



Annual Activities Report of of Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) **Financial year 2017-2018**

Introduction:

NisargVidnyan Mandal (NiViM) is a community based voluntary organization working on Environmental education, Public Health & Hygiene, Science popularization, Women empowerment, Animal welfare and Sustainable Agriculture practices of organic and natural farming's through campaign and Action by Activists dedicated to the cause of Nature conservation with popularization of science. It comprises a team of young energetic teachers, researchers, nature lovers, field activists. Starting with these roots in local action, NiViMhas worked on a number of local, divisional, state-wide and national issues. The organization was registered in 1992 at Gandhi district Wardha and has been working in the urban and rural (forest belt) area of Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal and Wardha district of Vidarbha.

NiViM believes that a nation can develop meaningfully only if ecological sustainability and social equity are guaranteed. To this end its activities are directed to ensuring conservation of Biological & Agricultural diversity, challenging the current destructive path of development helping in search for alternative forms of Sustainable livelihood and development. The organization takes up study and action research projects. It strives to evolve self-reliant and sustainable societal patterns.

NiViM Mission: -

To provide a meaningful platform to the people, particularly students, youths, women, farmers and rural community members for poverty elevation by income generation scheme to solve socio-economic problem, women empowerment, watershed management, waste management, a forestation, biodiversity conservation, health education and networking of local community with scientific attitude growing in line departments for proper management of local environment and natural resources.

Hamara Chota Gram - a Community Development project :-

Since April, 2017 NiViM expanded its work with an objective of overall development of the marginalized communities, and therefore started a project called "Hamara Chota Gram - a Community Development Project." Two communities were identified for work are Pardeshi Community, located at Mumbai Central and a Tribal Community located at Aarey Colony (Goregaon) in Mumbai. Work carried out under the areas of Health care, Education, Skills Training and Income Generation programs, Social and cultural Education, Fun programs.

Profile of Pardeshi & Tribal Community:

Pardeshi community is situated on the foot path of Foras Road, Mumbai Central (East), Mumbai, very close to the red-light area. They are originally from Utter Pradesh and settled here since many generations. They belong to Dharkar caste and are registered under Other Backward Caste. There are 110 families and a population of 700 people. Their traditional occupation is cane work.

Tribal community is located in the tribal pada called Khadakpada in Aarey colony, Goregaon east. They belong to Warli community. There are around 125 families consisting 600 people. They are residing in this pada since many generations.

Objectives of HamaraChota Gram - a Community Development Project:

Main objective: Overall development of the communities

Specific objectives:

- To improve the health Status of the Communities by providing preventive and curative health services.
- To enhance the capacity of the children in the fullest possible potentialities.
- To sensitize community people about their rights, available facilities and schemes
- To develop skills of adolescents/ youth/ women for better livelihood options.
- To enhance the value of community people's lives through fun and recreational activities

To achieve the above objectives following developmental and welfare programs and activities were conducted

HEALTH CARE

As a part of preventive health care program awareness sessions were organized at both the communities.

Awareness Session on Cholera :-

Session on Cholera was taken by the social worker on 10th July 2017 for the women from the Pardeshi community. The reasons, symptoms, treatment and precautions were explained during the session.



(Women participated in awareness session of their health & hygiene)

Personal hygiene session :-

Three sessions were conducted separately for boys, girls and women by Dr. Rameshwari Patil on 29th Nov. 2017 and 1st December 2017 respectively at tribal community.



Cleaning of the Pardeshi community :-

As a result of the continuous interaction, women are aware of its importance. They had come together and appointed one person to clean the entire community as a collective action. The women collected contribution of Rs.75/- every month from each family and the responsibility are taken up by all but in specific by rotation every month.

Cleanliness campaign:

On 17th July, 2017 altogether 43 children, three community leaders and 8 staff cleaned the entire community. They collected the plastics and garbage thrown everywhere. Initially community people were hesitant, then curious asked many questions and joined the initiative. Children were explained the importance of a clean community and the ill effects of it. It is promoting them towards clean and green India mission "Swachchh Bharat Abhiyan"



(Children, Women and community leader engaged in cleanliness campaign)

Interactive meeting with children on cleanliness:

Twelve children attended the meeting on 9th October, of the age group 8 to 18 years. They brought out the issues of the cleanliness in the community.

Supplementary nutrition:

Seven senior citizens were given healthy breakfast every alternative day to support them for healthy life Healthy Supplementary nutrition were provided to children at Balwadi (pre- school education) every day and at study classes three times in a week.

Distribution of Fruits as supplementary nutrition: Fruits like water melon, grapes etc were given to the children during summer vocation. Children were eagerly waiting for it as many children had not eaten these fruits in past.

Healthy supplementary nutrition were given to balwadi children every day. Healthy snacks were given to children at study classes three times in a week in the tribal community.



(Distribution of nutritious break fast regularly to children of both community)

Hand wash:

Children were given ongoing training to wash their hands properly before each meal at Balwadi and study class at tribal community.



Health Check up and treatment Camp :-

A complete medical check -up camp of children aged 01 to 20 years was organized from 8th to 11th of June, 2017. Total 146 children were examined. CBC and montex test was done of all children. Deworming of all children done. Needy people were provided medication. Tonic were given to all the children whose hemoglobin level was lower than normal range.

Regular check up of these students is in continuation on every two month and any severe diseases diagnosed during health check up camp referred to Govt. Hospital or to experts for treatment.



Awareness for Zero Snake Bite Campaign:

Session on snake bite and the precautions was organized in collaboration with officials from forest department on 19th November, 2017. Information about various poisonous snakes, and the precautions was given by Officials and snake friends through slide show and charts..

EDUCATION :-

English medium sponsorship:

Total 74 children (both boys and girls) were sponsored for English Medium School Education and five girls were sponsored for higher (college) education in the Pardeshi community. Two children were sponsored for the English medium sponsorship in the tribal community. Their fees were paid by the organization.

Sky watching and Day Time Astronomy :-

To create interest about universe and planets amongst students and science lover people. Sky watching and day time astronomy study, observation of planets through high resolution telescope organized at School of concepts, Besa, Nagpur and some selected schools under project vicinity at Nagpur and Mumbai.



(Demonstration and observation of images of sun on the event of solar eclipse)

Support study classes, Drawing and Library facility :-

Batch wise two support study classes for English medium children were organized at the pardeshi community children and one class organized for paradhi community children at Dahegaon, Ta: Umred, Dist: Nagpur. Also, Dnyandeep Library (Abhyasika) started at Dahegaon to inculcate a habit of reading amongst students.

Two hours study class was organized for the girls from vernacular medium (Hindi and Marathi) schools. Twelve girls attended the classes regularly.

Study classes for total 61 children from 11 different schools were organized at tribal community. Eight students (5 girls and 3 boys) were going to colleges for higher education. Exam Preparation were done in the month of March, 2018 by conducting extra classes and giving individual attention each student.



(Study supporting classes at Khadkpada, Mumbai and Paradhpada, Dahegaon, Nagpur)

Drawing sessions were organized with the children at study classes.

Library:

A library of around 200 – 250 books maintained at Khadkpada (Mumbai) and paradhi pada (Nagpur). Books were given to children to read at tribal community.

All the children were enrolled in the school from both the communities thus ensuring 100% children in school. Study classes are conducted in the evening for student enrolled in ZP school at Paradh pada (Dahegaon), Ta: Umred, Dist: Nagpur also.

Good library is developed for children. Many books were purchased and kept in the library. School going children read the books. Even few women from the community took the books to read it. Every alternative Saturdays reading activity is conducted to develop reading habit. A library with more than 1000 books on science, culture ,Environment and UPSC/MPSC/Banking are available at Dnyandip Abhyasika, Besa, Nagpur.

Pre-school Education :

Children of the age group 3 to 6 years had no education exposure or habit to sit for some time or listen to teacher. Therefore, a balwadi for the age group 3 to 6 years was started. Total 21 children attended the balwadi regularly. Master Vaibhav Sathe aged years Ex-beneficiary of Balwadi class died due to Snake bite. Computer classes were conducted for 34 students.

Vocation batches :

During the summer vocation, April and May 2017 special classes were organized for the children studying in 9th and 10th std. and also for weaker students. Special English classes were organized for 52 children in 3 batches.

Session for the staff on handling children and Counseling session with children:

Mrs. Heena Bhatt, a Professional Counselor took the session for the staff on different problems seen while handling children / behavioral / study related problems in the study classes. And effective techniques to handle the situations were discussed in detail. Mrs. Heena Bhatt conducted an activity session with children for two hours on 15th December, 2017. Total 28 children attended the session. It was very interactive. It helped the children to open up and the counselor to understand the children so that she could give inputs in the coming year plan.

Exposure visits for staff :

Exposure visits for staff was organized at Comet Media Foundation and Avehi who are pioneer in teaching aid material and Education field. Staff got an exposure on alternative to teaching and learning methods,different toys and books, and audio-visual teaching aids.

Literacy Class for Women:

Though the literacy class for women started, we were not successful in making all women literate for various reasons. In the coming year complete literate women will be one of the objectives.

Networking meeting with schools:

Meeting with the class teachers and principal of the respective schools were held to take their feedback regarding the children's performance.

News Paper Reading:

Newspapers reading activity conducted regularly for study class children . This activity was organized to update them with current affairs and inculcate reading habit.

Guides Books:

Guide books of all the standards were purchased and given to school going children on daily use. This helped them to understand how to write answers in the exams in schools.

Feedback from the schools:

In August, 2017 teachers from the school named 'Shree SamarthaVidyalay' where 25 children study visited the community. They were very happy with children's improvement in their performance and conveyed the same to the staff and parents. Even parents were very happy as the children have shown better results in the schools.

Social awareness and Parents meetings:

Parents meetings were organized on every month to discuss the children's scholastic performance and problems and discussed on project activities and progress of study classes

and balwadi. During meetings the children' works such as paintings, greeting cards etc. were exhibited.

Meetings with the women were conducted regularly to get behavioral change and form groups. Forty-Two women developed leadership qualities and worked as volunteers with the organization activities at Pardeshi mmunity.

Four girls underwent karate coaching. Two girls were trained in professional dancing. Five children's saving accounts were opened in banks. One girls saving started under Sukanya scheme of Govt. Of Maharashtra.



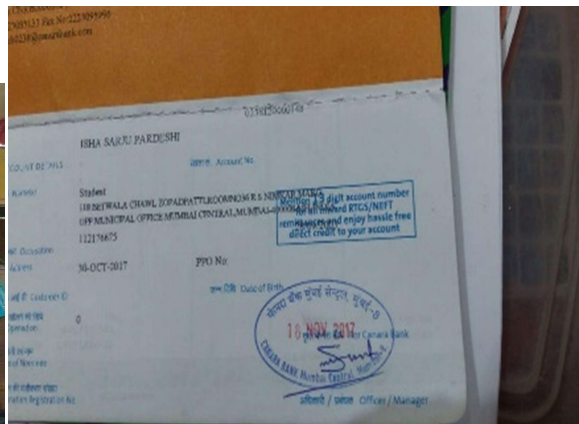
Group Formation:

Four groups of children and adolescents were formed in the tribal community. The meetings were held with these groups two times in a month. They discuss many issues. They were involved in implementing various activities thus developing leadership qualities.

Women Empowerment :

Women's day Celebration :-

It was a wonderful program organized by the community women altogether with the help of men. All women came well dressed. Five women came in their traditional dress. They sung their traditional songs and danced to the tune.



Meeting with Community Leaders:

Regular meetings with community leaders were conducted to build up the good relationship and to get their support.



(Meeting with Community leaders at Khadakpada Mumbai and Paradhipada, Dahegaon , Nagpur)

Drum training:

Drum training Thirteen children were given training in three types of beats like Lezim beat, East Indian beat and six set beats. The children play drum on their own during their religious functions.

Street play on Social Issues :-

Sixteen children were trained in street play performance by Mrs. Vaishali Bhosle, a Professional TVArtist. Children themselves wrote the script of street play on their own which were improvised by Vaishali. They have presented during tribal day program in front of the community people and the tribal leaders. Street paly Children participated in tribal community rallies organized by state level Tribal community in Mumbai and presented street plays and organized poster exhibition tribal issues during rallies. Thirteen children learnt lazim (musical instrument). Total 8 types of steps they learnt. They too play this during the religious functions.



(Lezim and drum training given to tribal students to organize awareness and action)

Tribal Dance Practice and celebration of Tribal Day Programm

Adolescents were taught their traditional dance with the help of old women from the community.



On 9th August was celebrated as Tribal Day. All the people from 26 padas came together and started the rally from National park, Borivali from morning and ended up at picnic point, Goregaon. At picnic point they worshiped their freedom fighter 'Birsa Munda' and gave speech by the leaders of the tribal community. They appreciated the work done by the Organizations.

Aarti (Spiritual ritual) in community as an activity:-

Community leaders requested to teach few children Aarti – worship song during prayer service as there was only one woman knows it and if she is not there they can't do worship. Ten children learnt aarti very well and organizing it at their premises and home also.

Tribal Fare Program:-

Tribal fare was organized by Tribal leaders of Mumbai and Maharashtra on 19th November 2017 at MIDC, Mulgaon, Andheri (E). Children performed the street play that they learnt. Around 1000 tribal people gathered over there. First time children were performing in front of a big crowd outside their area.

Warli Painting :-

As the community belongs to the tribe Warli, it was decided to teach the children warli painting in order to keep it alive their dying traditional art to the new generations.



(Orientation class for Warali paintings at Khadakpada, Mumbai & Paradhi pada at Dahegao Nagpur)

**Social Education through FUN :-
One day picnic**

Eighty-Five women from Pardeshi community were taken to Nisarga Farm House at Pen-Khopoli Road, Sapoli, Dist: Raigad. The way to this place was full of greenery. Women enjoyed swimming pools with natural water and rides. Cultural programs and days of national importance were celebrated in the community.

Birth day celebration:

Birth day of every child was celebrated in the respective months. This helped group bonding among children.



(Celebration of Birth Day of tribal students at Community Resource Centre (CRC), Mumbai)

Indoor and Outdoor Games:-

Every alternative Saturdays children were taken to ground for organized play like football, cricket, kokko etc. They enjoyed this activity very much. Computer teacher was a state level football player and he took the sessions with children.

Many puzzles, blocks, cards, chess, etc were provided which could be used by the children on Saturdays for long time and every day in the study class for 10 minutes.



(Team of game chess at Mumbai and Volleyball at Nagpur supported by NiViM)

Cloths distribution Program:

Sixty-one children were given new costly dresses of their age on 22nd February, 2017. They were extremely happy. For many children it was the first time they were wearing so costly dresses.



(The best, new cloths and uniforms distributed to students in project area at Mumbai)

Summer Vocation activities :-

Various activities like stitching, drawing and cooking were conducted by staff and children.

Rangoli Making: Resource person Ms. Pooja Kadam conducted sessions on three consecutive days. Total 18 children and 4 women attended the session of making Rangolis. Four girls showed excellent skills in this activity.

Residential camp :

Total 24 children from Tribal community of the age group 12 to 18 years, two community women as volunteers and 5 staff were taken to Govardhan Eco Village by ISCON at Guhir Road, Galtare Village, Wada (Taluka), Dist. Palghar from 24th to 26th October'2017. It was the first-time children were going out the community other than their relative's houses. All the community people made this occasion like a festival. At eco village many sessions and games were organized. Children were shown various programs like solar energy, sewage treatment, water shed management, cow shed. It boosted every one's energy and spirits so high.



(Residential camp of students to inculcate culture of sportsmanship amongst students)

Children's Day Celebration

Children's day was celebrated on 14th November'2017 with 21 balwadi children and 72 study class children separately. Importance and story behind the celebration was explained.

Picnic:

Thirty-seven Children, 2 volunteers and 8 staff visited zoo, Ranichi bag on 16th December'2017. Main attraction was penguin. Also, they saw many animals there and later played in the playground. Children enjoyed very much. First time the children went to a zoo though they were from Mumbai.



(Students of Mumbai enjoying a see-saw game and children of paradhi pada , Nagpur during out door picnic cum education excursion trip camp)

Greeting Card Making Activity:-

Greeting cards making activities were organized on 18th, 19th and 20th December'2017. 18 children took part in these sessions. Children made wonderful cards. Their creativity is praise worthy.

SKILLS TRAINING & INCOME GENERATION PROGRAMS

Eighty-two women were involved with skills training and Income Generation Program Women's skills were improved. Their income increased and therefore increased confidence level. Women earn Rs.3000/- to 15000/- in a month which depends on the time given and the products they made. Various products they make are paper vases, paper lamps, wall paper leaves and newly introduced paper wall clock.



(skill development training to project area women at Nagpur & Mumbai)

Tailoring class ;-

Tailoring class started for the women at tribal community. Though all the women wanted to learn stitching, as first batch fifteen women started the classes.



(Tailoring class for women to cover livelihood security of project area women)

Natural Resource Management (NRM) through Community Participation :-

Team of Nisarg Vidnyan working with Department of Forest to management of Natural resources (i.e. Biodiversity, Water, Forest etc) by formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and strengthening of Gramvan villages. Capacity building of committee members, preparation of micro plan for Gramvan , Public Biodiversity Register(PBR) to documentation of Natural resources.BMC formed in 32 Grampanchayat of Umrer taluk under the guidance of Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) , Nagpur. Microplan for ten years development of forest prepared for 25 forest villages in Umred , Nagpur and Bhivapur taluk of Nagpur district.



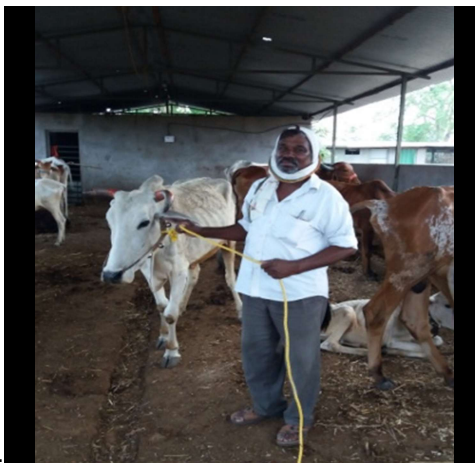
(Meetings, exhibition and Workshop for rural stakeholders and forest dwellers)



Animal welfare activities:-

Animal welfare and threatened species conservation (AWTSC) network of NiViM organized blood and health check camp for cattle owners in the villages located on forest. 2000 blood samples treated for test of Brucellosis in association of Public Health Department of Nagpur Veterinary College, Nagpur under guidance of Dr. Satish and Dr. Sandip Coudhary . Positive patient of brucellosis recommended to Govt. Hospital for treatment.

To quench a thirst of stray animals water conservation activities conducted by digging and silting of ponds and natural streams. Bull and cows donated to needy farmers for farming .15 animals rescued and release in natural habitat.



(Blood check up camps of cattle owner and cattle to detection of brucellosis virus and treatment)

ACHIEVEMENTS:-

- Over a period of time significant changes could be observed in the Pardeshi community.
- All the children from community are going to schools and obtaining good marks.
- Parents are saving money in bank for children's education
- Eight families purchased rooms using their saving and partial loan though very far to lead a better life.
- More girls are pursuing higher education.
- Group bonding developed among the children.
- Health status of community children improved.
- One widow got remarried which was not allowed in the past.
- Women came together and took action on community hygiene.
- With our intervention 42 volunteers were developed in the first community.
- Three girls got married to boys from outside caste with parents' permission which was not allowed before. They were not out casted.
- In the tribal community good rapport was developed, community people are very cooperative with the project activities.
- Many children going to the Municipal schools did not even know to read or write alphabets. Over a period of time the situation changed and all the children improved their scholastic performance in the tribal community.
- Children were given exposure of the outside world which they felt very uncomfortable in the beginning.
- Ensured, normal range of hemoglobin level among the children and done de worming of all the children in the community.
- Disease surveillance of the community is done and recorded.
- Four groups were formed of the adolescents for ensuring cleanliness in the communities.
- Thirteen children who were trained in drum and lazim play it every function in the community.
- Among the tribal groups, success of our organization's work was spread out and people from other padas (hamlets) are demanding to start work in their areas as well.
- Children and their parents actively participate in all the events organized by organization.
- Communities Leaders are very cooperative and helpful they keep watch on educational activities along with parents.