

## AROEHAN ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

AROEHAN is today poised at the threshold of its 10-year birthday. From a small initiative which began with one professional social worker and one local, para-professional worker, the field action project today has 45 staff members working in the tribal talukas of Mokhada and Jawhar in 15 and 9 Gram panchayats of these talukas respectively, The staff, led by Ms Shraddha Shringarpure – an alumna of the College, comprises of trained social workers, graduates from rural development, agriculture, and other social sciences; the average age of the staff members is 30 years and except two, all are local youth from the very tribes with which AROEHAN works.

AROEHAN continues to work on the issues of Health, Education, Livelihood and Governance and has developed an integrated model of intervention to bring socio-economic stability in the lives of the tribal communities in the area. The donor list of the organisation has steadily grown in the last few years to include Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Siemens India Limited, Edelgive Foundation, Concernindia Foundation, Tata Motors Limited, All Cargo Logistics, Gold Crest Limited, and a host of other private trusts and individuals. For technical support and as knowledge partners, Natural Solutions, IIT Mumbai and BAIF have been collaborating on several projects with AROEHAN.

This year, as in all years that have gone by, AROEHAN has achieved several firsts:

- It has installed an Ultra Sonography (USG) machine at the Cottage Hospital at Jawhar. This is the first machine of the kind in a Government hospital in the district; this will give free service to all those who are in the BPL category and will bring much-needed relief to pregnant women in the area who had to travel a minimum of 60 kms to Nasik to get a sonography done. AROEHAN staff have this year helped 235 women to get their sonographies done at Nasik.
- It has planted more than 50,000 trees in various GPs during the year; the trees will be cared for by more than 651 persons who will be the direct recipients of the benefits apart from the enhanced forest cover that will benefit the community at large
- It has established School Management Committees in all ashram schools to monitor governance in these schools
- Installation of a water filter in a school has shown how water-borne diseases can be drastically reduced; AROEHAN is working closely with the ITDP department to scale up this intervention to all schools

## Health

In an area where low birthweight babies are a norm rather than an exception and where child deaths due to malnourishment are a regular, disturbing feature of daily life, AROEHAN has concerned itself with improving health services and health access for these communities, in the past decade. The highlights of our health intervention are as follows:

- Approximately 1000 children were covered by the Special Feed Programme this year; the SF which comprises of milk powder, groundnuts, jaggery, oil, and micro-nutrients, is a formula prepared by the State Rajmata Jijau Mission and has succeeded in moving the children from the Severely Underweight (SUW) category to the Moderately Underweight (MUW).
- Frequent meetings of mother-support groups in various anganwadis and the celebration of 6-monthly birthdays have brought home the need for introducing babies to solid foods at 6 months of age and raised the awareness levels among women who look forward to these birthday celebrations eagerly.
- The idea of Kitchen gardens, soak pits, toilets has been introduced in hamlets as a part of the health intervention. The drastic change has been seen in the behaviour of the people.

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### Health report 2015-16

	Jawhar	Mokhada
Health Check-up Camp	15	24
Gram Sabha	15	7
Mahila Gram Sabha	6	8
Health day	30	24
Clean village campaign	15	18
Meeting for adolescent girls	15	9
Pregnant women	235	223
Lactating women	198	156
Mata baithak	98	84

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6	monthly	birthday	45	36
celebrations				
Children from SUW to MUW			46	34
Children from MUW to Normal			44	96
Total no. of children with increased weight			277	244

## Education

School Management Committees and School Committees have strengthened in the Zilla Parishad and ashram schools respectively. The training sessions and meetings organised by AROEHAN helped the Committees to get clarity about the structure and importance of their role. Throughout the year educational and cultural activities were organised in the schools. Campaigns for children's rights and for ensuring 100% attendance were also undertaken. Mock Gramsabhas were organised in schools to make students socially sensitive and understand their rights and obligations as citizens.

A survey was conducted to identify and follow up on drop-outs. There were 16 students in the Mokhada block who had dropped out from school. Through constant and consistent follow up with the children and their parents, 10 of these have been re-admitted to school. The process of addressing the issues of the remaining 6 students is still going on.

Water purifiers installed at the Palsunda and Zaap ashram schools have reduced the water borne diseases drastically among the students there. The result is manifested in 100% attendance of the students in class.

## Livelihood

Livelihood interventions focused on the strengthening of agriculture and supporting the farmers by introducing allied agriculture activities such as fruit cultivation and horticulture. 8125 trees were planted in the Kurlod-Botoshi village alone; these directly benefited 56 farmers.

From an initial group of 7 farmers and 11 acres of land, the organisation has increased its reach to include many more farmers and cover many more acres. Green patches seen on outskirts of villages now, are often the small plots belonging to AROEHAN farmers. They now have a

visibility and presence in the nearby markets where “Mokhada vegetables” have almost become a brand.

The Livelihood interventions also focused on the strengthening of agriculture and supporting the farmers by introducing allied agriculture activities such as fruit cultivation. There were 8125 trees planted in the Kurlod-Botoshi grampanchayat alone, which directly benefited 56 farmers. It promoted allied activities to agriculture and increased area under productivity.

The farmers of Mokhada have now moved from traditional rain-fed agriculture to more modern techniques like mulching and drip irrigation which they can undertake in the non-monsoon period. This has been a major achievement for the entire AROEHAN team.

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### **Vegetable Cultivation**

	<b>Kharif</b>	<b>Rabi</b>
No. Of villages	28	16
No. Of beneficiaries	436	210
Area under cultivation (in acres)	137	95

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### **Tree Plantation**

<b>No. Of plants</b>	<b>No. Of beneficiaries</b>
58140	651

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### **Jasmine Cultivation**

<b>No. Of saplings</b>	<b>No. Of beneficiaries</b>
24629	121

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The Livelihood intervention has also focused on water security. We have built several large and small bunds, repaired old and caved-in wells and constructed new wells leading to saving thousands of litres of water for a water-scarce area. Water storage has positively impacted the agricultural development. This has resulted in reducing the number of families that migrate as

wage-work is now available in their own and in surrounding villages; incomes of farmers and the other families now involved in this agricultural development have also augmented.

Amle village – which cultivates land on the basis of the solar energy driven pump, has started sending Mogara (Jasmine) flowers to Dadar market. Mogaras from Amle have great demand and fetch the highest rate in the market.

### **Structures built for Water Conservation**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of village</b>	<b>Total structures</b>	<b>Water storage (in litres)</b>
1	Dapati	5	23,500
2	Osarvira	7	38,69,917
3	Kalambgao	3	6,85,910
4	Sungarwadi	10	1,24,550
5	Pangari	14	4,35,098
6	Chas	10	49,43,931
	<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1,00,82,906</b>

### **Governance**

AROEHAN's Governance team aims at increasing accountability of the state and its various arms through increasing people's participation in all public spaces like gram sabhas, various committees of the grampanchayats, community monitoring of services and so on.

Gram Sabhas conducted in all the GPs having AROEHAN presence showed an increase in attendance as well as in the active participation of people. People not only trained important issues concerning village development but have also started following up on these. An important activity conducted during the Gram-Sabha was the public reading of the "shelf of works" to be taken up by the GP under NREGA. This was a major eye-opener for the people as they realised that a lot of wage-labour could be generated in their own village as per the development plan. For instance, the Assistant Officer, Agriculture announced that Rs 45 lakhs worth of shelf in Kurlod GP was pending and could be undertaken post December 15, 2015. This gives an assurance to the people that they need not migrate in those days as work will be available locally.

Pada samitis were formed by AROEHAN with the sole objective of dissemination of information at household level and developing community based monitoring systems. The

standard practice adopted by AROEHAN is to nominate one representative for a group of 10-12 households.

Gavataka- known to be one of the most difficult villages- also got persuaded to participate in the change process, thanks to constant perseverance of AROEHAN staff, The Gramsevika who had not turned up for a year to the village, visited it for the first time and the first ever gramsabha took place in Gavataka. Around 35 villagers were present for the meeting. Surprisingly, the number of youth attending was more and they confidently put forward the village issues. The Gramsevika also agreed to visit the village on every second Monday of the month.

Ultimately, it is the willingness of the people to make a difference to their lives, and their struggle to achieve this against all odds, that is the driving force and motivation for AROEHAN to work.

The College thanks the AROEHAN staff and all our donors and well-wishers for their contribution to furthering the vision of the College and promoting the cause of justice and equity in society.