

Shramjivi Janata Sahayyak Mandal

MAHAD TRIBAL VILLAGES PROJECT REPORT

April to September 2017

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Submitted to

Asia Initiatives

Executive Summary

Asia Initiatives (AI) initiated the Tribal livelihood project in Mahad block of Raigad district in Maharashtra in April 2017. The project covers 10 tribal hamlets located around 10 villages and 9 Gram Panchayats. This is the first association of Shramjivi Janata Sahayyak Mandal, an NGO that has worked zealously in the Tribal belt since past 22 years. The Katkari tribal is considered the poorest, neglected and isolated amongst all adivasis, residing on the village outskirts along mountainsides or in forest land. Illiterate, ignorant and superstitious, the Katkari tribe barely survived on traditional seasonal fishing, selling forest produce and timber, and are completely alienated from mainstream village community. Issues like poor health, malnutrition, lack of access to government schemes deprived these tribal community of basic necessities for living.

Migration for work and survival is rampant among the tribal families. It was Shramjivi's persistent efforts that majority of Katkari under its project area – over 29,000 have gained an identity, voting rights and ration supply through public distribution system. Formation of women's and men's self-help groups have enabled them to save for purchase of rations and other essentials. Trainings and generation of local livelihood supports arrested migration to some extent. Efforts are on to empower Katkaris through information and knowledge inputs, building bridges to close communication gaps with mainstream villagers. So far Shramjivi has secured funding support from various funders to generate livelihood support systems, increasing the level of expectancy among the tribal community. In fact, Shramjivi realized that this process has led tribal to always expect outside help and contribute very less for their own development.

Hence, when AI offered to help Mahad Tribal communities, there was a sense of joy all around as the tribal expects doles for support and Shramjivi staff expects routine project monitoring. It was several months after reading through AI documents and deliberating on its funding work systems, trying to dissect SoCCs menu, and executing the initial practical field implementation that Shramjivi staff and team realized the full potential and value of SoCCs Earning and Redeeming menu. It was a great learning experience to Shramjivi that despite no funding support to the tribal families in the first phase, they elicited excellent response to attend meetings, trainings, camps for self and community development to earn SoCCs menu. The Shramjivi staff too had a new experience of learning manual and digital online monitoring systems in areas where computers technology is just making a beginning with erratic power supply.

The greatest change in project funding and implementation systems was the idea that one earns only if one works for self-development. In the process, a family and community gains confidence and self-esteem to develop and gets rewarded too. This novel idea has percolated in the psyche of Katkari tribe and has set a new funding trend that is cost effective and rewarding both ways!

Introduction

The Tribal Livelihood Development Project focus is to encourage Katkari tribal families of 10 hamlets in Mahad block with a particular emphasis on tribal women empowerment and leadership development to work for self and community development and in return earn rewards for livelihood generation viable in the region. i.e. poultry and fishing.

SoCCs Earned

Sr No	Main Activities	SoCCs
1	Child Related	
E-01	● Nails, bathing, clothes cleanliness, trimmed hairs, plaits etc	3000
E-02	● Encourage school dropout to rejoins school, must stay in school for remaining term	960
E-03	● Check school uniform cleanliness, bags, etc	2550
E-04	● Promote school attendance to 90% (attendance per month)	1710
E-05	● Supervise quality of mid-day meals	3600
E-06	● Parents meet attendance & participation teachers	1200
	Health	
E-07	● Immunization of under 6 children in Anganwadi (nursery) Asha worker Anganwadi Sevika and SHG members will check this	900
E-08	● Check on child nutrition support by Government	2400
2	Women related	
E-09	● Health Camp participation organization representative will check	1550
E-10	● Maintain personal hygiene	2300
E-11	● Access Janani Suraksha Yojana – for safe delivery	3550
E-12	● Promote family planning	1200
E-13	● Health insurance info	450
E-14	● Use toilet defecation to reduce open defecation.	880
3	Financial Literacy	
E-15	● SHG meeting attendance	6480
E-16	● Attend financial literacy classes	3700
E-17	● Attendance at training organization representative and SHG representative will check	1680
E-18	● Motivate men for regular saving for future	320
4	Social -Community	
E-19	● Neighborhood cleanliness	240
E-20	● Alcoholism prevention drive	3700
E-21	● Participation in community programs	240
E-22	● Child marriage prevention	5000
E-23	● Drinking water taps maintenance	240
E-24	● Presenting written hamlet issues/demands at Gram Sabha	360
E-25	● Government schemes	360
5	Livelihood	
E-26	● Natural resources marketing	360
E-27	● Vocational training	720
E-28	● Participation in legal and right based training	360

● SoCCs Redeemed (April To June 2017)

Sr No	Main Activities	Redeem
		April to June 2017
1	Child Related	
E-01	● Nails, bathing, clothes cleanliness, trimmed hairs, plaits etc	20
E-02	● Encourage school dropout to rejoins school, must stay in school for remaining term	20
E-03	● Check school uniform cleanliness, bags, etc	20
E-04	● Promote school attendance to 90% (attendance per month)	20
E-05	● Supervise quality of mid-day meals	20
E-06	● Parents meet attendance & participation teachers	20
	Health	
E-07	● Immunization of under 6 children in Anganwadi (nursery) Asha worker Anganwadi Sevika And SHG Members will check this	20
E-08	● Check on child nutrition support by Government	20
2	Women Related	
E-09	● Health Camp participation organization representative will check	20
E-10	● Maintain personal hygiene	20
E-11	● Access Janani Suraksha Yojana – for safe delivery	20
E-12	● Promote family planning	20
E-13	● Health insurance info	20
E-14	● Use toilet defecation to reduce open defecation.	20
3	Financial Literacy	
E-15	● SHG meeting attendance	20
E-16	● Attend financial literacy classes	20
E-17	● Attendance at training organization representative and SHG Representative will check	20
E-18	● Motivate men for regular saving for future	20
4	Social -Community	
E-19	● Neighborhood cleanliness	20
E-20	● Alcoholism prevention drive	20
E-21	● Participation in community programs	20
E-22	● Child marriage prevention	20
E-23	● Drinking water taps maintenance	20
E-24	● Presenting written hamlet issues/demands at Gram Sabha	30
E-25	● Government schemes	30
5	Livelihood	
E-26	● Natural resources marketing	30
E-27	● Vocational training	30
E-28	● Participation in legal and right based training	30
		580×3 Month
	Total	1740@-

- **SoCCs Redeemed (July To Sept 2017)**

Sr No	Main Activities	Redeem
		July to Sept 2017
1	Child Related -	
E-01	● Nails, bathing, clothes cleanliness, trimmed hairs, plaits etc	20
	Education -	
E-02	● Check school uniform cleanliness, bags, etc	20
E-03	● Promote school attendance to 90% (attendance per month)	20
E-04	● Parents meet attendance & participation teachers	20
2	Women Related Health	
E-05	● Health Camp participation organization representative will check	40
	Financial Woman and Men	
E-06	● SHG meeting attendance	20
E-07	● Attendance at training organization representative and SHG representative will check	10
3	Social / Community	
E-08	● Neighborhood cleanliness	20
E-09	● Participation in community programs	10
E-10	● Drinking water taps maintenance	10
E-11	● Presenting written hamlet issues/demands at Gram Sabha	40
E-12	● Government schemes	30
4	Livelihood related for men & Women	
E-13	● Natural resources marketing	40
E-14	● Local leadership development	40
		340×3 Month
	Total	1020@-

SoCCs Menu attached in the Appendix section

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

	KPI	Measurable	Outcome
E01 Child related	Improved hygiene practices	Check of personal hygiene by parents teachers	Better health practices
-	Improved literacy	Regularity in school attendance	Better results and pass percentage of tribal students
	Nutrition security –	Midday meals supervision by SHGs	Nutritious and hygienic meals
	Health security –	Camps organized, awareness generated in villages	Reduced health issues
E 09 Women related	Improved Personal Hygiene and care –	Clothing and hair care (especially during menstruation)	Improved personal hygiene
	Safe delivery practices observed	More hospital deliveries -less dependency on village dais	Reduced maternal and child mortality and morbidity
E15 Financial empowerment	Improved knowledge of finance management	SHG finance management, understanding bank transactions, loan procedures	Improved financial transactions confidence in loan and recovery
	Trainings	No of women men attending trainings	Capacity building of trainees
E19 Community	Improved social security –	increased mobility - commute without fear	lessening of social fear from other communities,
	Improved social status – awareness and knowledge inputs –	Increased ability to mix and converse with mainstream society and government officials No of opportunities given for open interactions	Increased social self confidence
	Knowledge enhancements –	No of schemes demanded and number secured	Increased awareness of rights and duties, schemes available and process for procurement of rights
	Improved environment hygiene -	Improved hygiene during field visits Reduced morbidity rate	Increasing drinking water conservation and hygiene, surroundings care responsibilities
	Livelihood security –. Promoting organic produce, learning through sharing and being together to prevent exploitation	No of families profitably involved in livelihood options presented by the project	Improved access to marketing pricing and selling techniques of goods for better returns and security
	Local leadership development –	Actions taken by leaders	Men and women take up local issues with gram panchayat, higher officials, follow up on demands and applications

- **What were you able to achieve as a result of this grant?**

Increased government officials' participation – Shramjivi's formation of development team in each hamlet consisting of two adivasi women leaders, Asha worker, Anganwadi sevika, gram sewak and two women representatives from village plus NGO representative – has strengthened program and activities. Involvement of government official had led to increased and active participation of government in hamlet as well as village development. This local village-level teams if strengthened will act as a sustainable process to achieve development goals for Adivasi and village improvement with women taking decisions in the lead.

To state a few examples that AI project has initiated changes in the first six months of the project examples are enumerated below as per project hamlets

- Women - 85% women/men SHG members attended SHG training, strengthening, meetings. 65% women checked hygiene of school going children. Almost 90% parents attended parents teachers meetings, 30% hamlets showed improved environmental hygiene. Women, especially leaders began participating in social activities – helping sick to reach hospital and support the needy

Shramjivi organized a day's outing to children from Gondhale hamlet to observe its fisheries project at Khaire –to motivate them to inform adults of their observations. It was an outcome of project motivation not a project activity.

Changes observed at Community level-

- Banning Alcoholism - 16 men specifically youth from TOL Adivasi hamlet took to wearing of holy tulsi beads around neck. This prohibited several drunkards from drinking due to fear of holy repercussions - TOL hamlet is attached to TOL village which has Muslim stronghold and has only 18 Adivasi households. The Muslim Sarpanch had withheld government schemes because of strong drinking habits of Adivasis but promised if they leave drinking they will get all the schemes. One adivasi leader Shantaram Mukane, enticed his tribe to stop drinking by taking all men to Alandi (Pune) religious site, and giving each a rosary. The fear of God forced several men to stop drinking. As a result, the village head processed documents for schemes procurement. SJSM observed for one month that group pressure helped many to keep off drinking.
- *Government Schemes – secured for six months.* An ongoing activity of Shramjivi with local support gained momentum because of AI support for staff salary.
- Camp organized –at Kolose hamlet on 26th June 2017 where 5 representatives (3 women 2 men) from each of the 10 hamlets were present. As a result of this camp, all 10 villages presented their demands for government schemes.

- ToL - the hamlet got drinking water pipeline in May 2017, approach cement road in June and in July 2017, electric pole and 18 families received grants for housing scheme (Shabari Awasi Yojana – approx. Rs. 1,20,000 per house) sanctioned and 12 houses built till to date. The handing over of houses expected by end of October. The Adivasis managed to get houses as SJSM had purchased land for the Adivasis on an earlier project.
- *Ambivali Village* – 28 families – secured housing schemes sanction under Shabari Awasi Yojana. 6 houses are under completion, due to heavy monsoons the tribal beneficiaries could not ferry materials up the hill where the hamlet is located. Completion expected when dry weather takes over after monsoons.
- *Nandgoan* – 6 houses sanctioned. 18 families received Dali plots (earmarked plots ownership sanctioned by Government Forest Department Act for Adivasis after giving proof of residence) for housing and kitchen garden in May/ June 2017. 4 families received Monthly pension of Rs.600 from Sept 2017 onwards under Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana. All process done by men and women themselves with guidance from staff.
- *Caste certificate* – issued to enable needy families get government schemes, scholarship for students, and a proof to secure any other benefits - certificates processed as follows: -
 - Tol – 8 families
 - Gondale – 3 families
 - Nandgoan - 2 families
- *Child marriage prevention* – an ongoing Shramjivi activity strengthened with AI support
- Only awareness program in first quarter in 5 hamlets only because of difficulty to immediately stop child marriage as majority of Adivasi insist on early marriages to prevent girls falling prey. At least marriage age of girls has improved from 10/12 years at marriage to 15/16 years now. It is a slow process which with improved education levels the of girls age of marriage will increase.
- *Gram Sabha participation* -
 - 10 villages – 9 gram panchayats - a total of 18 Gram sabhas were attended in the last six months- total presence women 70 % women and men present at meetings.
 - Women Gram sabha held at Koloshe (August) and 7 other hamlets (September) in which 90% tribal women were present in the village where meetings were held.
- *SJSM organized one day PRA meetings* in each of the 10 project hamlets which saw presence of Village Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat members and majority of Adivasi families. This was organized in the months of May to September 2017. The meetings cum trainings on identification and resolution of village issues was organized with village mapping exercise. The issues identified were later presented by Adivasis at Gram Sabhas with following demands:
 - Dasgoan (chairs and satranjis)

- Ambivali (All 38 families demand placed for Community hall), Ambivaligani a sub hamlet with 11 Adivasis families living on mountain top demanded – drinking water facilities’ presently water was available only 3 KMs away, along with immunization and no approach road facilities).
- Nandgoan - houses for 38 families under government scheme.
- Chapgoan (Owner ship rights demand processed for 48 families living in houses built by Adivais on rented field land living more than 50 years - private land owner takes regular rent of Rs. 500 per year per family. This land house ownership for people living for more than 15 years is legalized under the right to shelter under constitutional law),
- Shirgoan (electricity for 38 families – demand for electricity pole - good support from new youthful Sarpanch for Adivasi welfare – difficulties hard rock and increased cost),
- Chochinde (22 families separated by a lake from mainland - no approach hence demands for way bridge),
- Gondale (drinking water – bore wells or daily supply from water tankers in storage tanks – issue for entire village),
- Tol (Demand for repairs to bore well – maintenance costs)

Emerging issue -

Rehabilitation and shifting of Kolose village (68 families) due to claiming of entire village land for road broadening. Villagers need to get adequate compensation with basic facilities to move entire village to suitable locale. Shramjivi is guiding Adivasi Aadhar Sanghatna groups – to prevent tribal exploitation. Tribal families are encouraged not to fall prey to temptations offered by government contractors to shift people by offering low compensations.

Social activities event programs

April -

- Awareness camp on sanitation in all 10 villages where government representative from sanitation department, Gram Panchayat representatives were present
- Janani Suraksha Yojana awareness – in 10 villages
- Project Orientation training in April for 5 tribal hamlets
- Common celebration of festivals by all - to motivate them to come together to bridge differences, build stronger bonds, improve communications,
- Immunization – Pulse polio in all 10 villages supported by rural health worker- Asha worker, Anganwadi sevika, and rural nurse organized twice a year

May

- Maharashtra + labor day awareness on 1st May - in 10 villages – present village governing body - adivasis and villagers present, government and PRI representative from 1 to 10 May
- Project Orientation training in May for remaining 5 tribal hamlets

June - Camp – different government schemes

- Awareness on roles and responsibilities of elected representatives of Gram Panchayat
- Awareness camp at Kolose on prevention of Child marriage for SHG office bearers and local leaders (5 representatives from each hamlet) – realized that it was a major social issue will take time to motivate people against child marriage – but will require continuous inputs on long term basis.
- 21st June at Mahad Program for distribution of school books educational materials to 141 adivasi students by local donors, trusts and CSR. Tree plantation drive - distributed 5 tree saplings for each hamlet.

July –

- Health awareness to prevent water-borne diseases as well waters turned muddy after excessive rains. To prevent communicable diseases as had happened last year, health precautions measures were undertaken in all 10 hamlets.

August –

Meetings (prior to Gram Sabha meetings) in each village with SHGs women and men to place hamlets demands in Gram Sabha. Obtained signatures and handed applications to Sarpanch during Gram Sabhas.

21 Aug- marketing skills training for 35 women vegetable sellers for improving sales of monsoon forest produce (mushrooms, green herbs, roots, all non-forest timber products) –guidance on proper hygiene, pricing, and goods management. The now Adivasi vegetable sellers sit by city roadside and have now applied to Corporation for a proper market stall.

September –

- Leadership training on 2nd September 18 women present, 2 women from each hamlet (two hamlets sent only one representative) - focus on role and responsibility of leader- guidance from Rural Communes- a supportive NGO.
- Mobile Health camps (Eye camp through Swadesh Foundation) organized in Ambivali to cover 4 hamlets. 127 patients eye checkup done. 12 tribal referred for cataract operation.

All the above activities were strengthened because Shramjivi field staff could visit hamlets due to AI funding for some salary support. Most hamlets are far apart and travelling costs incurred is more than sanctioned amount.

- **Based on your experience thus far, what would you have done differently if you had the chance?**

AI funding systems helped Shramjivi to view project implementation from a different angle – self-improvement work by beneficiaries to gain rewards and redeem it for their need.

The project offers ample scope for tribal self-development provided the NGO maintains tribal motivations by encouraging them to organize and work for their own development through group effort.

Yes, there definitely a need to keep trained local staff within the organization, which is possible with sustainable remuneration. The process initiated will need hand-holding by trained staff to keep up the motivational level of tribal leaders and maintain communication pipelines active between mainstream villager and government officials (always changing).

Shramjivi has been working with all Adivasi groups since several years ago and connected with all hamlets for past projects. When Shramjivi presented AI initial project, it was suggested to work in 44 hamlets but after in-depth analysis it was decided that it was not possible to work as per AI SoCC system in all hamlets. The project was revised and turned to work in 10 hamlets, being that it's more convenient and cost effective. Shramjivi realized that working with limited hamlets had advantages as well as disadvantages

Advantage – focused work undertaken, quality work possible, monitoring effective, results observed immediately as contact was regular with adivasis, who generally tend to forget messages if regular contact is not maintained. Earlier it took years for Shramjivi to see results. AI SoCC proved very effective in concentrated hamlets. Further it has motivated other hamlets not in project area to demand support in future.

Disadvantage. - Those hamlets not in project are disappointed as they were not included in benefits although having the same needs.

- **What internal and external factors have contributed to or impeded the success of this grant?**

AI Grant support – outcome at Shramjivi and its project field area during the first six months -

Internal factors - the project implementation systems SoCCs menu was entirely new for Shramjivi Mahad team which had handled several international funding projects earlier. A big change was adapting to a new monitoring and reporting systems. First to bring about change in reporting system and dependency on computer skills and English language. In Mahad Shramjivi did receive setbacks as it had to change over one staff, due to documentation load. But Shramjivi, after the initial slow start, managed to train its staff in SOCCs system. There is no doubt that Shramjivi has to rely on experts for reporting in English as most field feedback is in local Marathi language.

Shramjivi expected less response from beneficiaries used to receiving doles without anything much in return for personal self-improvement. Shramjivi presumed low response in absence of immediate returns, Surprisingly, the tribal women and men showed perseverance and interest towards self-development to be rewarded later. Shramjivi saw 85% of beneficiaries responding positively to trainings, awareness drives, and camps. In return, it has helped the tribal realize that it has helped them –funds or no funds. Despite lack of immediate benefit disbursement, the tribal came forward to help themselves and in return, gained the goodwill of villagers and government officials and were aptly rewarded with government schemes.

- Preparing and training SHGs from one hamlet for a model demo on livelihood activities.
- The level of understanding and grasping power of Adivasis is much slower than mainstream rural communities. Hence there is need for extra inputs and continuity of efforts with exposure visits to other NGOs for sharing and observation – learning is faster when such visits are organized.
- Shortage of manpower in Shramjivi as much of efforts so far has been field work where entire team has always been on the road. AI project focus on documentation has limited Shramjivi team where they fall short in computer documentation. Field work and documentation together lag behind.
- A need to build local Adivasi youth animators/leaders to directly communicate with their people and link with NGO and government.

Lessons Learned -

❖ At the project level: -

- Active participation by Adivasis in SoCCs project activities without any direct funding support, as compared with NGO's experience of previous projects where people responded only if given some form of expectations (food, travelling allowances or wages).
- A major support system created through this project is involvement of all members of family, women, men and children.
- Empowering women has led to self-introspection by Adivasi women to focus on their own and family development as a result led to her improved social status within the family.
- Participation of women in social activities and interactions with government officials has increased confidence level of Adivasi women leaders have become capable of handling community issues.
- Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) dialogues involving Adivasis, Gram Panchayat members, government officials and villagers, improved understanding of identifying need based development issues and means of resolving them. As a result, the focus is on pursuing these issues together with NGO backing.

- Realizing the value of SHGs in bringing community together and extolling its importance as a link for community development with government and other agencies, as compared to earlier concept of SHG as a mere small savings unit.
 - Realizing value of organic natural resources available with Tribal community and developing it with value additions for profitable livelihood security.
- ❖ **At the Team level -**
- At Shramjivi level new field staff developed communicating skill of interacting effectively with community without any formal training inputs.
 - Planning and developing social activities based on the community needs
 - A new digital experience of documenting processes manually and online for rural project staff encouraged NGO to develop its own internal monitoring systems which provides a good review of project status at all levels.
 - A realization that people's development is not totally dependent on funds alone but also on skills for self and community development.
 - Shramjivi was able to tap resources from CSR local donor trusts, business communities, as a convergence to support SoCCs activities for Adivasi students such as school books, uniforms, educational materials, drinking water storage tanks, etc.

Next Steps

The next six-month phase commences from October 2017 to March 2018,

The planned activities

Focus on redeem menu to benefit the participants based on SoCCs performance menu points as follows

- Fishing nets threads 1.5 kg per women and men distribution – 274 people
- Poultry – 266 women and men beneficiaries 20 chicks per women

Note: the project had mentioned fishing nets for 225 beneficiaries but actual field training and need based assessment led Shramjivi to increase number of beneficiaries for fishing nets thread to 274 people. Simultaneously the number of poultry beneficiaries has been reduced from 315 to 266. The total beneficiaries number remains the same and adjustment are made within the sanctioned budget by AI.

Continue activities as planned for-

- Child related activities
- Women related activities
- Social Community related activities
- Livelihood related (focus on redeem menu monitoring and processing) activities
- Develop local leadership – strengthening
- Strengthen local teams to implement government plans and schemes for community hamlet and

village development

Future Plans and Sustainability

- To develop systems to tabulate economic returns from poultry and fishing nets to assess overall financial gains as well as plan future feasibility of such livelihood promotion and poverty alleviation projects with focus on role played by women.
- To tap traditional skills of Adivasi women at organic rice pounding and generate a market for alternative livelihood support through women's small-scale unit.
- To search markets for natural seasonal mushrooms growing in abundance in the region by training through small processing units.
- Alternative livelihood options exploration for fish preservation through pickling, and other value addition processes.
- Training and sustaining a team of educated Adivasi youth to act as facilitators at hamlet levels – to form a link between hamlet dwellers, villagers, NGO and government officials.

Statement of fund utilization: Attached

Proposed utilization and timeline of remaining funds, if any:

-Remaining fund was utilize of project period

Appendix

- 1) Member Registration
- 2) Earn Menu
- 3) Redeeming Menu
- 4) Member Activity Log-April 17 to Sep 17
- 5) SoCCs Summary Report
- 6) Activity Photographs
- 7) Statement of Fund Utilization



Educational Material Distribution



SHG Monthly Meeting



“Shabari Awas Yojana” of Integrated Tribal Development Project Govt. of Maharashtra



Children and Women Health and Hygiene



AI Board Member Field Visit



Updating of SoCCs Books



Participation in Village Gramsabha



Awareness Generation Programme



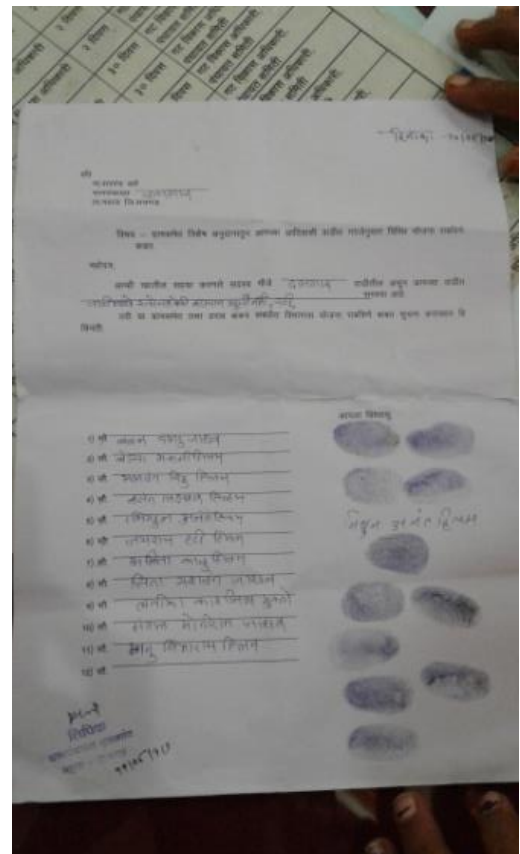
Monitoring of Quality Midday Meal



Health Checkup Camp



Collection and Marketing of Naturally Grown Vegetable and Fruits



Application Submitted to Grampanchayat Regarding Adivashiwadi Issue