

Sustainable Development Goals 5&10

A Gender Based Outlook to the realization of Sustainable Development



Sr Prisca distributing Dant manjam prepared during the training programme on 10th October

Facilitating partnerships SDG 17



Action Research: Participatory Research, Evaluation and Monitoring

Ashankur 9th - 15th June 2023

Goal: Unification of various processes taking place within and outside the country as a concrete way to engage with the current ‘**Silo based approaches**’.



[Dr Sunil Dubey explaining relevance of the biodiversity at Ashankur](#)//[Maureen Monteiro explain the issues related to the Great Barrier Reef](#)

Overall Objective: Establishing core values and approach for concrete realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objective 1: Integration of different approaches being tried out across the country and abroad. Field testing how the slogans: ‘*Think Globally Act Locally*’ and ‘*Act Locally Spread Globally*’ work in practice.

Objective 2: Participatory engagement with women and Children: Evolution of base line and methodology for engagement.

Objective 3: Exposure to tools related to scientific assessment of Ecology, livelihoods and capacity building and its application in Ecological Governance.

Objective 4: Participatory appraisal of the lesson learnt over the last year and evolution of the way forward.

Having initiated a qualitatively different approach during the last quarter, this quarter was devoted to seeing the interface between the work in Ashankur and its relevance to other ecosystems across the country. Accordingly the members from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand were also added to what’s app group including members from different parts of Maharashtra and a resource person from Australia as well. The agenda design for the action research workshop that took place from 9th October to 15th October 2023: tried to incorporate different facets, so that the integration of the work done by different resource persons could be integrated into the approach being followed by Ashankur.

Report of the seven day proceedings

Day one (9th October): Reporting and preparation for the workshops with women and children.

The day was devoted to getting an understanding on how the work had been implemented over the quarter and facilitating the training programmes that were to take place on 10th and 11th October. The following was reported

- a. A process of Ecological mapping had been initiated with the SHG groups of three villages. This work is to be further developed and consolidated over the next quarter.
- b. With the SHG groups of seven villages, issues related to the relevance of local foods and the harmful effects of invasive species were discussed.
- c. As a result of a. and b. women resolved to restore the cultivation of millets. According seeds of Bajra were distributed by Ashankur to the women of these seven villages. In addition, Ashankur prepared their own nursery of local species and distributed 1,000 saplings of drumstick and other food and medicinal plants.
- d. Children in the Remedial classes 13 centres in 10 villages were given exposure to issues related to nutrition and primary health care.

Day two (10th October): Engagement with the women



Dr Leena giving live demonstration on how to prepare Tooth powder from Local species available

The meeting was attended by over 120 women from 7 villages namely Bhokar, Haregaon, Vadala, Bherdapur, Nipani, Ashoknagar and Deolali. The meeting began with a prayer and inspirational songs sung by the women. This was followed by an introductory session where Dr Leena Gupta and Dr Sunil Dubey provided a perspective on the relevance of the local biodiversity in dealing with health and nutritional issues and the harmful effects of invasive species. This was also demonstrated in practice when the women were divided into two groups to explore the biodiversity on Ashankur campus itself. Dr Leena then proceeded to give a practical demonstration of how tooth powder (Dant Manjan) could be made from the native biodiversity. The experience encouraged the women to realize that the issue was not just about the impact that local biodiversity could make on nutrition and health but also its potential for value addition and income generation as well. This experience will translate over the next quarter, providing a more comprehensive base for the women to use the potential offered by the Natural resources in their region to address their basic concerns.



Women of 7 villages who attended the training at Ashankur



Watching how dant manjan is made



A group of participants settling down for lunch



Another group of women with child at lunch



Preparation of dant manjan



Sr Prisca distributing the dant manjan prepared to the participants

Day three (11th October)



Sr Prisca lighting the lamp prior to the training programme with the children

A total of 115 children from two schools participated. Maureen Monteiro a teacher from Australia explained the significance and relevance of the Great Barrier Reef – A World Heritage site and under threat by pollution and temperature change.

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Case-Study-Australias-Great-Barrier-Reef-compressed.pdf>

After the presentation, children were divided into groups of their choice. Each group had to make a presentation on what they understood from the talk. The lively discussions that took place among the children and the skits presented by them featured issues related to air and water pollution, plastic, cutting of trees and loss of water resources as a result of lack of care for the environment and resultant environment destruction. In a later evaluation done, it was felt that the boys should not have been put in a separate group; rather they should have been in mixed groups. This would have helped to reduce gender biasness in future.













Report writing (12th -13th October)

The idea behind devoting two whole days for this activity was to consolidate the existing work of Ashankur in the light of the SDGs and examine the comprehensive way forward based on the insights provided during the two days training programme. Ashankur staff was divided into three groups, each with a facilitator to help develop the related reports

https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/On-the-question-of-Womens-Empowerment_-Case-Study-of-Ashankurs-journey-in-the-realisation-of-SDG-5-and-SDG-10.pdf

https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/12_10_2023_Technology-compressed.pdf

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SDG-4-Education-Atul-Sabita-Sunil.pdf>

The outcome indicated that a preliminary start has been made which will be need to be consolidated over the next few months with the help of specific training programmes around each specific component.

In addition the following position papers are to be written up to consolidate specific aspects of the programme.

- a. Paper on the status of fishermen in Ahmednagar, case study of three water sources namely Pravara, Jenpur, Bargaon Nadur.
- b. Paper on a Feminist approach to science: Case study of the work of Ashankur with SHGs.

Field Work (14th-15th October)

Half day meeting was held at Samaj Vikas Samiti: Nevasa which was attended by 80 women. The team from Ashankur presented slides related to invasive species found in the region and explained their harmful effects. Useful native species and their medicinal and nutritive properties were also shown.



Nevasa training



Ashwini explaining a point related to the relevance of the local biodiversity

The team also met with fishermen from Pravara, Jenpur, Badgaon Nadur and discussed issues related to fishing and the invasion of the Tilapia species with them. The potential for organizing around fisher men was also explored.



Jenpur



Pravara Sangam



Mula Dam Rahuri



Bargaon Nadur



Bargaon Nadur



Mula Dam Rahuri