

AROEHAN ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

AROEHAN has reached a milestone this year, completing 10 years from its inception. Having started as a small initiative of the college to address malnutrition deaths among tribal children of the Jawhar-Mokhada tribal belt, it is today registered as an independent, autonomous organisation having its own Constitution and Memorandum of Association and its Governing Board.

The College continues to hand-hold AROEHAN in its various on-going projects as it phases out gradually, thus becoming one more Field Action Project to be launched by the College in its long history of contributing a cadre of committed students and faculty to the cause of nation-building.

The Governing Board of AROEHAN is headed by Dr Helen Joseph, and comprises- among others- Professors Ms Anjali Kanitkar and Mr Abraham; all the three have had long years of service in the College and contributed greatly to its growth. The staff of AROEHAN is led ably by Ms Shraddha Shringarpure – an alumnus of the College, and comprises of trained social workers, graduates from rural development, agriculture, and other social sciences; several students of the College have been on the staff of AROEHAN at different times as Rural Development workers, Documentation Officers, etc.

The College thus continues and will continue to have an organic relation with AROEHAN even when it completely phases out as an autonomous organisation.

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, Galaxy Surfactants, ACG Cares Foundation, Prakash Cotton Mills, and a host of other private trusts and individuals. For technical support and as knowledge partners, Natural Solutions and IIT Mumbai have been collaborating on several projects with AROEHAN.

This year, our concentration has been on increasing livelihood sources for the communities through tree plantation, agriculture and horticulture activities that will help in increasing the biodiversity of the region while generating varied sources of livelihood. We have also

introduced apiculture (bee-keeping) training in some of the villages. Our outreach to farmers has increased and so also the coverage area of land under these activities as indicated by the following table:

Sr No	Activity	Details	No. of Farmers	No. of Trees/ Acres covered
1	Tree Plantation (CSR)		1, 712	157,776 trees
2	Tree Plantation (CSR+ Forest dept. , Jawhar)			10,000 trees
3	Vegetable growing	Chilli, Ladies' Fingers, Bitter Gourd, Ridge Gourd, French Beans	1000 (including 30 from Dahanu)	253.8 acres
4	Floriculture (Jasmine)		275	65000

The increased agricultural activity in the Jawhar-Mokhada villages of intervention has increased visibly in the past 2-3 years due to work done by the team on Rainwater Harvesting. Not only has water been conserved in large quantities to reduce the dependency on tankers, but it has also increased the water table in the area. This and the support given to the tribal farmers through exposure visits and the “Shetimitra” or ‘Farmer Mentor’ concept, has boosted the confidence in the farmers who earlier did not dare to venture beyond rain-based paddy cultivation during kharif. The tribal farmers are now conversant with drip irrigation, mulching techniques and are willing to try new crops and new skills in agriculture.

AROEHAN has built 39 small and medium structures for rainwater harvesting this year across 18 villages. These structures have facilitated augmentation of water bodies and water table in the villages; they have also helped in minor lift irrigation schemes based on solar energy and enhanced the agricultural potential of the villages. 8 of these structures have been for solar lift irrigation schemes.

Availability of water has also positively impacted the health of villagers. In several villages and ashram schools, the installation of gravity-based water filters imported from Australia,

have drastically reduced water-borne illnesses; people have also been trained in the value of water management.

Health was one of the sectors that AROEHAN started with. Over the years, we have added several kinds of interventions to the basic one of generating awareness about life-skills among adolescence and about reproductive rights among pregnant and lactating mothers.

Due to the sonography machine installed last year for the first time in the district at the Government Cottage hospital in Jawhar, 976 tribal and poor women were able to available the sonography facility this year. Of these, 53 cases were referred to the Atgaon hospital in Nasik for advanced treatment.

Health Report 2016-17		
	Jawhar	Mokhada
Health Check-up Camps	15	24
Gram Sabha	23	17
Mahila Gram Sabha	11	14
Health day	34	31
Clean village campaign	15	18
Meeting for adolescent girls	23	15
Meetings with Pregnant women	235	223
Meetings with Lactating women	198	156
Mata baithak	103	93
6 monthly birthday celebrations	45	36

Despite all the interventions in the Health field, including tracking of pregnant women and tracking children for the first 1000 days of their life, and the changes we see in caring, feeding and nurturing practices among the women, malnourishment remains a major concern even today. AROEHAN is consistent in addressing various aspects of this issue including the vacancies that exist in the health delivery system at various levels and the poor working conditions that discourage the health personnel in fulfilling their duties.

In the field of Education, we continued strengthening the School Management Committees formed under the RTE. 23 campaigns regarding Child Rights were carried out in Jawhar and Mokhada tahsils.

A Bal Melava was organized wherein 180 students from 6 Ashram Schools participated. Competitions for elocution, dance, drama, mono-acting were held. A Science exhibition was also held at the venue. Students of the College, placed with AROEHAN for the year, participated actively in organizing the event.

The Governance team of AROEHAN worked with various committees of the Gram Panchayats like the VHNSC, the Forest Rights Committee, etc. through the members of the pada samiti and the volunteer base created by AROEHAN.

The year has seen Aroehan expanding to Dahanu and Palghar tahsils with agriculture related and health related activities.

The College thanks the dedication and the commitment of the AROEHAN team in battling the challenges of the field and striving to build an organisation which has credibility and professionalism in its approach to rural development.

The College also thanks all the numerous donors of AROEHAN for supporting the organisation not only with financial support, but also in other ways like developing documentation, strengthening MIS, increasing staff exposure to other projects, and so on.

Finally, the College would like to wish AROEHAN all the very best as it is at the threshold of 'weaning away' so to say, from its parent organisation.