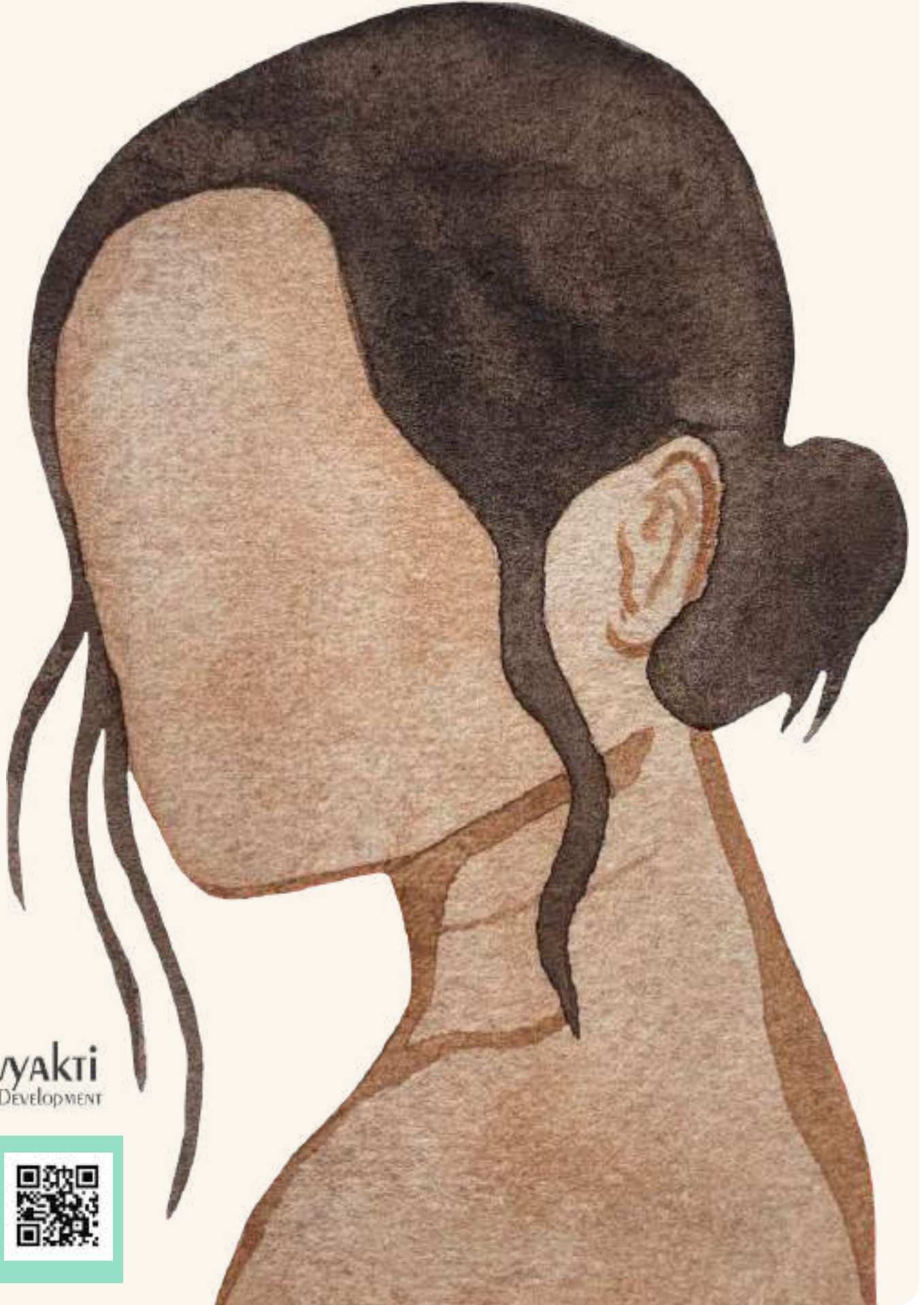


# ABHIVYAKTI हलचल

JANUARY TO MARCH 2023



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# हलचल

## MEANS ACTIVITY



The last quarter of this year was busy and strange. While projects kept us occupied which is normal, what was unusual was the unseasonal rains which arrived unexpectedly and in the process causing lot of damage to the farmers, villagers and life in general. It affected our schedules of field visits as travel to remote tribal areas becomes difficult and risky. We also took time off to discuss our future course of action. The discussions were lively and animated and we were able to sift through the maze of themes, comfort zone activities and issues to focus on realistic plan of action for the next three years.

We are ready with yet another issue of Hulchal. Do read and inform us about what you think? We really like to read your comments and views.



# Shodhini Update



## RESEARCH ON DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

Our next research was on the important topic of discrimination faced by the marginalized students while pursuing their education. To understand the theme better, we organised a 4-day workshop with 12 community researchers based in five villages of Trimbakeshwar in the last week of January. Using Tree as a metaphor the workshop enabled the participants to identify and discuss their experiences of discrimination in educational institution. The experiences were related to their background of class, caste, religion, language spoken, gender among other. The lively discussion also identified patriarchy as one of the main reasons, the root cause of the discrimination. The next phase of the research process was also planned with the youth taking active interest in the research.





## **DATA COLLECTION FOR THE RESEARCH ON DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION**

Taking forward the research on the issue of discrimination in education faced by the students in Nashik, it was decided to include sample of marginalised students from both rural and urban areas. The data collection was initiated in the last week of February. The Community researchers were prepared to collect data through an interview with different students. The Community researchers who were mostly from the tribal region had a very meaningful experience. The community researchers felt anxious taking to the urban students but the dialogue was intense and it gave the community researchers glimpse into the world of youth from the marginalised communities and how they experienced discrimination.





## **DATA ANALYSIS WORKSHOP FOR DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION PROJECT**

The last part of the research was analysing the data which the community researchers were able to complete in the month of February. A workshop was organised where the researchers came together and looked at the data from various angle to understand discrimination and its impact. The difference in the data as experienced by the tribal and urban students also came to the fore. The data showed that the tribal students faced more discrimination related to caste and gender especially from the teachers and peers. The data enabled the researchers to discuss openly about the theme and understand its impact on overall growth. The researchers also discussed ways to mitigate the discrimination.





## REGIONAL YOUTH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP HELD AT BANGKOK



Ranjana attended the Regional Youth Capacity Building workshop from 21st to 23rd March 2023 in Bangkok organised by ASPBAE. The participants were partner organisations from five countries of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Philippines, Mongolia and Timor-Leste. The agenda of the workshop was to discuss Advocacy Strategies and Mental health issues in their respective countries especially post COVID-19 pandemic. The impact is felt by many individuals especially youth and teenagers in terms of increased levels of stress, anxiety, depression and loneliness due to the pandemic's disruption of daily life and social interactions. It was Ranjana's first experience of attending a global event and she also attended the Peoples Forum which was a preparatory meeting for the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD). It was a great learning experience as well as exposure to understand the process of development at global level.



# Workshops



## WORKSHOP ON VIDEO FILM-MAKING

A five days' workshop on 'Film Making' was organised from 1 to 5 Feb 2023 at Nashik. There were 15 participants from thirteen social and educational institutions of which ten were men and five women. Savin Tuscano, Ad-film director, and Prashant Naik, Film Editor, and Abhivyakti facilitators conducted the workshop in a participatory way. The participants got hands-on experience about various elements of video film-making including scripting, shooting, sound and editing through the process of making video films in groups. The process was intense with lot of discussions, viewing documentaries, short films and listening to the experiences of the expert facilitators. The making of the films was also an eye opener for many as it enabled them to learn from their own experiences.

## WORKSHOPS ON GENDER EQUALITY



We facilitated a workshop on Gender Equality with students from six colleges from Nashik City. There were more than 150 college students who participated in the workshop. Students learnt the various dimension of gender which enabled them to discuss their own experiences. Students also created Posters based on their ideas and experiences on gender.



## WORKSHOP ON LEADERSHIP



On the occasion of International Womens Day, 'Salaam Bombay Trust' who are working in Dindori Taluka on promoting Tobacco-free habits amongst the youth, invited us to facilitate a one-day training on developing leadership amongst the youth at Lakhmapur. We facilitated the training through participatory dialogue and simulating exercises and spoke of the need for the youth to participate in the local Panchayats.



## ONE DAY ORIENTATIONS

1. Post-graduate students (65) studying Social Work in Ahmednagar visited Abhivyakti in March to learn about our work in media and development. We discussed various issues related to development communications and also showed video films to create awareness about the importance of media and communications in the development process. Students were inspired and got motivated to learn more about media and communication and its critical role in development.
2. Abhivyakti team shared about our work with young rural girls and boys with the youth from Pune who were participants of CYDA Organisation based in Pune and who are working on youth empowerment.



## EXPLORATION PROCESS

Abhivyakti began the process of discussing with the faculty of KVN Naik College of Arts and Science, Nashik about conducting sessions on critical understanding of media and video production skills for the students enrolled in their Vocational course. The course will be conducted in the next semester.



# Strengthening Local Economies

Here is an update on the progress made on the various Livelihoods initiated in the ten villages of Trimbakeshwar taluka.

▶ Women and cooking is very closely related especially in rural areas, and mostly it is done on traditional stoves. Known for emitting large amounts of smoke the traditional stove also causes lot of harm to the woman's eyes and respiratory system. To find a sustainable solution, a workshop on making modern smokeless hearths was conducted in January 2023 at Hiradi village. Thirteen women from Hiradi participated in this workshop and learnt to make improved stoves. INEC activist Ravindra Deshmukh and 'Yashada', Pune mentor Pandharinathji were present in this training. After this training, all the women have decided to make the entire village smoke free by installing improved stoves in their houses.





► Unseasonal rains are currently lashing Nashik. Farmers and small businessmen are not happy. It is affecting their livelihood processes. However, in the last two months, the women from Berwal made nearly two thousand 'Papads' and sold them in Nashik and local markets. The women were able to make a profit of Rs. 25000/-. It is believed that if there is no unseasonal rain, these women will earn more than one lakh by making good quality Papads.



► Women of Hatlondhi are trying to speed up the business by purchasing 500 bottles of hand wash and dish wash at their own expense so that rural women can get daily employment at the local level. At present, they have prepared 20 liters of hand wash and 30 liters of dish wash and are selling it by setting up a stall in the local market every day.





Currently, the prices of chemical fertilizers have increased significantly and farmers in rural areas have no choice but to use organic fertilizers. Local farmers have agreed to apply organic fertilizers to their mango trees, believing that the produce will be sustainable and organic, thus fetching a good price for their produce. At present, 400 kg of organic fertilizer has been prepared by the farmers and they are going to use it for paddy crops in the month of June. It is estimated that they can save a lot from the use of such organic fertilizer.





# Media Production

## EVENT DOCUMENTATION

1. Unnati Sanstha, Thane approached us for video documentation support for their program Multilingual Education in School – Discourse, Dialogue, and Conversation, a two-day residential conclave on 20th and 21st January 23 at Sevagram, Wardha. We participated and documented the entire event on video. We intend to produce small video clips and event videos soon.



2. We also documented the workshop on Improved Cook Stove held in Hirdi village in January. We aim to produce a video on the construction and installation of the bio-mass based cooked stove.





## ▶ VIDEO AND COMIC PRODUCTION

Aagam organisation, Mumbai approached us for making five 2D animation videos and comic strips in Marathi and Hindi translations on the issue of Citizenship. We have completed four scripts and now work on creating 2D animation work is in process.

मी १८ वर्षांचा आहे, मी एक प्रौढ आहे!



मी भारताचा नागरिक।





# Youth for Change

Abhivyakti and Akshara, Mumbai are collaborating on creating awareness in six Colleges of Nashik on gender equality and Citizenship. During this period the following activities took shape -

## ► GENDER WORKSHOP

We have already mentioned that we facilitated workshops in six colleges of Nashik on gender equality entitled 'Are we really equal'. Different aspects of gender were discussed with the participating students who gained clarity and understanding on the subject.

On the occasion of 8th March, a dialogue was organised with the students of KTHM college on the issue of gender equality and how it manifests amongst college-going youth. The dialogue was intense and the presence of college teachers from Sociology and History department added value to the interaction. The presence of teachers in the discussion didn't deter the students to keep quiet; they participated eagerly and shared their experiences of discrimination.

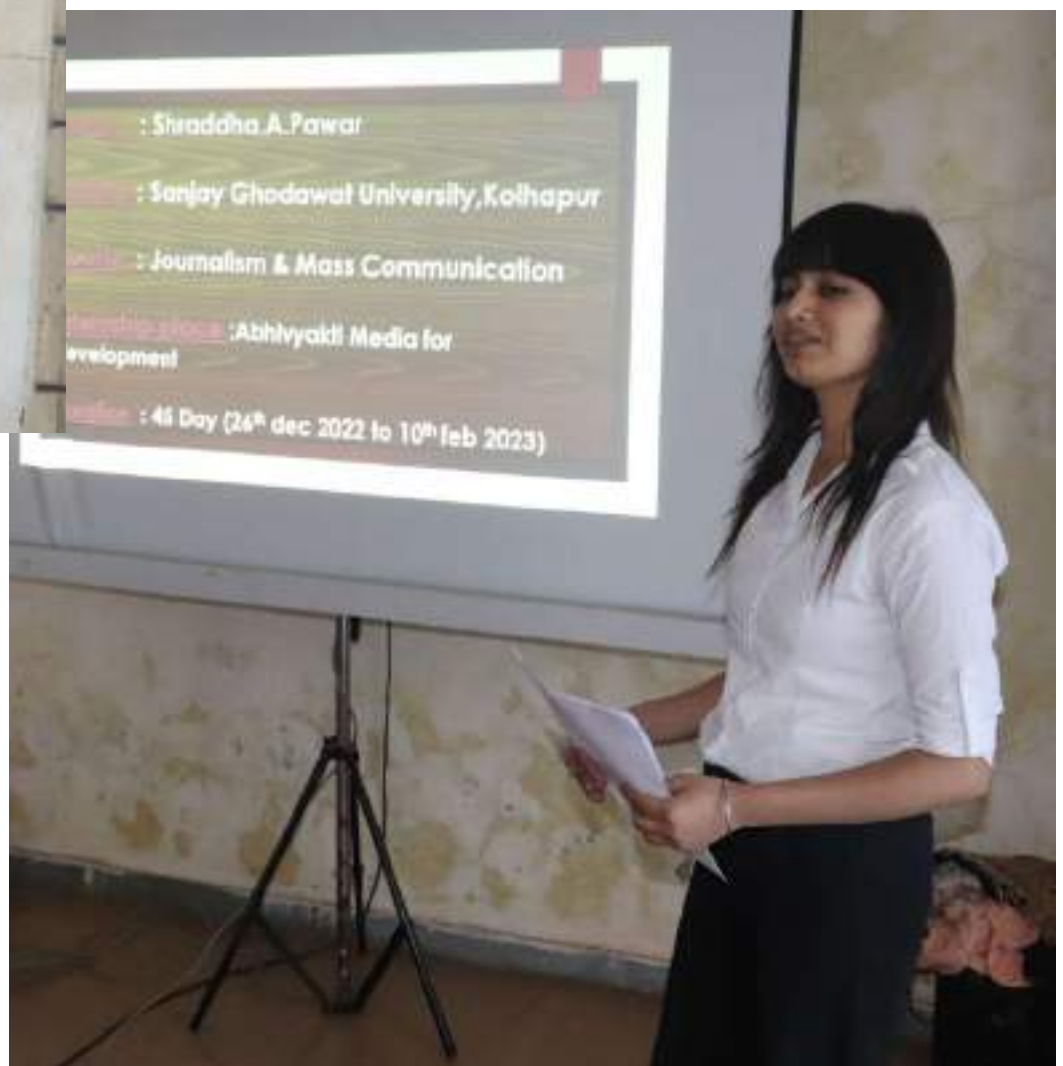




# Learning Hub

The purpose of creating a Learning Hub is to provide students who intern at Abhivyakti an opportunity to learn, discuss and exchange ideas and perspectives on different aspects of development. During this period the following interns participated –

- ▶ Two students from the College of Social Work, Nashik have started their internship at Abhivyakti.
- ▶ Two girls from 'Sanjay Ghodawat University' completed a forty-five days' internship at Abhivyakti. The interns actively contributed to the ongoing program and projects of Abhivyakti and created posters, wrote reports and case stories or films on Shodhini.





# Media Resource Centre

Abhivyakti's Media Resource Centre has many audio-visual resources which we try to give visibility by organising stalls, setting up small libraries and facilitating community media workshops. Some of the activities during this period were –

## ► **BOOK STALL OF ABHIVYAKTI'S PUBLICATIONS**

Abhivyakti participated in the 'Maharashtra Mahila Haque Parishad' held in Tulzapur in the first week of February by putting up a stall of its Publication. The stall was visited by the participants and a meaningful dialogue took place about Abhivyakti's publication and in documenting local knowledge. Another stall was put up at the 5th 'Mukta Salve Sahitya Sammelan' at Nashik.





## **VISIT TO VILLAGE LIBRARIES**

Abhivyakti had started village libraries in the villages where it worked. To assess its functioning visit to Ganeshgaon, Hirdi, Velunje, Rohile, Brahmanwade, Pahine, Sapgoan, Dhumodi, Ambai and Shirasgoan during the month of January and February. We also spoke with the village youth team who were responsible for managing the libraries. The dialogue helped us to understand the local reality regarding the need and its importance for villagers. We also wanted to know whether we could transform a few libraries into Community Learning Centres as an important local Institution that catered to different information and learning needs of the villagers.





# Happenings

▶ Bhikan and Shubhangi participated in a workshop on Budget analysis at Jaipur in the last week of March organised by AJWS. The workshop provided inputs on State and Panchayat budgets and ways to understand it.



▶ Shodhini, Rohini Khotare and Pranita Mondhe participated and presented their experiences of COVID pandemic lockdown and also the findings of action research on 'early marriage' in their villages at the 'Maharashtra Mahila Haque Parishad' in February at Tulzapur. Their presentation was appreciated by all the participants.



▶ Two half-day sessions were facilitated by Nitin Paranjape on 'Rationale Emotive Behaviour' for school teachers of Rachna Vidyalaya and for senior citizens of Nashik.

▶ Nitin was engaged in facilitating sessions on Environment Perception for Design students of College of Architecture and Design, and MET College of Design, Nashik through the months of January to March. He also facilitated study visit to rural areas for the design students to learn first-hand about the impact of environment on the rural communities.

▶ In the first week of January, Nitin facilitated a two hours online session on Formal and non-formal education for the students of Youth and Leadership course, TISS, Mumbai



## Hulchal Face ■

We are happy to continue with the feature of introducing a member of the Abhivyakti team to Hulchal readers. This time we present Avinash Neve, a senior member of our team. He was clear when he joined our team that he was interested in only facilitating training workshops. From then on he has been our face in the various training programmes we have organised. He has conducted a range of training activities and in the process imbibed Abhivyakti's values and philosophy of capacity-building strategy. He didn't come from a media and communication background but it is to his credit that he adapted and learned well. He brings to the team a rare mixture of child-like enthusiasm and readiness, and an adult sense of responsibility and task accomplishment. It is a rare sight when he is in the midst of a simulation exercise he is conducting. The child in him is on display in full form.



His unwavering zest and clarity about his commitment to the co-learning process is a big boon to us. His readiness to prepare himself and take any task related to a capacity-building program is unmatched and makes decision-making that much easier. He is easy-going, friendly, and open to learning. His pleasant disposition and informal style of functioning are other distinct features of his personality. He is a great team member, colleague, and responsible leader. His sensitive nature makes him a valuable person to have in the organisation!

■ Avinash Neve



## BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE



Co-learning is one of our core values. We have been practicing it for many years now, especially when we facilitate a workshop or a session. What it means is that we value the learning process of a learner and do not want to impose anything. Co-learning departs from the historical and traditional belief that learning needs to be imparted to the learner by the expert. That is how schools and colleges are run. There is a pre-determined syllabus and imparting it is the most important part of the education process. The learner's need, interest, and ways of knowing is not considered in this process. Our belief is contrary to this philosophy. Co-learning is about valuing the learning needs and interest of the learner. It is about creating an environment where emphasis is on collective learning process which enables the learner to collaborate and learn from each other as well. It is moving away from the practice that there is only one person (facilitator/teacher) who has all the answers towards a culture where the learner is valued for their contribution and experience. Ultimately, co-learning is about empowering the learner and dismantling the unequal power relationship that exists between the facilitator and the learner. Facilitator is the guide/mentor who create an enabling and trusting environment that leads to knowledge, understanding, and critical thinking.

What do you think? Is it possible to practice such a learning culture?  
Please write to - [admin@abhivyakti.org.in](mailto:admin@abhivyakti.org.in) about your ideas  
and insights, and do visit our website - [www.abhivyakti.org.in](http://www.abhivyakti.org.in)