Annual Report
2015-16

Tathapi Trust
Our Vision

Tathapi will be known as a small group with a large impact, relevantly engaged at the grassroots level throughout Maharashtra. Communication from us will be seen as giving voice to the people’s perceptions, concerns and needs. Tathapi’s resource centre will be a place that local workers from all over the state call their own.

Our Mission

Tathapi promotes innovative women and health training and advocacy initiatives for community health and development in Maharashtra through special emphasis on women’s empowerment and substantive equality for all.

Our values

- Women’s democratic rights encompass all matters of choice in their life.
- People have a right to health and healthcare.
- People have a right to conserve and develop their health traditions.
- Justice demands affirmative action for disadvantaged communities.
- Continuous growth in our capacity for effective social interventions.
Introduction

The year 2015-16 was a busy and an active year for all of us working at Tathapi. The health worker training program which is being implemented across 3 states got its second continuation and the team on the field started this last phase with new energy and enthusiasm. We are focusing on making the presence of Sanjeevani in the village more visible and substantial as was suggested by the report of interim evaluation. To make the government health services more accountable we started giving life to local health committees through making the Sanjeevani a part of the committee and regular training of its members.

The school base project came to an end in this year. The impact of the dialogue we had with the children in 7 villages is visible as they; especially the girls are more vocal in giving voice to their aspirations and desires. A play staged by the girls and boys was a major subject of discussion in the villages which was based on eve teasing and importance of education of girls. The ToT organised by Tathapi in Pune where more than 40 participants form 20 plus organisations across the state participated was a major success. Five organisations have started implementing the life skills module in their respective areas voluntarily.

If we talk about the main feature of the year, it is the work around sexuality by Tathapi that gained a real momentum in this period. The web portal letstalksexuality.com becomes a major hit among the youth across the world and especially in Maharashtra. The website is being hugely visited and its interactive platforms such as poll, Q&A are being used heavily. Similarly the work around disability and sexuality is progressed much more and we have successfully established an informal network of individuals and organisations across the state who is working in the same area. The resources which we are creating are being distributed through this network. The state level meeting organised by Tathapi and Sadhna Village was a major success.

This is a crucial time for our project ‘Zilmil Crèches for Nutrition and Early Education’ as we will be focusing more on making this model self sustainable and viable.

A new initiative in Maval Block of Pune district with the support under ‘CSR’ will be a new experience for us of working with corporate world.

This year was crowded with many projects and we feel that along with this we also need to address the larger issues which are non-project. Although we have been continuously part of many platforms where issues about women’s rights are addressed, Tathapi will always be an organisation supporting progressive social movements especially those where women matters.
1. Sanjeevani: Health Worker Training Program

The Sanjeevani project supported by AEI Luxembourg through TdH Germany was started in 2010 with the larger objective to improve the health status of women and children. We successfully completed the first extension in March 2015 and have decided to extend the project by two more years i.e. 2015-17.

In last two years we have observed many changes in Sanjeevanis and at the community level also. Some of them are –

1. It is visible now that the partner organisations have successfully engaged institutes such as Gram Panchayats on the issue of community health in general. The organisations are also in constant contact with Government health functionaries and centers not only ensuring that the patients Sanjeevani refers do get treated on time but also to monitor the required facilities at health centers.

2. As a strategy we are trying to strengthen the VHSNC (Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee) and support Sanjeevanis to take active role in the committee and address the community health issues through it. This activity has helped in building their confidence tremendously that now they are raising local level issues in the villages. Some of them are so sharp that they are in leading positions in the campaigns in their area.

3. Some organizations are being identified as leading organisations on district level and are being invited by the government institutes active in the area of health, Panchyayat Raj and VAW. The organisations from Maharashtra, Prerna and Prakruti organisations, are representing in the capacity of a resource organisation on different committees on district level. Lata Netam one of our partners in Chhattishgar received ‘Nari Shkati Samman’ award from the State Welfare Board, Chhattisgarh and she dedicated this award to Sanjeevanis. It was because of this project, she mentioned, she could build their work around women’s health and rights. This award not only gave recognition to her work but also to the efforts of Sanjeevanis of three states, who are working with us as changemakers.

Proposed programme for 2016-2017

It will be the last year of the project. This year we have initiated two new activities – strengthening VHSN committees at village level and Sanjeevani Swasthya Sawad Kendra. We want to reinforce these activities through continuous training and through support.

Also to document the processes and outcomes of these long seven years we will be initiating to prepare and publish two study papers which will be published in renowned magazines.
Following are the points we will focus on -

- Refresher Trainings of the Sanjeevanis and regular monitoring of the project
- Continuing with the crèches to tackle malnutrition in children
- Supporting Sanjeevanis livelihood through a revolving fund
- Supporting and strengthening VHSNC at village level

The Sanjeevanis who have stayed with the project are very committed. They have developed a very good rapport with the women in their villages and are working hard and efficiently, committing their precious time to the job assigned to them. They have acquired the necessary skills and knowledge and developed a pro-people perspective on community health through rigorous trainings and field practices. We will be leaving them back as a sensitive and rational health resource as we withdraw from the project.

2. Maza Gaon Mazi Shala – Expanding Skills to Rural Adolescents

The project ‘Maza Gaon Mazi Shala – Expanding Skills to Rural Adolescents’ came to an end in this year. We have been involved in dialogue with adolescents in Vellhe Block of Pune District imparting life skills along with computer knowledge for more than four years. The project was supported by International Center for Research on Women, New Delhi. One of the main objectives of this program was to encourage personal change among girls and boys to end gender discrimination and abuse through life skills sessions for both in and out of school children. We were mainly engaged with the age group between 10-12 years (class 5 to 7). We could reach out to more than 410 children in 7 villages through 22 regular schools sessions and 20 computer sessions.

Along with regular school sessions we used many other forms to interact with parents, teachers and people in the villages. To involve the teachers in the dialogue so that they can take this process ahead to make it more sustainable, 3 dialogue sessions were organised. A year-long campaign against violence against Girls was initiated. A play prepared by the children themselves was staged to disseminate the messages. More than 10 performances were organised in and out of the villages. We have also published a CD of the play. Formations of Girl’s Mandal, Celebrating 14th November as Baldin, Mashal Yatra were some of the other successful initiatives planned and executed. A module of the life skill sessions Tathapi has designed is being prepared as a resource.

Our experience showed that this is the right time to encourage thinking, discussion and change regarding concepts of gender and sexuality. Along with these children we also were working with out of school children in this age group.
Observations and learning of the project –

- The dialogue has helped children and especially girls to build confidence and they are more aware on health, body changes while growing up, gender biases in the society.

- Children are more vocal in expressing their emotions, thoughts and can give voice to their rights. They have become bold enough to ask questions and share their concerns regarding eve teasing, their personal health and violence in general.

- One can see many results of this constant exposure to the values of gender equality. They are confident in sharing their concerns and aspirations. The children do share that girls and boys are equal and have equal rights and they also deserve equal treatment in and out of the family. This has given them enough strength and confidence in thinking and making plans about their future, their education after 10th and possible career opportunities.

- Especially the computer component has boosted their self-belief and they are of the opinion that they can also opt for computer science.

- One of the components of the project was to help children in improving on basic concepts in Mathematics. We have observed that many have gained enough skills in the subject as a result of the interventions and now feel less worried about their performance.

- The project has brought a comfort and ease among the children, which was not there before, while discussing subjects such as being in love or love marriages, choosing one’s own partner, sexual relations and violence against partner.

- Girls shared that they are not afraid of the boys who tease, are confident that they can report the abuse and capable of teaching lessons to these boys.

- Dialogue between the parents and children has been increased as a result of the campaigns in which we have involved parents and other stake holders in the community. Girls share that they talk to their mothers about menstruation, hygiene, use of sanitary pads and social taboos around it. Some would share that they no longer ‘sit out side of the house’ during periods.

- A couple girls told us that we argue with our parents and brothers that only girls are not responsible for the household chores and their brothers should also take some responsibility. On the other side boys have started sharing in the work in side the house and kitchen.

- Girls are no more scared or ashamed of their bodies and bodily changes they face in puberty such as menses. Also are more comfortable in asking questions around these changes.
• Many of them are with full of dreams for themselves that they will go for higher education and will be economically independent in their lives.

• Because of the computer component a significant improvement was observed in both girls and boys through their Practical work. Students have prepared various types of posters, PPT etc. using computers.

3. Body Literacy for special Needs

Taking the work around ‘sexuality and disability’ forward, this year we conducted 8 group discussions throughout the state (Aurangavbad, Nashik, Sindhudurg, Yavatmal, Kolhapue and Pune) to know exact challenges are faced by the parents and teachers while dealing with sexual needs of disable children. We talked with more than 65 teachers and parents in this process and we realised that there is a tremendous need of work to address sexuality issues of mentally challenged adolescents. These discussions were extremely useful for the finalisation of the content of the resource Tathapi developed and published for the parents and teachers.

A Resource for the parents and teachers of intellectually disabled children

A resource on body literacy and sexuality named ‘Sharir Saksharta Srvansathi’ in Marathi, is developed and published. It includes sessions on puberty, bodily changes, gender, what is Intellectual disability, violence and abuse, how to stay safe etc. Some articles written by the experts in this field on sexuality, needs and rights of these children are also included in this book.

State Level Meeting on Disability and Sexuality -

In February 2016 a State Level Meeting was organised in Pune. ‘Sharir Saksharta Srvansathi’, the resource developed by Tathapi was published by Dr. Anita Ghai, a prominent activist working in the field of in disability and sexuality. She is also a prominent advocate for the rights of women with disabilities. More than 70 teachers, parents, workers from more than 20 organisations across the state participated in this State Level meeting. Along with panel discussions in which many parents and caretakers participated, we also have organised one to one dialogue sessions, a session on body literacy and group activities in this two days meeting.

At the end of the meeting many participants shared their expectations that there is a strong need of direct dialogue with teachers and parents on this topic. Some organisations invited Tathapi team to visit their institutes and have training sessions for the staff. The Program closed with an open interview of Dr. Anita Ghai by Medha Tengshe and Dr. Ashutosh Bhupatkar.
The workshop brought clarity on many issues. It helped us in planning the work ahead and setting a direction for progress of this work. We decided to take this process ahead in the direction of –

- Organising training programs with schools/organizations on body literacy and sexuality education with teachers, parents and caregivers intellectually disabled children in Maharashtra.
- Developing module for special teachers/parents/counselors on sexuality education for the trainings.
- Creating dialogue and support spaces for the parents of disabled children in Pune district.
- Developing resources for the intellectually disabled children on body literacy.

4. I Soch – Let’s Talk Sexuality for a safer city

This is the 2nd year of the project, ‘I SOCH: Let’s Talk Sexuality for a Safer Pune!’ The main objective of the initiative by Tathapi is to create a positive and affirmative environment around sexuality based on rights and responsibilities, equality and diversity in selected Pune city colleges. The project gained it’s momentum in real sense this year with the launch of first ever Website in Marathi language letstalksexuality.com, which talks about various aspects of Sexuality. This web portal has become the most talked about initiative ever by Tathapi.

One of the important aspects of I Soch was to create an interactive web portal in local language which will not only provide scientific information on sexuality but also create awareness about this subject in local language. To serve this purpose, we created a first ever Marathi website called letstalksexuality.com and launched it on 11 July 2015. This website is developed to provide information and develop perspective on sex, sexuality, diversity and values around sexuality.

The website was inaugurated by well-known Marathi actress and musician “Neha Mahajan” and attended by representatives of various organizations working on the issues of sexuality, women’s health, gender, violence etc. as well as our students. Around 100 people from various organizations along with students from various colleges were present for the program.

**Highlights of website**

- The website received more than 70000+ hits within a year of its launch.
- ‘Sex Bole To’ section is the most popular section on website and has maximum viewers.
- 230 questions have been asked and answered under Question Answer section in a span of 8 to 9 months.

**Campus drives -**

This project is currently going on in total 17 colleges in and around Pune. This year we successfully expanded our work in three more colleges in Pune. The main objective of this year campus activities was building and grooming the core group of students through interactive and participatory activities. The theme of these activities was to start dialogue with students on sexuality. Through programs such as refreshers meetings for the core group students, Sessions on sexuality we tried to build the group.
‘No Fear No Shame’ - A campaign against sexual harassment & bullying on college campus named ‘No Fear No Shame’ was launched and we could reach around 1000 students in these colleges through this campaign.

Bullying is very common phenomenon in the colleges as was shared by many students with us. Hence we launched this campaign with the objective to initiate a dialogue with students around bullying, harassment & stereotypes.

Many activities such as informal interactions with students outside the colleges, interactive sessions during NSS camps and story writing activities were organised throughout the year. Many girls shared their experiences of bulling and harassment on the campus. As a result of the dialogue they felt that these things should get reported and there must be some mechanism in the colleges to address these issues.

3 films based on real life incidences of bullying were prepared by students after these sessions.

**Dil Khol, Chuppi Tod Event** -

This was a concluding event of “No Fear No Shame” Campaign. We tried to provide a platform for students to express their thoughts on bullying and harassment throughout the year. The purpose behind organizing this campaign was to assess whether we could successfully convey message and build perspectives of these students through this campaign.

**Content generation** –

This year we could create 15 video clips. These clips are on You Tube and were disseminated through whatsapp, Facebook. These clips mainly talk about bullying, harassment and gender stereotypes. A booklet on various laws related to women was prepared in order to create awareness among students about legal protections available for women.

We have around 350 students in our contact on whatsapp. We disseminated 57 messages in Marathi language on the issues of harassment, gender stereotypes and about “No fear, No shame” campaign. Innovative posters (50+ posters) were prepared on different issues like, misconceptions about masturbation, masculinity, happy to bleed campaign, campus bullying, and other sexuality related issues. These posters were used to spread messages on face book and whatsapp.

**Dissemination of content** -

Videos, text messages, posters, poems, news updates, articles etc were some of the forms we used to disseminate our messages among core group members via face book, whatsapp and mobile phones. We received more than 700 likes to our face book page. The video on Anti bullying Campaign received 1004
views which is a most popular video so far. We are in regular touch with around 300+ students through different groups on whatsapp. We have disseminated 13 videos on YouTube. We received on an average 190 views for videos. ‘Body Image’ video from ‘Break it’ series is most viewed video with 711 views.

The way ahead -

1. We need keep the website live and vibrant as it is the key to making it more popular.

2. Building and holding the groups of students in the colleges was a challenging task last year. We will be focusing on the core members of these groups and with the help of these students will expand the outreach of the messages being disseminated.

5. Zilmil Crèches for Nutrition and Early Education

With the support of Volkswagen Worker’s Council through TdH Germany, Tathapi Trust is implementing the project ‘Early childhood care and education of migrant children in PCMC, Pune in Pune city’s Pimpri Chinchwad area. Initially we were running 05 crèches in and around the Kala Khadak area. In this year we have 6 crèches, 295 children bellow 6 years and 51 children below 12 years. The standardised crèche program is aimed at -
• improvement in nutrition levels among children in the age group of 0-6 years
• introduction of early education
• engagement with adolescents on the issues of gender, sexuality and life skills
• creating support network for parents in child health and development

Some of the highlights of the program in this year –

Addressing the need of an organised curriculum for early educational needs - In this year we aimed at developing a proper age wise curriculum to address the early educational needs of the children bellow 3 and 6 years. For this we took help of ‘Center for Learning Resources’, a renowned agency working in the field of Child Education in Pune.

Children’s physical, mental and motor development aspects were covered through various sessions in this training. As per the requirement of every age group of the children, different songs and games were taught (for e.g.: indoor games, speech games, free style games, art and craft) to the teachers and attendants participating in the training. A Time Table was made giving details of the duration and timing of the activity to be taken in a days schedule at the centre.
Steps towards establishing a self sustainable crèche model -

To go towards developing a model of day care centers to advocate it to the larger audience, we started a dialogue with the women in the area who are willing to start their own crèches. We organised one workshop in KalaKhadak area. The objective of this workshop was to see if there is a possibility that women will like to enter in this work on their own. The aim was also to help women who are running crèches currently in slums in increasing their skills and income by upgrading current proficiency.

Designing a training plus support program for women willing to start their own crèche -

We volunteered to give training and guidance for setting up and running Crèche to interested women in the slums in Pune. The design is also to impart some initial help and support to start the caches. The workshop referred above was the first initiative of Tathapi in direction of Capacity building for crèche runners and baby sitters. Women from various slums will be identified to be given the training. The initiative will be taken forward in the direction of establishing a model crèche at the Vasti level next year.

A video film to document and showcase the work being done in the area was prepared. Link on the YouTube for the clip – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGBka9Jz6Mk

In the coming year –

1. Conducting training programs (with the help of the women’s organisations in the city) for the women in the Vasti to impart skills on how to run and manage a crèche which will generate revenue to support the woman.

2. Expanding and converting of the current crèches run by Tathapi in to Safe Spaces for adolescents and women in the area.

6. Project TARA

This initiative is started with the support from Tata Power Community Development Trust, Lonavala, in the mid of the last year. The main Objective is to Increase the status of women and adolescent girls through increased awareness of gender, increased access to health and civic entitlements. We also are aiming at building linkages between people and existing government and other agencies to make them more effective and accountable. We have selected 10 villages at Maval block in Pune district to start with. The period of the project is of 2 years (Oct 2015 to Oct 2017).
Along with women’s health, the project is going to address many issues such as women’s property rights, Panchayat Raj and women, violence against women and awareness on issues like PCPNDT. We will be also working with the schools in the area and will try to implement the curriculum on Body Literacy Tathapi has developed.

Our initial observations while visiting the field and interviews with women and other stake holders told us that there is a lack of basic infrastructure such as transport services, health services, water, sanitation, road etc. As there is no regular transport for commuting it affects the accessibility to the basic services such as health centers and school. Visibility and presence of government health services is also very low in the area. There is a very low awareness among the community on various health schemes and government health services.

7. Drought, Women and Health

Tathapi is supporting two NGOs - Gramin Mahila Vikas Sanstha, Deoni dist. Latur & Astitva Sanstha, Sangola dist. Solapur to implement a project in 15 villages of their respective districts with special focus on empowerment of community through sustainable water conservation measures and increased access to Government schemes. This three years project is initiated by TdH, India with support from AEI, Luxembourg with a special focus on women’s issues. With the help of local pool of trainers trained by Tathapi over the last decade Tathapi is helping in planning and executing field activities through active participation of youth and women in the villages.

Drought and Marathwada – This is the fourth consecutive year of drought in Marathwada, each one more acute than the previous. With seasonal crops being failed totally and less than 10% water available in 11 major reservoirs in the region the severity of drought has had adverse impact on health and lives of people in this region. It was reported that more than 600 farmers committed suicide (2015). A prominent activist in the regions observed that there is an increase in child marriages, as parents try to ensure the safety of girls and a big increase in child labor because they need the extra money. Tathapi helped in planning and designing programs and dialogue sessions with women and children in the area around the subjects of community Health, child rights, prevention of child marriages, abuse, VAW and DV Act, local leadership.

Tathapi participated in the planning and monitoring of following activities at village level -
1. Formation of the groups and communication with 160+ children in Bal Panchayat in 15 villages
2. Monthly dialogue sessions to involve and encourage children for active participation
3. Messages regarding right to health, safety, education were delivered. Importance of hand wash, hygiene was also talked upon.
4. Education of girls, Adolescent health, No to child marriage, environment, Right to information were some of the topics discussed with Youth groups.
At the end of the year both the organisations have a trained and sensitised groups youth and women who are communicating with and engaging people on the issues mentioned above on village level. Gathering information on the resources available in the community, displaying it on the village’s notice board, raising questions around contamination of the drinking water and monitoring ICDS Anganwadi scheme are some of the tasks the groups have resolved through positive dialogue locally.

It was reported by the organisation’s workers that the initiatives have helped in tremendous ways. The girls are gathering courage to oppose their marriages at an early age. Some of the groups of youngsters also started questioning the early marriages in their villages. At some places the youth participated in the Grampanchayat proceedings actively to solve the local issues.

We hope that the next year will end this situation of drought and there will be a satisfactory monsoon ahead. But from the examples of these children and youth we are working with it is evident that a small stimulus placed in the right place and at right time can bring big change.

Resource center

A. Jivala

This year we successfully published four issues of the newsletter and we received a good response from the readers, though not much in the form of prescription but in the form of appreciation. The newsletter this year discussed a wide range of subjects, right from the sad demise of Aruna Shanbhag to the continuous drought situation in Marathwada. Mira Shiva, a renowned activist shared her article for one of our issues which was talking about women’s health and government policies around medicines. Two docudramas, ‘The World Before Her’ and ‘India’s Daughter’, making headlines in the mainstream media in the country for various reasons found place on our two issues and a bunch of our activist friends shared their opinions on these films. Pargaonchya Paravarun was the hit column as usual.
Tathapi’s Resources

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Other associations

**Maharashtra Mahila Arogya Hakka Parishad**

Every two years a state wide conference is held in different regions of Maharashtra on women and health rights issues. Last year the conference was organised in Beed district of Marathawada region. Tathapi was part of the organising and planning team of the Parishad. Next Parishad is being planned in Dec 2016 in Konkan and Tathapi is part of the all planning and organising meetings being organised for the same.

**Jan Arogya Abhiyan**

Tathapi is a part of Jan Arogya Abhiyan which is a campaign for better health and health services for people in Maharashtra. This year JAA in association with NHRC India has organised a public hearing on Right To Healthcare at Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai on 6th, 7th January 2016. Achut along with other comrades in JAA presented a case study of Trust Hospitals in Pune in the hearing. Because of the case study and some actual cases of service denials and violations of rights of the patients by some hospitals in Pune the panel ordered an enquiry in the cases. The case study generated good interest in the people attending the hearings. The case study has come out as a good document for reference in future.
Thank you....

**Partners**

Chhattisgad Gramin Seva Samiti, Pithora, CG; Gram Seva Samiti, Hoshangabad, MP; Lok Astha Seva Sansthan, Gariyaband, CG; Prakruti Mahila Vikas Kendra, Chandrapur, MH; Prerana Gram Vikas Sanstha, Yavatmal, MH; Sanjeevani Sanstha, Amarwada, MP; Astitva Sanstha, Sangola; Gramin Mahila Vikas Sanstha, Deoni.

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