

Agenda 2030

Mandve



Sunset at Mandve

A journey with Ashankur

Action Research Training and Orientation Workshop

Ashankur 23rd-25th November 2022

Goal: Vision 2030 for Mandve village: A collective journey with Ashankur and associated villages.



Pravara river on the edge of Mandve and Mhasoba the village God and protector of cattle

Overall Objective: Perspective development for Mandve village in line with agenda 2030.

Objective 1: Perspective planning for Mandve in line with the agenda for realisation of agenda 2030.

Objective 2: Relevance of the local biodiversity for Sustainable Development Goal 3: Health and overall well being the core to an alternative sustainable path to development.

Objective 3: Ecosystem assessment development of a participatory approach involving women, children and the gram-sabha

Objective 4: An alternative planning process where people mattered. Relevance of an alternative education programme.

Agenda of the Workshop

First Day

- a. Facilitation for development of base line data on Mandve village based on the socio economic survey done by Ashankur and reflecting an understanding of the current status of the sustainable development goals in Mandve
- b. Development of a perspective on biodiversity based on the assessment of the biodiversity at Ashankur campus and its relevance for Sustainable Development Goal 3: Health and Overall well being.

Second Day

Field visit to Mandve to correlate observations and understanding emerging at the training programme.

Third Day

Develop action research plan for three years, starting with a detailed plan for the first year.

While the general outline of the workshop was maintained some modification took place in order to keep the discussions in line with the level of the participants and overall objective of the workshop in relation to development of agenda 2030 for Mandve and exploring its implications for perspective building of the future work of Ashankur in line with Agenda 2030.

The training programme was attended by Srs Prisca, Anita and Sabita, Atul, Kalpana, Agnes, Rita, Rekha, Aswini and Sangeeta from Ashankur and Viren and Sunil from Institute for Ecology and livelihood Action (IELA).

First day first session



Village map of Mandve: Two perspectives

The Socio Economic Survey (Survey format household survey for 256 families was done. Forty four families could not be interviewed as the hamlet was suffering from chickengunia. given in Annexure 1 indicated that there were 300 families in the village. The 44 families are

located in the bottom right hand corner on the left side of the road running through the centre of the village. The details provided by the participants indicated that this region had a problem with the water quality.

Some details of the village

Population Demographics

Males: 751 Females: 661

Those who have studied beyond class 4 1,175

Uneducated 237

Those who studied beyond class 10 437

Salaried Employment : 75

Castes

NT 135

Open 57

ST 38

SC 11

OBC 16

Occupations

Dairying 161

Labour 58

Other occupations: 37

Total agricultural land of 256 families 578 acres

Average land per household 2.23acres

Irrigated area 99%

Source of water: Well, Borewell, River, canal

Main crops

Sugarcane (families): 81

Cotton 41

Fodder 160

Cattle

Cow 920

Goat 306

Chickens 4704

Health Care

Private Hospitals (PMT Loni, Kolhar) 99%

Government Hospitals 1%

Drinking Water

Supply every 8 days

Housing

Kaccha 40

Gas connection 99%

Disabled 17

Widows 47

The Nomadic tribes (NT) are relatively better off living on the bottom right side of the road. The kaccha houses are mostly located in the top right side of the road.

As a result of the presentation of the socioeconomic data, the Ashankur team were divided into two groups and asked to present the information on a map. The two maps shown above

highlight different characteristics. While the first has resorted to colour coding to highlight details related to caste and the crops grown, the second tried to highlight the ‘soft’ information elicited during the study, namely where the greenery was located, the pacca and kaccha houses, health issues and its relation to water sources. The first relates more to the current development paradigm (schemes available) and ownership patterns which has a patriarchal tint. The second related more to status of communities and the health issues. Details of a kaccha house of the NT (upper caste) where the children were educated were observed and through them indicated more the internal inquiry based on the house to house survey from a women’s perspective. The two put together provided a very good ecological and livelihood perspective on which to develop issues further learning from each other. Of note was the issue related to lack of quality water supply. The better off could afford RO treated drinking water but for the rest, the poor quality of the water was an issue. The water treatment plant in the village supplies eight villages and hence each village gets water once in eight days. The impact of water salinity on the soil and crops is also an area of investigation as also the eating habits considering that very little is grown locally.



Water treatment and storage facility at Mandve serving eight villages

First Day second session



Two maps of Ashankur: First showing the cattle sheds and fields the second the front part,

The second session of the first day was devoted to understanding the biodiversity on the campus. The first map relates to the front portion of the campus while the second relates to the cattle shed, crops and fields. Enumeration of the trees available on the campus was also done as a part of the exercise (data recorded on the map as well). In the first map one can observe how the women's group have learnt from the previous exercise while trying to depict the biodiversity on the farm. In the second map, the team had the advantage of the agriculture graduate responsible for managing the farm. Again the scope for mutual learning from the different perspectives exists and mentioned by the participants in the narration of how the maps were drawn.

Second Day First Session



Participants of the two groups drawing the map of Ashankur Campus

The first part of the first session was devoted to drawing up the map based on the observations done the previous day. After the presentation of the two maps, a detailed discussion on significance of the local biodiversity in terms of food and medicine followed by an exposure to the issue of ecological services and the multidimensional uses and benefits of natural resources like water and biodiversity. This was related to the observations in Mandve and the campus (reflected in the maps) and personal observations of the participants. The participants were then asked to prepare the plan for the first year (divided into four quarters) and yearly plan for three years.

Second Day second session



Water treatment and filtration plant at Mandve



Fields of Mandve and a view of one canal

While participants engaged with the planning process, a field visit for members of IELA was organised so as to get a first hand feel of the issues presented through the maps. Photos of Mandve, were those taken this visit to capture the points observed during the class room session. The dominance of the Nomadic tribes can be verified from the statue of Mahsoba (cattle God) found in the fields. Why the residence is found near the river and fields located further away need to be further investigated in terms of the origins of farming in the region as originally the NTs were mostly sheep rearers and nomadic. There is a transformation of cattle ownership to cross bred Horstein Friesan and consequent dominance of water requirement both for agriculture and animal husbandry. How the dam and canals has transformed the land use pattern in the region isa matter of further study. Another observation is that there is a large amount of biodiversity prevalent but not reported during the socioeconomic survey due to its lesser importance in the land use and cash economy currently prevalent. However with issues related to nutrition and health coming up in the discussions, exploration of this biodiversity is important. It is expected that women more than men will participate in the further investigation focusing on these two topics. Wile quality of the water at the treatment plant even after treatment left much to be desired, impact of this on soil quality could not be investigated.

Third Day first session

The preliminary presentation of the planning process indicated a number of questions to be pursued by the participants and clarity about how to go about these investigations in the first quarter. After more detailed discussions, the following emerged

a. First year

- First quarter: understanding ecosystem services of Mandve and their relation to health and nutrition issues identified during the preliminary study done by the participants. Firming up the methodology for field investigation.
- Second quarter: Planning for a programme centred on Health and overall well being identified during the first quarter. Testing of the methodology developed in discussions with women SHG members of other villages.
- Third quarter: Unfolding a programme for alternative education incorporating appreciation of the knowledge that the local natural resources and investigation of ecosystem services provide. Testing whether children can document details required for further investigation into the ecosystems services identified in the discussions.
- Fourth quarter: Review, development and modification of approach of participatory appraisal of ecosystem services for micro planning and local self governance.

b. Second year

Unfolding a programme for health and overall well being based on the experimentation done during the first year. Related programme for education of children and impact of both on micro planning at gram sabha level.

c. Third year

Assessment of impact (including those related to alternative land use practises) and policy advocacy at Panchayat, Block and State level (as appropriate) .

It must be mentioned here that this participatory methodology developed with Ashankur will now be tested at village level over the next quarter after which the outline above can be firmed up.

Third Day Second Session

This was devoted to hands on training related to soil sample collection and identification of the use and relevance of the biodiversity found on the campus. Use of GPS and note cam to locate the different observations made was also done as part of the transect mapping that took place.

Concluding Session

The feedback indicated the following

- a. Potential of the human and natural resources and team work in development of an alternative perspective.
- b. Potential of a programme related to the relevance of the local biodiversity to improve health and overall well being as a first step towards an alternative process for empowerment of women.
- c. Appreciation of ecosystems services and its relevance for an alternative planning process.