



NISARG VIDNYAN MANDAL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR APRIL, 2021 TO MARCH, 2022

Implementation of Forest Right Act - 2006:

Team Members: Dr. Vijay Ghugey, Munnaji Mahajan, Sunil Gedam, Shankuntala Surbha Kangali, Ravindra Gharatkar, Shrikrushna Raut, Papita Kolhe, Prabuddh Khaire

Introduction:

The Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) firmly believes in the power of community-driven initiatives. Many of the projects undertaken by NiViM are rooted in voluntary efforts. This commitment to voluntary work has not only enabled community involvement but also strengthened the capacity of volunteers hailing from tribal communities, forest dwellers, and economically disadvantaged farmers.

Community Development and Forest Conservation:

NiViM has undertaken comprehensive development programs in the tribal regions of forest-prone villages within the Muniya Conservation Reserve (MCR). These initiatives are designed to mitigate the challenges of human-wildlife conflict and facilitate the implementation of the Forest Right Act-2006 (FRA-2006). Starting in September 2021, NiViM embarked on the journey of claiming community forest rights through the formation of Community Forest Right Management Committees (CFRMC) at the grassroots level.

Sustainable Agro-Forestry Practices:

The primary objective of this endeavor is to promote sustainable agro-forestry practices for the conservation of indigenous species of agricultural and forest plants. This initiative, which began in 2014, has continued through the NETRAVAN project (Nature Science Education, Training, and Research for Resilience in Agro-Forestry Adventures through Voluntary Action Networks). The project focuses on villages located on the fringes of MCR.

Land Allocation under FRA-2006:

As part of this initiative, applications were filed under the Forest Right Act-2006 and its corresponding rules in 2008, seeking land allocation for community use. These applications were processed through the proper channels and received approval from the district

collector, who serves as the president of the District Level Committee under FRA. Land was subsequently allotted to the Gramsabha, ensuring compliance with Rule 2008 and the revised Rule 2012, Section 4(1)(D).

Selected Villages and Thrust Areas:

NiViM selected 36 Gramsabha villages from 15 Grampanchyats within Umrer taluka of Nagpur district. The overarching areas of focus in this developmental endeavor include forest protection, watershed management, wildlife conservation, and the promotion of natural and organic farming to sustain the livelihoods of marginalized rural stakeholders. Additionally, NiViM has designed social awareness and action programs, along with training sessions for the executive members of CFRMC and staff from relevant line departments, slated for the next financial year (2022-2023) under the NETRAVAN project.

Water Conservation and Watershed Management

NiViM is actively engaged in water conservation and watershed management efforts. These initiatives are either implemented through government schemes or funded by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. Currently, NiViM has devised a comprehensive watershed management plan for the villages of Jambhapani, Tambekhani, Murzadi, and Sindivihiri.

Capacity Building for Forest Dwellers:

In an effort to empower forest dwellers, NiViM has chosen villages on the outskirts of MCR in Umred taluk. The first step in this process involved organizing Gramsabha meetings within these villages. These meetings were instrumental in forming Community Forest Right Management Committees (CFRMC) with the assistance of Gramsewaks for the respective villages, pada, tanda, or tola, as per the provisions of the Forest Right Act-2006 and its associated rules from 2008 and the revised rules from 2012. The formation of CFRMCs was a voluntary endeavor undertaken by NiViM from September 2021 to February 2021.

In conclusion, NiViM's commitment to community-driven initiatives, forest conservation, and sustainable development exemplifies its dedication to the welfare of tribal communities, forest dwellers, and marginalized farmers in the region. Through the implementation of the Forest Right Act-2006, watershed management, and capacity-building efforts, NiViM continues to make a positive impact on the lives of these communities.



The CFRMC formation Gramsabha took place in the morning and evening in Umred taluka, Nagpur district, with the participation of Gramsewak and Forester.



Dnyandeep Abhyasika: A Green Beacon of Learning

Team: Jyoti Kapkar, Dipak Shahu, Wasudeo Mohadikar, Abhinav Ghugey

Introduction:

NiViM (Nagpur Institute for Vision and Mission) is actively engaged in fostering a green ethos among aspiring undergraduate students, particularly those with a fervor for competitive examinations leading to careers in administration. In this noble pursuit, NiViM initiated the Dnyandeep Abhyasika cum Library, strategically located within the serene confines of NeelKamal Housing Cooperative Society in Besa, Nagpur. This endeavor aims to facilitate the academic aspirations of students preparing for various competitive exams, including MPSC, UPSC, STI, banking, as well as 12th-grade students committed to intense and focused study.

A Social Endeavor:

Dnyandeep Abhyasika and Library represent a significant social initiative undertaken by NiViM to extend comprehensive competitive examination study facilities to the youth hailing from middle-class, economically disadvantaged, and marginalized families in rural and peri-

urban areas. Currently, this facility caters to a cohort of 50 dedicated students, offering an enriching learning environment from Monday to Friday, spanning the hours of 8 AM to 10 PM.

Distinguished Visitors:

The commendable efforts of Dnyandeep Abhyasika did not go unnoticed. Dr. Nareshchandra Kathole, a trailblazer in the realm of IAS academies, and Mr. S. Haridas, a retired Commissioner and noted social activist associated with the Mahatma Fule Vichar Parishad, recently paid a visit to Dnyandeep Abhyasika. Their visit culminated in an insightful interaction session aimed at inspiring the students and nurturing their aspirations for a brighter future in the domain of public services.

In conclusion, Dnyandeep Abhyasika stands as a beacon of learning and a symbol of social responsibility, dedicated to nurturing the dreams of aspirants from diverse backgrounds, and fostering green, sustainable thinking among the youth. Through such initiatives, NiViM continues to be a driving force in shaping the future of tomorrow's administrators.



(Dr.Nareshchandra Kathole, Mr.Haridas and Dr Vijay Ghugey with students at Besa)

Goshala for the Welfare and Conservation of Indian Cows

Team: Abhinav Ghugey, Manoj Kove, Munnaji Mahajan, Bhagwandas Rathi

Introduction:

NiViM, with the collective efforts of its dedicated team members, namely Abhinav Ghugey, Manoj Kove, Munnaji Mahajan, and Bhagwandas Rathi, has undertaken a significant initiative in the realm of Indian cow breeds. The objective is to promote natural farming practices and conserve indigenous Indian cattle varieties, such as Gavalu, Tharparkar, Concrage, Gir, among others. Additionally, NiViM strives to bolster rural livelihoods by advocating the utilization of cow dung (Gomay) and cow urine (Gomutr) for various product

manufacturing purposes, thereby benefitting marginalized farmers, women, and landless laborers.

Product Diversification:

As part of this endeavor, NiViM provides training in the production of diverse products, including Panati, Utane, Soap, Dhup Kandi, Gomutra Ark, as well as natural pesticides such as Dashparni Ark, Bramhastra, and plant protector Jivamrut. This comprehensive training program is extended to Goshala owners, farmers, and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with the aim of enabling them to attain self-employment opportunities.

Establishment of Gramayan Gomay Koushaly Vikas Kendra (GGKVK):

In a noteworthy development, NiViM established the Gramayan Gomay Koushaly Vikas Kendra (GGKVK) as a separate unit, commencing operations in October 2017. This initiative has been instrumental in enhancing the skill set of individuals involved in Goshala management and cow-based product manufacturing. GGKVK serves as a beacon of empowerment for those seeking self-sufficiency and a path to economic stability.

Machinery Installation at NETRAVAN:

As an integral part of our commitment to skill development and product diversification, NiViM has also facilitated the installation of advanced machinery for Gokasht production and planter manufacturing at NETRAVAN. These facilities not only serve as training grounds but also contribute to the overall production capacity, furthering the mission of promoting sustainable farming practices and the conservation of Indian cow breeds.

NiViM, through these concerted efforts, aims to foster a holistic ecosystem that not only preserves our rich heritage of Indian cattle breeds but also uplifts the livelihoods of rural communities while promoting eco-friendly agricultural practices.



Goshala and open feeding to cows in the field of NETRAVAN

As a proactive measure, NiViM initiated a program aimed at training farmers from seven villages in the vicinity. This initiative operates under the banner of the Alternative Farming Club (AFC) and is registered under the ATMA scheme of the Agriculture Department of the Government of Maharashtra. The training program encompasses various aspects of sustainable farming, including the preparation of organic manure, herbal pesticides, and insecticides, such as Jivamrut, Dasparni Ark, Compost, and Ghan Jivamrut. These training sessions were conducted at the Farmers School (FS) located at NETRAVAN, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department.

Inauguration of Training:

The inauguration of these training programs was an auspicious event graced by the presence of Mr. Sachin Sonavane, District Development Manager (DDM) at NABARD. His participation symbolized the endorsement and support of a crucial financial institution for these efforts.

Promotion of Alternative Crops:

A central aspect of NiViM's strategy is the promotion of alternative crops, including bamboo and various medicinal plant species. These crops not only provide a solution to the issue of human-animal conflicts but also promise to yield maximum productivity.

In conclusion, NiViM's Sustainable Agriculture Practices through Alternative Farming (SASA-F) project exemplifies a commendable endeavor aimed at fostering sustainable livelihoods for marginalized farmers while mitigating conflicts with wildlife. Through training, collaboration, and the promotion of alternative crops, this initiative paves the way for a more harmonious coexistence between agriculture and wildlife in the Muniya Reserve Forest area.



Farmers receiving hands-on training in manure preparation and witnessing a demonstration of a natural insect trap mechanism, led by Mrs. Rewatkar, Agriculture Assistant at ATMA, Umred Taluka Agricultural Office.



Empowering Women Farmers Through the Sale of Agricultural Produce.

Water Conservation for Soil Moisture Protection

Team - Er. Madho Kotasthane, Mr. Satyajit Jambhulkar, Mr. Nandkishor Deshkar, and Mr. Sursh Junghare

Introduction:

The NiViM team is dedicated to conserving water resources to protect the essential elements of "Jal, Jamin, and Jungle," with a primary focus on safeguarding soil and moisture levels. To achieve this mission, NiViM embarked on a project involving the construction of Cement Nala Bandhs (CNB) along a natural stream that flows from the forested areas to the farmlands bordering Khapari and Davha via NETRAVAN. The project was funded through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions provided by MRG Consultants. The project included the provision of fiberglass rods and covered labor expenses. Two CNBs were constructed to store water for agricultural crops and livestock. This initiative has demonstrated a positive impact on soil moisture levels, as evidenced by the increased water levels in wells on the farmlands of Davha village and the sustained availability of water in the natural forest stream, even extending into the harsh summer months until the end of April.

Conservation of Natural Streams along the AAM River:

NiViM's commitment to water conservation extends to organizing campaigns for the preservation of natural streams in villages situated along the banks of the AAM River. The AAM River originates from the Sadhukhora Mountain Range, located behind the forest area of Jamgad village in Umred taluk, Nagpur district. The river covers a region encompassing six villages: Jamgad, Umbarpeth, Sindi Vihiri, Jambhlapani, Tambekahno, and Garamsur.

Through these initiatives, NiViM strives to ensure the sustainable management of water resources, nurturing the delicate balance between human needs, agricultural requirements, and environmental preservation. This collaborative effort between the community, MRG Consultants, and NiViM showcases a commendable commitment to water conservation and the protection of vital ecosystems, reinforcing the idea that the preservation of "Jal, Jamin, Jungle" is essential for the well-being of all.



Construction of a Cement Nala Bandh as part of MRG Consultant's CSR initiatives.

Nature Science and Eco Education for Students & Nature Lovers

Team: Dr. Vijay Ghugey, Prof. Vivek Wagh, Dipak Shahu, Chetan Shrikhande, Prashant Waje, Chetan Sahare, Shankar Arbat, Rupesh Neware

Introduction:

Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal is an organization dedicated to providing informal education through practical experiences to address academic questions. Over the past five years, we have witnessed an average annual footfall of 4,500 to 5,000 individuals at NETRAVAN. However, during the academic year 2020-2021, this number saw a decline due to the far-reaching impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown necessitated the closure of schools and colleges, significantly affecting our activities.

Adapting to the Pandemic:

Despite the challenging circumstances brought about by the pandemic, we adapted our operations to continue serving our community. Government orders led to the closure of ecotourism destinations and various other public places. Nevertheless, in compliance with

safety guidelines, small groups consisting of 10 to 15 individuals, as well as one or two families, ventured to NETRAVAN. They meticulously followed sanitization protocols, wore masks, and maintained social distancing.

Our Activities:

Mr. Chetan Shrikhande, a seasoned mountaineering expert, spearheaded a variety of adventurous activities, including nature trails, nature games, archery, rifle shooting, zip-lining, Burma bridge, and commando bridge, all while emphasizing safety measures.

Mr. Dipak Shahu took charge of our natural farming initiatives and the production of herbal insecticides, pesticides, and manures, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Mr. Wasudeo Mohadikar guided participants in engaging in basic science-based experiments and activities, demonstrating their feasibility using low-cost or no-cost materials.

Supporting Education During the Pandemic:

In response to the unique challenges posed by the pandemic, Prof. Vivek Wagh extended his expertise by conducting classes in mathematics and English for students at Z P schools in the tribal village of Jambhlapani, located in Ta Umred, District Nagpur. Recognizing that many parents lacked access to mobile devices for online education and faced network connectivity issues, Prof. Wagh's efforts helped bridge the educational gap for these students.

Despite the hurdles created by the pandemic, Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal remains committed to its mission of imparting nature science and eco education to students and nature enthusiasts. We look forward to continuing our work and contributing to the betterment of our community, even in challenging times.



Dr. Vijay Ghugey spearheaded initiatives promoting Nature awareness and educating on the operation and multifaceted uses of Biogas plants, including electricity generation and kitchen gas production.

The Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) team chose the tribal village of Jambhlapani for a comprehensive village development initiative. They initiated informal education sessions for students every Saturday. Professor Vivek Wagh devoted his Saturdays to working with these students. Moreover, the mothers of these students actively engaged in Professor Vivek's brainstorming sessions to gain insights into effective methods for facilitating their children's home studies.

मंटा नागपूर | गुरुवार, १ एप्रिल २०२१

पॉझिटिव्ह प्लस

म. टा. प्रतिनिधी, नागपूर

कोरोनामुळे सध्या नकारात्मकतेचा, काळजीचा सूर पुन्हा एकदा उमटू लागला आहे. मात्र, या परीक्षेच्या काळातही सकारात्मक विचारांना प्रत्यक्ष कृतीची जोड देण्याचे काम थांबलेले नाही. लहानशा खेड्यांतील मुलांच्या दाराशी सोप्या शिक्षणाची साधने नेण्याचे काम नागपूर जिल्ह्यातील जांभळापानी गावात करण्यात येते आहे. केवळ चिंता करीत न बसता कर्ता हातांनी एकत्र येत शिक्षणाची सक्षम रुजवात करण्याचे कार्य सुरू केले आहे.

कर्ते हात रुजविताहेत शिकण्याचे कौशल्य

जांभळापानी गावात सोप्या शिक्षणाची रुजवात

निसर्ग विज्ञान मंडळाच्यावतीने आणि शिक्षणतज्ज्ञ विवेक वाघ यांच्या सक्रिय सहभागाने हा उपक्रम राबविण्यात येतो आहे. या प्रकल्पांतर्गत विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी दर शनिवारी अभ्यासवर्गाचे आयोजन करण्यात येते. या वर्गांमध्ये विद्यार्थ्यांना गणित आणि इंग्रजी या विषयांचे शिक्षण देण्यात येते. या दोन्ही विषयांतील मूलभूत बाबींचे ज्ञान विद्यार्थ्यांना दिले जाते. त्यासाठी रंजक खेळ, साध्या सोप्या उपकरणांचा उपयोग केला जातो. मायक्रोस्कोपसारखी उपकरणे वापरून वृक्षपत्रांची संघीही या बालकांना देण्यात येते आहे. सुमारे महिनाभरापूर्वी

हा उपक्रम सुरू करण्यात आला आहे. पुढील पाच वर्षांपर्यंत असे प्रशिक्षण विद्यार्थ्यांना दिले जाईल. त्यातून तयार झालेले विद्यार्थी इतर गावांमधील बालकांना अशाप्रकारे शिकवू शकले पाहिजेत, असे ध्येय निश्चित करण्यात आले आहे.

'ग्रामीण भागातील सगळ्यांचे प्राथमिक शिक्षण झालेले असते. मात्र, त्या शिक्षणाचा दर्जा तितका चांगला नसतो. मुख्यतः शिकायचे कसे, याचे कौशल्य असणे महत्वाचे असते. ते आले की कोणत्याही विषयाचे ज्ञान मिळविणे कठीण होत नाही. ते विकसित करणे हा या कार्यक्रमाचा महत्त्वाचा उद्देश आहे. गावातील लोकांनी यात स्वतः सहभागी व्हावे, त्यांची समिती असावी आणि गावाच्या शिक्षणाचे पंचवार्षिक नियोजन व्हावे अशी आमची अपेक्षा आहे', असे या प्रकल्पात महत्त्वाची भूमिका बजावणारे विवेक वाघ यांनी सांगितले.



लक्ष्य समग्र ग्रामीण उन्नतीचे

बुटीबोरी ते उमरेड या भागातील विविध गावांमध्ये निसर्ग विज्ञान मंडळाच्यावतीने कामे सुरू करण्यात आली आहेत. या परिसरातील जंगल मुनिया संवर्धन क्षेत्र म्हणून नुकतेच घोषित करण्यात आले आहे. या जंगलाच्या सीमेवर असलेल्या गावांमध्ये हे प्रकल्प सुरू आहेत. गायीपासून मिळणाऱ्या विविध घटकांचा उपयोग करून रोजगारनिर्मिती करण्यात येते आहे. याशिवाय, जलसंधारण, जंगलसंवर्धन आणि ग्रामविकासाचे प्रकल्पही राबविण्यात येत आहेत. या गावांतून बाहेर गेलेल्या गावकऱ्यांची, विविध विषयांतील तज्ज्ञांची या कामाकरिता मदत घेण्यात येत असल्याचे निसर्ग विज्ञान मंडळाचे डॉ. विजय घुगे यांनी सांगितले.

Movement of Muniya Conservation Reserve (MMCR)

Team:

- Dr. Vijay Ghugey, President, NiViM
- Mr. Praull Bhamburkar, Regional Director, Wildlife Trust of India
- Mr. Anand Totewar
- Mr. Surbha Kangale, Police Patil & Village Activist, Jambhlapani
- Mr. Shivram Ghonge, Village Davha Activist
- Mr. Dipak Shahu, Coordinator NiViM
- Mrs. Papita Kolhe, CRP, Amgaon Devali
- Mrs. Lalita Meshram, CRP, Murzadi
- Mrs. Chitra Kumare, CRP, Sindivihiri
- All local staff of the Forest Department from Butibori and North Umred range of Nagpur Forest Division

Background:

The Muniya Reserve Forest (MRF) was officially declared as the Muniya Conservation Reserve (MCR) by the State Wildlife Board (SWLB) on December 4, 2020, and subsequently notified by the Government of Maharashtra on May 11, 2021. This proposal was originally

submitted by NiViM in 2007. The tireless efforts and consistent follow-up by the NiViM team, led by its founder, Dr. Vijay Ghugey, over the past 13 years, culminated in the MCR's declaration under the provisions of Section 36(B) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1986.

Community Involvement:

In response to the declaration of the MCR and to minimize or prevent human-animal conflicts, NiViM initiated the organization of Gramsabhas in local villages. These Gramsabhas aimed to establish Community Forest Right Management Committees (CFRMC) through the Gramsewak within the Grampanchayat vicinity, in accordance with the Forest Rights Act of 2006 and its subsequent rules. CFRMCs were successfully formed between September 2021 and February 2022 by Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM).

NiViM's Commitment:

NiViM, a voluntary organization committed to the implementation of government programs for rural development, undertook an ambitious project to secure the notification of the Muniya Reserve Forest (MRF) as a corridor for wildlife movement, now designated as the Muniya Conservation Reserve (MCR), since 2007. This initiative aimed to engage the community residing in the 30 villages situated on the outskirts of MRF. NiViM collaborated with various departments, particularly the Forest Department, to organize numerous activities, fostering regular coordination between community members and the Forest Department.

Key Milestones:

On December 4th, 2020, the State Wildlife Board approved the proposal for MRF, and on May 11th, 2021, an area spanning 9601 hectares (equivalent to 96.01 square kilometers) was officially designated as the Muniya Conservation Reserve (MCR). This achievement marks the 9th Conservation Reserve in Maharashtra and the 3rd in Vidarbha.

Impact and Inspiration:

This success story stands as a testament to NiViM's dedication to wildlife conservation, forest protection, and community engagement. It serves as a milestone in the field of forest conservation and inspires all team members and community leaders in the vicinity to collaborate for the sustainable development of the area. The next step involves the publication of this notification in the Government Gazette, followed by comprehensive actions to promote the overall development of villages on the fringes of the MCR, as well as the growth of flora, fauna, and avifauna in the surrounding forests and agricultural areas.



Regular meetings of village leaders and women's Self-Help Groups (SHG), facilitated by Community Resource Persons (CRP), were instrumental in achieving the status of Muniya Conservation Reserve (MCR) for the Muniya Reserve Forest.

नागपूरमध्ये दोन नवी संरक्षित वने राज्य वन्य जीव मंडळाचा निर्णय

लोकसत्ता विशेष प्रतिनिधी

मुंबई : राज्यातील पर्यावरण संवर्धनासाठी वनांची जोपासना करण्याच्या दृष्टीने संवेदनशील अशा पश्चिम घाटातील ८ तर विदर्भातील दोन अशा १० नव्या संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्रांना मान्यता देण्याचा ऐतिहासिक निर्णय राज्य वन्य जीव मंडळाच्या बैठकीत शुक्रवारी घेण्यात आला.

याचबरोबर चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातील कन्हाळगाव हे राज्यातील ५० वे अभयारण्य घोषित करण्यात आले असून त्याचे एकूण क्षेत्र २६९ चौरस किलोमीटर आहे.

आधीचे सहा आणि नवीन घोषित झालेले तिलारी असे मिळून राज्यात सध्या ७ संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र आहेत.

नवी भर... आंबोली दोडा माव संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (सिंधुदुर्ग), चंदगड संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (कोल्हापूर), आजरा-मुदरगड संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (कोल्हापूर), गगनबावडा संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (कोल्हापूर), पन्हाळगड संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (कोल्हापूर), विशाळगड संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (कोल्हापूर), जोर जांमळी संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (सातारा), मायनी संवर्धन राखीव क्षेत्र (सातारा) आणि विदर्भातील महेंद्री, मुनिया आता संरक्षित वनक्षेत्रात गणले जाणार आहेत.

त्यात आता कोल्हापूर जिल्ह्यातील ५, सिंधुदुर्गातील (पान २ वर)

We are actively engaged in preserving the crucial and nearby metropolitan corridor, which also encompasses MIDC Butibori. Furthermore, we have penned a letter to the Chief Conservator of Forests, requesting the formulation of a Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) to guide the development and decision-making processes for the metropolitan corridor over the next decade, spanning from 2021 to 2031. Additionally, we have gathered valuable input from stakeholders through the organization of Gramsabhas in villages located along the periphery of the metropolitan corridor, and have shared these insights with the forest department.

Villagers near Muniya reserve show the way to eco-friendly living

(Contd from page 1)

Villagers had complaints about wild animals as those used to kill the livestock of farmers.

Ghughe explained to them that retaliation cannot not be the solution to the conflict.

"Villagers used to lay traps for wild animals, which, according to me, was not the right way to end the conflict. I suggested them to keep natural barriers. We tried to change people's mentality regarding their opposition to wildlife. We told them our livestock also goes to forest and damages the eco-system. We should protect wildlife and ourselves too. We created natural barriers where we dug pit of two metre wide and 1.5 metre deep on the other side. On our side, we planted trees like Shikakai, Karwand, Sagargoti which have medicinal values. I asked the villagers to make the plants their earning source. Most of these trees have thorns so the wild animals stay away and do not enter inside the village and livestock also don't cross the barrier," narrated Ghughe.

There are several schemes like Syamaprasad Mukherjee Van Yojana, Eco-Sensitive Zone Yojana and some others those have lot of scope for the people doing farming close to forest. Like most others, the villagers in Muniya also were unaware of those.



Vijay Ghughe interacting with villagers. (Right) Wildlife doesn't get disturbed by the human movement.



Ghughe and his team came up with NETRAVAN -- Nature Science Education Training and Research for Vigilance in Agro Forestry Adventures -- through which they not only tried to make villagers aware of the schemes, but also helped them in getting those schemes implemented. The villagers learnt to use everything they have. Even the dry cow dung also is utilised properly.

"We guided the villagers on how the cow dung can fetch money for them. Nothing is free in these villages now. The villages wear a clean look. There was a time when water was to be brought through tankers, while the water coming down from hills was going waste. Now, it is



The Mandal worked for water conservation at farm field areas in Khapari, Davha, Dahegaon villages.

stored due to which soil remains wet. This has resulted in rise in water level of wells," explained Ghughe.

Gomai, Gramayan Govindyan cluster has brought awareness among villagers about cow products. The villagers manufactured

several byproducts, marketed them and earned money out of those. The change is showing up and youngsters are being introduced to the transformation process. They are being taught eco-friendly living.

"I am not against any development but feel that it should not come at the cost of damage to nature. Water, forest, animal, land, should be managed. Then only human life will survive. We are taking efforts. One by one, villages are becoming aware of various schemes. We are also urging NGOs to adopt one village each. In a nutshell, despite all physical changes, the mentality of the villagers is to be changed and we are trying to do the same," said Ghughe.

The Nisarg Vidnyan Mandal (NiViM) primarily relies on the voluntary efforts of environmentally conscious citizens and nature enthusiasts within the civil society. As a result, it is self-funded and receives contributions from individuals in the form of both cash and goods for specific activities. Each member of the activity team is responsible for collecting, managing, and accounting for the funds related to their respective projects. These funds do not go into NiViM's account, as our primary goal is to foster a culture of conservation within the community.