



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Action Related to the Organization of Education, Health And Nutrition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	2
Thematic Intervention	4
Health	4
Education	6
Livelihood	7
Governance	10
Acknowledgement	12
Annexures	14

OVERVIEW

2017-18 has been a watershed year for Aroehan. It has been the last year of its existence as a field action project of the College of Social Work, since its inception in 2006. The hand-holding by College until Aroehan became a full-fledged autonomous entity, ended on September 30, 2017-six months after the initial termination date was fixed.

The year has also seen a major turnover in staff with some key staff members who had been with Aroehan for several years, moving on to other organizations. This undoubtedly was a setback to Aroehan for a while, but we are extremely happy to say that the strong support of our steadfast donors and their confidence in the Governing Board and its vision, helped us to bounce back with renewed vigor and we have been able to weather the storm ably and in a dignified manner. With new staff, a good induction programme, with close monitoring and a lot of support from all our well-wishers, we have been able to continue with our work, complete our commitments and scale new heights.

We continue to work with an integrated approach to effect changes in health, education, livelihoods and governance. In 2017-18 alone, we have been able to construct, repair and refurbish 19 water harvesting structures across Mokhada and Jawhar, creating storage for thousands of litres of water while regenerating tons of biomass through the increased soil moisture in those villages. Lift irrigation schemes in two villages have been completed, bringing about 25 acres of land under cultivation, thus augmenting the incomes of the marginal farmers who earlier depended only on the kharif crop.

In our tree plantation drive, we have distributed close to 1.75 lakh saplings of mango, cashew, sapota (chikkoo), guava, lemon and jasmine to 2800 farmers in the four blocks, thanks to the support and active involvement of our various donors. The staff conducted a census study of the survival of the plants and we are very happy that the survival rate is 86% on an average, with almost 94% in some pockets and the minimum being 82% in others. This indicates the care that people take, despite water issues at times, to ensure that the plants grow.



One of the achievements of the year has been the installation of a USG machine at the Palghar Rural Hospital, thanks to the support of DHFL. This will help track the health of pregnant mothers and babies and in early detection of abnormalities for corrective measures.

AROEHAN has thus continued to make strides in its work and strengthen the credibility it has built over the years. The work done in each of the thematic areas of Health, Education, Livelihoods and Governance is described herewith.

THEMATIC INTERVENTION:

Health

Health was one of the segments that AROEHAN initiated its work with. Over the years, several kinds of interventions were added, including generating awareness about life-skills among adolescence and about reproductive rights among pregnant and lactating mothers to monitoring SAM & MAM children, engaging Village Health & Sanitation Committees in community health monitoring, to encouraging Gram Sabhas to raise the age of marriage of the girls and boys.

This year, through the health initiative in Palghar block alone, AROEHAN has impacted the lives of 1736 Pregnant & lactating Women, and 337 undernourished Children. Furthermore, throughout the year, we have organized 719 Sessions for Adolescent girls with the objective of educating them about life-skills and reproductive health. Recently, a USG machine has been installed at the Palghar Rural hospital. This is estimated to be beneficial to about 5000 rural women in the next year. This intervention was inspired by a similarly installed USG machine at Cottage Hospital, Jawhar where in the reporting year, sonography of 3092 pregnant women was done. Since its installation at Palghar on February 5, 2018, 364 sonographies have been conducted.

Health Report 2017-18		
S/No.	Events/Meetings	Nos. (all 4 blocks)
1	Health Check-up Camps	20
2	VHNSC meetings	45 +52
3	Clean village campaigns	07
4	Meeting for adolescent girls	30+719
5	Meetings with Pregnant women	174+7109
6	Meetings with Lactating women	112+7230
7	Meeting with malnourished kids	136+1218
8	Mata baithak	65+652

9	Mata Samiti	62+707
10	6 monthly birthday celebrations	52+364
11	No. of vaccinated kids	63+159
12	No. of kids given supplementary food	23
13	Breast feeding day	09
14	No. of referrals	87+22
15	No. of sonography done	3092+364
<i># The figures after the + sign are pertaining to Palghar block whereas those before are of Mokhada and Jawhar blocks.</i>		

Despite all the interventions in Health, including tracking of pregnant women and tracking children for the first 1000 days of their life, and the positive changes we see in caring, feeding and nurturing practices among the women, malnourishment remains one of the major concerns even today. However, 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. AROEHAN works in coordination with various Government and non-government actors in order to bring together coordinated efforts for effective healthcare delivery system.

Concerns about holistic health and well-being of the people, led us to the construction of toilets especially in villages where there was water availability. Though the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has encouraged villages to be Open Defecation Free, it does become difficult to promote toilet construction in areas where even drinking water is an issue. Earlier programmes of the Government have also resulted in badly constructed or partially constructed toilets which have not been used over the years and are as good as non-existent today.

Consequently, toilet construction, food waste management, constructing soak pits for better sanitation- are all part of our varied interventions in moving towards better health and sustainable environmental practices.

In this year we constructed 46 toilets in Shivli (Rajkorpada) - a village where people were using rudimentary shelters as toilets; 100 soak pits in the Palghar block and two food waste

management units in two Ashram Schools in the same block have also been initiated. This will lead to cleaner surrounding and thereby improving the health of the residents.

Education

Schools have been an important area of intervention for AROEHAN right from the early years when a life skills education programme was initiated for adolescent girls and boys. The idea then was to reach out to the youth before they became adults and got entangled in the cycle of early marriage and early child-bearing. Gradually, several other interventions were added in the field of Education. One of the initiatives was establishing of School Committees-committees of the students for different activities like cultural, sports, cleanliness, food, etc; the aim was to involve the children in the management of the school so that school amenities were better governed and issues for advocacy could be identified. In a sense, these were the precursor to the School Management Committees mandatory under the Right to Education Act. The School Management Committees or SMC are mandated to improve governance in schools. In the past three years we have been working closely with the School Management Committees.

AROEHAN has been successful in strengthening the School Management Committees and in the Zilla Parishad and Ashram schools respectively. The training sessions and meetings organized by AROEHAN have helped the Committees to get greater clarity about the structure and importance of their role. 36 SMC meetings and 18 Palak Sabha (Parents' meetings) were conducted in Jawhar, Mokhada and Dahanu.

The 'Jigyasa Project' was launched in the six Government Ashram Schools of Mokhada with the help of Siemens India Ltd. The objective of this programme is to develop scientific temper for STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) among students. The programme will benefit 3535 students in these schools. The schools have readied themselves for the programme by assigning special rooms for the digital programme where 10 laptops per school have been installed; STEM kits have been distributed to the teachers. Schools which did not have adequate space, have been provided porta cabins for the programme. The children have participated in the launch of the programme by decorating the porta cabins with appropriate sketches related to Science and Mathematics.

AROEHAN staff made as many as 98 visits to schools to ensure that various activities were being conducted smoothly. A survey was conducted to identify and follow up on drop-outs. 21 drop-outs were identified. Home visits were made and consistent follow-up with the children and their parents helped in getting 10 of these back to school. The process of addressing the issues of the remaining students is still going on.

Child Rights Campaigns are also carried out in schools and the neighbouring villages to educate the children and their parents about children's rights and to increase children's confidence as also their presence in public life. Often, a rally of the children and the teachers wades its way through the village shouting slogans, holding placards regarding the rights. 10 such campaigns were carried out in Jawhar and Mokhada. Such interventions also lead to identification of issues like vacancies of teachers in schools, issues of disabled children, and other such issues that require to be taken up at a wider level.

Water purifiers were installed at Nandgaon, Dehra, Sakur and Jhap Ashram schools in Jawhar. This led to reduction in water borne diseases among the students there. The result is manifested in better attendance rates of students post this intervention. 10 washroom and 10 bathrooms were constructed at the Nandgaon, Dehra and Sakur Ashram Schools.

Livelihood

Livelihood interventions focused on strengthening agriculture and supporting farmers by introducing allied agriculture activities such as fruit cultivation and horticulture. 1,75,670 trees were planted; directly benefitting 2804 farmers.

From an initial group of 7 farmers and 11 acres of land in 2012, AROEHAN has increased its reach to include many more farmers and cover many more acres. Agriculture related interventions have led to farmers moving from traditional rain-fed agriculture to more modern agricultural techniques. Use of solar-based lift irrigation, mulching and drip irrigation are now easily adapted to by farmers in an attempt to use water optimally for their crops in the Rabi season.

Tree plantation

S/No.	Name of Project	No. of saplings planted	No. of beneficiaries
1	All Cargo	68, 335	757
2	DHFL	75,385	1493
3	BPCL	8,700	169
5	HT Parekh	6,750	135
6	Siemens Ltd.	7,000	140
7	ACG Cares Foundation	7,150	143
Total		1,73,320	2837

Under the Galaxy Surfactants grant, 110 farmers planted 9,500 jasmine saplings at Navlyacha Pada in Mokhada; whereas under the ACG Cares Foundation grant, 40 farmers planted 200 jasmine saplings each in the six project villages in the Dahanu block. Here, 40 other farmers also cultivated vegetables during the kharif and rabi season. All have seen a significant increase in their incomes, thus motivating other farmers to consider taking up cultivation.

The Livelihood interventions also focused on water security. AROEHAN constructed various new check dams, bunds, wells and repaired old wells leading to saving thousands of litres of water in a water-scarce area. Lift irrigation was done at Koldyachapada (using electricity) and Pulachiwadi and Khairmal and Gethipada (using Solar). At Warthapada of Asve village in Dahanu, lift irrigation has benefitted 19 farmers by irrigating 10 acres of land. All this work has led to an increase in the water table in these areas and thereby positively impacted agricultural development. Agricultural activities have increased leading to increased incomes for farmers.

Structures built for Water Conservation

S/N o.	Name of village	Name of Project	Total structures	Details	Water storage (in litres approx)
1	Dhamni (Ase Gram Panchayat)	BPCL	10	2 New Bund at Dhamni Repair of 2 bunds at Dhamni 3 new wells constructed 1 new sub-surface bund 1 new cordon	76,11,500
2	Pathardi	BPCL	1	1 new Check dam	43,50,000
3	Bhosepada	Siemens	1	1 new Check dam	28,35,000
4	Kurlod	Siemens	3	3 new Check dams	76,50,000
5	Himbatpada	HT Parekh Foundation	1	1 new Check dam	1,60,00,000
6	Behetwadi	Gold Crest	1	1 new Bund	26,00,000
7	Khairmal and Gethipada	Prakash Cotton Mills	1	1 new Check dam	56,00,000
8	Aadoshi	Edelgive Foundation	1	Refurbishment (Repair and leak proofing) of Govt. constructed check dam	1,89,00,000
	Total#		19		6,55,46,500

Calculations of water storage are based on the dimensions of the structure & are only approximate

Governance

Work related to Governance systems has always been at the heart of all interventions of AROEHAN. We are aware that none of the interventions will be sustainable unless the governance systems are strengthened. This involves engaging people in decision-making at community level, at increasing participation of all sections of the village in their own and in village development, and empowering people to access Government programmes and securing their entitlements. It aims at empowering people to manage their own resources and transform their lives in interface with the existing governance systems.

Activating statutory committees on Health, Sanitation, Education, working with Forest Committees, organising people to work on village development, exploring livelihoods, securing entitlements- all become part of this work.

Forming pada samitis and conducting pada sabhas is a significant step in ensuring meaningful Gramsabhas. 24 pada sabhas, 18 village meetings and 5 Mahila Melavas were conducted last year for information dissemination, discussion on village issues and for rallying people together. The attempt has been to make people more aware of their entitlements regarding livelihood and work availability under Government schemes and increase their participation in village issues.

The AROEHAN staff conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise in 270 habitations of Mokhada last year- to ascertain whether we are in sync with what people identify as their issues and priorities; also, to identify water-related issues and solutions. In 2006 when AROEHAN had first started working as a project of the College, a similar PRA had been conducted in all these habitations. This exercise- albeit with a slightly different focus- again helped us to reach out to all villages, renew our contacts and revisit our goals of working in the area.

Needless to say, to accomplish this massive work, we need a dedicated staff which works with enthusiasm to take the issues forward and who are committed and accountable not only to the people but also to the organisation and its vision and values. The staff at AROEHAN works tirelessly towards achieving all that the organisation sets out to do. They are supported and strengthened through various staff development programmes on varied topics. To name a few:

- An induction programme for the new staff of Jawhar and Mokhada conducted by Mr. Josantony Joseph and some of the Governing Board members
- An introductory programme to projects run by the Aga Khan Development Network by their staff accompanied by field visit
- An induction programme to projects undertaken with Siemens India Limited accompanied by field visit; conducted by the Siemens Team
- An exercise in Understanding Logical Framework Analysis conducted by the Siemens Team
- Training Programmes for Community Health Facilitators in Palghar; on malnutrition, reproductive rights, community health interventions; conducted by Dr. Mohan Des and the Aabha Team

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge with immense gratitude all our donors who have stood by us in the difficult times we faced in this year and who gave us the hope and the strength to continue with determination towards our vision and mission.

- ✚ Siemens India Limited
- ✚ Edelgive Foundation
- ✚ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- ✚ Concern India Foundation
- ✚ HT Parekh Foundation
- ✚ All Cargo Logistics
- ✚ DHFL
- ✚ Aga Khan Development Network
- ✚ Tata Motors Limited
- ✚ ACG Cares Foundation
- ✚ Bay Diligence
- ✚ Seth Jamanadas Madhavji Charitable Trust
- ✚ Galaxy Surfactants
- ✚ Prakash Cotton Mills
- ✚ Blue Star Limited
- ✚ Quantum Advisors Private Limited
- ✚ Rahul Roadways
- ✚ Youth for People
- ✚ A host of individual well-wishers and donors

We also acknowledge the support of our technical partners- Natural Solutions, and IIT Mumbai for their handholding in all our water harvesting projects which have brought such relief to the many parched habitations in the area.

We would also like to thank the State Government of Maharashtra, Department of Women and Child Welfare; Department of Public Health and Family Welfare; Department of Tribal



Development; In Palghar district, we thank the District and Block Administration; Project Officer-Tribal Development for their continuous support.

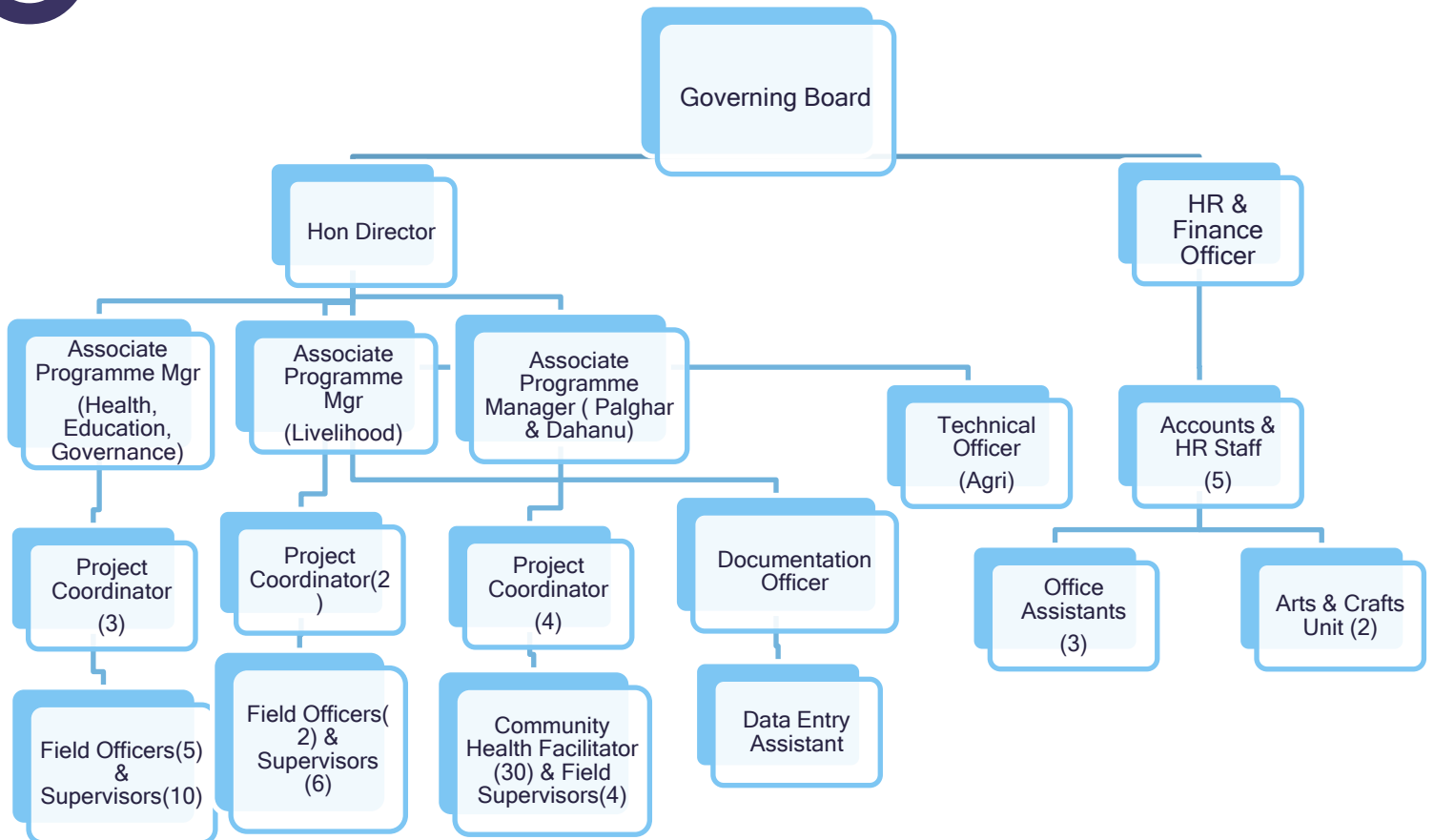
We also place on record our thanks to the Nirmala Niketan Institute Management for walking with us these past twelve years and supporting us every step of the way. Had it not been for their patience and implicit faith in the good that we were doing, AROEHAN would not have been able to scale these heights.

As we embark on this journey of independent existence, having phased out completely from the parent body of Nirmala Niketan, we would like to thank all our former staff, students of the College of Social Work, donors, stakeholders and supporters who were part of this journey and gave yeoman's service to the cause of bringing sustainable change to tribal lives. We hope they continue to stand by us in our quest to achieve positive change in society.



ANNEXURES

Organization Structure:



D

etails of Governing Body Members:

Name	Age	Status	No. of year(s) as Governing Body Member	Qualification	Current Work
Dr. Helen Joseph	64	Chairman	4 years	Phd; (Social Work)	Retired Professor; engaged with several NGOs as Board member; Master Trainer for UGC
Dr. Purushottam Kulkarni	39	Secretary	4 years	Phd; (Engg)	Professor; IIT, Mumbai
Mr. Dinesh Ahir	57	Treasurer	4 years	B.Com., FCA,BGL, DISA	Chartered Accountant
Ms. Anjali Kanitkar	62	Member	4 years	M. A. (Social Work)	Retired Associate Professor; on contract with Government of Maharashtra as Director, Social Audit
Ms. Meenal Gandhe	36	Member	2 years	M.A. (Social Work)	Project Manager, Population First, Mumbai
Mr. Johny Joseph	42	Member	2 years	M. A. (Social Work)	Director, Creative Handicrafts, Mumbai
Adv Satyadev Pande	56	Member	1 year	B.A (LLB)	Advocate, High Court
Mr. Vivek Patwardhan	68	Member	1 year	B.Sc. MLW (Master of Labour Welfare)	Retired as Vice President, Asian Paints; currently HR advisor to several corporates, faculty TISS; Rotarian
Dr. Ajit Gokhale	47	Member	4 Years	M.Sc. Ph.D	Founder of Natural Solutions, consultant for Water conservation, treatment and Management
Rahul Tiwrekar	30	Member	4 years*	LLB; MA	Advocate
Members of General Body					
Mr. Abraham Antony	62	Member	4 years	M.A. (Social Work)	Retired Associate Professor, Social Work
Ms. Nisreen Ibrahim	55	Member	2 years	M.A. (Social Work)	Director, Rangoonwala Foundation, Mumbai

*(up to November 2017)

Health Initiatives



An event of Nutrition Promotion



Inauguration of USG Unit at Rural Hospital
Palghar



Life Skills Session with Adolescents



Progress sharing with health department



Training of ANM and ASHA Supervisors



Celebrating Safe Motherhood

Hand Wash



Half Yearly Birthday



VHNSC Meeting

Education Initiatives



STEM inauguration, Suryamal



STEM Training

Livelihood Initiatives



Repaired Govt. Bund, Adoshi



Newly constructed Check Dam, Bhetwadi



Check Dam, Khairmal



Lift Irrigation Project, Warthapada



Seed Treatment Training, Chandwad

Promotional activities for Floriculture and Vegetables cultivation



Governance Initiatives



Pada Samiti Meeting



Mahila Melawa