



STRIDES

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AROEHAN's Monthly Newsletter

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Mothers & Nutritional Resource Centre

AROEHAN helps 14 y.o Mother

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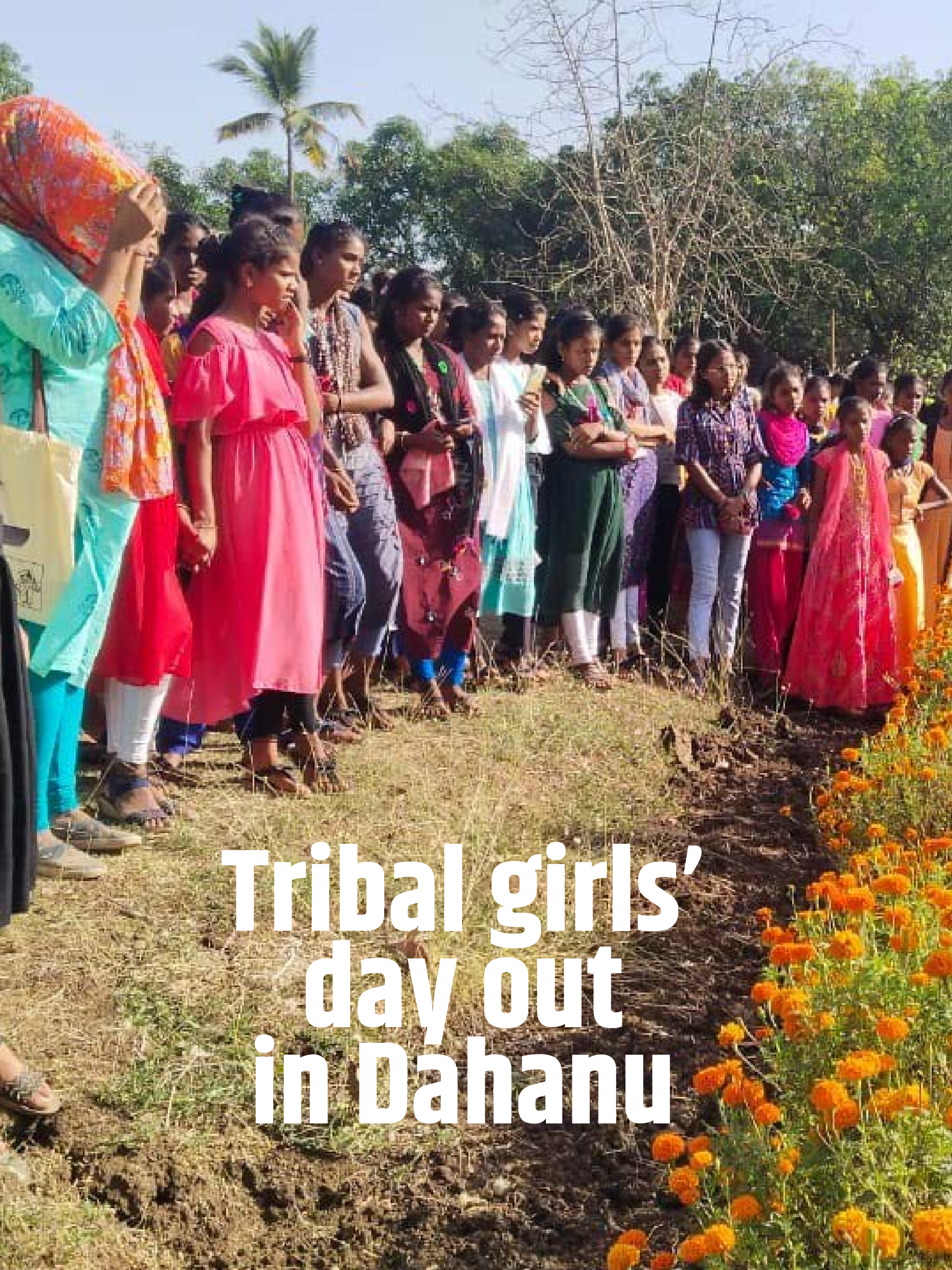
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Tribal girls' day out in Dahanu

India has the largest adolescent population in the world with approximately over 25 crore individuals. Every fifth person is between 10 to 19 years. However, teenagers in the country lack access to information about issues and institutions that affect their lives. Adolescent girls are especially vulnerable to detrimental social norms affecting their morale, confidence and their value. This affects their ability to think and move independently and to make important decisions affecting their bodies, education, work and social relationships.

It is necessary for teenagers to be exposed to knowledge about various government institutions and working environments, and learn about available facilities and entitlements at these institutions. AROEHAN organised a visit for adolescent girls to institutions including Gram Panchayat, Police Stations and an Agricultural university. A total of 52 girls from Aswe, Agwan and Chari-Kotabi hamlets of the Dahanu block participated in the exposure visit.



We visited the Gram Panchayat office at Agwan. The Gram Sevika and Sarpanch there discuss the work and services offered in the institution and the importance of gram panchayat with the girls.

They were provided with information about Bal Gram Sabha as well. Later we visited the police station in Dahanu.

The Police Inspector, PSI and other police officials



informed the girls of their rights and various services accessible at the police station. The participants were given a tour of different departments of police stations and elaborately explained the role of officers and the functioning of departments. As part of the visit, they were also allowed to hold guns and rifles, which cracked smiles on the faces of the girls.

Our final visit was to the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), a district level Farm Science Centre in Kosbad, Dahanu established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for the quick transfer of technology to the farmer's fields. The aim of KVK is to reduce the time lag between the generation of technology at the research institution and its transfer to the farmer's fields for an increased production and productivity and a sustainable income from agriculture and allied sectors.

The girls also saw the museum at KVK that had information about local breeds of birds and animals, local crops, etc. We took a tour of the agricultural farm on the premise of the centre with the latest tools and technology utilised. Staff members talked about sustainable agriculture practices and the preparation of organic fertilisers and pesticides.





AROEHAN celebrates PESA and Panchayat Raj Awareness Month

AROEHAN is celebrating PESA and Panchayat Raj Awareness Month from March 15th to April 2023 in accordance with the 25th anniversary of the declaration of the PESA Act and the 30th anniversary of the Panchayat Raj Act.

The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, or PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for

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The Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act of 1992 came into force in India on April 24, 1993 to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. And the PESA Act was enacted to enable Tribal Self Rule on December 24, 1996.



people living in the Scheduled Areas of India. Panchayati Raj is the system of local self-governance of villages in rural India. It consists of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) tasked with economic development, strengthening social justice and implementation of Central and State Government Schemes, through which self-governance is realised.

AROEHAN conducted awareness programmes in 150 hamlets of Mokhada, Jawhar and Dahanu. In order to raise social consciousness in society, awareness rallies were held by AROEHAN with the participation of students and locals. AROEHAN conducted an exhibition for locals of the IEC material including booklets



and posters on the Forest Rights Act, Ration Dakkshata Samiti, Maharashtra Gramin Yojana, Gram Sabha Kosh Samiti and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

On April 11th, a PESA awareness programme was held in Banachiwadi. AROEHAN's Pada Samiti and the newly elected PESA Gram Kosh Committee facilitated the programme. Sarpanch, Deputy Chairman, Zilla Parishad members, Agriculture Assistants, Anganwadi workers and Gram Panchayat members were present on the occasion. A Shivar Pheri was held to assess the needs of the village for the preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). In the presence of 55 villagers, AROEHAN raised awareness about the PESA Act and the rights and entitlements of the residents of tribal villages.

Photo Gallery



AROEHAN activists shield themselves from the hot sun during an exposure visit to Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Photo Credit: Sujata Ayarkar

AROEHAN helps mothers develop faith in Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre



To overcome the problem of malnourishment, the government has set up Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) wards in every sub-district hospital. It was established in Health Facilities to provide appropriate and facility-based case management to children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Children with SAM are admitted to the hospital for medical and nutritional care. The goal of NRC is to save the lives of SAM children below the age of 5 and case fatalities can be reduced.

We, at AROEHAN, noticed that mothers are often scared to visit an NRC and have a fear of admitting their children for 14 days of treatment. In order to counter the fear of NRC, we organised visits to the NRC wards at the sub-district hospitals at Kasa and Dahanu.



The visits to NRC were conducted on March 11 and March 29, 2023, respectively.

Pregnant women, lactating mothers, parents of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) participated in these visits. Women from the hamlets of Ranshet, Vadhna, Rayatali and Chandwad from Dahanu block participated in the first visit. They were elaborately explained about facilities, services, treatment and resources available at the centre. They were also guided on the treatment of SAM children.

64 women from these hamlets participated in the visits. The initiative helped the mothers develop a positive outlook towards NRC and government programmes. Three mothers admitted their children to NRC for treatment following this initiative.



AROEHAN helps 14-year-old mother return home



Markatvali is a remote village under Botoshi Gram Panchayat in Mokhada taluka. On March 3, 2023, 14-year-old pregnant girl Sunita, a resident of Markatvali, felt pain in her belly. An ambulance arrived at the location to take Sunita to the health centre after the villagers called 108 emergency number. She was admitted to the local Primary Health Centre.

However, her child could not be delivered at the health centre and

she was referred to Mokhada Rural Hospital. The baby could not be delivered there either. Hence, Sunita was further referred to the Nashik District Hospital.

While on the way to the hospital, Sunita gave birth to her baby in the ambulance itself. The baby was born through normal delivery and weighed 2.2 KG. Sunita was admitted in Nashik District Hospital to ensure her and her baby's safe health. Upon admitting her, the hospital asked for the documents including Sunita's birth certificate. They found out that Sunita was only 14 years and 10 months old. Based on that a case was filed with the Nashik Police. The police referred her to the Child Welfare Committee in Nashik. Sunita was not allowed to leave the Nashik Hospital and come back home.

AROEHAN's activist Bhavesh Pore (project community mobiliser) came to know about the matter. He discussed the issue with the Sarpanch of the village, who also inquired about the details of the case. On March 9, 2023, Bhavesh visited Sunita in the hospital and inquired about her and her baby's health. He requested the Child Welfare Committee to withdraw the case and let her go back home as per her wish.

The case was then withdrawn under some conditions. Bhavesh assured that Sunita and her family would follow them and they came to an agreement. Sunita was finally discharged from the hospital on March 10, 2023, seven days after the birth of her child.



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