

JANARTH ADIVASI VIKAS SANSTHA (JAVS)

SHAHADA, Dist. Nandurbar

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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GENESIS OF THE ORGANIZATION

In the past, Vikram Kanhere (The Director) and Ranjana Kanhere (The Executive Director) were actively involved in an Adivasi Laborers' Organization (Shramik Sanghatana) working in this area during 70's and 80's. It was one of the most important movements in Maharashtra state involving the rights and identity of the Adivasi people. It was working for the Adivasi landless laborers and marginal farmers in the then Dhule district.

Later from 1996, we started working in this area through this organization, which in the beginning came into existence as an initiative of Janarth, Aurangabad with the Adivasi communities in the then Dhule District (which was initially named Janarth Tribal Development Project). Dhule district is in northern part of Maharashtra. Nandurbar district was carved out of Dhule district in 1998.

The organization started working independently from 2003 under the name 'Janarth Adivasi Vikas Sanstha' (JAVS). JAVS works in Shahada, Nandurbar and Dhadgaon Talukas of Nandurbar district. Main office of the organization is located in Shahada. The organization also has branch offices in Nandurbar and Dhadgaon. Dhadgaon is approximately 100 Kilometers and Shahada is approximately 35 kilometres from the district headquarters at Nandurbar, which, in turn, is about 400 kilometers north of Mumbai. Dhadgaon block is situated in the Satpuda ranges.

JAVS is working primarily with the Bhil and Pawara Adivasi communities in Shahada, Nandurbar and Dhadgaon blocks of Nandurbar District. As is the case in other regions of India, Adivasi communities in this region also have remained economically backward. But we may add here that culturally they are some steps ahead of the non-Adivasi communities.

OUR VISION AND MISSION:

- **Vision of the Organization:**

The world society is a complex structure comprised of various layers of inequality, of rich-poor, of so-called higher-lower castes, of Adivasis-Non Adivasis, and of men-women. The organization visions a society where all these sections will experience equal status in society. They will behave with each other with respect and love in a non-exploitative world that will give equal opportunities to every person to shape their lives.

- **Mission of the Organization:**

To undertake various socio-economic and educational activities and action research for addressing the issues affecting the deprived and disadvantaged groups, with an objective that the deprived social sections – Adivasis, Dalits, Women, Disabled persons, poor persons, children---- be more capable, more confident, more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

OUR CORE VALUES:

The values we uphold in personal life and in organizational and social activities are:

- *Solidarity with the marginalized,*
- *Respect for Human Rights,*
- *Integrity,*
- *Gender Equality,*
- *Social Equality,*
- *Non-violence,*
- *Democracy,*
- *Self-governance, and*
- *Transparency.*

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE:

Legal Status	Registered Organization
Society Registration No.	Maharashtra/ 5350/ Dhule from December 1999
Trust Registration No.	F /5263/ Dhule from April 2000
12 A Registration No.	12A/26/72/1919
80 G Registration No.	Na/CIT-1/80-G/2008-2009/2943 dated 22/10/2008
FCRA Registration No.	084100003 from 15 April 2005
PAN No.	AAATJ 3986 E
NGO DARPAN ID	MH/2017/0163106 dated 29 September 2017
Credibility Alliance Registration No.	CA/67/2013 from 7 August 2013 (for Minimum Norms)
Registered Office Address	C/o: Rupsing Supa Shevale, At Bhute, Po. Javada T.Bo., Tal: Shahada, Dist. Nandurbar, Maharashtra
Head Office Address	14, Mira Nagar, Shahada 425 409, Dist. Nandurbar, Maharashtra State
Branch Office Address	1) JAVS, Shikshak Colony, Dhadgaon, Dist. Nandurbar, Maharashtra State, pin code 425 414 2) JAVS, Jagatapvadi, Nandurbar, Maharashtra State, pin code – 425 412
Auditors	M/s. S.R. Rahalkar & Associates, 667, Rahalkar Building, Ravivar Peth, Nashik-422 001, Dist. Nashik, Maharashtra State
Bankers	State Bank of India, Dondaicha Road, Shahada, Dist. Nandurbar, Maharashtra State

In the following pages, we are briefly narrating the activities undertaken for the above mentioned projects during 2020-21.

A) PROJECT NAME: VIDYA BALBHAVAN PROJECT

Background:

Nandurbar district is one of the tribal districts in Maharashtra State and Dhadgaon block is situated in the northern region of Nandurbar district and in the Satpuda ranges. The habitation of the tribal communities (Bhil and Pavara) is scattered in hamlets. In Dhadgaon block the major problems are: Seasonal Migration of tribal families, high dropout rates, difficult inaccessible terrain, poor school infrastructure, poor classroom interaction, and apathetic teachers. There is a dire need to equip these children and to motivate teachers with additional educational input so that quality education is integrated in the system. There is also need to create pro-educational atmosphere in villages, so that the School Management Committees (SMCs) and parents will be active in the venture of improving quality of education.

The children do not get pre-primary education in Anganwadis and are not prepared for school education. The language of the tribal communities (Bhil and Pavara) living here is quite different from Marathi, which is as good as a foreign language to the children. (Ignoring this factor, now English language is also added in the primary education.) When the Adivasi child enters school for the first time, he / she has to confront triple difficulties: 1) the unfamiliar school atmosphere, 2) to hear and get acquainted with an unfamiliar language and try to relate it to his/her home language and 3) to learn reading and writing in this unfamiliar language.

The Balbhavans for children learning in Dhadgaon Block have established a method for enhancing the elementary education. The Balmitras are the teachers in Balbhavans and the activities to the Balbhavans are: Teaching Marathi and Maths up to 5th standard and sessions on science toys. All these activities of Balbhavans are strengthened through following strategies:

- 1) To organize program planning and preparation workshop for the team for clarity about values and objectives of Organization and about the program under this project,
- 2) Dialogue with Anganwadi Sevika and to get list of eligible AWC children to get enrolled in schools,
- 3) Home visits to motivate parents,
- 4) Capacity building trainings of Balmitras for school preparedness activities such as loco-motor and hand-eye coordination, Marathi and maths preparedness,
- 5) Marathi and Maths trainings of Balmitras for 1st to 5th standards. As 5th standard is added to Balbhavan, new responsibility of developing the training on curriculum of 5th standard is an added task.
- 6) TLM (Teaching and Learning Material) workshop to prepare material for all standards in Balbhavans.
- 7) Training to Balmitras about RTE Act and role of SMC (School Management Committee),
- 8) Shivar Pheris and Field visits for children,
- 9) Reading corner activity with colorful books
- 10) Pre-test and Post-tests for standards from 1st to 5th and also for the children for school preparedness program

Records of attendance and unit-wise progress have been maintained. Regular monitoring, review and planning meetings (fortnightly meetings, monthly review meetings and meetings with partners) have trimmed the process.

To improve upon the attendance, when a child is absent, his/ her parents are visited. For improving attendance, support from parents and SMC members is sought through home visits and SMC meetings. Involvement of SMC necessitated awareness of SMC adult members (and parents) and student members about educational issues, their rights and responsibilities as SMC member, SDP (School Development Plan) and RTE Act through capacity building training. So, the trainings of adult and student SMC members were organized.

Activities during 2020-21:

Awareness about Covid-19:

In the villages where Balbhavans are functioning, following information was spread for awareness of the people:

The focus was on what precautions are to be taken to avoid corona infection? Balmitras spread this message to SMC members, parents and children.

- Use of mask or cloth, washing hands again and again, use of sanitizer will help in preventing infection.
- If one is suffering from cold, cough, temperature we should immediately contact Doctor and try to avoid coming in close contact with other persons. Avoid getting in contact with persons who have come from outside the village. Try to avoid places where people are in large numbers, keep social distancing.

School preparedness Training

The training was organized on 26 and 27 June, 2020 in Dhadagaon.

In the beginning the review of work done during the months of April and May was taken.

Objectives of training:

- To create awareness on the role of Anganwadi
- To convey importance of Early Childhood Education
- To organize child-centered activities such as free-play, placing the pebbles and seeds on different shapes, stories, picture description, giving a description of animals, fruits and vegetables to make children talk and participate, discussion about colors – these activities leads towards physical and socio-psychological development of the children.
- To Impart significance of Sanitary practices

Training on Shivar Pheri:

In the month of October 2020, Shivar Pheri activity was organized in 34 Balbhavans. In these activities 644 students from 3rd to 7th standards participated.

Objective of Shivar Pheri – Students should know about biodiversity of their village and should observe seasonal changes in it and feel proud of this biodiversity. Document this diversity by practical visit to the surroundings of village.

Preparatory activity for Shivar Pheri – Balmitra visited area that was to be visited in Shivar Pheri and decided the routes and how to minimize the difficulties, 2-3 days prior to Shivar Pheri activity. One day prior to Shivar Pheri, the groups of students are formed and they are given the issues, on what each group will record.

Group 1 – Animals, Birds and River or nala (Seasonal changes in river and nala and surrounding)

Group 2- Crops and Vegetables (Seasonal changes in crops)

Group 3- Trees, Shrubs, Creepers and Flowers

World hand wash day (15 October 2020):

On 14th October material with sheets for drawing and writing, attendance sheets were distributed by supervisors to all Balbhavans.

Students and parents participated in 15 October World Hand Wash Day program. After hand wash, children drew pictures related to cleanliness and hand wash, wrote their experiences and ideas. Parents and children expressed about the experience.

Capacity Building trainings:

- **Curriculum Training -23/10/2020 and 24/10/2020**

Training on Language and Maths was organized at Bah Bhillot Hall, Dhadgaon.

Day first: 23/10/2020

- 1) Project Manager illustrated the objective of training – It is observed that problems are faced by Balmitras while teaching geometry, maths and other subjects. Taking into consideration these problems, this refresher training of curriculum is organized
- 2) Supervisor explained how geometrical figures are to be introduced to students and what instruments are needed to draw these figures. He introduced Triangle, Square and Diagonal figures.
- 3) Definitions of Periphery, Multiplication, Surface Area, etc. were explained.

Day second: 24/10/2020

Review of first day's training was taken.

Training on Mathematics was continued. The concept of fractions was explained. It also included fractions with equal value, fractions with same denominators.

The concept of division was explained. The examples of division were solved.

Marathi Language Training:

It was explained how we can define 'describing an Incidence'.

- 1) Describing an Incidence which we have seen and observed,
- 2) A clear picture of Incidence should be described in words.

Balmitras were asked to write description of an incidence which they have seen.

Writing of news

–how to write news, the news was written on board, then Balmitras practiced news writing.

The Director explained about various words which have different meaning in different context. Balmitras prepared a list of such words.

Shivar Pheri Refresher Training of Balmitra- 23/11/2020

One-day refresher training of Balmitras and supervisors about Shivar Pheri was conducted on 23 Nov. 2020 at Bah Bhilot Hall, Dhadgaon.

Purpose of Shivar Pheri: - People feel that our area is poor. Students get educated for getting some job and jobs are in the distant city. The rich biodiversity around here is forgotten. Children should realize the richness of this biodiversity. The knowledge they have about their surrounding is also 'knowledge'.

Procedure and sequence of Shivar Pheri activity: - Project Manager explained the sequence and procedure of activity. While explaining purpose of activity, he also illustrated the process of formation of groups and their responsibilities.

JAVS Director explained how and why "Save the Earth" conference in Brazil was organized. There is a song in Bhilori "We will not forget our mother earth". We are overexploiting the earth and we should try to keep the balance. The biodiversity in our area should be recorded. Children also have knowledge about trees, grasses, birds and animals in their area –in their village. This valuable knowledge needs to be recorded. If this richness is felt, then children would love their village and will be connected to their traditions. People and children also can record biodiversity which is important for future. Children will find new uses of this diverse ecology.

5 booklets were distributed in 5 groups of Balmitras. It consisted of Colourful booklets with pictures. – 1) Pali and Chamilion, 2) Birds, 3) Frogs and toads, 4) Snakes and 5) Mushrooms

They identified the varieties of animals which are found in this area. They added local names of these animals. Pictures and Maps drawn by students in Shahada block were shown to them.

Use of Binocular: - Binocular can be useful in Shivar Pheri. We can observe small butterflies or distant Bird, it would help in identifying them and we can observe small details. Five groups went to nearby hill and enjoyed and learned how to use and adjust binoculars.

SMC Refresher Training of Balmitra:

Training was organized at Bah Bhilot Hall, Dhadgaon on 24 November 2020. It was one-day training about SMC.

Aim of Training: - 1) Refresh knowledge of Balmitras about responsibilities of SMC, 2) How to build capacities of SMC members, and 3) Basics of SMC and its functions.

A module of SMC responsibilities, functions and the tasks to be regularly followed up, was presented.

Right to Education:

Children should get compulsory and free (of cost) education was the main focus of this law. Under this law SMC also got right to monitor school education. It should be used for development of children and their education. Role of SMC has become important in education of children.

Children get education from Family, Society and Teacher (school). Balmitras and team participated in discussion about what role is played by each factor.

Meaning of Child centered education, Playful education with action were also explained and discussed. It was explained that the education should not be based on 'Rote'.

Following factors are important for development of children.: 1) Education for all 2) Library 3) Computer 4) Science Lab., 5) Books, 6) Mid-day meal, 7) Clean and pure water, 8) Playground, 9) Special facilities for special children (disabled), and 10) SMC should watch and take care that violent methods should not be used.

SMC Meetings:

SMC meetings were held in all villages every month in which SMC members, Parents and School teachers participated.

Following subjects were discussed in these meetings.

- Review of points suggested for SDP by members
- Rights of children.
- Efforts for increasing Children's attendance
- Responsibility for making follow up of SDP suggestions.

Story Books Reading Activity:

This activity was started to develop reading habit of students of 6 to 8 standard in the village. It helps in creating atmosphere for education (particularly in covid-19 period). In this activity reading and lending of books is done.

Students from 6th to 8th standards participated in these activities. To activate and encourage their reading habit, the activity of "Exchange of books for Reading" was started.

Children expressed their thoughts on the basis of their understanding of the book they have read. This program has really helped improve their interest in reading books.

Village level sports, story and poetry reading activity:

Daily one hour was devoted to activities like games, songs, reading stories and poems, discussion. This activity was started from February in 33 Balbhavans. The activities taken are: 1) Games, 2) Songs, 3) Story reading, 4) Poem reading

This activity helped children to improve and add to their word-stock; their communication skill improved; they got exposure to books which helped in improving their language.

Visit to Block Education Officer:

Delegation of SMC members and parents met Block Education Officer, Shri Chaure and Extension Officer, Shri Vakode on 9th September 2020 at Dhadgaon Panchayat Samiti. Delegation was comprised of 12 SMC members and 3 parents from 9 villages. All persons were wearing masks and before entering meeting place sanitized their hands.

After round of introduction, VBP Manager put forward the context of the meeting. "This is an effort for good communication between Gov. Education Officers and SMCs and Janarth education team, because all working with same goal of education of tribal children. Activities going on in villages should be reported to education department and SMCs are seeking support from Government."

700 tribal children from 3rd to 5th standards are getting benefit of learning under Covid-19 conditions with due precautions. SMCs have made written resolutions to allow and continue these classes. Villagers are providing space for classroom without any cost. It was expressed that Janarth Balmitra and team is working with much less salary than Government Teachers; so why Government Teachers are not teaching?

Shri Chaure appreciated the efforts of Janarth and SMCs and explained that they are bound by Government Orders and the schools can function 2-3 days in a week and they can't provide classrooms as per orders.

Shikshan Vistar Adhikari Shri Vakode said they are providing swadhey material for home learning and we have orders that teachers can work only 2-3 days in a week. He also appreciated work done by SMCs and Janarth team.

In response to that Block Education Officer said that we have books with photos and paintings and we will try to provide it.

Further again he said that under today's conditions, online education is an alternative, but in this poor and remote area, it is not possible (It is also because the children do not have access to android mobile phones and the poor connectivity in the area). Again he appreciated the activities of SMCs, Balmitras and Janarth team. Ashok Padavi and Anant Pawara, the coordinators of Vidya Balbhavan Project thanked all.

Fortnightly and Monthly Review Meetings:

Fortnightly meetings were organized to review the work done in the last fortnight and to plan the activities for coming fortnight. Monthly review meetings were organized with the Director to review monthly activities and seek his guidance for the next month.

B) PROJECT NAME: COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Background:

This was the 9th year of Community Mental Health and Development Program, which is supported by BNI Bangalore. The program ran continuously from 2009 to 2012. However afterwards there was gap of two years (from 2012 to 2014). In those two years Janarth Adivasi Vikas Sanstha continued the work of community mental health and development program by attending OPD at Shahada, where PWMI and their families came for diagnosis and medicines and had constant communication with them. This second phase started from 2014 and is further continued up to 2019. In 2019 the CMHD program started in Nandurbar block. It continued for three years till 2021

Activities during 2020-21:

There is some progress in advocacy for mental health with government machinery. Regular activities of this program organized in this year are: 1) home visits, 2) OPD meetings, 3) family support group meetings and 4) community meetings.

We concentrated on the capacity building of PWMI and caretakers who are regular. As a result of capacity building of volunteers, now they take new patients to Nandurbar Civil Hospital. Some of the Volunteers organized village level Family Support Group (FSG) and community meetings. They helped PWMI and caretakers at the time OPD.

World Mental Health Day

In the month of October, the World Mental Health Day was jointly celebrated in Civil Hospital.

Monthly team meetings-

For regular evaluation and planning of the activities, monthly meetings of the director, the coordinator and the volunteers were held.

Quarterly Review Meeting:

Quarterly review meetings were organized with Director wherein reporting and planning of the activities was done. Also discussion on the difficulties faced by Volunteers furthered the activities to take the process ahead.

PWMI Identification

During village meetings, the mental illness, superstitions and misunderstandings about mental illness, treatment and medicines are explained to the people. People give information about PWMI, some also take us to their homes. Some old patients also tell information about PWMI they know.

Home Visits:

During home visits, information about PWMI is taken. The volunteers communicate with the family members about mental illness, treatment and medicines. When the families and PWMI are convinced, they consider about attending OPD. They bring PWMI for OPDs and medicines regularly.

Visits are paid every month for follow up. The family members are assured about the treatment and are accompanied for OPD. This helps in getting their confidence and they come regularly. The medicines are provided free by the Civil Hospital.

Family Support Group

FSGs are formed with participation of PWMI, family members and other peer supporters within the group. Once aware of the issue, FSG also extended and participated in local advocacy, in mobilizing support from community.

Meetings are organized with Gram Panchayat members, ASHA Workers and Anganwadi Workers to have their participation in FSG.

C) PROJECT NAME: IMPROVING NUTRITION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN PROGRAMME

Background:

Nandurbar district is one of the tribal districts in Maharashtra. For the last many decades, Nandurbar district is facing the dire problems of malnutrition and deaths of children. The Human Development Index of Nandurbar district is numbered last in Maharashtra State. The issue of malnutrition in this tribal district has been surfacing now and then in the media for decades. Though the Anganwadis have been given responsibility of physical-mental-intellectual development of the children under 6, the Anganwadis are poorly run to fulfil these objectives. The Anganwadis are also given responsibility of looking after the nutrition and health of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers, counselling them for nutritious food, health and sanitation issues through group meetings as well as home visits. However, Anganwadis are only known for providing "Khichadi" (which mostly is rice with turmeric powder and salt) to children.

The Village Health-Sanitation-Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs), which are linked to Gram Panchayats, are only on paper. The VHSNC members have no knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as a member. Some even do not know that they are members of VHSNC.

Recently, The Tribal Development Department of Maharashtra State has issued GRs in August 2016, to provide one nutrition meal every day to pregnant and lactating mothers and one egg or two bananas or seasonal fruits to children from 7 months to 6 years of age under the scheme named A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar Yojana.

The Anganwadis facilitate The Health Department for organizing Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) every month, which is used to give vaccination to children and ANC check-up services to pregnant mothers. The VHNDs are not regularly organized; neither have they had full ANC check-ups done. (There are six tests included in the ANC check-up, i.e. 1) weight, 2) height, 3) Hb test, 4) BP test, 5) Urine test and 6) abdominal test.) These check-ups help in identifying high-risk mothers.

Though to minimize the malnutrition, child deaths and maternal deaths the Maharashtra State has started Anganwadis in every village, these Anganwadis are not properly functioning. The people, i.e. men and women villagers are alienated and apathetic about provision of Anganwadi services and similar are the conditions with the health services. Nutrition and health issues go hand in hand as health issues are also adding to the malnutrition among children as well as adolescent girls and women. To sum up the issues related to the malnutrition are:

- 1) The poor implementation of ICDS services,
- 2) Poor infrastructure,
- 3) Lack of interest of concerned personnel in implementation of ICDS program,
- 4) The poor implementation of Health services,
- 5) Lack of awareness among men-women about nutrition and health of children/ adolescent girls/ pregnant and lactating women,
- 6) Economically backward area,
- 7) Seasonal migration, and
- 8) Secondary status of women.

The “Improving Nutrition of Children and Women” aims at reducing malnutrition in 50 villages of Nandurbar Block of Nandurbar District. The total population covered by these 50 villages as per the Census of 2011 is 77,536 with tribal population of 64,488 i.e. more than 83% of the population is tribal. The project started with effect from 1st December 2017. We are giving below the report of the activities during April 2020 to March 2021.

Activities during 2020-21:

In the last week of March 2020, the lockdown owing to the Covid-19 pandemic started and it prolonged for months. However, the village level activities were going on. Our Field Facilitators and Poshan Sakhis (Village Health Workers) have helped in regular activities of Anganwadi and Health services. Due to Covid-19 conditions, the meetings of VHSNCs, women and adolescent girls could not be held during months of April and May 2020. However, from June onwards these meetings have been organized with the consent of its members and considering the Covid-19 situation in the villages.

During lockdown period the Anganwadis were closed. However, the department decided to give raw food material under Anganwadi as well as under APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar Scheme. Poshan Sakhi and VHSNC members have helped and

monitored this distribution along with Anganwadi Worker. It has been a concern that this raw food material which is meant for consumption by beneficiary for the whole month, when taken to home is consumed by the whole family in few days and hence the beneficiaries i.e. the children up to 6 years of age and the ANC-PNC women could avail the benefits only for some days of the month.

Capacity Building Workshop of the team:

Due to Covid-19 restrictions in the district we could not organize any training for the team till October 2020, by which time the Covid-19 turnover came down in the district and hence the restrictions at district level became flexible. Therefore, one-day training on 23 November 2020 of Poshan Sakhis was organized on the activity of village level Poshan Kruti Gat. This also was refresh training on the nutrition issue.

The sessions were:

1. The concept, objectives and responsibilities of Poshan Kruti Gat
2. Malnutrition and the reasons behinds malnutrition
3. Concept of SAM and MAM grades and how the grades are defined
4. The nutritious ingredients required to reduce malnutrition
5. Care to be taken while preparing and giving nutritious eatables to children

To build capacities of village level stakeholders:

Due to Covid-19 restrictions in the district we could not organize any training for the village level stakeholders till October 2020. However in July, August and September months, through dialogue with the village level stakeholders, women for Poshan Kruti Gat were identified. Village level meetings of these women were organized to discuss with them the objectives and activities of Poshan Kruti Gat and whether they agree to be part of the Poshan Kruti Gat.

The objectives were that 1) the Poshan Kruti Gat will take activity to prepare nutritious food for SAM / MAM children in the village 2) they should devote some time for this activity willingly. The women gave their consent. In some villages, women were not ready to participate in Poshan Kruti Gat. In September and October 2020, the list of utensils required for preparing eatables was made and quotations were invited from utensils merchants. A meeting of Procurement Committee was organized to compare and place order with selected merchant. The sets of utensils purchased were reached to the Poshan Kruti Gats in villages.

Cluster-wise training workshops of women forming Poshan Kruti Gat (PKG) were organized as follows:

Sr. No.	Date of Training	No. of participating villages	No. of PKG women
1	25-11-2020	13	50
2	27-11-2020	15	59
3	28-11-2020	18	76
	TOTAL	46	185

The sessions were:

1. The concept, objectives and responsibilities of Poshan Kruti Gat
2. Malnutrition and the reasons behinds malnutrition
3. Concept of SAM and MAM grades and how the grades are defined
4. The nutritious ingredients required to reduce malnutrition
5. Care to be taken while preparing and giving nutritious eatables to children

An initial amount for preparing the eatables was given to these groups, depending upon the number of Anganwadis in the villages. In the month of January 2021, PKGs started preparing and providing Shengadana Ladu and Chivada to SAM children.



Monitoring and improving Anganwadi services and APJAK Amrut Ahar Yojana:

After the lockdown was announced in March 2020, the Anganwadis were closed due to fear of spreading Covid-19 to the children. However, the government decided to provide nutrition to the children and ANC-PNC women through raw food material under ICDS as well as APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar Scheme.

The Poshan Sakhi and the VHSNC members monitored distribution of the raw food material. They were present at the time of unloading the material in Anganwadi and also at the time of distributing it to the beneficiaries, ie children and women.

The raw food material is taken to home. The raw food material provided is meant to be consumed by the children and women for a month. But at home, the material is

consumed by the whole family, as within home the women cannot insist that it is only for the children and them. So, the children and the women cannot avail of full benefits of the food provided under these schemes.

Poshan Sakhis went for home visits to ANC-PNC women and also SAM-MAM children. They discussed the difficulties in various issues related to nutrition and health services. To the parents of SAM / MAM children, they explained how to combat malnutrition. They explained the necessity of nutritious food for the children and also demonstrated some nutritious recipes. In case of severity of malnutrition, they guided them to take the child to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) in Civil Hospital.



VHSNC meetings

Monitoring and improving Health Services:

During Covid-19 the Health department was loaded with responsibilities. The returning of migrated people to their villages created confusion as they were opposed to enter villages in some villages. The villagers feared that the migrated people will spread infection of Covid-19. In some villages the villagers quarrelled with ASHA workers, due to rumours and misunderstandings about the Covid-19 tests entrusted to ASHA workers. However, along with ASHA workers, Poshan Sakhi and the team also explained the villagers how the Covid-19 virus gets infected and how we can protect ourselves from its infection by following the precautionary measures.

With all precautions regarding Covid-19, Poshan Sakhi and VHSNC members attended the VHNDay in village, wherein vaccination of children and ANC tests are carried. Poshan Sakhis helped ANC and PNC women in 1) getting bank accounts opened, 2) in getting Sonography done, 3) in getting Iron Sucrose dose in PHCs, and 4) in getting benefits of the schemes.

Keeping pace with the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and avoiding the villages where the Covid-19 positive people were found, meetings of VHSNCs, women and adolescent girls were organized.

Awareness Campaign:

In the initial period of lockdown, people had some misunderstandings about the spread of Covid-19. Along with ASHA worker and Anganwadi worker, our INCW team (and also other project teams) informed the people and made them aware about the new virus, how it spreads and what care should be taken to avoid its infection.

When the restrictions were relaxed, the Field Facilitators and Poshan Sakhis took a village level campaign to show demonstration on malnutrition with the help of growth-charts. They discussed how the malnutrition grades are determined and how to bring the child out of malnutrition.



Awareness Campaign

Fortnightly meetings:

In the fortnightly meetings of Poshan Sakhis, reporting of earlier fortnight and planning of next fortnight is done. A session is taken to introduce new issue or to refresh earlier training.

The fortnightly meetings of Field Facilitators though could not be organized physically in April, June and August 2020 on account of severity of Covid-19 cases in the district, the reporting and planning of activities was done through communication over phone during these months. Fortnightly meetings were organized in May, July, and Sept., 2020 onwards, with due precautionary care in respect of Covid-19.

As there were restrictions that 20 or more people should not gather for any programme, fortnightly meetings for Poshan Sakhis were organized at cluster level and of course with due care about Covid-19.

Results achieved:

S.No.	Particulars	April 2020		May 2020		June 2020		July 2020	
		Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits
1	ANC women	488	303	616	456	698	519	716	582
2	PNC women	479	412	588	429	556	421	487	510
3	SAM children	55	49	59	53	41	39	113	102
4	MAM children	304	292	296	234	349	263	719	605
5	ANC Women- Iron Sucrose.	12	These issues are followed in above home visits	5	These issues are followed in above home visits	2	These issues are followed in above home visits	15	These issues are followed in above home visits
6	Children – NRC / NICU	3		28		2		--	
7	Help in Bank Acc.	14		56		10		47	
8	Sonography Test	95		5		74		94	
9	Bene.- JSY	33		11		2		--	
10	Bene – PMMVY	28		4		48		29	
11	Bene - MVY	4				16	--		

S.No.	Particulars	Aug 2020		Sept 2020		October 2020		November 2020	
		Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits
1	ANC women	694	645	658	544	626	485	556	513
2	PNC women	536	429	552	467	607	481	608	604
3	SAM children	142	125	126	101	87	75	67	75
4	MAM children	610	546	582	485	596	485	563	605
5	ANC Women- Iron Sucrose.	9	Issues followed in above home visits	15	These issues are followed in above home visits	11	These issues are followed in above home visits	9	These issues are followed in above home visits
6	Children – NRC / NICU	2		1		1		5	
7	Help in Bank Acc.	50		55		34		14	
8	Sonography Test	120		78		96		104	
9	Bene.- JSY	--		6				-	
10	Bene – PMMVY	8		18		23		17	
11	Bene - MVY	11		1		98	70		

S.No.	Particulars	December 2020		January 2021		February 2021		March 2021	
		Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits	Total No.	Home Visits
1	ANC women	491	651	494	505	521	495	514	454
2	PNC women	661	841	669	683	604	534	583	494
3	SAM children	82	169	45	54	42	50	45	51
4	MAM children	523	752	639	736	544	541	516	486
5	ANC Women- Iron Sucrose.	13	These issues	8	These issues	7	These issues	7	These issues

6	Children – NRC / NICU	2	are followed in above home visits	3	are followed in above home visits	6	s are followed in above home visits	5	are followed in above home visits
7	Help in Bank Acc.	11		9		13		3	
8	Sonography Test	79		57		85		60	
9	Bene.- JSY	-		3		1			
10	Bene – PMMVY	27		52		30		28	
11	Bene - MVY	56		22		23		31	

D) PROJECT NAME: COMMUNITY ACTION FOR NUTRITION

Background:

Anganwadi centres are very crucial for the development of children in the 0-6 age group. The project has been initiated by Tribal Development Department as pilot project. The state Coordinating organization is coordinating the project for 10 tribal blocks in Maharashtra State. Shahada and Dhadgaon blocks in Nandurbar district have been selected under this project, which aims at improving health and nutrition of the children through Anganwadi services and thereby reducing the SAM and MAM children. It also focuses on the health and nutrition of ANC /PNC women. Tribal Development Department has started A.P.J, Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar scheme, to provide nutrition to Anganwadi children and ANC / PNC women. This scheme is implemented through Anganwadi Centres in Tribal districts. This project aims at proper implementation of this scheme to fulfill the objective.

In Shahada and Dhadgaon blocks, 40 villages each are selected under this project. In this project, ASHA workers have been given the responsibility of village level activities.

VHSNC Meetings:

VHSNC meetings were organized in each village regularly. The VHSNC members monitored Anganwadi services, VHND and 'APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar'. As a consequence of the efforts taken by VHSNC members, the nutrition to children and Amrut Ahar was being regularly given to 0-6 age-group children and ANC-PNC women in Anganwadi.

E) PROJECT NAME: COMMUNITY ACTION FOR HEALTH

Background:

"Community Based Monitoring and Planning of health services (CBMP)" project was closed by March 2020. However at state level NHM and State Coordinating Organizations were thinking on a transition process.

The “Community Action for Health (CAH)” project came as a solution. In this project, a village volunteer was to be trained to build her/his capacity to lead the village for solving village level health problems and a PHC level federation of them would be trained to solve health problems at PHC level. For this project, STAPI was the state coordinating organization for Nandurbar district (along with other 7 districts). During December 2020 STAPI invited applications for district coordination, for which JAVS applied for Nandurbar District and was selected. The project period started from January to March 2021.

Activities during 2020-21:

Identification of Village Health Volunteers:

In the month of January 2021, a team of Block Coordinators and a Field Supervisor was selected for Dhadgaon and Nandurbar Blocks. During January and February 2021, the Block Coordinators visited the villages in Nandurbar and Dhadgaon blocks. They communicated and explained the project objectives to VHSNC members, Sarpanch, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers. Consulting these and other village stakeholders, the person was identified who they felt was eligible for Village Health Volunteer (VHV). Then the identified persons were visited to find out their willingness for working as VHV. PHC-wise lists of Volunteers of the villages were made.

Capacity Building Workshop of the team:

The capacity building workshop of the Block Coordinators and District Supervisor was organized in February 2021. The following subjects were explained and discussed.

- Background and objectives of the project
- Activities and process included in the project
- Formation of PHC Federation after Identification of Volunteers
- Capacity Building of the PHC Federation

Capacity Building of the PHC level Federation:

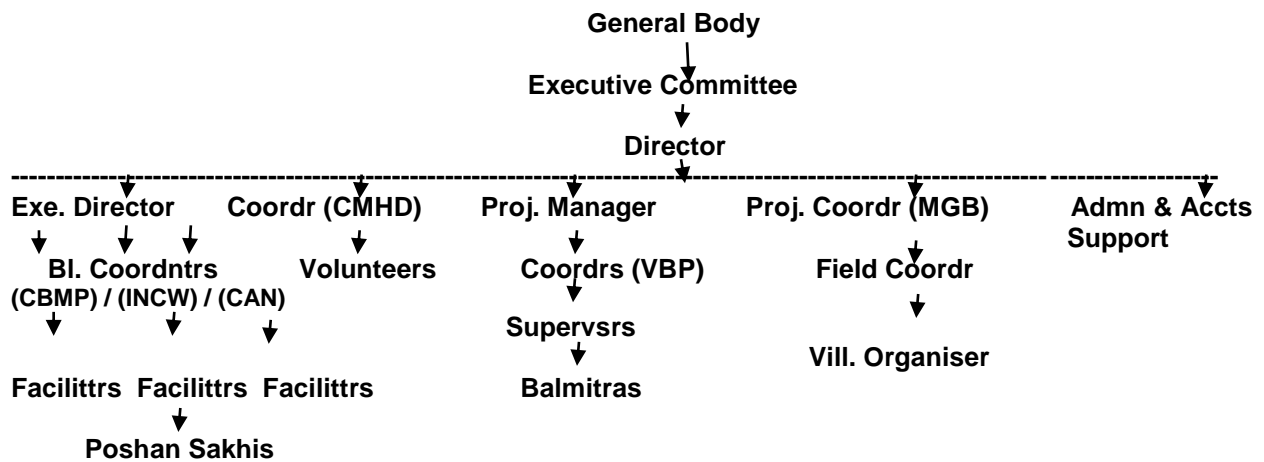
As per the planning Capacity Building Workshops of PHC Federations of Volunteers in Dhadgaon and Nandurbar blocks were organized. In this workshops the following subjects were presented and explained, which was followed with discussion for clarity.

- Positive and Negative aspects of Government and Private Health Machinery
- People’s right to health and health services
- Need of a well-equipped and people-centred Government Health machinery,
- The health services guaranteed by government at village and PHC level.
- Need to find out gaps in it to improve the same with dialogue with health department
- To organize dialogue between people and health machinery through Jan Samvad programs

Formation of District Mentoring Resource Group:

A meeting of district level officials related to various departments related to health, was organized at Zilla Parishad, Nandurbar. In this meeting the background and objectives of CAH project were presented. The activities included in the project were explained and active support and cooperation of the officials was requested.

The Team (Organogram)



The team of organization (Full time Activists: 59 men and 15 women and Part time Activists: 48 women) has regular team meetings so that we can report and share each other's work experience as well as plan further activities. Songs on social issues are a part of our meetings. Majority of the team members are Adivasis, who (and the non-Adivasi activists also) are well acquainted with the local life and languages. Trainings for the team are organized to develop their skills and knowledge. We try to keep the hierarchy at minimal level.

Finance:

As regards the financial activities, we would like to state as under:

- We have maintained the accounts as per legal statutes of India.
- During day to day operations, ethical accountability, value of money, transparency and environmental concern are the highest priority.
- Our auditors have performed their task in an independent manner.
- Only one Board Member, Mr. Vikram Kanhere gets honorarium from the organization.

- No part of the income of the organization has been directly used or applied for the benefits of any person / relative of Board member / donor.

THANK YOU!

