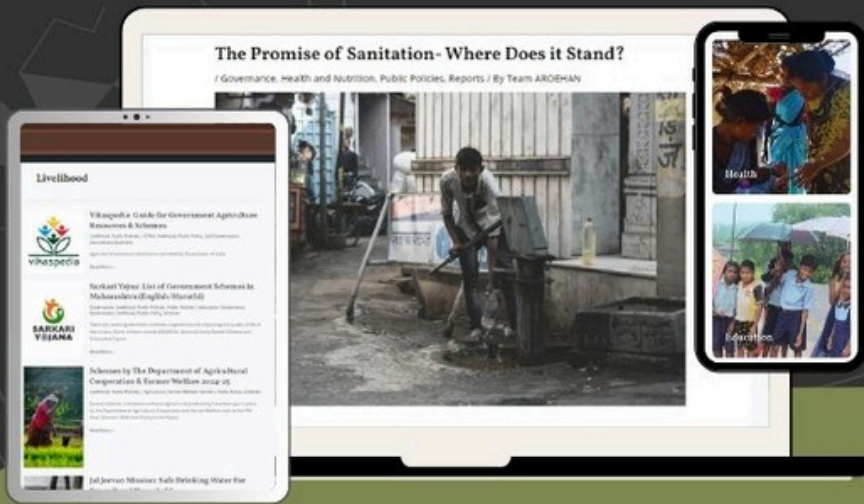


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STRIDES



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Volume 4, Issue 3

Celebrating

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ommitment, and
ollaboration



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DE-STIGMATISING REHABILITATION

NRC VISIT FOR CARETAKERS



A group of mothers and their children were taken to the Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre in in Dahanu. 36 mothers along with their children from 10 revenue villages from Gram Panchayat Ranshet-Vadhana, Ashagad, Chari-Kotbi, Raitali-Chandwad, Asave and Agwan were taken to the Dahanu Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), at the Dahanu Cottage, for a visit on April 30, 2024.

The purpose of the visit was to help break myths that parents had about NRCs, such as the gross misconception that underweight children are given saline, just like any other patient. They were informed about the separate ward that was especially put in place, to administer the right treatment to underweight children. They were informed extensively about the treatment process, as efforts were made to restore the health of these children using medicines, nutritious food and tonics. They were admitted to the NRC for a maximum period of 14 days. The child's mental and physical ailments were understood and accordingly, the best possible treatments are administered.



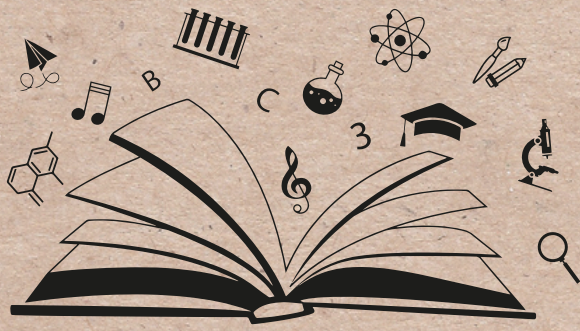


This visit was meant to reduce the fears, misconceptions and stigmas associated with NRCs. The in charge of the NRC gave a tour of the ward meant for underweight children and helped them understand a few crucial pieces information about the facilities given to parents and children. They were informed about the number of beds in the ward, the facilities for children to play, food availability for children and the accompanying parent and the daily inspection and supervision for the children. Once they are ready to go home, the parents are taught the step-by-step process of cooking and feeding nutritious meals to their children, in order to maintain the weight. The children are also taught to maintain a clean and hygienic environment.

This tour was followed by the height and weight mapping of the 36 children who were participating the visit. 10 children were found to have Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), 23 children had Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and only 2 of them had normal weight. Dr Dheeraj informed them of the causes and implications of being underweight such as poor concentration and poor brain development that will hamper the child's ability to become a functional adult. He also informed that after the child leaves the NRC, the parents will be paid their wages at the rate of Rs 300/- per day or Rs 4200/- per day. Even if the child is admitted for 7 to 10 days, a subsidised wage rate is paid. On bringing the child back for inspection after 15 days, the parent is given Rs 250/-. Financial aid is incentivised after every such visit.

Dr Dheeraj then prescribed some tonics and medicines to the severely and moderately underweight children, that had to be bought at the centre's medicine department. The dietician once again reiterated the importance of nutrition and a hygienic environment. Towards the end, Dr Rathod informed the parents about the National Child Safety Program and the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). He informed them that children from every pada are screened for different disabilities and diseases such as cleft pallet and webbed feet, while free of cost consultation, treatment and surgery are given to them.



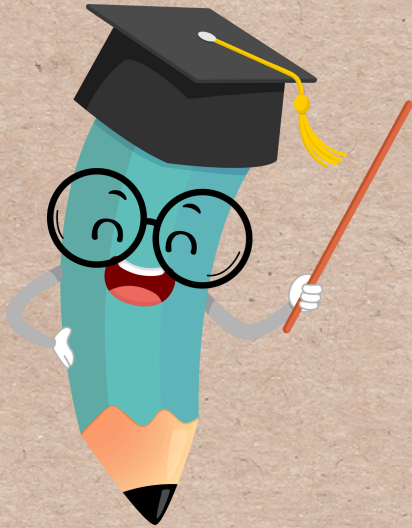


School Management Committee Training: Democratising Education



A two-day training on School Management Committees (SMC) and School Development Plan (SDP) was conducted, on 1st and 2nd May. Ma Sumitra Ashtikar was invited as a trainer and climbing activists were roped in as participants. The implementation of the Right to Education Act of 2009, which mandates the right to free and compulsory education, was discussed. In government school, the members of the School Management Committees are selected from amongst the parents, while in private schools, board members are selected. A discussion on the safety control committees and their scope of responsibilities was also undertaken. Some of the additional functions and duties, entrusted upon the School Management Committees, by law, were also discussed.





No school can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests.

Dorothy H Cohen, Prolific Writer & Educator

Sanctioning expenditures distributed for every department and worker in the school and the annual accrual expenditure comes in the purview of the School Management Committees. Ensuring the safety and security of every child in the school and overseeing that they do not suffer academic losses, due to absence or poor availability of the teachers is also the SMC's responsibility. SMCs are required to provide some facilities by law, which were also discussed in the training. It is the onus of the school to provide mid-day-meals and ensure a clean, safe and hygienic environment for the children. Inspections have to be undertaken to ensure cleanliness in slums, hygiene in the places where food is stored, adequate water supply, proper living conditions and other amenities to ensure that people are able to live in a comfortable and disease-free environment. SMC officials are required to taste food before serving it to the students. They have to ensure proper food, transport and water system in school and keeping in mind hygiene when the food is grown.





MOKHADA WOMEN SHGS EXPLORE INNOVATION IN GUJARAT'S BAIF NGO

On May 5, 2024, the women Self Help Groups (SHGs) were taken on a study tour to BAIF NGO Navsari District (Vasda, Sakharpatil) in Gujarat. To kickstart the tour, they were informed about AROEHAN's work and the purpose of the study tour. This was followed by Mr Kamal Choudhary telling them about BAIF's projects and livelihood opportunities. The NGO works on themes such as animal husbandry, tree-based agriculture, development of water resources and land dependent livelihoods. Post 1982, some other major programs began. The Orchard Wadi Planting program was initiated. To increase water storage, several steps were taken such as land levelling and building watercourse dams.

The BAIF Development Research Foundation (BAIF) is a multidisciplinary organization that works to improve the lives of rural families in India. BAIF's mission is to create opportunities for self-employment, improve quality of life, and contribute to sustainable development goals.





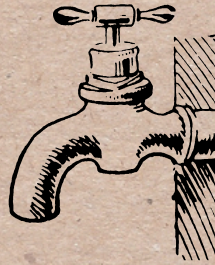
Cultivation of vegetables such as chilis, ivy gourd, cabbage and cluster beans was undertaken. They began working with Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and mango grafting, which was initially done by only five women has now transformed the Purna Wasada region into a mango graft nursery. They are also engaged in preparation of vermicompost, mushroom preparation and griding turmeric. A vegetable cart along with a restaurant run by the women of the Self-Help Group began in 2006.

They have been engaged and trained extensively on goat, cow and poultry rearing methods. They were also engaged in food processing, as they bought and sold various items such as mango pickle, mango sweets, mango jam and mango juice. They have also bought and sold cashews and fruit juices. They visited a mango pickle unit to learn the integrities of packaging, branding and other important things about the business. The SHG is also running 15 restaurants, with a turnover of 1 lakh per month, sans salaries. The locals use locally grown food to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner at the restaurant. They visited other SHGs working with jute, making papad and different masalas to understand the workings of these groups. After a visit to the SHG that makes hand washing soap, Nirma Powder and other liquid products, the tour came to an end. AROEHAN's activists. Nitesh Mukne,, Ganesh Madiwal, Shantaram Bhore and Sanjay Baraf were present for the visit. A total of 26 women from 7 SHGs from villages such as Adoshi, Sirasgaon, Dolhara, Dhamanshet, Sadakwadi and Bedukpada were a part of the excursion.





WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES PEEK INTO EVALUATION OF WATER CONSERVATION



On June 27, 2024, The Yuva Mitra Sanstha organised a water management committee study tour in Sinnar. The purpose of the trip was to inspect and understand the work done by the organisation for water conservation and water usage. In the morning session, Atul Dangte informed the participants about AROEHAN and the purpose of the trip. This was followed by Mr Akash from Yuva Mitra Sanstha introducing the present staff from AROEHAN and the water Management Committee members. After this, Mr Dangte informed the gathering that Yuva Mitra Sanstha had been working in the development sector for the past 28 years. The organisation studied the water problem and revived 22 canals by rerouting water in the direction of the slope of the canals. They were able to irrigate 5,725 acres of land. Enhanced water availability meant that more crops could be cultivated, leading to better economic opportunities for the farmers in the area. He also gave some information about some of the projects run by the organisation on health, sanitation, education, livelihood and water conservation. In the beginning, irrigation in agricultural land was done through British era canals and this system was closed later.





Through Devnadi Farmer Producer Ltd, farmers are offered discounted fertilisers, medications, farming equipment seeds, irrigation facilities, etc. To assist the female farmers in raising and augmenting their revenue, goats are distributed for livestock breeding and to offset costs they are given training in producing and marketing goods like paneer, cheese, and ghee using goat milk. They are given information about goat caretaking, ailments, and vaccinations. During the afternoon session, the excess water from the British era dam was directly inspected as Mr Akash informed the AROEHAN workers of how the water reaches small farmers, through the canal.



They visited the Savitribai Phule milk producing company and Mr Sanket Malve informed them about the organisation. This company processed milk to make and sell curd, ghee, paneer and cheese. They also informed how goat milk is used as a natural medicine for people with TB, black spots and sick children. They also visited Pashu Ma, where goats and their medicines are sold at discounted prices. They also gained information on vermicomposting by visiting the vermicomposting demo project. This was followed by Mr Akash answering all the questions posed by the Water Management Committee (WMC). 34 WMC members were present in the event.



BAL ANAND MELAVA, A FUN FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

AROEHAN organised Bal Anand Melava, a fun festival for children and parents on July 16th. The theme of Bal Anand Melava was - Everyone is Welcome. Everyone was welcome to participate in this event from parents to students, teachers, community workers, and locals. Bal Anand Melava's primary goal was to provide a platform for the overall development of tribal children by allowing their many innate artistic abilities to be explored. We used the occasion to encourage parents to become more involved in their children's education and overall development. Children performed well-rehearsed dance and singing recitals on stage in their traditional outfits and language. We also conducted friendly competitions like Musical Chairs for children and parents and a ceremony was held to award the winners with goodies.



As the academic year has just rolled in, all students were given study materials like books, pencil boxes, stationery, etc. A total of 54 students, and 26 stakeholders including the school principal, teachers, SMC Committee, PESA Committee Head, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers, Parents, and Volunteers were present at the Bal Anand Melava.



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Krishi Vigyan
Kendra on



96th ICAR ANNIVERSARY



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), established as an autonomous body in 1929, celebrated its Foundation Day on July 16th, 2024. While agriculture is entering the technology revolution in India, there are various communities especially tribal farmers deprived of various needs for improved and allied livelihood practices. AROEHAN collaborates with farmers and different institutions to integrate farmers' needs like spheres of crop production, orchard plantation, livestock management, and goat rearing, among other practices. On ICAR's 96th Foundation Day, AROEHAN conducted a study tour for farmers of Jawhar to Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Kosbad Hill, Dahanu.

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

The first KVK was established in 1974 at Puducherry and the number of KVKs has risen to 731! The KVK scheme is 100% financed by Govt. of India and the KVKs are sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) working in Agriculture.





Senior Scientist Dr. Vilas Jadhav briefed farmers about Krish Vigyan Kendra (KVK) which is an integral part of the National Agriculture Research System (NARS) that aims at the assessment of location-specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement, and demonstrations. Subject Matter Agronomy Specialist Mr. Bharat Kushare talked about utilising modern technology for lower cost of rice production and gave information on nursery cultivation, tray rice, mattress steam, and modern machinery. Mr. PV Wartha, Farm Manager at KVK, elaborated on techniques like the token method of paddy cultivation, Saguna Rice Technique, Derm Method, Benefits of mulching paper planting - which can help retain moisture in the soil, which reduces the need for irrigation. Mr. Ashok Bhoir, PA of Soil Science, gave instructions about orchard plantation, and the farmers were also briefed about bee-keeping for honey production and poultry farming by Mr. Uttam Sahane- an entomology specialist. KVKs have been functioning as a Knowledge and Resource Centre of agricultural technology supporting initiatives of the public, private, and voluntary sectors for improving the agricultural economy of the district and linking the NARS with the extension system and farmers. 35 Farmers from Nyhale and Borale Gram Panchayats of Jawhar benefitted from AROEHAN's expedition to Kosbad's KVK.





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