

2023-24

# AROEHAN ANNUAL REPORT

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Action Related to the  
Organisation of Education,  
Health, and Nutrition

[www.aroehan.org](http://www.aroehan.org)



# JOURNEY SO FAR

AROEHAN began as a field action project of the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, in 2006. It was later registered as a non-profit organization. AROEHAN has been working to bring about sustainable changes to the lives of tribal communities in the Mokhada, Jawhar, Palghar and Dahanu blocks of the Palghar district in Maharashtra.

## 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.

## WHERE WE WORK

PALGHAR - DAHANU, MOKHADA, AND JAWHAR BLOCKS

## TRIBES IN OUR DEMOGRAPHIC

WARLI, KATKARI,

## WHAT WE DO

HEALTH & NUTRITION - EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE

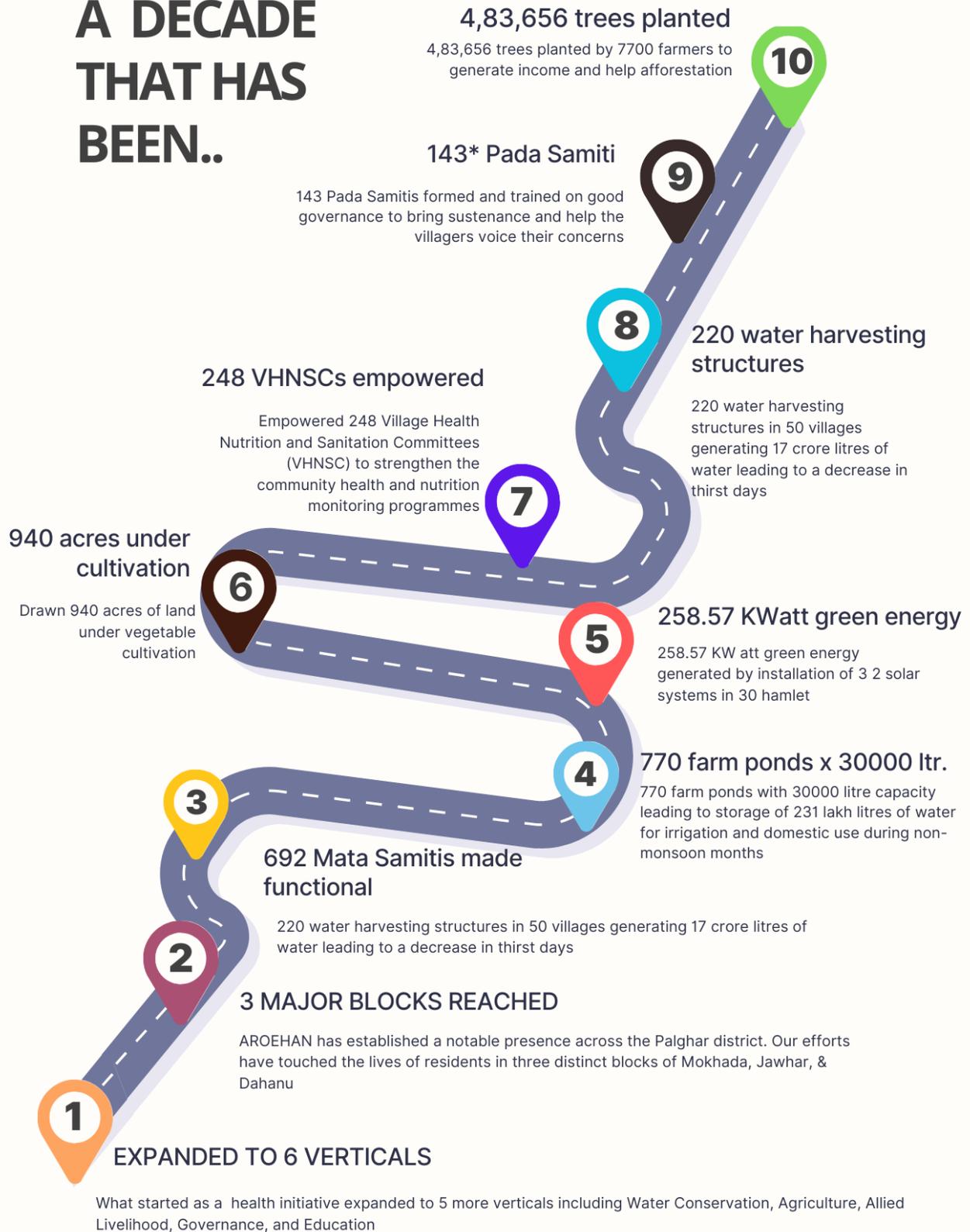
EDUCATION

WATER CONSERVATION

AGRICULTURE & ALLIED LIVELIHOODS

GOVERNANCE

# A DECADE THAT HAS BEEN..



## 10 YEARS, 10 MAJOR MILESTONES

# HIGHLIGHTS 2023-24

## Organisational Development

- In an attempt to assess AROEHAN's work in various verticals, review reports were produced detailing our approaches, challenges, and milestones.
- A documentary film produced to showcase AROEHAN's journey and major initiatives featuring founders, beneficiaries, stakeholders, and activists.
- Produced training videos on child growth monitoring tools, pre-sowing seed treatment, vermicomposting, livestock management, MGNREGA Job Card enrolment, and facilitation of Bal Panchayat.
- Investing in capacity building including academic scholarships, exposure visits, trainings and skills development sessions.
- Focused on organisational capacity by building database management software, information banks, HR and finance policy reviews.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Geographical Extension:** Over the past year our work's geographical reach and the volume of activities has greatly expanded. What started from the Mokhada block, has now been taken to Dahanu and Jawhar blocks as well.
2. **Reach in Palghar District:** With our commitment towards large scale impact we reached 3 blocks in Palghar district, spanning 42 Gram Panchayats and 293 AWCs.
3. **Diverse Project Portfolio:** A diverse set of initiatives were added including Integrated village development (2 projects), water conservation and livelihood (1 project), Livelihood Assets & Resources (2), Maternal and Child Health (5 Project) and Education (1 project).

## Maternal and Child Health

- Reached out to 24,299 mothers, children and pregnant women
- Helped 688 children with SAM and 1,292 children with MAM access individual recovery plans.
- Empowered 5,259 adolescents with life skill trainings and regular meetings
- Refurbished 3 AWCs to enhance childcare facilities.
- Constructed 225 Soak-Pits aiding local and community sanitation.
- Collaborated with 849 Frontline Healthcare Workers and facilitated 19 capacity-building workshops.

## Resources and Livelihood

- Implemented a Check Dam, and 3 wells with a combined potential storage capacity of 85 lakh litres and generated 42.5kW of green energy through solar-based interventions.
- Directly supported 140 farmers, 37.25 acres of cultivable land through social forestry and vegetable production while planting 4,690 trees through orchard cultivation.
- 73 farmers took up Floriculture, 67 farmers took up horticulture, 81 farmers received micro-irrigation support and 15 farmers adopted multi-cropping.
- Supported 28 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) engaged in rice and flour mills, electric and solar drying, food processing, nursery management, poultry incubation, and goat rearing, generating an income of Rs. 3.56 lakh.

## Education

- Reached out to over 9000+ students in 38 schools and conducted 12 student cabinet elections engaging 3,840 students, while conducting 64 Bal Sabhas.
- Focusing on STEM conducted 10 Science Fairs in 10 Ashram Schools with total participation of 303 students and 126 projects prepared, 215 students participated in Essay Writing competitions, 178 students in drawing competitions, and 580 Science and Nature themed books distributed.
- Refurbished Swami Nagar Zilla Parishad School and installed Rainwater Harvesting Unit at Zilla Parishad School in Koshimshet.
- Installed 4 LCD TVs and established functional Digital Tab Labs in 14 schools with required resources, infrastructure, updated technology, and software.

## Governance

- Facilitated 4 Gram Panchayat Development Programs while engaging 847 women in Mahila gram Sabha activities.
- Facilitated MGNREGA and work applications for 4,569 job card holders, created 35 village-level labour budgets, generating 5,46,116 person days of work and Rs 11,46,84,360 worth of employment.
- Conducted a month-long PESA & Panchayat Awareness Campaign, reaching 80 villages, and engaging 3,220 individuals,
- Passed resolutions for prevention of child marriages in 3 Gram Panchayats.

# ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## ASHA KIRAN AWARDS

Community workers are the cornerstone of society. They dedicate themselves to the well-being and improvement of communities and contribute to addressing issues that are often overlooked. They diligently attend to the needs of vulnerable groups and bridge the gap between essential services provided by the government and organizations and those in immediate need of these services. Community workers significantly impact all facets of society, and their collaboration with various stakeholders emphasizes the importance of unity and collective action in achieving societal growth and development. AROEHAN has been able to sustain and grow as an organization thanks to its collaboration with community workers, which has deepened trust with various tribal groups. On March 10, 2024, AROEHAN held the Asha Kiran Awards ceremony to honor community workers and groups. A total of 13 awards were distributed among ASHA workers, AWC workers, Rojgar Sevaks, medical officers, and community groups such as PESA Gram Kosh Samiti, Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committees (VHSNC), Pada Samiti, Self Help Groups (SHG), and Mata Samiti.

## COLLABORATING WITH DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION AND NGOS

While AROEHAN collaborates with different organizations and NGOs throughout the year to align our initiatives with expertise and deliver best practices, we took a step forward by bringing together various organizations, institutions, and social issue experts to "Rethink Development" in the context of tribal development. With increasing industrialization and changes in laws and policies, it is imperative to protect the social and economic rights of tribal communities. In line with our work, four workshops were held to amend, assess, and reconceptualize issues in education, health, governance, and livelihoods in tribal areas of Maharashtra. The GROW Fund supported these workshops at the S.M. Joshi Socialist Foundation in Pune to foster more inclusive and meaningful practices around relevant issues. The remarkable panel for this discussion included Dr. Abhay Shukla from Jan Arogya Abhiyan, Shailesh Dikhle from Saathi, Dr. Mohan Des from Arogya Bhan, Kishore Darak from Tata Trust, Rajshree Tikhe from Sengati Social Impact Enhancement L.L.P., Dr. Aparna Watve, Keshav Gurnule (Srushti), Dr. K.J. Joy, and Prashant Bansode from the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSE&IP) at Gokhale Institute. We were joined by over 80 individuals from non-profit organizations, CSR executives, and social workers across the state of Maharashtra.

## INFOBANK

AROEHAN is set to launch InfoBank as a microsite to facilitate easy access to knowledge and information, as well as communication and cooperation opportunities between researchers, social workers, journalists, and other communities. InfoBank will serve as an unparalleled and comprehensive information hub. From sustainable development initiatives to effective governance models, InfoBank aims to empower tribal societies with the information they need to thrive. It aspires to bridge the gap between policymakers, community leaders, and the tribal population, fostering collaboration and facilitating informed decision-making. To get a glimpse of InfoBank, click on the following link: [www.infobank.aroehan.org](http://www.infobank.aroehan.org)

## AROEHAN FILM

While AROEHAN was established in 2006 as a Field Action Project of the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, it was registered as an autonomous entity under the Societies Registration Act in 2014. This officially marks a ten-year milestone for the organization in 2024, and we are celebrating ten years of Compassion, Commitment, and Collaboration. During this anniversary year, we reflected on our struggles, achievements, and journey, which are depicted in a film created by Real Reels, supported again by the GROW Fund. Click on the link below to watch the film: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAcJ\\_MFAW-c&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAcJ_MFAW-c&t=2s)

## TRAINING VIDEOS

Community workers from NGOs, social services, and healthcare face multiple challenges during on-field work, regardless of their academic qualifications. AROEHAN has taken the initiative to create training videos in collaboration with our community workers. These videos draw on their extensive experience within the community, covering different avenues of AROEHAN's interventions. They demonstrate the best practices for applying knowledge and skills as community workers and stakeholders in Health, Education, Agriculture, Allied Livelihood, and Governance interventions. These videos include:

- Tutorials and demonstrations on using growth monitoring tools
- Tutorial for pre-sowing seed treatment
- Explanation of the importance and demonstrations of vermicomposting
- Livestock management
- How to apply for an MGNREGA job card
- Facilitating Bal Panchayat and more

## EMPLOYEE CAPACITY BUILDING

To accomplish our goals effectively, it is vital to build the capacity of our activists in all areas of our work. AROEHAN has collaborated with numerous experts and organizations to enhance skills and knowledge in our initiatives. This collaboration not only brings a systemic shift to our work but also broadens our activists' perspectives, enabling them to address issues and develop essential skills such as problem-solving, management, emotional intelligence, and creativity. Among the various workshops attended by our activists are:[list]

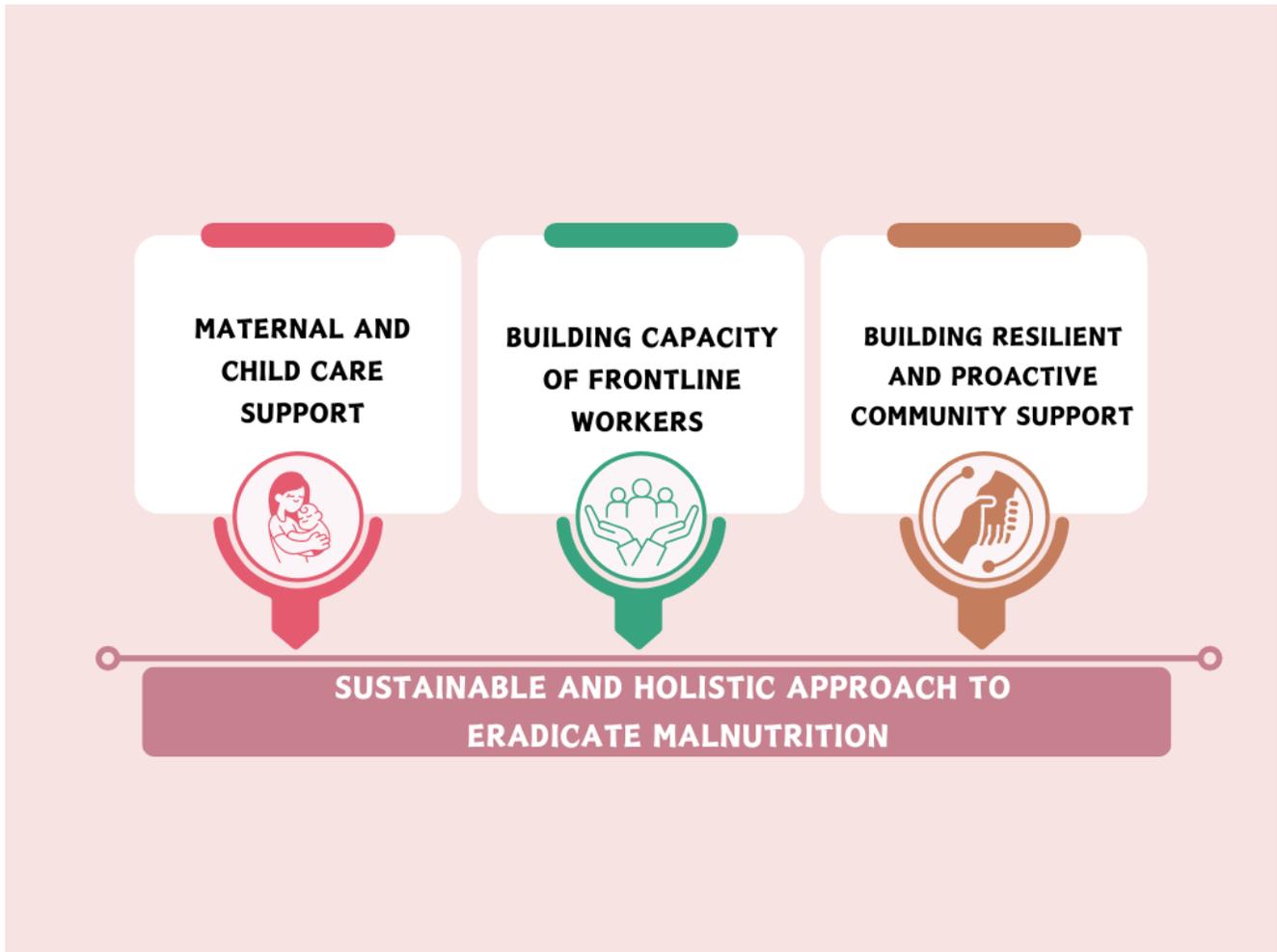
## REVIEW & REFLECTION OF ORGANIZATION

In the last financial year, AROEHAN undertook a thorough review and reflection on our interventions. Experts such as Dr. Milind Bokil, Mr. Vilas Gore, Mr. Abhay Barve, Ms. Rajshree Tikhe, and Ms. Medha Kale were invited to evaluate our work and provide guidance.

AROEHAN team used their inputs to review and streamline strategic actions for the future. Dr. Helen Joseph and Ms. Anjali Kanitkar guided this exercise.

# HEALTH

## OUR APPROACH



Achieving "Zero Malnutrition-related Deaths" by 2025 is AROEHAN's strategic aim, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Zero Hunger (Goal 2), Good Health and Well-Being (Goal 3), Gender Equality (Goal 5), and Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6). Our objectives include increasing infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, enhancing nutrition and health outcomes for mothers, babies, and young children, maintaining community mobilization, conducting outreach programs, and ensuring that no child goes without food or receives inadequate nourishment.

Additionally, our activities aim to promote gender equality, strengthen existing statutory committees, prevent teenage pregnancy and child marriage, and improve the skills of frontline healthcare workers.

## ERADICATING MALNUTRITION – ONE POUND AT A TIME

Providing supplementary nutrition and immunization is one of the most essential services offered by Anganwadi centers. However, some children are still unable to benefit from these facilities and remain trapped in malnutrition. AROEHAN workers visit the pada every month to conduct growth monitoring for children under six years of age, counsel the parents of malnourished children, and help them understand guidelines for providing adequate nutrition and accessing nutritious food.

At the Anganwadi center in Bujadpada of Chari-Kotabi Gram Panchayat, AROEHAN worker Vijaya learned about two children, Swati and Yash, from the Anganwadi worker. Swati is a 2-year-old weighing 10.6 kg, diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Yash, on the other hand, is 3.7 years old, weighing only 6.0 kg, and is diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

Vijaya visited the parents of these children and informed them about the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) in Dahanu, suggesting that they admit their children there to help them regain their health. She explained the benefits of the NRC, highlighting that the children would receive medications along with a nutritious diet to aid their recovery. She also assured the parents that they would receive their full wages if they chose to stay with their children at the center.

With AROEHAN workers' encouragement, the parents decided to admit their children to the NRC. They were admitted in the last week of December, and AROEHAN workers visited them every other day. The children's health improved significantly in just 14 days of receiving proper treatment at the NRC. Swati's weight increased from 10.6 kg to 11.2 kg, while Yash's weight rose from 6.0 kg to 7.4 kg.



AROEHAN provided personal attention to **688 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** and **1,292 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)**, referring 252 SAM children to National Rehabilitation Centres.

## EARLY CHILD CARE (ECE) AND OTHER HEALTH INITIATIVES

### Mata Samiti

To prevent malnutrition, Mata Samitis play a critical role in ensuring that children in Anganwadis receive the nutrition they need in a timely manner. While the program initially focused on helping establish the Mata Samitis, AROEHAN has since strengthened and raised awareness of these committees through training, follow-ups, and regular meetings. These gatherings have facilitated accurate documentation and continuous oversight of operations.

### **Mata Sabha**

AROEHAN organized 2,544 Mata Sabhas this year to encourage individuals to prioritize their health. These meetings bring together pregnant and nursing mothers to discuss their health issues and nutritional requirements for themselves and their children. Sharing similar geographic backgrounds, the mothers find it easier to share their experiences and knowledge with one another.

### **Mata Melava**

Mata Melava is a community gathering of key stakeholders, particularly mothers, pregnant and lactating women, and frontline health workers. It also includes adolescents, children, fathers, and other caregivers such as grandparents and local residents. These gatherings are instrumental in discussing community health, raising awareness about vaccines and immunizations, and emphasizing the roles and responsibilities of caregivers in relation to children and maternal health.

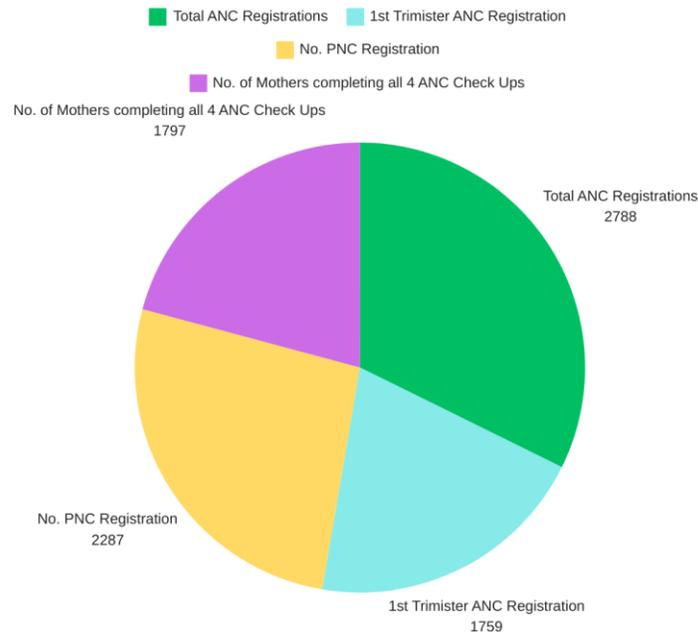
Occasionally, these events are combined with celebrations such as six-month birthdays for children, baby showers, and breastfeeding week. AROEHAN enhances the experience by incorporating fun activities and competitions, including trivia, quizzes, musical chairs, spoon and lemon races, crafts, and rangoli. These elements have increased participation at the Melavas and elevated the discourse on maternal and child health issues within the community.



### **ANC/PNC**

**Registration of New ANC/PNC:** A pregnant woman's initial appointment or registration for Antenatal Care (ANC) should ideally occur in the first trimester, either before or by the 12-

week mark. To ensure regular check-ups, immunizations, institutional births, and an early start to breastfeeding, AROEHAN is committed to timely registration of pregnant women. Through awareness campaigns, women and stakeholders are informed about the benefits of safe delivery practices and the importance of initiating breastfeeding within an hour of the baby's birth, which helps reduce the risk of infection and neonatal mortality.



- AROEHAN facilitated 2,788 ANC registrations this year, with 1,759 women registering during the first trimester, and 1,797 women completing all four ANC check-ups.
- Among the 2,041 documented deliveries, 1,843 were institutional deliveries, while 198 were home births. The latter is common due to transportation issues and the lack of paved roads in remote villages. Among these deliveries, 38 were preterm, 31 were stillborn, and 407 babies had low birth weights.
- A total of 2,287 women registered for post-natal care.

## HELPING A PARENT WITH DISABILITY

On January 10, 2024, AROEHAN activist Vanita visited Gavatka village to monitor children's growth. During her visit, one of the mothers informed her about a sick child in a nearby household, prompting Vanita to make a home visit.

She arrived at the home of 20-year-old Alka, who has hearing and speech impairments. After examining Alka's five-month-old baby, Vanita noticed the baby was making a gurgling sound from his chest, indicating difficulty in breathing. Alka's hearing and speech impairments had been present since birth, and the baby's father, 22-year-old Amol, who also faced similar challenges, had migrated for seasonal labor work. The couple relies on farming and other labor jobs for their livelihood after the monsoon season.

In the cold winters of Jawhar, the baby had been suffering from phlegm accumulation in his chest for over a week. Alka lived alone, and since she could not hear the baby crying at night, his condition could have worsened without intervention. Vanita insisted on taking Alka and the baby to the hospital, assuring her that she would return safely.

Sarasoon Gram Panchayat consists of 14 villages but has limited public transportation, including in Gavatka, due to the lack of paved roads. Understanding these challenges, Vanita decided to take Alka and the baby to the nearest Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) in Jamsar, which is 11 kilometers away, using her private vehicle.



Due to the week-long symptoms, the doctors recommended that the baby stay at the centre for at least two days. With the assistance of hospital counsellors, Vanita was able to convince Alka to remain and promised to visit her the next day. After the baby was discharged, Vanita conducted a follow-up visit and shared precautionary methods to prevent future illness.

Home visits are specifically designed for women who are unable to attend regular meetings and events. These visits are crucial for promoting improvements in the nutrition of mothers and their infants. During home visits, family members receive counselling on nutrition for both mothers and children, and efforts are made to encourage positive changes. The visits also allow for prompt responses to the mother's inquiries, providing her with guidance and next steps.

**HOME VISITS**  
**32,161**



### TOTAL HOME VISITS: 32,161

In the reporting year, a total of 9,380 home visits were made to families of pregnant women, 9,521 visits to lactating/nursing mothers, 1,820 visits to children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and 4,037 visits to children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

## STRENGTHENING FOR VILLAGE HEALTH SANITATION AND NUTRITION COMMITTEES

### THEATRE ACT



Convincing elected Gram Panchayat representatives and Taluka Health Officers (THOs) of the significance and responsibilities of the Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committee (VHNSC) was a complex challenge for the team. To address this, the group used an innovative strategy: a street play. This creative approach allowed them to inform the community about the importance and establishment of the VHNSC.

Through engaging performances and participatory storytelling, the team effectively communicated the committee's vital role in promoting health, nutrition, and sanitation practices at the local level. The street play proved to be a valuable tool for enhancing understanding and bridging communication gaps among stakeholders.

**The Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC)** plays a crucial role in promoting collective action on health and its social determinants at the village level. We ensured regular meetings for both the VHSNC and Mata Samiti. Cluster-level training

programs were conducted for these committees, involving Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and ASHA workers.

The mobilization of the community for Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND) significantly improved regular and complete vaccinations, while also raising awareness about health-related services within the community.



**AROEHAN FORMED A TOTAL OF 86 VHNSC AND TRAINED 49.**

## REFURBISHMENT AND SANITATION

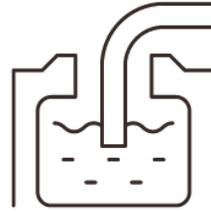


As part of our efforts to ensure the last-mile delivery of crucial nutrition and health services, we focus on creating and improving physical infrastructure. Anganwadi Centers must be adequately equipped to support the efficient operation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). During the reporting year, we renovated three Anganwadi Centers in the Mokhada block.

Proper wastewater disposal infrastructure is essential for maintaining cleanliness and reducing the incidence of waterborne illnesses. This year, we actively participated in constructing 225 soak pits in the Mokhada block, collaborating with local governments to establish the necessary facilities for effective wastewater management.



**3** ANAGANWADIS  
REFURBISHED



**225**  
SOAK PITS  
CONSTRUCTED

## CAPACITY BUILDING OF FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS



AROEHAN conducts action-oriented training workshops for frontline health workers to promote better health practices and sustainable community development. In May 2023, a two-day "Health and Nutrition Communication Workshop" was held for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in Jawhar taluka, facilitated by Shailesh Dikhale from the SAATHII Organisation.

Over 100 ASHA workers attended, where AROEHAN's activists emphasized the importance of tracking pregnant and breastfeeding mothers for the crucial 1,000 days and monitoring the health of both mother and child. The workshop explored various methods for this monitoring. Early childcare is a vital period for laying the groundwork for optimal health, growth, and neurodevelopment in children. The participants discussed the significance of exclusively breastfeeding infants for the first six months to ensure their optimal growth and development. Frontline healthcare workers play a pivotal role in implementing preventive and promotional measures for health issues in tribal communities. The primary goal of our training was to equip them with the latest methods of health monitoring and to educate them

about prevalent symptoms of malnutrition and common diseases, such as pneumonia and scabies. In total, 19 workshops were conducted for frontline health workers.

**NO. OF FRONTLINE WORKERS REACHED: 849**

**NO. OF CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS: 19**

## HEALTH CAMPS

### COMMUNITY HEALTH CAMP

A free health screening camp was held in Karol village, Mokhada, where paediatricians Dr. Umesh Bhoje and Dr. K.K. Maru, along with dermatologist Dr. Ajinkya, provided care to over 121 residents from the revenue village and neighbouring areas. Pregnant and breastfeeding women received priority screening during the camp. Additionally, 55 schoolchildren were examined, and their BMI was measured.

The doctors reported that skin infections, coughs, and colds were the most prevalent illnesses diagnosed. Farmers, in particular, were noted to suffer from skin conditions due to their work in the fields and the rising temperatures in the area. In addition to prescribing medications, the physicians offered health counselling and guidance regarding government schemes related to health, especially for individuals from tribal communities.



## BLOOD DONATION CAMP

People who donate blood play a vital role in providing life-saving transfusions for those undergoing physical injuries, cancer treatments, surgeries, and more. In celebration of the World Blood Donor Day, AROEHAN organised a Blood Donation Camp on June 13 in collaboration with Jawhar Kutir Rugnalaya. The camp was organised at the Shramik Adivasi Bachat Gat, Mokhada, Palghar.

Around 20 AROEHAN activists, including project officers, managers, and field workers, contributed to the event's success. Five medical staff members from Jawhar Kutir Rugnalaya facilitated the camp. Approximately 70 people attended to donate blood, with 36 qualifying. Among the donors were Impact India volunteers and many locals who donated blood for the first time.



# ADOLESCENT GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT



# 5,259

ADOLESCENT GIRLS  
REACHED

# 1,081

ADOLESCENT GIRLS'  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD



TOTAL NO. OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS REACHED 5259  
TOTAL NO. OF KISHORI SABHA: 1081

## RELASHANI: GUIDE TO HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



Adolescence is a crucial period in any individual's life, marked by significant physical and emotional transformations that teenagers may not fully understand. To help them grow into empathetic and capable adults, it is essential to provide comprehensive knowledge about their own development and that of their peers.

AROEHAN organized three workshops on "Relationships" in Dahanu, facilitated by AABHA - Arogya Bhan Collective Association. These workshops targeted AROEHAN activists and students from ashram schools in the project area.

The interactive sessions explored relationships with oneself, friends, peers, and adults. Participants engaged in a variety of activities to navigate complex topics such as gender prejudice, substance use, emotional awareness, puberty for both girls and boys, human needs and desires, human anatomy, evolving relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and the positive and negative influences of mobile phones and media content in today's world.

Facilitators used songs, skits, visual aids, and storytelling to highlight these topics, and students and activists participated enthusiastically. The support from school management and staff further enhanced the success of these workshops.

**TOTAL RELESHANI WORKSHOPS: 9**

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 552**

## EXPOSURE VISITS



It is essential for adolescent girls to be informed about various government institutions and workplaces, as well as the facilities and entitlements available to them. Such exposure helps them think independently and make critical decisions affecting their daily lives, bodies, education, work, and social relationships.

AROEHAN organized an exposure visit for tribal girls to several institutions, including the Gram Panchayat, police stations, and an agricultural university. Fifty-two girls from the Asve, Aagyan, and Chari-Kotabi hamlets in the Dahanu block participated in this initiative.

The first stop was the Gram Panchayat office in Aagyan, where the Gram Sevika and Sarpanch discussed the services offered by the institution, the importance of the Gram Panchayat, and provided information about the Bal Gram Sabha.

Next, the group visited the police station in Dahanu, where they were welcomed by the police inspector, PSI, and other staff members. The participants received a tour of various departments within the station and learned about the roles of officers and the functioning of different units.

The final stop was at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), an agricultural university in Kosbad, Dahanu. The girls explored a small museum and a farm plot showcasing crops grown using the latest tools and technology for improved yields. Staff members discussed sustainable agriculture practices and the preparation of organic fertilizers and pesticides.

**TOTAL EXPOSURE VISITS: 11**

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXPOSURE VISITS: 372**

## KISHORI MELAVA



AROEHAN organized a Kishori Melava, a fun gathering for adolescent girls, at Nandgaon/Katkaripada in Jawhar Taluka. This event aimed to empower the girls by raising their awareness of their rights, entitlements, and capabilities, fostering confidence and self-awareness through various activities.

The girls participated in engaging activities such as drawing the elephant's tail and bursting balloons, which were integrated with general knowledge quizzes, Q&A sessions, and trivia segments. Facilitators led discussions on important topics like the menstrual cycle, reproductive health, body hygiene, and self-care during puberty. Given that anemia is a

significant concern for women and children in India, the participants learned about the necessary hemoglobin levels in the blood and healthy lifestyle choices.

To conclude the session on a joyful note, the girls enjoyed a friendly game of spoon and lemon, followed by a traditional dance to the rhythm of Tarpa, an Adivasi folk music.

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

AROEHAN's strategic goal to reduce migration by 50% cannot be achieved without adequate water resources. Through our interventions, we assess the needs and challenges faced by the community, identify and facilitate appropriate structures and systems tailored to those needs, and create sustainable community institutions to ensure the optimal and accountable use of water.

In addition to reducing migration, we aim to alleviate water stress by building water conservation structures, minimizing the number of days without water, and reducing the burden on women who often travel long distances to fetch water. We also seek to increase the availability of safe drinking water, expand land under cultivation, train farmers in good agricultural practices, and establish farmer field schools to facilitate group learning and relevant training. Furthermore, we empower marginalized and landless farmers through allied livelihood options and promote the use of green energy.



### DRINKING WATER

Access to clean and potable drinking water is essential for human health and well-being. In rural areas, providing safe drinking water has historically been a challenge, despite advancements in physical infrastructure. AROEHAN's primary goal is to ensure that every household has access to clean drinking water while enhancing water infrastructure and services.

This year, two solar-based clean drinking water lifting systems were installed in Adoshi and Bandryachiwadi. Each system generates 3.3 kW of green energy and will provide drinking water to approximately 1,040 people.

## CHECK DAM & WATER WELL - REGENERATING WATER TABLE

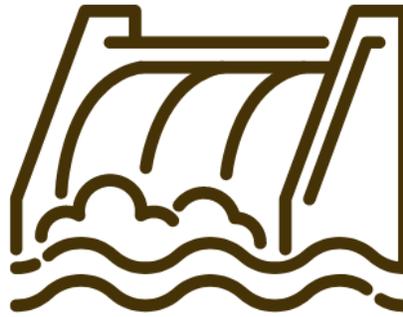
In hilly regions like Mokhada, check dams play a crucial role in preventing both headward and downward erosion, stabilizing adjacent hill slopes. They also help reduce the risk of debris flow and mitigate flooding. To effectively lower water velocity and prevent erosion, a terraced system of multiple closely spaced check dams is often necessary.

AROEHAN conducts baseline surveys to assess the water needs of villages and the geographical compatibility for constructing check dams. Recognizing the urgent need for a reliable water source, a check dam was built in Washind. This dam has a capacity of 75 lakh liters, which will provide water for over 280 individuals and support irrigation for 20 farmers.



**10 LAKH LITRES**

of water storage capacity generated through 3 water wells



**75 LAKH LITRES**

of water storage capacity generated through a check dam

Water wells are vital in rural areas, providing a reliable and ample supply of water for domestic use and irrigation. Based on our survey findings, AROEHAN decided to construct water wells in three villages: Washind, Saprewadi, and Sonarwadi. Each well has a capacity of approximately 3.33 lakh liters and will benefit over 470 individuals.

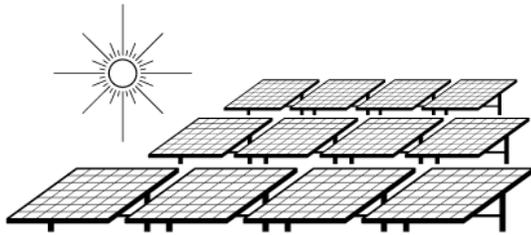
**TOTAL WATER CAPACITY: 85 LAKH LITRES**

## SOLAR BASED IRRIGATION

Many farmers rely on fuel-based or electric pumps for irrigation. However, rising fuel prices and erratic electricity supply in the tribal areas of Palghar district limit their options.

AROEHAN identified significant potential in solar-based irrigation, which reduces input costs and dependence on electricity while ensuring an adequate water supply for farming during the post-monsoon season.

This year, AROEHAN installed two solar water-lifting irrigation systems, benefiting over 73 farmers in Koshimshet and Ghatkarpada. With energy outputs of 12.6 kW and 8.04 kW, these systems will irrigate approximately 30 acres of land.



## 42.5 kW

OF GREEN ENERGY  
GENERATED



## 37.25 ACRES

OF LAND BROUGHT UNDER  
PERENNIAL IRRIGATION

## AGRICULTURE – LIVELIHOOD

AROEHAN's strategic goal of reducing migration by 50% directly aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of No Poverty (1) and Decent Work and Economic Growth (8). Additionally, through our agricultural and allied livelihood interventions, we indirectly support SDGs related to Affordable and Clean Energy (7), Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (9), and Life on Land (15).

With our assistance, farmers have progressed from traditional farming methods to adopting innovative approaches that enhance productivity. The availability of sufficient water for irrigation has enabled them to cultivate both Rabi and Kharif crops. Throughout this process, our agricultural and livelihood team provides guidance on crop cultivation and maintenance. Similarly, marginalized groups, including landless individuals and particularly vulnerable tribes, receive support for alternative livelihoods, such as food processing, livestock management, and plant nurseries.

### Transitioning from a Wage Earner to a Farmer to a Community Leader

Prakash Sitaram Kavar, an Adivasi resident of Dolhara village in the Mokhada block, managed his family's 13-acre farm to support his nine-member household. However, the lack of irrigation facilities restricted his farming to the monsoon season, primarily growing rice, pulses, finger millet, and other minor millets. To sustain his family, Prakash often had to migrate for work for up to 4-5 months, sometimes bringing his children along, which disrupted their schooling.

After AROEHAN engaged with the community in 2020-21, Prakash learned about the organization's initiatives and became an active participant. Motivated to create local employment opportunities, improve education, and ensure water availability, he began raising awareness among villagers about these potential benefits. Through his leadership, the villagers established a pada samiti—a village governance committee initiated by AROEHAN—with local volunteers, as well as a farmer group and a self-help group for landless families.



Recognizing that traditional farming practices alone were insufficient for a decent livelihood, Prakash attended a farmer exposure visit where he observed other Adivasi farmers successfully cultivating vegetables, jasmine, and horticultural crops alongside their traditional yields. Inspired by this experience, he and 13 other farmers from Dolhara decided to venture into horticulture. They planted fruit trees and built farm ponds lined with plastic to store monsoon water, enabling irrigation for 7-8 months. AROEHAN supported them by providing eco-friendly plastic sheets, fertilizers, and other inputs for both plants and ponds.

While their fruit cultivation flourished on a half-acre plot, Prakash understood that year-round cultivation was essential to eliminate the need for seasonal migration. To secure reliable irrigation, the farmers devised a plan to lift water from a newly constructed dam near the village. Although obtaining permission was challenging, Prakash, along with fellow farmers and AROEHAN workers, actively pursued the matter with district officials. They formed a farmer group that included educated youth to effectively represent their case. With the help of residents working in government offices, they successfully received permission in March 2022.

As part of the ASHA project, supported by Siemens Ltd., AROEHAN installed a 10kW solar system with a 7.5 HP pump to lift water from the dam. The water was stored in a tank on a nearby hill and distributed to 15 farmers in the irrigated area, with the farmers voluntarily completing the pipeline installation. Prakash effectively communicated the long-term benefits of this initiative to his fellow farmers.

With access to water, Prakash began cultivating vegetables, jasmine, and fruit plants, earning Rs 30,000 from his initial harvest within four months. To protect his crops from wildlife, he decided to build a home on the farm. With his family's help, he manufactured bricks using available materials, producing 50,000 bricks in total. He used 17,000 bricks to construct his home and sold the remaining bricks for Rs 2,10,000, which he used to purchase household items for their new home.



Prakash's wife, Sangita, is a member of a self-help group, and with Prakash's support, she dedicated their half-acre land solely to the group's business. Under AROEHAN's guidance, the self-help group cultivated turmeric and established a mango sapling nursery, generating Rs 20,000 from turmeric and Rs 70,000 from the sale of mango saplings.

Embracing his passion for experimentation, Prakash also planted a new crop of dragon fruit on ten gunthas of land. His eagerness to learn about new crops and willingness to innovate have allowed him to cultivate multiple crops throughout the year. By setting this example, Prakash's innovative practices have inspired fellow farmers in the village to adopt similar methods, significantly strengthening local livelihoods.

**140 FARMERS SUPPORTED**



## DIVERSIFICATION IN AGRICULTURE

In the early stages of AROEHAN's interventions, we recognized the crucial need to introduce alternative livelihood options beyond traditional monsoon paddy cultivation. The hilly areas of Palghar, where most tribal groups reside, present complex demographic challenges, limiting post-monsoon crop options. This scarcity often compelled families to migrate for daily wages, jeopardizing children's education and health. Thus, generating local employment and income opportunities became a key strategy for preventing migration and enhancing community well-being.



**Floriculture**  
73 FARMERS TOOK FLORICULTURE



**Horticulture**  
67 FARMERS TOOK HORTICULTURE

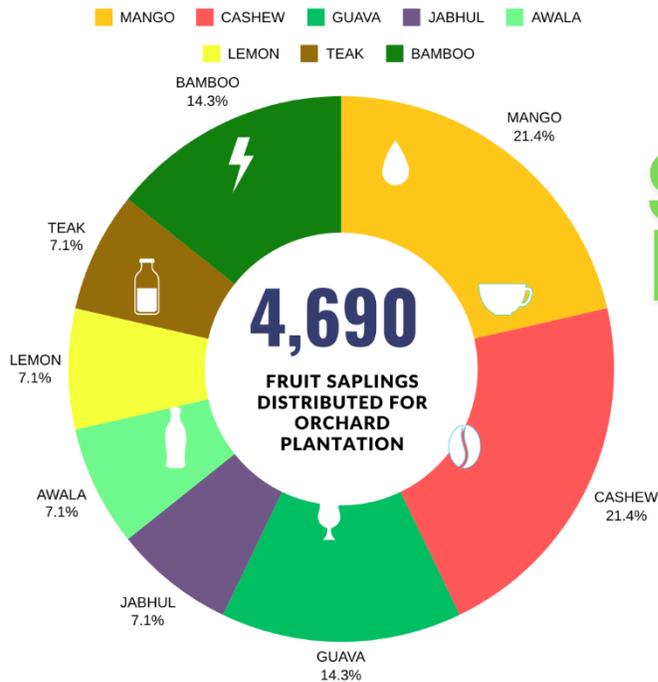


**Micro-irrigation**  
81 FARMERS RECEIVED MICRO-IRRIGATION SUPPORT

Over the past decade, AROEHAN has introduced various new crops, techniques, machinery, and resources to enhance crop yields in horticulture, moving beyond reliance on monsoon crops. This year, farmers embraced a diverse array of Rabi crops, including capsicum, tomato, chili, sunflower, groundnut, and cluster beans.

To support their efforts, 81 farmers received micro-irrigation assistance, 15 adopted multi-cropping methods, and 73 were provided with individual solar pumps. Additionally, farmers have engaged in social forestry, cultivating saplings of mango, cashew, guava, jambhul, amla, lemon, and bamboo for orchard development.

All participating farmers receive comprehensive training and guidance on new planting techniques, alongside resources aimed at improving yields. As of December 2023, the survival rate of the 4,690 orchard plantations reached an impressive 90%.



# SOCIAL FORESTRY



**SURVIVAL RATE**

TRACED, DEC' 23

# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS



In 2023, the United Nations designated the year as the International Year of Millets, highlighting the importance of these resilient crops like Ragi, Nachni, and Jawar, which are traditionally cultivated in Mokhada and Jawhar. While millet production has historically ensured food security, challenges such as outdated farming methods and limited knowledge about fertilizers and pesticides have hindered yield.

To address these issues, AROEHAN organized workshops for local farmers, focusing on millet awareness and management. A senior scientist from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Kosbad provided guidance on natural fertilizer and pest management techniques. The workshop included practical information on using Jeevamrut, an organic manure, along with essential materials like buckets, jaggery, and gram flour.

This initiative aims to reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers, lower costs, and improve soil and crop nutrition, ultimately enhancing millet production in the region.



## SEED BANKS

AROEHAN has established a Seed Bank to catalogue and preserve existing species of millet and other crops. This initiative focuses on collecting detailed data on the demographic requirements and characteristics of various crops, including temperature tolerance, soil preferences, and drought resistance.

To further support local agriculture, AROEHAN organised awareness programmes highlighting both native and contemporary seed varieties that are well-suited to the challenging conditions of Mokhada Taluka. With community involvement, AROEHAN Seed Bank has successfully collected seeds for fifty different crop varieties, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of local farming practices.

## SEED TREATMENT

AROEHAN organised an awareness campaign to enhance seed treatment practices among farmers in Mokhada as the Kharif season approached. Recognising that traditional sowing methods leave crops vulnerable to bacterial diseases, the campaign focused on three essential seed treatment techniques:

1. **3% Salt Water Treatment**
2. **Chemical Seed Treatment**
3. **Biological Seed Treatment**

These methods serve as preventive measures to improve seed quality and protect crops from diseases and pests. AROEHAN conducted training sessions across 18 villages, reaching 326 farmers. Additionally, a user-friendly video guide on seed treatment was produced and shared to further educate the farming community.

You can watch the video at the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K\\_4eVXa-yRg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_4eVXa-yRg).





## PEOPLE'S BIODIVERSITY REGISTER (PBR)



The People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), established under the Biological Diversity Act, plays a crucial role in preserving local biodiversity and empowering communities by documenting genetic resources and traditional knowledge. AROEHAN's Good Governance team has actively engaged local populations in Kudwa and Amle to create these registers through a participatory approach. This collaboration not only fosters community involvement but also enhances awareness of biodiversity's importance. Once completed, the PBRs were submitted to the Gram Panchayats for official record-keeping, ensuring that local biodiversity data is recognized and safeguarded within the community governance framework.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



AROEHAN organized a Waste Management workshop led by Mr. Swaroop Dandanaik, a product designer from WasteCare Composter by EarthCare Designs. The event gathered 54 participants, including 22 AROEHAN activists and 32 local community members from Mokhada. Attendees learned essential skills in waste management, focusing on the segregation of organic and inorganic waste, which is critical for enhancing our interventions. Empowered by their training, participants took their knowledge back to their Gram Panchayats, particularly in Dongar GP, where they passed resolutions aimed at improving waste management practices. As a result, dustbins were distributed to villagers for wet and dry waste segregation, and these initiatives have successfully been implemented in 10 hamlets, fostering a cleaner and more sustainable environment in the community.

## ALLIED LIVELIHOODS

### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

AROEHAN focuses on empowering landless families and marginalized groups by providing alternative livelihood options to enhance their financial stability. Recognizing the potential of women-led businesses, AROEHAN has established cluster-based livelihood initiatives through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This approach not only fosters entrepreneurship but also strengthens community ties, enabling women to gain financial independence and contribute to their families' well-being. By supporting these initiatives, AROEHAN aims to create sustainable income sources and improve the overall quality of life for these vulnerable communities.



**FOOD  
PROCESSING**



**LIVESTOCK**



**CONDIMENTS &  
PACKAGING**



**PLANT  
NURSERY**



**GRAINS  
THRESHER**

## 28 SELF HELP GROUPS



# RS. 3,55,855

**ANNUAL INCOME, 23-24**

### LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Livestock, particularly goats and poultry, play a crucial role in the livelihoods of rural households, especially for women and vulnerable tribes. This year, AROEHAN has supported 3 Self-Help Groups and 11 individual beneficiaries by providing 126 goats. Recognizing the challenges posed by high rates of animal mortality and disease, AROEHAN actively addresses these issues through regular visits and expert-led animal care. Our initiatives include doorstep first aid, disease prevention advice, and guidance on improved livestock diets.

Additionally, we conduct training sessions, monitor animal health, and facilitate vaccinations to ensure the well-being of the livestock. By promoting better care practices, AROEHAN emphasizes a sustainable model that not only enhances animal health but also alleviates the economic and emotional stress faced by the beneficiaries.



### CAPACITY BUILDING AND WORKSHOPS

As per the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), women entrepreneurs from special categories, including tribal communities, can access 35% subsidies for projects in rural areas. AROEHAN actively facilitates these government schemes and has launched various initiatives to strengthen entrepreneurship among these communities.

We focus on enhancing product value and keeping beneficiaries informed about contemporary marketing trends. Our programs include training workshops on business skills, product development, and effective marketing strategies, empowering women to establish and grow their enterprises sustainably. By building a supportive ecosystem for women entrepreneurs, AROEHAN aims to foster economic independence and resilience in rural communities.



AROEHAN organized a marketing workshop for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprising women from Sakharwadi, Sadakwadi, Shirasgaon, Adoshi, and Sonarwadi. The workshop, facilitated by business management expert Deepa Raut, covered essential topics such as marketing strategies, packaging, manufacturer presentation, branding, and product properties. Participants engaged in self-evaluation exercises using SWOT Analysis and explored the use of social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp for effective marketing. Ms. Raut emphasized the importance of FSSAI registration to enhance market value and ensure food safety, which is crucial for expanding into urban markets. AROEHAN supported SHGs in obtaining FSSAI licenses, boosting their credibility and market access. Through these initiatives, AROEHAN aims to empower women entrepreneurs and strengthen local economies.

### **TRAININGS FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS & MARKETING - 2**

**FOOD PROCESSING OF MILLETS PRODUCTS - 3**

**ANIMAL HUSBANDARY AND GOAT REARING - 1**

**TOTAL TRAINING FOR SHGS: 6**

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 191**



## SERICULTURE

AROEHAN recognizes the potential of sericulture as a sustainable livelihood option that promotes economic development and enhances the quality of life for rural communities. By raising awareness about the silk industry and facilitating access to government subsidies, AROEHAN aims to empower local farmers and reduce urban migration.

In collaboration with the Silk Development Officer, AROEHAN organized a study tour for farmers to Pimpurna village in Dabhosa Gram Panchayat, Mokhada. Led by Project Officer Ganesh Sarode, the tour included detailed discussions about the silk farming process and on-site production demonstrations. A total of 74 farmers participated, gaining valuable insights into the intricacies of the silk industry and the potential benefits it offers for their livelihoods. This initiative not only educates farmers but also fosters a community-focused approach to economic development.



# EDUCATION



To achieve the strategic goal of "no out-of-school children," AROEHAN implemented a comprehensive set of activities in collaboration with school administrations, School Management Committees (SMCs), parents, and the children themselves. Key initiatives included:

1. **Reintegration Efforts:** Actively working with parents and schools to re-enroll out-of-school children, ensuring that they have access to education.
2. **Bridging Courses:** Implementing bridging courses to facilitate educational continuity for those transitioning back into the school system.
3. **Strengthening SMCs:** Activating and empowering SMCs to play a vital role in school governance and community engagement.
4. **Home Visits:** Conducting home visits to address barriers to education and encourage families to prioritize schooling.
5. **Improving School Facilities:** Enhancing the physical infrastructure of schools to create a more conducive learning environment.

These initiatives have been extended to both Ashram Schools and Zilla Parishad Schools, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals focused on Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), and Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6). Through these efforts, AROEHAN aims to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a quality education and thrive in their community.

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

### BOOKS DISTRIBUTION & LIBRARY PROJECT

AROEHAN is excited to establish fully functional libraries in Mokhada, Jawhar, and Dahanu, aimed at fostering a love for reading and promoting education in the community. These libraries will be open to all students, educators, community workers, and staff, serving as vital resources for learning and development.

Key Features of the Library Project:

- **Resource-Rich Collections:** The libraries will be stocked with literature relevant to higher education and competitive exams, ensuring students have access to essential study materials.
- **Community and Tribal Literature:** A special focus will be placed on books that celebrate tribal history, laws, influential figures, and research material, preserving and promoting the rich heritage of the community.

Recently, AROEHAN organized a book distribution event at the Maharshi Vitthal Ramji Shinde Primary-Secondary Ashram School under Rayat Shikshan Sanstha in Mokhada. During the event, students received sets of notebooks, and the concept of the community library was introduced.

Mr. Kamble, an income tax officer from Thane, attended the event and inspired students with his words: "There are no other friends like books; books are our best friends. If we, as students, read a lot of books and study hard, we can become officers and achieve success in our desired field."

This initiative not only aims to enhance educational resources but also to instill a culture of reading and lifelong learning among the youth in the community.

### DIGITALIZATION



AROEHAN has successfully established Tab Labs in 14 schools, catering to students from grades 1 to 8. This initiative aims to enhance the learning environment through modern technology and creative infrastructure improvements.

**Key Features of the Tab Labs:**

- **Renovated Facilities:** School environments were revitalized with informative wall art and improved lighting to support the use of digital devices.
- **Educational Technology:** Each lab is equipped with educational tablets running ConveGenious software, integrating innovative AI tools to complement classroom lessons.
- **Curriculum Integration:** We are committed to promoting the use of these technologies within the school curriculum. Our team regularly visits the schools to support teachers and students, ensuring effective implementation.
- **Teacher Support:** The tablets have allowed teachers to efficiently manage multiple grades and learning levels, fostering a collaborative teaching approach.

**Challenges and Solutions:** While the initiative has seen enthusiastic adoption by students, some schools faced challenges with electricity and connectivity. We are currently addressing these issues to ensure a smooth learning experience.

**Additional Enhancements:** To further support digital learning, we distributed 4 LCD TVs to select schools, aligning infrastructure with the technological upgrades. Out of the 14 schools, 8 have actively incorporated tablets into their daily timetable, demonstrating a positive shift toward modernized education.

This initiative not only enhances learning outcomes but also equips students with essential digital skills for the future.

## TAB LAB TRAINING

On July 8, 2023, AROEHAN's education team, in collaboration with ConveGenious, conducted a one-day refresher training for teachers using the Tab Labs. The training aimed to enhance teachers' proficiency with the technology and address any challenges they faced.

**Training Highlights:**

- **Objective:** To reorient teachers on the effective use of the Tab Labs and resolve technical issues.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Teachers learned how to update student grades and utilize the dashboard for tracking student progress in a centralized manner.
- **Practice Sessions:** All 20 participants were provided with dummy IDs, allowing them to practice profile creation and the progress tracking process in a simulated environment.

This training not only empowered teachers with essential skills but also reinforced AROEHAN's commitment to enhancing educational quality through technology. The feedback from the session was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing increased confidence in using the Tab Labs effectively.

## STEM - SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS

AROEHAN has made significant strides in promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education to enhance learning experiences for students in tribal areas. These initiatives not only foster creativity but also equip students with essential skills for the future.

**Key STEM Activities:**

1. **Science Fair:** A platform for students to showcase their projects and experiments, encouraging innovation and critical thinking.
2. **Nature Club:** Focused on environmental awareness and conservation, students engage in hands-on activities that deepen their understanding of ecology and sustainability.
3. **Science Club:** This club offers regular activities that explore scientific concepts through experiments, discussions, and collaborative learning, making science accessible and fun.
4. **Essay and Drawing Competitions:** These competitions stimulate creativity and expression, allowing students to articulate their thoughts on various scientific topics while honing their writing and artistic skills.

**Impact on Students:**

- **Skill Development:** Participation in STEM activities cultivates critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.
- **Increased Motivation:** Engaging in practical applications of STEM principles inspires students to pursue their education with enthusiasm.
- **Bridging Opportunity Gaps:** By providing resources and support, AROEHAN helps students from tribal areas gain valuable knowledge and skills that can open doors to future opportunities.

Through these initiatives, AROEHAN is committed to nurturing the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and leaders in tribal communities.

# MAJOR STEM ACTIVITIES



1

## SCIENCE FAIR

TOTAL NO. OF SCIENCE FAIRS: 10  
 NO. OF PARTICIPANTS IN SCIENCE FAIRS: 303  
 TOTAL NO. OF PROJECTS PREPARED: 126

2

## NATURE CLUB

NATURE & SCIENCE CLUBS FORMED: 10  
 NO. OF STUDENTS IN THE CLUBS: 80



3

## ESSAY WRITING

215 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE ESSAY WRITING COMPETITIONS



4

## DRAWING COMPETITION

178 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAWING COMPETITIONS



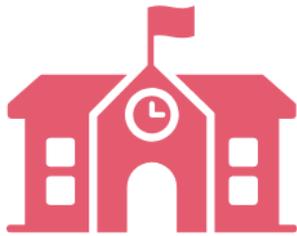
5

## NO OF BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

580 SCIENCE AND NATURE RELATED BOOKS DISTRIBUTED



## COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS



**566**  
SCHOOL  
VISITS



**48**  
SMC  
MEETINGS



**1,286**  
PARENTS  
REACHED



**147**  
HOME  
VISITS

AROEHAN recognizes the vital role that family, school, and social environments play in a child's development. To strengthen these connections, we actively engage with parents, school administrators, School Management Committees (SMCs), and local governance bodies.

### Key Initiatives:

1. **Collaboration with Parents:** This year, AROEHAN worked closely with over 1,218 parents, fostering a supportive environment for children's education.
2. **Empowering School Management Committees (SMCs):** We collaborated with 24 SMCs, providing training to members on their roles and responsibilities. This empowerment has enhanced their capacity to contribute effectively to school governance.
3. **House Visits and Personalized Support:** Conducting one-on-one visits to SMC members allowed us to understand their challenges and encourage their active participation. This personalized approach has significantly increased engagement in SMC activities.
4. **Regular SMC Meetings:** The frequent scheduling of SMC meetings has created a platform for open dialogue, enabling members to voice concerns regarding school facilities and academic needs.
5. **School Development Plans:** The increased awareness among SMC members has led to the formulation of tailored School Development Plans, addressing specific needs and improving overall educational infrastructure.
6. **Active Participation in AROEHAN Meetings:** Parents and school administrators have begun to raise pertinent issues during AROEHAN meetings, fostering a collaborative environment focused on enhancing educational outcomes.

Through these initiatives, AROEHAN aims to create a cohesive support system that enriches the educational experience for children, ensuring that their developmental needs are met within a nurturing and responsive community framework.

## PRACTICING DEMOCRACY: NURTURING TOMORROW'S CITIZENS

STUDENT CABINET '23-24

**3,840**  
STUDENTS ENGAGED

BAL SABHA

**64**  
SESSIONS

STUDENT CABINET '23-24

**12**  
ELECTIONS



**SCHOOL PARLIAMENT:** AROEHAN supports schools in establishing children's parliaments, also known as Student Cabinets and Bal Panchayats. This year alone, we conducted 12 elections, allowing students to elect representatives for various positions in 10 Zilla Parishad Schools.

Through this process, children experience democracy firsthand by using ballot papers for voting, getting inked, participating in secret ballot counting, engaging in political campaigns, and witnessing the elected representatives assume their roles for the betterment of students and schools.

Additionally, AROEHAN organizes monthly Bal Sabhas where students discuss essential school matters. The Child Parliament also takes the initiative to organize events and celebrations for significant days, such as Republic Day, Independence Day, Heritage Day, and Environment Week.



## SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN



Many children in tribal and poverty-stricken areas lack the opportunity to travel for leisure or participate in skill-building activities, such as summer camps and art and dance classes, during their vacations. AROEHAN facilitated 14 Summer Camps this year, focusing on "play-based education." These camps included 218 children ranging from first to seventh grade. To ignite their creativity, participants learned the art of origami and were guided in creating intricate paper hats, boats, and planes using old newspapers. They were instructed to ensure zero waste, promoting environmentally responsible behavior. The children were

encouraged to perform local folklore and sing songs in front of their peers to foster confidence.

To highlight the importance of sports in school, we organized various enjoyable activities to encourage physical activity and overall well-being. While study breaks are essential, recreational activities during this period are equally valuable and crucial in poverty-stricken areas, as they help prevent children from being pushed into child labor and domestic work, allowing them to maintain their learning capacities.

### SCHOOL REFURBISHMENT

Renovations to the school's physical space and utilities can provide students with a safe and motivating environment to study. Schools with poor infrastructure and sanitation tend to have lower attendance rates and a higher likelihood of dropout. Renovating school facilities is essential for adapting to new technologies and creating a conducive learning environment for both teachers and students. In addition to critical refurbishments, beautifying the space is also important. AROEHAN always adds an educational touch to wall paintings and creative murals to spark curiosity among students. With support from Siemens Technology, AROEHAN refurbished the Swami Nagar Zilla Parishad School in Mokhada and installed a Rainwater Harvesting Unit at the Zilla Parishad School in Koshimshet.



# GOVERNANCE

While Governance is the final installment in our major verticals of work, it has become essential for all verticals to function effectively. Our strategic goal, "Establishment of a Citizen's Forum with Special Emphasis on Women," aligns with the SDGs: Gender Equality (5), Reduced Inequalities (10), and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (16). Our goals for Good Governance include establishing hamlet-level pada samitis to encourage, energize, and collaborate closely with relevant statutory committees in villages, advocating for transparent, accountable, and participatory governance in the areas of health, education, livelihood, and other public services.

## Seven-year Struggle to Obtain Rightful Ownership of Forest Resources

Kudwa, a small village in Mokhada Taluka of Palghar District, became eligible for Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) in 2015, encompassing 70 hectares of land. These rights granted the community authority over non-timber forest products, ensuring sustainable livelihoods. However, for seven long years, the people of Kudwa were denied access to their rightful forest resources. The primary issue stemmed from the absence of an official measurement of the forest area, which was necessary for transferring rights from the Forest Rights Committee to the villagers.

Our community-level committee, the Pada Samiti, took notice of this situation. Through a series of village-level meetings and gram sabhas, we educated the villagers about the significance of forests, CFRR, the Forest Rights Act (FRA), and the responsibilities of the Forest Management Committee. With the villagers' collaborative effort, we composed a letter requesting the official measurement of the forest area. This letter was dispatched to various relevant authorities, including the forest rights committee, police station, foresters, gram panchayat, and AROEHAN.

On April 25, 2023, the community assembled for the long-awaited forest measurement. Present at the event were foresters, Gram Panchayat members, Forest Rights Committee representatives, police officers, and AROEHAN activists. The land was officially surveyed, and after seven years, the community finally obtained rightful ownership of their forest.

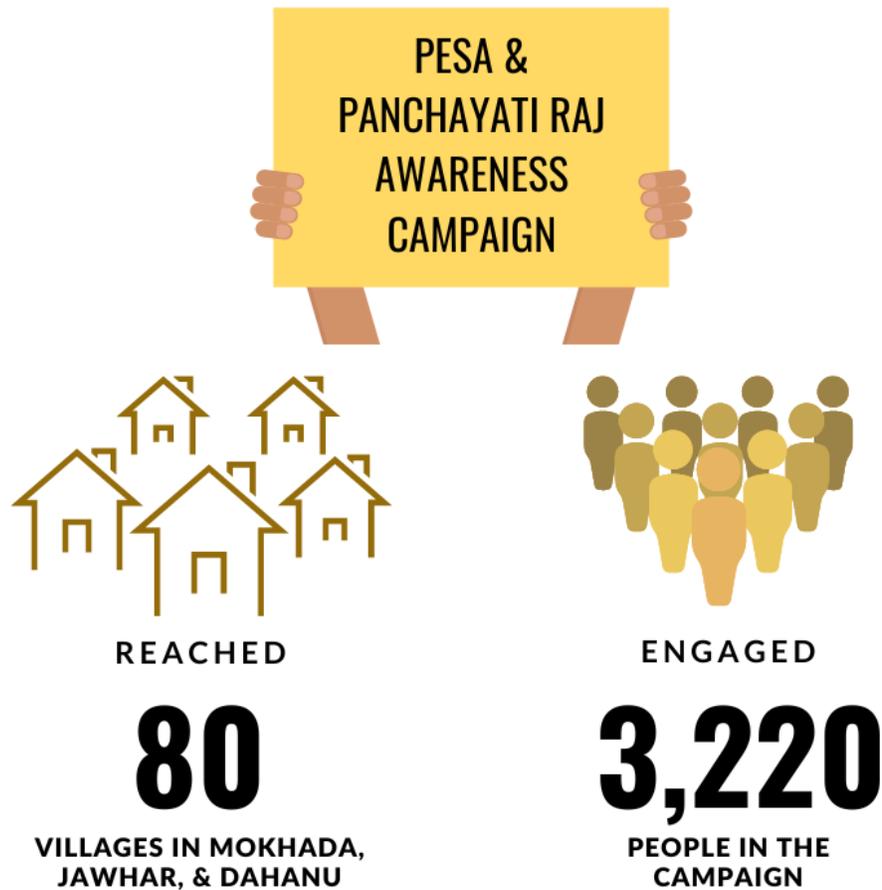
## PESA AND PANCHAYATI RAJ AWARENESS



AROEHAN celebrated PESA and Panchayat Raj Awareness Month from March 15th to April 2023, marking 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 to ensure self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India. Panchayati Raj is the system of local self-governance in villages across rural India, consisting of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) tasked with economic development, strengthening social justice, and implementing Central and State Government schemes, thereby realizing the principles of self-governance.



AROEHAN conducted awareness programs in 80 villages across Mokhada, Jawhar, and Dahanu. To raise social consciousness, awareness rallies were organized with the participation of students and local residents. An exhibition was held to showcase IEC materials, including booklets and posters on the Forest Rights Act, Ration Dakkshata Samiti, Maharashtra Gramin Yojana, Gram Sabha Kosh Samiti, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Members of the Pada Samiti and PESA Gram Kosh Samiti played a crucial role in these activities. We also saw active participation from Gram Panchayat members, Sarpanch, Deputy Chairman, Zilla Parishad, Agriculture Assistants, and Anganwadi Workers. Additionally, we conducted Shivar Pheri in the villages, which helped assess community needs and draft Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).



### WOMEN AND CHILDREN: SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT

AROEHAN organized a workshop on 'Women's Safety and Protection of Child Rights' at Shelampada village in Mokhada. Around 80 locals from the Shelampada and Gomghar areas, including Pada Samiti members, participated in the event. The Chief Guests included the Assistant Police Inspector of Mokhada, the Secret Service Officer, a Police Constable, and the Sarpanch. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the laws related to women's safety and the protection of child rights, as well as to foster harmony between the police administration and the villagers.

Mr. Vikas Durgade, the Police Inspector, guided the attendees on various laws in a simplified manner using real-life examples. These laws included the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POCSO), 2012; the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; and the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment Act (POSH), 2013. He also provided information about local crimes, such as cybercrime, scams, and fraud. Mr. Durgade emphasized that people should not be intimidated by the police and encouraged them to come forward with their problems, particularly those related to violence and abuse.

### MAHILA GRAM SABHA

AROEHAN facilitates Mahila Gram Sabhas, empowering women to participate actively in village-level decision-making. These meetings provide women with a forum to discuss issues, voice their concerns, and support the growth of their communities. AROEHAN's initiatives promote women's empowerment and gender equality in rural areas. Mahila Sabhas were held in 22 Gram Panchayats of Mokhada and Dahanu, where women identified local issues, strategically prioritized them, and presented their findings in the local gram sabha.

### ERADICATING CHILD MARRIAGES

Despite laws against child marriage, as of 2024, there are approximately 24 million child brides in India. The National Family Health Survey estimates that among the 60 million child marriages globally, 40% occur in India. Working in one of Maharashtra's prominent tribal belts, preventing child marriages has been a critical challenge for AROEHAN. In vulnerable tribes, child marriages are often linked to human trafficking, where intermediaries lure parents with money in exchange for marrying their daughters to men from wealthy families, sometimes sending gifts like expensive sarees for the girl.

AROEHAN observed cases where daughters went missing, prompting a focused response in Katkari-Wadi. Our activists engaged with parents about these fraudulent schemes. When a middleman threatened a family, AROEHAN intervened, informing them that legal action would be taken against him if he continued his intimidation or targeted other villagers. Unfortunately, such situations are rarely documented legally due to systemic negligence towards vulnerable tribes and a lack of awareness among the community.

### LABOUR RIGHTS AND FACILITATING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

The vision of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of rural households across the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work. MGNREGA recognizes the importance of strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor by reaching the most vulnerable sections of rural areas, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women-headed households, and other marginalized groups. The scheme encourages community and collective responsibility by strengthening Panchayat Raj institutions.

MGNREGA promotes a bottom-up approach to planning and execution, empowering local communities to take charge of their development. Despite the robust guidelines and policies, facilitating MGNREGA has been challenging in tribal areas. Issues range from a lack of employment despite holding job cards to technical difficulties in receiving wages despite having worked.

AROEHAN has been actively working to prevent migration and advocate for fair income opportunities in local areas. Through various initiatives, we have created awareness about local employment opportunities in migrating hamlets, assisted in preparing Samruddhi Budgets (government-associated labor budgets), facilitated the registration of essential job card documents, informed communities about the scheme's updating needs, and assessed issues related to wage payments.



**RS.14,90,89,668**

**WORTH OF EMPLOYMENT  
GENERATED**



**35**

**VILLAGE LEVEL  
LABOUR BUDGETS  
CREATED**



**5,46,116**

**PERSON-DAYS  
OF WORK  
GENERATED**



**4,569**

**LABOURERS  
RECEIVED HELP**

## WORKSHOPS

### Community Forest Rights (CFR) and governance workshop

A one-day workshop on community forest rights—recent advantages and challenges—was organized by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on April 29. The workshop was led by Dr. Geetanjoy Shahu, a faculty member at the School of Sociology and Humanities at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Over 28 representatives from organizations working on community-based forests in Ratnagiri, Raigad, Thane, and Palghar districts participated in the event. The topics covered in the seminar included (i) Background of the implementation of Community Forest Rights (CFR) in different parts of the country, and (ii) Importance of CFR for tribal communities.



The workshop also addressed the following topics:

- **Challenges in Facilitating Community Forest Rights Claims:** Discussions focused on obstacles at the ground level and within the bureaucracy, examining how these challenges affect the implementation of CFR.
- **Post-Claiming Steps for CFRs:** The significance of establishing a Forest Rights Management Committee and the importance of conservation and protection of forest areas were emphasized.
- **Management of Forest Areas:** Strategies for managing forest areas and forest products were explored, along with potential income-generating schemes and opportunities for convergence with programs like NREGA.

#### TRAINING FOR GRAM PANCHAYAT MEMBERS

A training session was organized for Gram Panchayat Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, and members at the Zilla Parishad Primary School Auditorium in Awarpada, Kotbi (Gram Panchayat Chari-Kotbi). Datta Gurav from the Resource Training and Development Centre facilitated the two-day training, themed "Our Village - Our Development." AROEHAN Governance activists Bhalchandra Salve and Sneha Gamre led discussions on various training topics. Elected members from seven Gram Panchayats in the Dahanu and Kasa Divisions attended the workshop, along with the PESA President, members of the Pada Samiti, and local residents. The workshop aimed to inform statutory committees about local job opportunities, finances, resource allocation, entitlements and rights of locals, and the procedures to achieve these through comprehensive Gram Panchayat Development Plans.

**TOTAL GPDPs CREATED THIS YEAR: 4**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

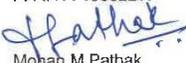
THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950		Registration No.	F 62330 (Mumbai)
SCHEDULE VIII			
[ Vide Rule 17 (1) ]			
Name of the Public Trust :	Action Related to the Organisation of Education, Health and Nutrition (AROEHAN)	Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024	
FUNDS & LIABILITIES	Rs.	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Rs.
<b>Trusts Funds or Corpus :-</b>		<b>Immovable Properties :- (at cost)</b>	
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	11,000	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	-
Adjustment during the year (give details)		Additions during the year	-
		Less : Sales during the year	-
		Depreciation up to date	-
<b>Other Earmarked Funds :-</b>		<b>Investments :-</b>	7,282,634
(Created under the provisions of the trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)		Note :- The market value of the above investment is Rs. Bank F.D.s	
Depreciation Fund		<b>Furniture &amp; Fixtures &amp; Plant Machinery</b>	
Sinking Fund		Balance as per last Balance Sheet	2,553,172
Reserve Fund		Additions during the year	533,600
Any other Fund	1,404,140	Less : Sales during the year	-
		Depreciation up to date	1,682,632
<b>Loans (Secured or Unsecured) :-</b>			1,404,140
<b>From trustees</b>		<b>Loans (Secured or Unsecured) : Good/doubtful</b>	
		Loans Scholarships	
<b>Liabilities :-</b>		<b>Advances :-</b>	
For expenses		To Trustees	-
Unspent Grants	23,489,753	To Employees	319,018
		To Contractors	654,415
For advances		To Lawyers	-
For rent and other deposits		To others	151,280
For sundry credit balances	13,919,045		
Unpaid Liabilities			



<b>Income and Expenditure Account :-</b>		<b>Income Outstanding :-</b>	
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	6,528,218	Rent	
Less : Appropriation, if any		Interest	
		Other Income	
		Grant In Aid Receivable	-
Add : Surplus	5,249,243	<b>Cash and Bank Balances :-</b>	
Less : Deficit	-	a) In Current Account with	1,957,770
as per Income and Expenditure Account	-	In Saving Account	38,832,142
	11,777,461	b) With the trustee	-
		c) With the manager	-
		<b>Income and Expenditure Account :-</b>	
		Balance as per Balance Sheet	-
		Less : Appropriation, if any	-
		Add : Deficit as per Income and Expenditure Account	-
		Less : Surplus	-
<b>Total Rs.</b>	<b>50,601,399</b>	<b>Total Rs.</b>	<b>50,601,399</b>
As per our report of even date attached		The above Balance Sheet to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust	
For Mohan M Pathak & Co. Chartered Accountants F. R. N : 106522W		For AROEHAN	
 Mohan M Pathak Proprietor M.No: 039655		 Trustees	
		 Trustees	
Date : 28 SEP 2024		Date : 28 SEP 2024	
			

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950					
SCHEDULE IX					
[ Vide Rule 17 (1) ]					
Registration No. F 62330 (Mumbai)					
Name of the Public Trust : Action Related to the Organisation of Education, Health and Nutrition (AROEHAN)					
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March 2024					
EXPENDITURE	Rs.	Rs.	INCOME	Rs.	Rs.
<b>To Expenditure in respect of properties :-</b>			<b>By Rent</b> <u>(accrued)</u>		
Rates, Taxes, Cesses			<u>(realised)</u>		-
Repairs and maintenance			<b>By Interest</b> <u>(accrued)</u>		
Salaries			<u>(realised)</u>		-
Insurance			On securities		263,229
Depreciation (by way of provision or adjustments)		-	On loans		-
<b>To Establishment Expenses (As per Sch. 1)</b>		469,224	On bank account		921,724
<b>To Remuneration to Trustees</b>		-	<b>By Dividend</b>		
<b>To Remuneration</b> (in the case of a math) to the head of the math, including his household expenditure, if any		-	<b>By Donations in cash or kind</b> (As Per Sch. 4)		1,838,455
<b>To Legal Expenses/Consultancy Fees</b>		125,740	<b>By Income from other sources</b> (As per Sch. 2)		84,271,810
<b>To Audit Fees</b>		70,800	<b>By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet</b>		-
<b>To Amount written of :</b>		-			
a) Bad debts					
b) Loan scholarship					
c) Irrecoverable rents					
d) Other items (Unrecoverable amounts)					
<b>To Depreciation</b>		357,529			



To Expenditure on objects of the trust (As per Sch. 3)	81,022,682		
To Surplus Carried to Balance Sheet	5,249,243		
<b>Total Rs.</b>	<b>87,295,218</b>	<b>Total Rs.</b>	<b>87,295,218</b>
As per our report of even date attached			
For Mohan M Pathak & Co. Chartered Accountants F. R. N : 106522W		For AROEHAN	
 Mohan M Pathak Proprietor M.No: 039655 Date : <b>28 SEP 2024</b>		 Trustees	 Trustees
		Date : <b>28 SEP 2024</b>	

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **Our Supporters**

Alkyl Amines Chemicals Ltd

ASK Foundation

Azim Premji Foundation

Capri Global Capital Ltd

Edelgive Foundation

Head Foundation

JSW Foundation

K-Corp Charitable Foundation

Siemens Ltd.

Siemens Technology & Services Pvt Ltd

Ugam Solutions Pvt Ltd

Ugam Solutions SEZ Pvt Ltd

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Key Experts and Advisors

Sr. No	Name	Organisation
1	Kishore Darak	Tata Trusts
2	Dr. Abhay Shukla	Jana Arogya Abhiyan
3	Dr. Aparna Watve	Biome Consultants, Associate Professor, MIT World Peace University
4	K. J. Joy	SOPPECOM
5	Dr. Mohan Des	Arogyabhan
6	Dr. Rupesh Patkar	Consultant Psychiatrist
7	Dattaray Gurav	RSCD
8	Parth Bapat	Independent EIA Consultant, Somaiya Centre for Experiential Learning
9	Dr. Milind Bokil	
10	Medha Kale	Freelance Consultant on Health
11	Kiran Moghe	All India Democratic Women's Association
12	Vilas Gore	Adviser - Energy, Materials & Water Technologies, Geoscience Services, Mumbai & Hon. Chairperson, SOPPECOM, Pune
13	Kalyan Tanksale	SwissAid
14	Rajashri Tikhe	Sengati Social Impact Environment LLP
15	Dr. Prashant Bansode	Associate Professor at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune
16	Seema Deodhar	Freelance Consultant on Health and Education
17	Dr. Shubalakshmi Iyer	Armaan
18	Vrinda Vaze	Freelance Consultant on Health
19	Mr. Swaroop Dandnaik	CEO, EarthyOnes Lifestyle Pvt. Ltd.
20	Dr. Dilata Ranadive	Research Consultant
21	Amruta Walimbe	Clinical Psychologist
22	Kajal Jain	Masoom
23	Keshav Gurnule	Srushti
24	Sonali Sarma	Deshpande Foundation
25	Alwyn Furtado	Former Sr. Audit Officer at Comptroller & Auditor General - Office of the Director General of Audit.

# GOVERNING BOARD

Dr. Helen Joseph	Chairperson
Ms. Anjali Kanitkar	Secretary
Mr. Johny Joseph	Treasurer
Dr. Purushottam Kulkarni	Member
Mr. Dinesh Ahir	Member
Mr. Naresh Jena	Member
Mr. Mohan Surve	Member



## Action Related to the Organisation of Education, Health, and Nutrition

### **AROEHAN**

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 [contact@aroehan.org](mailto:contact@aroehan.org)

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*Celebrating 10 years of Commitment,  
Compassion, and Collaboration*

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