

AROEHAN

Action Related to the Organization of
Education, Health and Nutrition



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



From the Chairperson's Desk



Another fulfilling year at Aroehan has come to a close, and it gives me great pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for the year 2019-2020. I am delighted to inform you that during this year we have further strengthened our work in the various tribal hamlets of Jawhar, Mokhada, Palghar and Dahanu, and continue to strive to achieve our goal of sustainable development in the region.

In the area of creating livelihoods, we are happy to report that this year, we were able to help almost 630 farmers in generating income through vegetable cultivation, and planting of mogra (jasmine) saplings, or fruit bearing trees. We also developed 11 Farmer Field Schools (demo plots), to help build the capacities of farmers and give them a hands-on understanding of modern farming techniques. We are happy that at least 100 farmers who visited these FFS have already started incorporating appropriate modern farming methods. Additionally, we continued our work with SHGs, where 450 marginal and landless tribal women were empowered with allied livelihood options this year. As 'water' has always been at the heart of many of the problems faced by people in these tribal hamlets, water harvesting continues to be one of the main activities of Aroehan. A novel effort tried out this year was the building of 250 farm ponds, each with a storage capacity of 30,000 litres of water that will be used not only for domestic purposes, but to irrigate approximately 125 acres during non-monsoon months.

To fulfil our mission of creating an empowered cadre of tribal and rural youth who will initiate and sustain efforts of change in their communities, we continued to strengthen local leadership in the areas where we work, by training members of the pada samitis and other statutory bodies like the SMCs and VHNSCs.

Through our STEM program, children were taught scientific concepts in a fun way so that they are able to understand its application in their daily lives. In the coming years we aim to see that every child is in school and learning well. We also intend to develop in our children the meaning of responsible citizenship.

At the end of the financial year, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic across India, brought home very forcefully the fault lines in the governance outreach systems as far as the lives of the disadvantaged are concerned. This has made us even more resolved to commit ourselves to bringing about sustainable change in the lives of rural and tribal communities such that they are empowered to access and utilize their own and government resources to the optimum, keeping in mind the principles of social justice and human dignity.

And so, though we believe that we have made some difference in the lives of the villagers in areas where we have intervened, we have miles to go, as together with the villagers we learn and adapt and move forward. As the year comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude to all our well-wishers, our donors and collaborators, who have walked with us along the way. Thank you for your faith in what we do, and for giving us the strength to re-commit ourselves to our common vision for a better tomorrow.

Thank You

Prof. Helen Joseph (PhD)
Chairperson, Aroehan

Vision: To bring sustainable change to the lives of tribal communities and rural poor such that they are empowered to access and utilize their resources to the optimum, keeping in mind the principles of social justice and human dignity.



Mission: To create an empowered cadre of tribal and rural youth who will initiate and sustain efforts of change in their communities, upholding the values of personal integrity, tolerance, and justice.

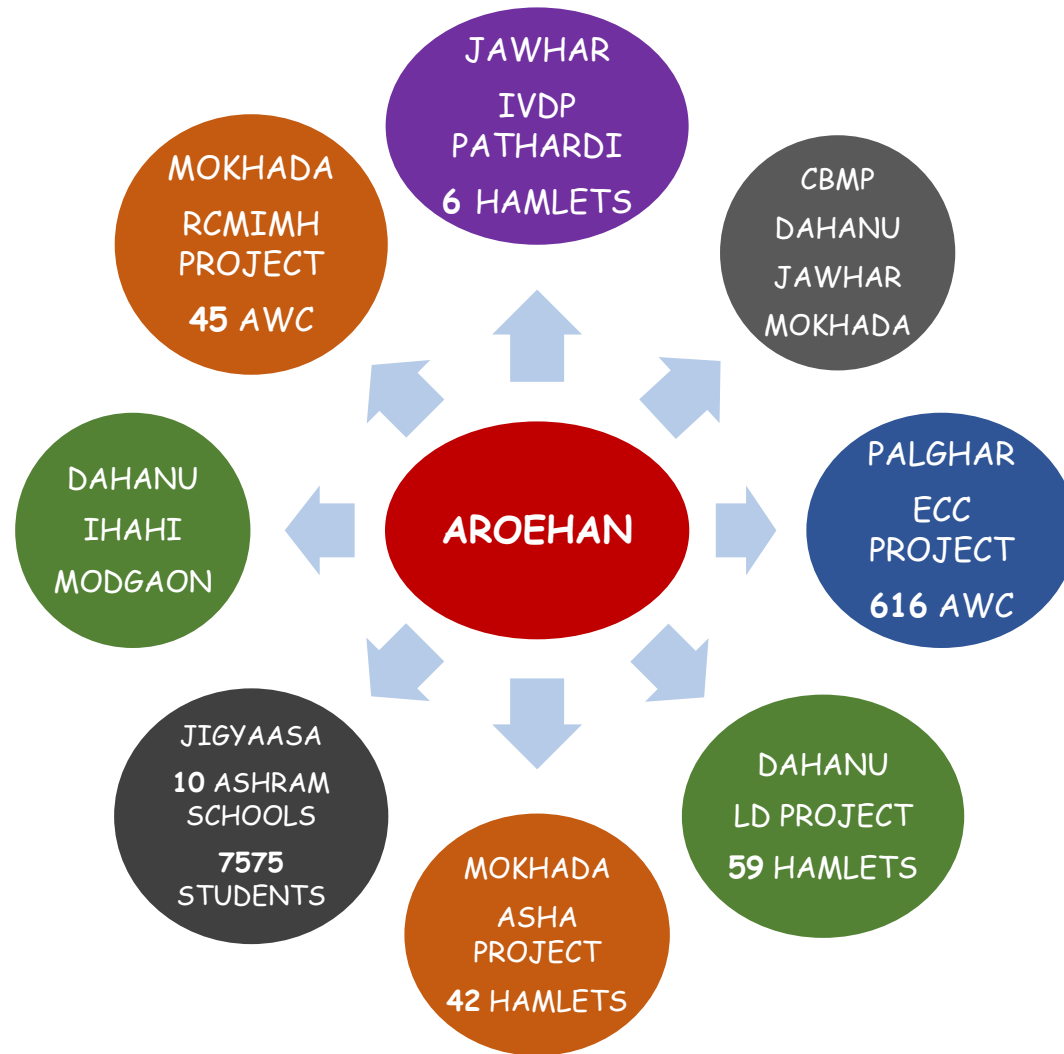
Glossary

ANC	Antenatal care	LDP	Livelihood Development Project
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	MAM	Moderate Acute Malnourishment
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist	MCHN	Mother and Child Health and Nutrition
AWC	Anganwadi Center	MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act - 2005
AWH	Anganwadi Helper	NRC	Nutrition Rehabilitation Center
AWP	Annual Work Plan	PDS	Public Distribution System
AWW	Anganwadi Worker	PESA	Panchayats (Extension to Schedule Areas) Act-1996
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication	PMJAY	Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
BPL	Below Poverty Line	PNC	Postnatal care
CBMP	Community Based Monitoring Project	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition	RBM	Results Based Management
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete
DHO	District Health Officer	RCMIMH	Reducing Child Mortality and Improving Maternal Health
ECCP	Early Child Care Project	RMNCH+A	Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health
FFS	Farmer Field School	RTE	Right to Education
GP	Gram Panchayat	SAM	Severely Acute Malnourishment
GPDP	Gram Panchayat Development Plan	SGNY	Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana
GR	Government Resolution	SHG	Self Help Group
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme	SMC	School Management Committee
IHAHI	Integrated Health and Hygiene Initiative	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
ITDP	Integrated Tribal Development Project	UPT	Urine Pregnancy Test
IVDP	Integrated Village Development Project	VHND	Village Health and Nutrition Day
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices	VHNSC	Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committee
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	ZP	Zilla Parishad

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Our projects and coverage

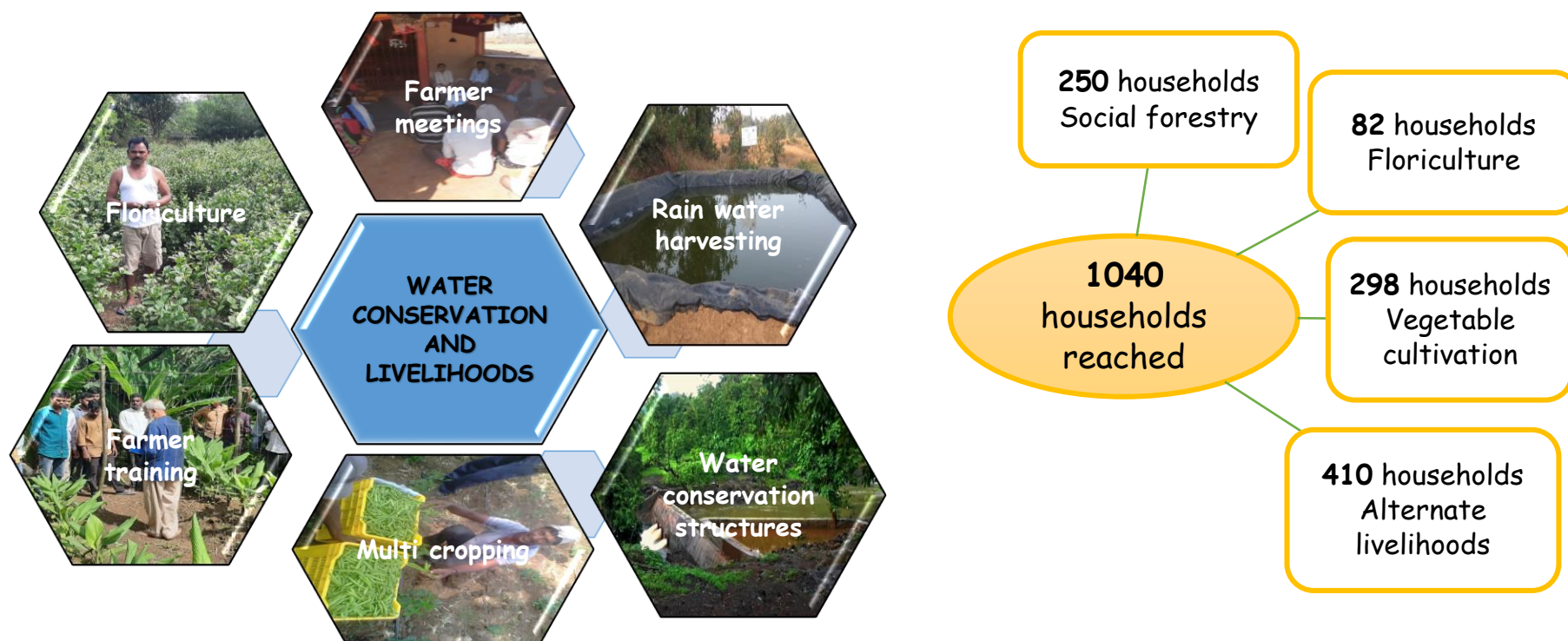


Our thematic areas

Over the years we have concluded that village transformation is not about piecemeal interventions in one sector or the other, but a **360 degree convergence** of interventions in an integrated manner. We have thus tried to intervene in the areas of health, education, water conservation, agriculture, sustainable livelihoods and governance.

In the following pages we try to present our work in these areas though it is difficult to capture all the processes that have been the foundation for the changes that we see.

1. Water conservation and livelihood



Sustainable livelihood - "The ability to cope and recover from unexpected events while at the same time enhancing current and future capabilities" defined by UN-ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia)

AROEHAN believes that all communities need employment, decent work and commensurate, consistent wages to lead a good and healthy life. It therefore works to build sustainable livelihoods and explore opportunities for increasing employment availability in its project area. Sustainable livelihood can be best understood as the methods and means of making a living by optimal utilisation of resources like land, crops, assets, knowledge, finances, social relationships in a given political, economic and socio-cultural context. of an individual community.

According to the Community needs assessment survey, in 45 hamlets of Mokhada in the year 2019, 40% of the population in Mokhada Taluka and 57% of the households are involved in agriculture as their primary occupation. Even those who own some agricultural land often engage in wage labour due to lack of capital needed for farming. Farming in Mokhada is seasonal and rain-fed. The daily wages during the monsoon is on an average Rs 300/- for men and Rs 250/- for women.

A very small number of individuals are engaged in the service sector, with jobs in government services; these jobs are mostly those of teachers, Anganwadi workers (AWW), Anganwadi Helpers (AWH) etc.

The predominantly tribal belt of Jawhar - Mokhada gets heavy rainfall every year, but water availability has always been a major issue in the months after the monsoon recedes. This five-month spell of water scarcity from February to June leads to agriculture being curtailed to kharif crops and a general lack of employment opportunities, resulting in seasonal migration.

AROEHAN tries to address water scarcity through its Water Conservation work, building rain-water harvesting structures along the streams in the area and refurbishing wells.

Post-monsoon, data regarding water availability is recorded for every hamlet and the month-wise water demand is calculated as per population. Village meetings are held to ascertain need, willingness to work and for finalising the structures to be constructed. Priority is given to structures that will help conserve drinking water and water for domestic use; next on the priority list is water for cattle and for agriculture.

Gram Sabhas are then conducted in the hamlets prior to initiating any construction work so that all issues related to the construction, operation and management of the structures can be discussed and the villagers know, understand and own the assets that they help build in their village. Decisions regarding water-use and water management, on quantum of water to be used for agricultural purposes, and equal distribution of water to all villagers are discussed at these meetings. Issues concerning plots of land on which the structures may come up are also discussed and resolved at these meetings.

Apart from structures which help the community at large- like bunds, gabions, cordons and wells, we have also initiated this year, the construction of small farm-ponds or **“Jal-kund”** as we call them locally. These are **6mt x 5mt x 1.25mt** in size and are constructed on individual plots of villagers who have access to land / forest land (van patta) which provides irrigation to saplings planted in ½ acre of land. In this reporting year, we have constructed **250** Jal-Kund across **32** padas benefitting **250** farmers. Each Jal-Kund can store **30000** liters of water and thus, we can say that our effort has led to the storage of **75 lakh** litres of water. This water will be used for irrigation and maintenance of the fruit orchards in the non-monsoon months.

Farm ponds are also being sponsored under the **“Maghel tyala shet-tala (jal-kund)”** scheme.

Comparison of farm ponds is given below:

FARM POND	SUPPORTED BY AROEHAN	MAGHEL TYALA SHET TALA SCHEME
SIZE	6M X 5M X 1.25M	15Mx15Mx3M / 20Mx20Mx3M / 30Mx30Mx3M
PLOT OF LAND REQUIRED	MEDIUM /SMALL	LARGE
FARMER SELECTION	MARGINAL / BPL	NOT SUITED FOR BPL / MARGINAL
AREA UNDER IRRIGATION	½ ACRE ORCHARD PLANTATION	AS PER FARMER'S LAND HOLDING
CHALLENGES	OWNERSHIP OF FOREST LAND, SHRAMDAAN	PART FUNDED BY GOVT., SO WORK REMAINS INCOMPLETE IF FARMER CANNOT CONTRIBUTE

Besides these 250 Jal-Kund, this year we constructed one check dam in Pathardi, and one RCC tank in the premises of the ITI College at Jawhar.



OUTREACH

**PATHARDI -
MORDAKUND**
1 CHECK DAM

OUTCOME

**WATER
STORAGE IN
LITRES (in
lakhs)**
36



**MOKHADA
ITI**
1 RCC TANK

**WATER
STORAGE IN
LITRES (in
lakhs)**
3.12



**SOLAR
LIFTING
UNITS FOR
IRRIGATION**
4

**LAND UNDER
IRRIGATION**
57 Acres

FARM PONDS: 250
TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN LITRES (in lakhs): 75
LAND UNDER IRRIGATION: 125 ACRES



May
2019



Aug
2019

Gram Panchayat	Padas	Farm Ponds	Water storage in litres (in lakhs)
ASE	14	111	33.3
KURLOD	5	25	7.5
PATHARDI-BOTOSHI	9	60	18
SURYAMAL	4	54	16.2

While increasing the water availability in the area is one part of our livelihood-related work, the other equally significant part is to enhance the capacity of the small and marginal farmers in the area to increase their agricultural yield and incomes.

Introducing the farmers to new and varied methods of farming or “good agricultural practices”, to expose them to other success stories within or in nearby districts, to educate them about management of finance and of market linkages, has resulted in the formation of Farmer Field Schools (FFS).



The training on **Good Agricultural Practices** was conducted for **125** farmers across our project area, in collaboration with the Krushi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in 2 batches in Ase and Pathardi villages.

The workshop included sessions on various topics like:

- Traditional farming and its variations
- Improved method of crop cultivation
- Alternatives to traditional crops
- Vegetable cultivation
- Organic farming
- Crop protection and nutrition
- Insect Trap or Crop Trap
- Precautions while using pesticides
- Allied activities like beekeeping
- Marketing



Farmer Field Schools have been set up in 8 villages to disseminate the latest technology in agriculture to the people. An FFS is a group- based learning process. The selection of farmers is based on those who have adequate water, land and manpower. The main purpose is to get information about new crops, planting systems and technology (drip irrigation, poly house, oil seeds, sweet potato, turmeric and yam cropping). Demonstration plots are cultivated for other farmers in the vicinity to learn through exposure visits. Practical are conducted on Vegetable cultivation, Social Forestry, Horticulture, Floriculture, traditional crops and growing plant nurseries along with integrated pest management, proper fertigation, crop spacing and variety. We have 11 farmers and 11 demo plots on 161 gunthas of land. 600 farmers have visited the FFS demo plots and 100 have already started traditional farming.



OUTREACH AND OUTCOME OF FARMERS' TRAINING



- 202 farmers
- ridge gourd, bitter gourd, okra, raddish , beet, maize, sweet potato, suran, groundnut
- 16933 kg of produce
- 6.7 lakhs of sales



- 62 farmers
- cluster beans, okra, fenugreek, lal math, ridge gourd, bitter gourd, flat beans, groundnut, sunflower
- 12875 kg of produce
- 3.2 lakhs of sales

Alternate Livelihoods: Our constant concern is that villagers who do not have land or any other source of income, should not be left behind. We therefore have initiated some small enterprises especially through the Self-Help Groups (SHG) in the area to help the landless and marginal farmers.

Off-farm livelihood activities have been initiated in some of the hamlets of Mokhada. Equipment like rice mill, flour mill, *papad*-making machines, *patravali* (leaf-plates)-making machine, oil crushers and tailoring machines have been provided keeping in mind the skills and interest of the SHGs in the community. Similarly, backyard poultry has also been encouraged. Introduction of such programmes on a selection-basis can create problems in the community if the criteria for selection is not clear and accepted by all. We selected our SHGs based on how remotely located they were, thus having very little access to employment; similarly, those with little or no land were selected while also taking into consideration their willingness to bear some operational expense.

Women beneficiaries were given first preference. As some of the occupations like tailoring and managing poultry, required training, this was also organised for the SHGs. 47 of our SHGs were also linked to the UMED project of MSRLM.



Inputs and coverage of work undertaken in agriculture and alternate livelihoods

Agriculture supplies kit

- **Kharif- Supply kit-** seed, fertilizer, biological pesticide, Knapsack sprayer, Vegetable tray, Spade , Paddy Thresher -group of 32 farmers, Harrow -group of 34 farmers
- **Rabi-Supply kit-** seed/seedlings, fertilizer, biological pesticide, Drip
- **82 farmers** - drip irrigation method to ensure proper water management and control the weeds

Jasmine saplings

- Low-cost, long-lasting crop, **17410** saplings planted by **82** new farmers
- Pre-cultivation training and post cultivation field visits.
- **26** farmers - drip irrigation , mulching method for better results

Fruit saplings

- **17189** saplings of Mango, Cashew, Guava - **200** new farmers and **50** gap filling farmers
- Survival rate -**72%**
- Irrigation by farm ponds and proper management of time resources

Livestock to SHGs

- **100** birds given to **6** SHGs
- **33** Women from **6** SHGs given poultry training at Belpada
- Eggs supplied to AWC for betterment of nutrition in children

Livelihood equipment to SHGs

- **14**-Flourmills, **6**-Ricemills, **4**-Oil crushers, **1**-Paper plate making machine and **50** Sewing machines to Marginal women SHGs.
- **100**-Papad making machines to individual marginal & landless women
- Income from rice mills (**Rs 1500 to Rs 15000**) Income from Flour mills (**Rs 500 to Rs 7000**)

2. Health and Nutrition

AROEHAN entered Palghar district with a view to impact the health situation especially with respect to malnutrition deaths of tribal children. From creating awareness about life-skills among adolescents, we widened our scope to promote awareness about reproductive health among pregnant and lactating mothers and also to promote early childhood care practices in the community. Strengthening and engaging Village Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Committees (VHNSC) in community health monitoring, and encouraging Gram Sabhas to understand the significance of maternal and child health for healthy families also became a part of our interventions.

Malnutrition is a complex condition not only resulting from hunger or lack of food, but also depending on poor nutritional status of mother, early pregnancies, faulty feeding practices, anaemia in women and new born, low-birth weight, lack of awareness of health facilities and schemes, poverty and child neglect.

Our interventions therefore, need an understanding of all these aspects and an attempt to impact on each of these areas. Hence, capacity-building and training of the health functionaries who are at the cutting edge of service delivery- namely, the Anganwadi Workers (AWW) and ASHA workers becomes imperative. Though they do undergo training from their own departments, consistent refreshers, and hand-holding during field visits as well as active application to the field situation is essential.

Similarly, Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committees which are mandatory in every Gram Panchayat, need to be activated and made aware of the significance of their role in the village. Mata Samitis or Mother-Support groups play an important role in sensitising the community at large and the pregnant women in nutrition, feeding practices and other aspects of maternal health. Work with VHNSC and Mata Samitis helps in addressing superstitions and false assumptions in the area of reproductive health.

Hunger and malnutrition have devastating consequences for children and have been linked to low birth weight and birth defects, obesity, mental and physical health problems, and poorer educational outcomes.

Marian Wright Edelman

Through various projects this year, we reached out to:

- ✚ **616 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)** in Palghar over a 3-year project supported by DHFL Changing Lives Foundation and covering **12000** women in Palghar block until September 2019 and in **100** AWCs with an outreach of **728** women and **1180** child beneficiaries in Manor in the extension phase of the project till March 2020.
- ✚ **39 AWCs** in Mokhada under the ASHA project supported by Siemens India Limited, reaching out to approx. **515** women and **1840** children in the age group of 3-6 years.
- ✚ **45 AWCs** in Mokhada taken up under the Reducing Child Mortality and Improving Maternal Health (RCMIMH) project supported by Bajaj Auto Limited and Bajaj Holdings and Investments Limited reaching out to approx. **394** women and **1112** children in the age group of 0-3 years.
- ✚ **375 children in 4 ZP schools in** Modgaon village, Dahanu block under the Integrated Health and Hygiene Initiative with support from Concern India Foundation along with capacity building of the health functionaries.

The objective of these programs was to reduce infant and child mortality due to undernourishment and improve the health and nutrition of mothers and adolescents through Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and system strengthening.

We witnessed many changes in the behaviour of beneficiaries as well as in the government functionaries:

- ✚ ANC registrations increased leading to early detection of high-risk pregnancies.
- ✚ Dietary changes in pregnant women and lactating mothers were observed
- ✚ IYCF guidelines such as exclusive breast feeding, and age-appropriate complementary feeding were also being followed.
- ✚ Capacities of front-line workers (ASHAs and AWWs) were built, and they could perform better.
- ✚ Growth monitoring and promotion activities were regularly done at the AWC.
- ✚ Access to govt. schemes increased along with awareness and availability.

In brief, our activities this year were:

Capacity building of health and ICDS functionaries:

- ✚ **39** ASHA, **39** AWW, and **30** ANM were trained in gender responsive service delivery under the ASHA project in a 3-day workshop.
- ✚ **45** AWW, **37** ASHA and **3** ICDS supervisors were trained on MCHN and 1000 days along with CMAM and IYCF guidelines under the RCMIMH project in a 3-day residential workshop.
- ✚ **8** AWW, **8** ASHA, **1** MPW, **2** ANM and **6** volunteers were trained under the IHAH Initiative in a 2-day workshop.



Strengthening of VHNSCs:

Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committee (VHNSC) is a statutory committee under Gram Panchayat which is constituted at a revenue village level with the objective of participatory village health planning. There are **55** VHNSCs that are functional in our intervention areas. The members regularly meet to discuss issues and resolve the same including placing their budgets in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan.

Mata Samitis:

162 mata samitis are functional in our intervention areas. They provide supportive supervision of ICDS services and maternal education on MCHN care and services.





Mata sabhas:

This is a monthly meeting of mothers conducted at the Anganwadi center. It is being promoted as a meeting with mothers where they would be educated about antenatal care, postnatal care, infant care, proper feeding practices, nutrition and growth promotion activities.

Growth Monitoring and Promotion:

Measuring weight, height and general checks ups of beneficiaries are mandatory in the Anganwadi every month, where many a time irregularity are observed. We have initiated the theme called **MAZE VAJAN MALA SANGA** (Tell me my weight!). Regular growth monitoring and other checks ups of beneficiaries have been initiated at **70** Anganwadis this year.



Mata Melavas:

3 Mata Melavas (mothers fair) were held under the RCMIMH project. Healthy baby and healthy mother competitions were organized. They were assessed on various parameters of nutritional status and prizes were distributed to the winners in the presence of the Sarpanch and the CDPO.

Community and school health camp:

109 adults and **69** children benefitted through 2 health camps held at Modgaon, Dahanu under the Health and Hygiene Initiative.





Distribution of health screening kits for ASHAs and diagnostic equipment for ANMs and Primary health centres and rural hospitals:

In order to help rapid screening and diagnosis for appropriate referrals, equipment was provided to the health functionaries and the hospitals in Mokhada.

UPT kits have helped in early registration of pregnant women leading to early benefits from government schemes. Diagnosis of fever and hypertension have led to early referral and treatment, thus saving patients from serious ailments.

Community based monitoring program

The public sector in health exists without a minimum legislative framework. *'In the absence of law making it mandatory to provide the stipulated minimum health care, citizens are not able to exercise any right over the quantity and the quality of health care provided'*. In this context, community-based monitoring has been viewed as an important step for promoting accountability and community led action in the field of health.

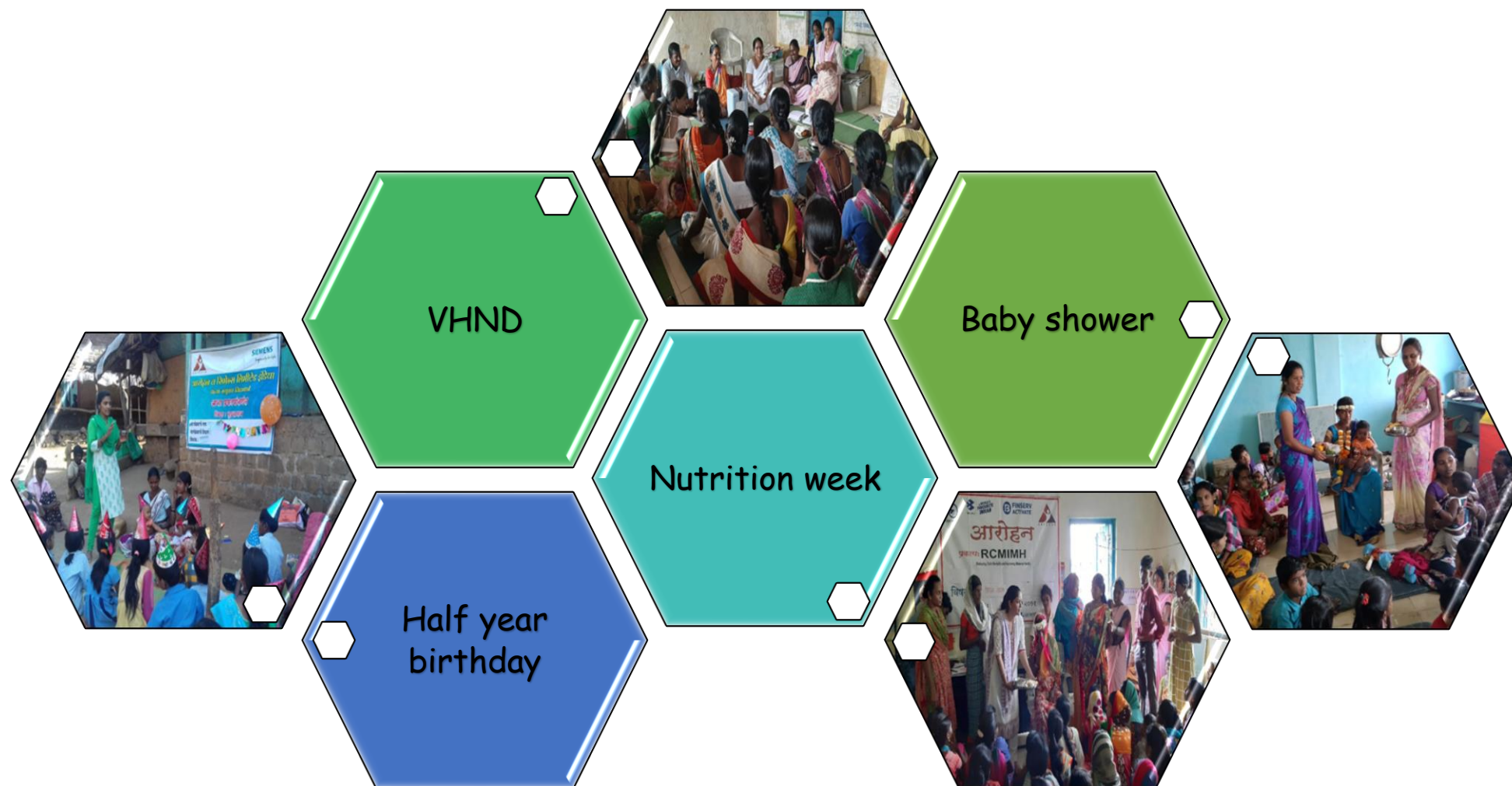
The CBM Program was implemented in **171** villages in **3** blocks (Dahanu, Jawhar, Mokhada) of Palghar district with support from SATHI – CEHAT and National Health Mission.



The following activities were undertaken in the first phase of the program:

- **68** VHNSCs were formed and activated as per new GR
- **41** training workshops on health issues were conducted
- **11** meetings with Monitoring and Planning Committee were held at the Primary Health Centres.
- **5** Arogya (Health) Gram Sabhas were held.

Health days (*Arogya divas*):



ECC PROJECT MANOR (100 AWC)

366 PW, 362 LM
1180 CH (0-24)

41 VHNSC
90 MATA SAMITIS

1105 HOME VISITS FOR
INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING

21 CHILDREN -SAM
8 REFERRED TO NRC

ASHA PROJECT MOKHADA (39 AWC)

262 PW, 253 LM
1840 CH (36-72)

9 VHNSC
37 MATA SAMITIS

710 HOME VISITS FOR
INDIVIDUAL
COUNSELLING

156 CHILDREN FOUND
UNDERWEIGHT (SUW)
8 CHILDREN -SAM
2 ADMITTED IN NRC

RCMIMH PROJECT MOKHADA (45 AWC)

PW - 133, LM - 261
CH- (0-24) M- 318, F -
314, CH - (24-36)M-
253, F- 226

5 VHNSC
35 MATA SAMITIS

317 HOME VISITS FOR
INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING
309 SESSIONS ON HEALTH AND
NUTRITION

18 SAM CHILDREN AND 41
MAM CHILDREN IDENTIFIED
10 ADMITTED IN NRC
REST UNDER CMAM

5 MATA MELAVAS - 457
BENEFICIARIES

3. Education

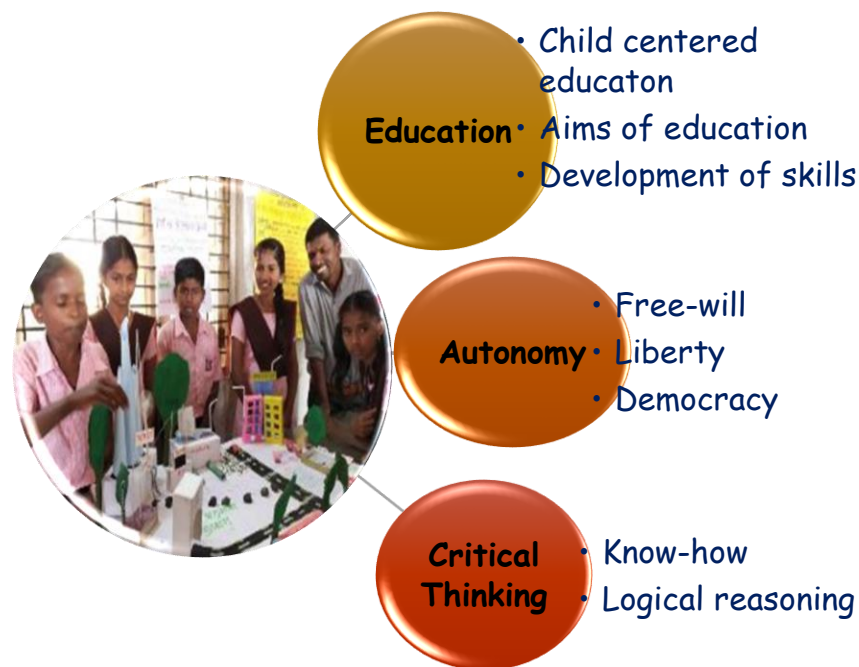
The Statistical Report of Tribes in India, 2013 says that the literacy rate among tribes in the country is **59%** and **49.4%** among women tribals; in Maharashtra the rate is **65.7 %** whereas the female literacy rate among tribals in the state is **57%** thus comparing positively with the national average of **73%**.

Statistics of school children (2010-11) reveals that **35%** tribal children drop out of school at the middle school level whereas **40%** drop out at the high school level.

The situation in Palghar, especially in Jawhar-Mokhada and other tribal talukas is no different. The literacy rate in Mokhada block is **46.54%** (Male – 53.7%, Female – 39.4%) as compared to the district average of **66.6%** (Male- 72.2%, Female – 59.3%) (*2001 census report*). There is a similar disparity in the school results, with Maths, Science and English being the major stumbling blocks for the children.

The ZP schools and the Ashram schools for tribal children do exist and attempt to do a good job despite poor infrastructure, inadequate facilities, shortage of staff and a curriculum and pedagogy that is far removed from the realities of the children's home situations. Our attempt is to make these schools and schooling enjoyable for the children so that they do not drop out midway and join the work force or migrate with their family, thus continuing the vicious cycle of inter-generational poverty.

AROEHAN attempts therefore to engage with students, teachers and the School Management Committees (SMC) of the ZP and Ashram Schools in several ways to achieve the goal of No Child Out-of-School. From conducting competitions and programmes for children, to sessions on life-skills, gender and environment, to training teachers on student-friendly pedagogy for teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through the STEM programme, we have made our school interventions sharper in recent years. However, we must state here that this work, like work in the healthcare area, is a continuous process of awareness and capacity building as also of advocacy.



Our interventions in education



BAL MELAVA:

7 Bal melavas were organized at Modgaon ZP school, Gonde, Hirve, Mokhada, Chaas, Palsunda and Ghanval Ashram Schools. During these events winners were given awards in various fields like academics, sports, painting, calligraphy and Warli painting.



BAL HAKK MOHIM (Child Rights Campaign) & EDUCATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

Rallies, transect walks, cultural programmes and competitions for students and their mothers were organized in five schools. The aim was to create awareness about Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), significant role of parents in a child's education, and ensure that those enrolled are retained in school. We were able to re-institute nine children in schools.



PARENTS' MEET (PALAK SABHA):

7 meetings were conducted to apprise them about the importance of SMC and about the entitlements of children in schools pertaining to uniforms and meals.



SMC MEETINGS:

31 SMC meetings were conducted in various Ashram and ZP Schools. Meetings discussed importance of parents meeting (Palak Sabha), reinstitution of drop out students, issues regarding uniform procurement, conducting of Bal Melavas, creating child-friendly atmosphere at school, recruitment of contractual STEM coach and in general about the quality of education.



The STEM programme- Jigyasa- that is supported by Siemens India Limited, has been much appreciated by students and teachers alike. It has created a vibrant atmosphere in the schools and has motivated the teachers to engage with the syllabus and the students in a happy, friendly manner.

STEM motivation rewards evaluation was conducted in 10 Schools with participation of 43 teachers teaching the science subject to classes 3 to 10. 28 kits were prepared. 1621 students (785 girls and 836 boys) participated in the evaluation

Digital Labs have been established in 10 Ashram schools to help students learn the experiments of STEM through the softedge software. The computers are also helpful in making the school tech-friendly.



A joint venture of AROEHAN, Siemens and ITDP Jawhar, **the Udaan initiative** focuses on age-appropriate learning. This initiative aims to help students from the 1st to 7th standards to develop on their comprehensive skills. A student friendly curriculum has been developed and the books have been circulated to all the schools in Mokhada.

This initiative was launched during an event organised by the Government Ashram School at Gonde in the presence of Guest of Honor, Biswajit Das (DDG, Central Health Services) and various officials from Education Dept., ITDP office and the AROEHAN team.



SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Adoshi and Mokhada Ashram Schools celebrated Science day on 28th Feb 2020. STEM kits and Rangoli art on science were displayed by students from 3rd to 10th/12th standards. The winners were awarded.

SCHOOL LEVEL SCIENCE EXHIBITIONS:

Exhibitions are the platforms to display innovation and creative inventions. **65** students (**20** students from 1st to 7th and **45** students from 8th to 10th standard) participated in the exhibition. Various models including that of new kits were prepared and displayed during these exhibitions.

BLOCK LEVEL SCIENCE EXHIBITIONS:

423 students participated in the Block level science exhibition at Dolhara School in Dec 2019. **8** Schools under Jigyaasa Project attended this exhibition and displayed science models.



TRAINING OF TEACHERS

Teachers of the Ashram schools in Mokhada were trained by three different organisations :

1. Palakniti trained **112** teachers on motivation and communication with students
2. Anand Niketan trained them on Pedagogy in Mathematics and Marathi Language
3. Think Tac trained **47** teachers on how to use STEM kits to make students understand science concepts



EXPOSURE VISIT:

61 teachers (**35** teachers from primary and **26** from secondary section resp.) along with AROEHAN team and project officials visited the science lab, handicraft room and class rooms at Anand Niketan where they learnt the advancement in education and pedagogy methods.

4. Governance

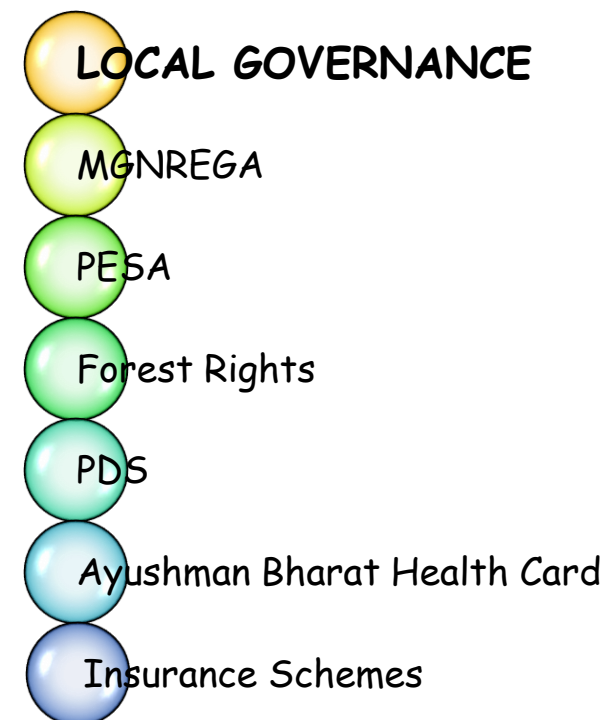
The tribal population in Palghar district is as much as **37 %** and that of Mokhada is **92 %**. Of this close to **66%** is population Below Poverty Line (*as per census 2011*). Literacy rates are **59%** as mentioned earlier. Health issues abound as is evident by the low birth-weight babies born and the malnourishment deaths that occur every once in a while. In the interior parts of the tribal talukas, it is likely that we will still come across hamlets which do not have electricity. Water scarcity hits most villages for five to six months every year; the primary occupation is agriculture and largely subsistence agriculture. Other means of employment are available in some talukas of the district while some of the tribal talukas see seasonal migration every year.

In other words, the tribal belt of Palghar is a desert of under-development in the midst of a sea of exponential development seen in surrounding Thane, Mumbai and Nasik.

Unless these poorer communities come together, collectively advocate for their rights and entitlements, participate actively in the governance systems and ensure the transformation of their lives, the situation of the villages will not change.

AROEHAN firmly believes that for any change to be sustainable, there needs to be a robust interface between people and governance systems. Unless local Panchayati Raj Institutions become people driven, reflect the issues and dreams of the people, and function in a transparent and accountable manner, interventions will remain transitory. Understanding structures, roles and responsibilities of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, knowledge of schemes and budgets that Gram Panchayats and other PRIs have to implement, capacity to engage with these institutions for accessing these schemes and entitlements, are essential if the tribals have to become citizens of this country, in the true sense.

We work through pada samitis to train and involve villagers in Gram Panchayat functioning specially to understand, activate and strengthen key mandatory committees in the village- namely, the VHNSC, Mata Samiti, Forest Rights Committee, SMC, PESA committee.



This year **62** pada samitis were made functional and strengthening their capacities was our major objective.

8 Training of Trainer workshops were held and **186** members attended the same. The training was conducted by resource persons from RSCD, an organisation working on governance and fundametal rights and a rich experience of working on these issues ever since the 73rd Amendment was implemented.

Topics like Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, the 14th Finance Commission and devolution of grants to the Panchayats, , GPDP and budgeting and government schemes were covered.

2 modules for facilitators have been published in the local language for the trainers to train and sensitise the villagers.



Inorder to observe and learn from the practices of other Gram Panchayats, the pada samiti members, SMC members, members of the gram panchayats and facilitators in the field were taken to Manchar , Pune where villagers have been successful in changing processes.

40 pada samitis Mokhada

**160
members**

971 MNREGA jobs

Water conservation structures
handed over to GPs at
Pethepada, Ase, Kurlod, Raipada,
Shendepada

70 hectares of forest land under CFR
- Bhovadi and Dhamodi

Water supply in Bospada hamlet
under the water tap scheme

Vocational classes for women in
Suryamal through mahila gram sabhas
10% fund reserved for women
sanctioned by Gramsevak

16 pada samitis Dahanu

**184
members**

145 MNREGA jobs

72 health cards under PMJAY
750 families under PM life
jyoti insurance scheme

115 ration cards
42 income certificates
5 caste certificates
65 SGNV certificates

29 claims for forest rights
2 sugarcane shops
1 power trailer

6 pada samitis Jawhar

62 members

81 MNREGA jobs

Water pipeline at
Wanganpada
Jalkund at Dongarpada

Repair work of pipeline
and motor
Desilting at Bhattipada

3-phase transformer and
RCC road at Dongarpada
Weekly bazaar at
Ramkhind



Stories from the field

TRADITIONAL TO TECHNICAL FARMING – STORY OF JAGAN BHOYE

Jagan Bhoys, all of 38 years is considered to be a successful farmer in his home village. Wadane in Dahanu Taluka. Some three years ago, like the other farmers, he was also struggling to meet his ends through traditional farming though he had a considerable land holding with him.

A chance exposure visit with other farmers from Dahanu to one of AROEHAN's villages in Mokhada, where scientific farming and good agricultural practices had led to extensive vegetable farming and floriculture. Jagan was impressed by the improved and sustainable methods of agriculture followed by these farmers and decided to try it out in his own farms.



With the help of AREOHAN staff, he did his first cropping in 2017, where he focused on lowering input costs and using the available resources optimally. He already had a vineyard for his previous crops, so he cultivated gourds, lima beans and cucumber and this saved him a huge amount of money that would otherwise be needed for preparation of the next crop. Multi cropping helped in improving soil carbon and other essential nutrients. He earned double his earlier income with the sale of his produce and also food security for his family. Jagan is happy to be an Adarsh Kisan, helping his fellow farmers to adopt good agricultural practices and increase their yield. With the profit earned, he recently bought a tractor for his farm and also earns through renting it out to other farmers.

A success story indeed with hard work and motivation!

FROM A SEASONAL MIGRANT TO A SEASONED FARMER - STORY OF MADHUKAR

Madhukar is a farmer of repute in his home village in Mokhada. Some years back his story was the same like that of the other tribal seasonal migrants. He now lives with his parents, wife and children.

As a child, Madhukar used to work as a farm labourer after attending school. Due to the economic condition of his family and the work load, he had to quit education in the 5th Standard. He started working full time with his parents on the farms during monsoon and then used to migrate to other villages to work on brick kilns and construction sites. Sometimes there was no work or very little work and expenses could not be met. This led Madhukar to seek solace in addiction which added to further economic deprivation in the household.



He had heard about AROEHAN helping farmers to multi crop and utilize good agricultural practices. On being approached, the project assistant from AROEHAN helped him with support for seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs and also involved him in an exposure visit to other farms. Madhukar then planted vegetables as a rabi crop, but heavy rains took a toll on the saplings and the crop was destroyed. This did not hamper the spirit of Madhukar, who readily agreed to plant gourds in 5 gunthas of land in September. He strictly followed all the instructions given by the team and started selling vegetables in the nearby weekly village markets. He also planted and sold leafy vegetables. He and his wife planned and worked together and even shifted the family

to the fields so as to keep watch on stray cattle, which could otherwise destroy their crops. Thus he became a full time farmer. He earned a net profit of Rs12500 from the sale of vegetables. Madhukar also contributed to the education and other family expenses. He could refrain from migration, earn well through multi cropping and was able to construct his own house through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme.

Madhukar experiments with a lot of vegetables and floriculture and earns good profits from the sale of produce. He has thus set an example for the other farmers in his area, who have taken inspiration and guidance from him to cultivate in the non-monsoon seasons as well.



JALKUND COMES TO THE RESCUE OF ORCHARDS

*Water conservation
and livelihood*

Background:



Subsidized horticulture was an ambitious programme in the State of Maharashtra under the Employment Guarantee scheme of the Government in the year 1990-91. The concept of orchard cultivation or horticulture was embedded in the minds of farmers thereon. This has been a boon to the barren land in the state, which sees an overall orchard cultivation in more than 18 lakh hectares of land in various places. But the fact lies that orchard cultivation has not met the farmer's expectations of increase in their earning potential. This is basically due to improper and inadequate information, apathy among farmers, water scarcity during non-monsoon months, type of land and climate and lack of processing units to store excess production when the market is low.

Mokhada, a tribal block in Palghar district receives adequate rainfall, but storage of water is difficult due to the steep slopes and rocks, which led to rainfed agriculture and seasonal migration for employment in the non-monsoon months. The land remains barren for most of the year and the plantation of orchards was a distant dream even with government and other social institutions putting in great efforts to restore the soil. Adaptation to new technology was also slow considering the marginal status of the farmers in tribal communities.

In this context, to make the community understand the importance of agriculture and its commercialisation, AROEHAN in the year 2011 started working on development of good agricultural practices in the taluka. From plantation of vegetables, floriculture and then horticulture, AROEHAN developed a group of farmers and helped them realize that agriculture can be a sustainable source of livelihood. But still the challenges of transportation of produce and water scarcity were huge. Water conservation structures like check dams, dams, cordons, sub surface bunds along with solar pumps were constructed. This helped the farmers whose lands were in the plains or slopes. But the farmland on hill tops and far to reach areas from water sources were still left out. Orchards need uninterrupted irrigation in the first three years of their growth. In order to bring in more land under cultivation, the idea of a farm pond or Jalkund was initiated.



Jalkund (Farm ponds) and horticulture:



To help farmers having farms on hill tops and hill slopes with water scarcity generate a stable source of income for their families, it was decided to plant 70 fruit trees in half an acre of land with 5m x 5m distancing among the saplings. In addition to the plantation, a farm pond or jalkund with dimensions 6m x 5m x 1m was also constructed, keeping in mind that water storage for 8 months post monsoon i.e 30000 liters (25000 litres @ 10 litres per plant for 8 months and evaporation quotient) should be made available. Thorny plants like sagargota were planted as a fence to avoid free cattle. 250 farmers have been included in this plantation drive.

the plants during traditional farming was found to be difficult due to the distance from the water source and the time taken. Now that the Jalkund is in the vicinity, it becomes easier for the farmers to water the plants twice daily leading to better growth and survival.

The farm pond is a boon to the farmers in this area, where in the previous years the survival rate of the plants was only 50% owing to water scarcity post October, this year the survival rate has increased to 75%. Watering



Area	Fruit trees	Number of saplings
20 gunthas	Mangoes	10
	Cashew	15
	Lemon	5
	Black Jamun	5
	Guava	5
	Gooseberry	5
	Teak	5
	Papaya	5
	Drumstick	5
	Bamboo	10
	Total	70

FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION – A COMBINED EFFORT

Health and Nutrition

Background:

The extent of malnutrition in the tribal areas still remains high in spite of various government nutrition schemes for the pregnant and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 0-6 years. The reasons are in plenty ranging from the death of one or both of the parents, multiple pregnancies, teenage pregnancies, alcoholism, child neglect, cultural taboos and lack of awareness of facilities.

One such story is that of Monali Dahawad, a-eleven-month-old baby girl from Dandval village in Mokhada block. Her mother passed away recently due to illness and negligence on the part of the family members. Her father is a farm labourer, addicted to alcohol and does not care or support the family. Monali is the youngest of six children, the eldest brother lives in another city for work, her 2 elder sisters are married and Asha her 12-year-old sister has to care for her and her other 3-year old sister. Asha had to quit her school due to household responsibilities.

After her mother's death, Monali was taken care of by her grandmother, but her father forcibly took the child away, which led to deterioration in the child's nutritional status. Due to constant neglect, Monali continued to fall ill and became severely malnourished.

Intervention by AROEHAN staff:



When Ishwar, our Program Community Mobiliser visited Monali's house on the 26th of December 2019, she was found to be very ill with difficulty in breathing, she weighed around 5.5 kg and her MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) was 11 cm.

With no adult caretaker in the house and the child to be taken to the hospital immediately, the PCM contacted the ANM, but she was out on vacation. He then contacted the Sarpanch and ordered for the 108 ambulance services and the child was shifted to the Mokhada Rural Hospital with her elder sister.

The next day when Ishwar visited the hospital, the paediatrician diagnosed the case as Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with Pneumonia and said that she will have to be kept in the hospital under treatment for 5 days and then in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) for another 14 days.



Now arose the need for a parent to accompany her, but her father was addicted, and the next option was her grandmother. Ishwar along with ASHA, AWW, and ICRP visited Monali's grandmother to convince her to stay at the hospital. But the fear of her son-in-law stopped her from going, until she was persuaded by some senior citizens in the village. Monali's grandmother and sister stayed at the hospital and her married sister stayed at home to look after her 3-year-old sibling.



The outcome:

When the AROEHAN team visited Monali in the hospital after 5 days, she looked better and her weight had increased by 100 gm. She gradually responded to treatment and was much better on discharge. In the mean while the team also met her father and explained to him the importance of care and support that Monali required. He responded to their pleas and decided to keep Monali and her sister with their grandmother.

Monali is now staying with her grandmother. As of March 2020 she weighs 8.9 kg and her MUAC is 12.5 cm. She has recovered from severe malnutrition, but still has to be monitored closely. The team has also requested the Sarpanch to help reinstate her elder sister Asha in school, so that she can become self-sufficient in the future.



Lessons learnt:

Malnutrition is not due to poverty alone but also sometimes due to child neglect. Counselling for behaviour change is as important as treatment. It is the shared responsibility of the family and the community to eradicate malnutrition in the long run.

All's well that ends well!

WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY.

The Jigyasa component of the ASHA project supported by Siemens Ltd. is being implemented in 10 Ashram schools, 3 of which are non-aided.

The following case study is about the Maharishi Vitthal Ramji Shinde Ashram School, Mokhada which was established in 1992. As part of the Jigyasa project, there was a need of a functional digital room in the school premises, but during the preliminary visits to the school, the team found that the room which was available was not in good condition.

A meeting with the school authorities and the SMC members led to the decision of constructing a new digital room within the school premises. All said and done, the major cause of concern was the availability of funds for the same. The school authorities could not let down the proposal of obtaining laptops and STEM kits for the benefit of their students and decided to contribute to the digital room.



There was one empty plot in the school premises which was chosen for the construction. The school personnel were able to raise an amount of Rs1, 80,000/- in a very short time. The contractor also reduced the rate of construction and materials. Within a span of one to two months the new digital room was constructed, painted and ready to be used.

10 laptops, 5 tables, 10 chairs, 1 cupboard and STEM kits were given to the school. Students and teachers alike started attending the computer classes with lots of interest and motivation.

The school moved a step ahead to becoming tech savvy and this shows that, “Where there is a will, there is a way!”



CURIOSITY (JIGYAASA) KILLS SUPERSTITION



This is the story of Mahesh Pandu Waghare, a native of Brahmanaon, Ase village and a student of Palsunda Ashram School, Mokhada. His parents are farmers and he has two siblings- one elder sister who got married after the 12th standard and one elder brother who is a student of BA final year.

Jigyasa team met this boy, in the 9th standard, not the first ranker in his class, but always curious to know many new things. He was not interested in experiments of science, but the superstitious beliefs in the villages as well as in the schools left him with many unanswered questions. He along with his classmate, Bhushan Bhoje decided to do something about the prevailing superstitions and discussed the topic with their teachers Mr Vani and Mr Rathor. The teachers showed them simple tricks and explained how the local bhagat tricked the people into believing the same as ill omens and extracted money from them.

The boys learnt the tricks such as piercing of tongue, red coloured liquid from coconut, burning of notes etc. from their teachers. They also enacted those in the school science exhibition and were selected to take part in the inter school science competition.

The confidence with which Mahesh could present himself before an audience was even appreciated by the Siemens team when they visited the school during the National Energy Conservation Day.



Mahesh and Bhushan have started the good work of spreading awareness against superstition and are not deterred by some of the villagers who are non-cooperative. They held a workshop in Mokhada Ashram School and the teachers and students appreciated them.

In a village where even men shy away from speaking, Mahesh and Bhushan have set up their mission of helping people from falling prey to superstitions.

THE EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME REACHES SURYAMAL VILLAGE IN MOKHADA

Suryamal is a beautiful village situated at a distance of 38 km from Mokhada Block. The total population of the village which also includes a PVTG – Katkari pada with 45 households and 197 villagers is 1024 approx. This is located amongst a hilly terrain and the community comprises of the Katkari and Mahadev Koli tribes. The village is also known for its traditional medicines and treatment for orthopaedic ailments.

As per the government employment for the villagers under the NREGA scheme is guaranteed for five years. The local people were unaware and due to political differences in the village even the elected representatives and the Gram Sevak did not feel the need to inform the villagers. The GPDP was not made properly and the only work undertaken was that of construction of the samaj mandir.

When team AROEHAN realised this, they called for a meeting of the Pada Samiti members of Suryamal and Katkari pada and provided information regarding the Employment schemes. A work plan was developed in the Gram Sabha with a budget and an official job application was delivered to the Rojgar Sevak. Post many meetings and frequent follow ups, duly filled in Form 4 of all the eligible beneficiaries was accepted. A muster of job work to be undertaken was also filed at the Panchayat Samiti. The results were seen in the form of the first work order for a farm pond and well in the village



given to 51 female and 54 male beneficiaries, each earning wages of Rs1250/-. The second muster recorded work for 59 females and 54 males, collectively earning Rs124264/- as wages. The total wages earned by the villagers through the government scheme amounted to Rs302208/-. The villagers were happy and stated that they could refrain from migration if they got continuous employment within the village limits.

One step forward to reduce migration for betterment of standard of living including better health and education in the tribal villages!

TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNANCE - COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF PADA SAMITI IN WANGANPADA, DAHANU

Sustainability and ownership in the community depends on the whole-hearted participation and collaborative efforts of the local committee members, villagers and the Government. This is true in the case of Wanganpada, a village in Dahanu block of Palghar district. Many issues in the village were solved due to sheer determination and cooperation of the Pada Samiti members and the village authorities.

The villagers found it difficult to conduct meetings or any events due to lack of a multi-purpose hall or community hall in the village. The only area where prayers and satsang were held belonged to a person named Mr. Ramesh Ghosa. When he came to know of the villagers' problems, he decided to donate the land for a community hall to be built which could be used for multiple purposes. The Pada Samiti members met the villagers and they jointly decided to construct an open hall with a ceiling and 3 walls for events and meetings. The villagers took this matter to the local MLA and the Gram Panchayat and this resulted in getting the hall constructed at the earliest. The Pada Samiti members supervised the construction and the villagers offered Shramdaan. The hall was finally set and became a source of inspiration for the other villages too!

In another instance, drinking water was a scarcity in this hamlet, which had only one private well which dries up in March. The National Rural Drinking Water Program had sanctioned a 5000 liter tank with some taps for storage of drinking water in the village, but this did not materialise due to lack of political will and community follow up with the process. The women folk had to walk 2 kms one way to fetch water on a daily basis. The Pada Samiti discussed this issue with the Sarpanch and Gram Sevak and presented the resolution in the Gram Sabha, the result of which led to all the households being able to get drinking water at their doorstep. The Pada Samiti members have prepared a timesheet of water utilisation and also framed minimal charges for maintenance of the machinery and pumps.

During one of the Pada Samiti meetings, one of the issues discussed was regarding the villagers not possessing important documents like caste certificate, income certificate, ration card and benefits from schemes like pension scheme etc. Team AROEHAN suggested that the Pada Samiti members make a list of the beneficiaries and meet the Tahsildar regarding the same.

A camp was organised in the village and all the villagers including those from neighbouring villages who had issues to be resolved were invited to participate. The Tahsildar arranged for all his officials to be present during the camp. 114 issues related to ration card, 40 related to income certificate, 3 caste certificate issues and 10 of pension benefit schemes were solved within no time. *Such is the power of collective efforts of local governance committees and the villagers!*



In-house capacity building workshops



Events



Donor meet - 11th June 2019



Environment day - 28th June 2019

Closure of ECC Project
25th September 2019



Launch of Udaan Initiative
25th September 2019



Distribution of health screening kits to
ASHA workers - 14th November 2019



Mata Melava - February 2020



Rally on Women's day - 6th March



Rally on Women's day
6th March 2020



Children's camp at Modgaon ZP school
6th March 2020



Folk dance on Women's day
6th March 2020

Visitors



Visit by ITDP officer, Jawhar





**Visit by Siemens team and
BCCI members**





Visit by AROEHAN trustee members



Training and Exposure visits





AROEHAN – Board

Name	Status	No of years as Governing Body Member	Current work
Dr Helen Joseph	Chairperson	4	Retired Professor, College of Social Work. Currently engaged with NGOs, Academic institutions and Hospitals as Member of Board / Consultant / Expert on Ethics Committees
Dr Purushottham Kulkarni	Secretary	4	Professor, IIT, Mumbai
Mr Dinesh Ahir	Treasurer	4	Chartered Accountant
Ms Anjali Kanitkar	Member	4	Retired Associate Professor; on contract with Government of Maharashtra as Director, Social Audit
Ms Meenal Gandhe	Member	2	Project Manager, Population First, Mumbai
Ms Vivek Patwardhan	Member	1	Former Head - HR of Asian Paints, Executive Coach and Consultant
Mr Johny Joseph	Member	1	Executive Director, Creative Handicrafts
Mr Naresh Jena	Member	2 months	Ex-Secretary of Maharashtra State Social Welfare Board
Mr Mohan Surve	Member	2 months	CEO, Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan, an organisation working on Sustainable Development
Mr Satyadev Pandey	Member	1.5 years	Advocate High Court
Members of General Body			
Mr Abraham Antony	Member	4	Retired Associate Professor, Social work
Ms Nisreen Ibrahim	Member	2	Director, Rangoonwala Foundation, Mumbai

This year also witnessed the closure of two of our major projects

– The Early Child Care Project supported by DHFL Changing Lives Foundation in Palghar block

We thank DHFL Changing Lives Foundation team for having supported our work to empower mothers and improve their nutritional status as well as strengthening the existing health systems.

We would also like to thank the whole team of ECC project who have been with AROEHAN for the past 3 years and contributed to the successful implementation of the program.



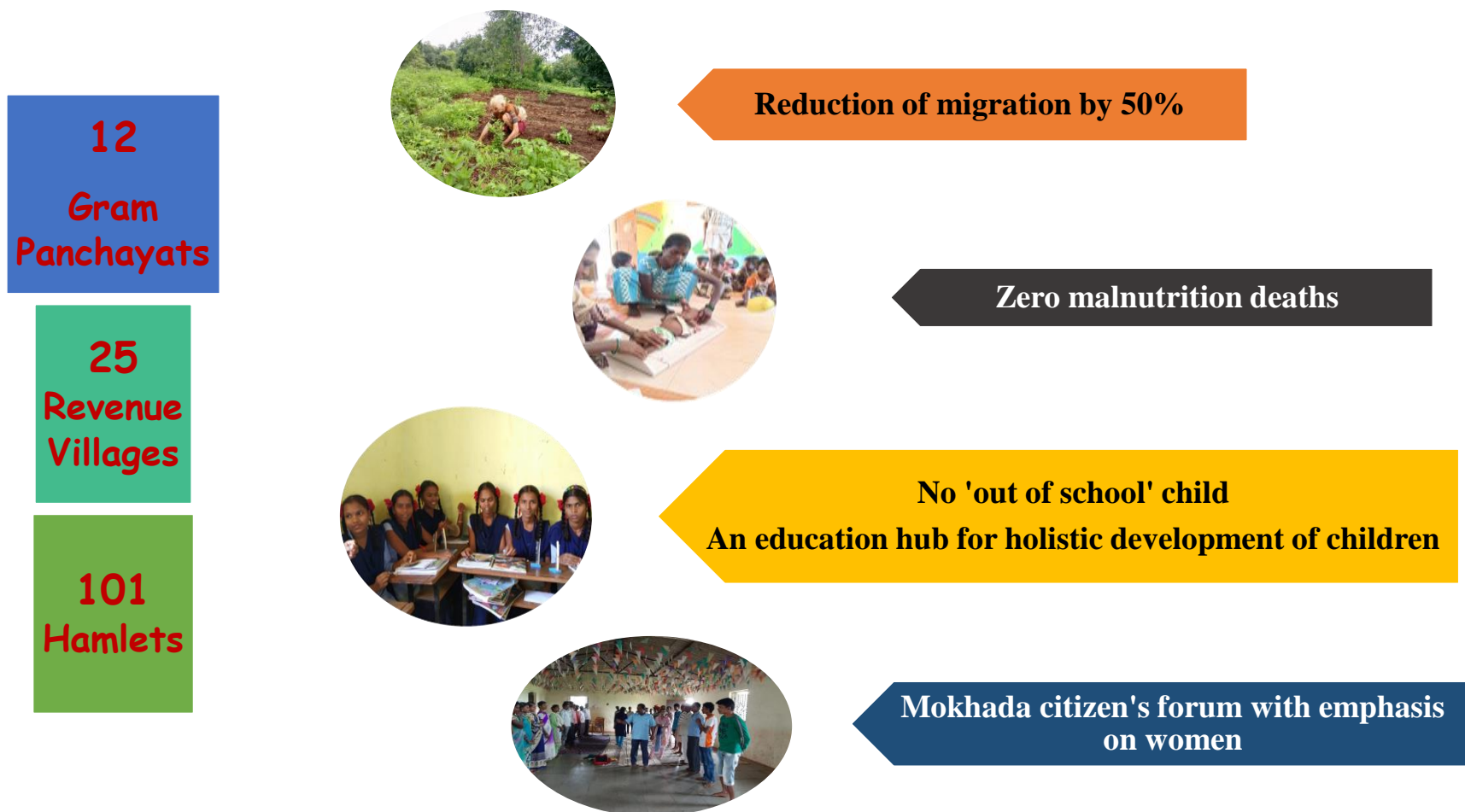
– The Livelihood Development Project supported by ACG Cares Foundation in Dahanu block

We thank ACG Cares foundation team for having supported our work to empower farmers to increase their income through multi cropping and good agricultural practices and also ensure sustainability through good governance.

We would also like to thank the whole team of Livelihood development project who have been with AROEHAN for the past 3 years and contributed to the successful implementation of the program.

Way ahead – 2020-2025

Creating dream villages in Mokhada block – 5 Strategic goals



Covid-19 relief work – Palghar, Dahann, Jawhar and Mokhada

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken the world by storm but has at least helped the countries and states to revisit their health systems and health care delivery.

The 21-day lockdown which has been extended till the 31st of August in some places, announced by the Prime Minister on the 23rd of March had multiple effects on the community at large. It has affected the most vulnerable of the tribal group – the Katkaris, some widows who are staying alone in far to reach hamlets and the seasonal migrants and their families from other blocks and districts in the State. The worst hit, of course, were the migrants and small-scale industrial labour who leave their hometown and enter other cities/villages in search of menial jobs. As the companies and brick kilns were shut down and their owners stranded in the cities, the migrant population had been left in the lurch with nowhere to go, no money and lack of necessities like food and water.

AROEHAN as a team has always strived to help the most vulnerable tribals in the various blocks of its implementation. The team was able to identify many such individuals and families in the villages and hamlets of Palghar and Mokhada Block in Palghar district through reliable sources and we decided to help them with dry ration and hygiene essentials.

There had also been requests for hygiene/ protective consumables (mask, sanitizer, gloves) from the PHCs as well as the front-line workers of Jawhar and Mokhada block.

We have approached individuals and corporate for donations to help the migrant population in their most trying times and save them from the harshness of the pandemic and its resultant lock-down!

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with immense gratitude all our donors who worked with us with the same zeal and gave us the hope and strength to continue with determination towards our vision and mission.

- + Siemens India Limited
- + DHFL-Changing Lives Foundation
- + ACG Cares Foundation
- + Edelgive Foundation
- + H T Parekh Foundation
- + HEAD Foundation
- + Tata Power
- + Tata Motor Limited
- + Lord India Pvt. Limited
- + Concern India Foundation
- + SATHI CEHAT (NHM)
- + Great Eastern Shipping CSR
- + Alky Amines CSR
- + And a host of individual donors

We also acknowledge the support of our technical partners- Natural Solutions, and IIT Mumbai for handholding our team in all our water harvesting projects which have brought much 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; Palghar District and Block Administration; Project Officer-Tribal Development for their continuous support.



Action Related to the Organisation of Education, Health and Nutrition

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