



About Us



Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan [*means Development Collaboration Foundation*] is established in 1990 by voluntary development organizations, working in the rural areas of Maharashtra for the upliftment of poor and deprived sections of society. Livelihood and dignity are the basic issues of deprived communities especially dalits, nomadic tribes, destitute women and other resource less poor in rural areas. In this reality VSP and local partners working in the villages believe that their in need to undertake long-term intervention with a aim to qualitatively expand and deepen the political and socio-economic space for the marginalized communities, women and youth.

The vision of Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan is “a society based on equality, social justice and harmony with nature.”

The mission of this collective is “to facilitate a process of social change with associated voluntary development organizations to create just and human societies that is sensitive to nature and gender”.

The constituent member organizations are working on issues related to Tribal, Dalit, nomads, de-notified tribes, land less farmers, marginal landholders, agricultural laborers and other such groups. Therefore the initiatives have been taken to help deprived communities in asserting rights over natural resources and develop productivity for better livelihood. The actions are planned out in consultations with these member organizations and their participation in sought in implementation and reviewing the activities.

Organisations governance and leadership

VSP is a value based collective upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, participatory working and decentralized decision-making. VSP offers organisational and individual membership and through the invitation.

As per the constitution members form the General Body that provides strategic direction and focus for the work. General Body elects Executive Body for its undertaking executive role. Executive body members are active in field process. Currently there are 5 female and 2 male are the members of Executive body. They play conscious role in program management and also the governance process of the organization. We have an advisory board of the four persons. This Advisory board is also closely connected with the ongoing work of the organization.

The Member Organizations of this organization are

This organisation has organisational and individual membership. The membership is by invitation.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
1.Abhivyakti	Nashik,
2.Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi	Kurkheda, Dist. Gadchiroli
3.Ankur trust	Pen, Dist. Raigad
4.Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas va Sanshodhan Sanstha	Sangola, Sholapur District
5.Gramin Pragtik Yuva Mandal	Bhandara
6.Sahil	Sangmeshwar, Ratnagiri district.
7.Sakav	Pen, Dist Raigad
8.Samaj Vikas Sanshodhan Sanstha	Solapur
9.Samajik Nyaya Pratishthan	Man, District Satara
10.Sanwad	Chiplun, District Ratnagiri
11.Shrushti	Gadchiroli
12.Shramik Sahyog	Chiplun, District Ratnagiri
13.Somling Gram Vikas Mandal	Mangalwedha, Sholapur
14.YUVA Rural Association	Nagpur
15.Savitribai Phule Mahila Mandal	Buldhana

Some of the individual members are

R.V. Bhuskute (expert on land rights issue), Datta Savale (A thinker on social issue) Mohan Hirabai Hiralal (A social researcher), Minar Pimple (Activist on international human rights issues), Sunita Bagal (Ashoka fellow working on unorganised women's economic organisation) etc.

3. OPERATIONAL TEAM

For the ongoing management of the activities the full time staff is appointed. VSP has professional staff that has strong experience of managing projects in a networking mode at a regional as well as a State level.

VSP has total 8 full time qualified staff-

- For the Programme management (3 MSW and 1 Post graduate in Rural Development, 1 M. Phil.)
- For Account and administration (2 graduates, 1 SSC)

In total there are 6 male and 2 female in the staff team.

There are 28 volunteers are associated in the field.

- In the field there are 11 community organizers, 5 fellows, 12 village base animators associated with the field process

In this team of volunteers there are 20 male and 8 females.

Being this is a network organization as need arises we have experts available from the member organizations as consultants/ Resource persons. The organization has adequate capacities in terms of maintaining activity record, financial records. The systems are monitored at the level of management and governance. Over the years VSP has evolved basic transparent program and financial management systems.

4. Organisations work

VSP, since its inception in 1990-91, has evolved as a socially accessible and acceptable platform of developmental organizations, social groups, academia and individuals, representing the interests of marginalized communities and women, across the state of Maharashtra. This intrinsic diversity and heterogeneity has ensured that VSP facilitates inclusive processes for the betterment of all identified deprived communities.

Since the inception of the organization VSP has been working and focusing its activities in a networking mode. The policy related matters were addressed through advocacy and alliances similarly the constructive experiments related to Nature Farming, Water Conservation, developing cooperatives, promoting role of women and youth in village governance, educating communities on rights over natural resources etc.

The interventions of this collective organization along with its members and other associated organizations are as follows.

- Demonstrating and educating farmers on **nature farming** as a sustainable livelihood alternative for farmers especially for small plot holders and with women in developing kitchen gardens.
- Promoting **self-help groups** and **cooperatives** for credit access and organizing entrepreneurial activities.
- Educating women and youth for increasing their participation and transparency in **local Panchayat raj**.
- Undertaking awareness campaign on the issues related to **human rights and asserting rights over livelihood resources such as land, water, forest and its conservation**.
- Inculcate **democratic values and skills** within student and non-student youth for their development.

- **Relief and rehabilitation in the crisis** of natural disaster such as recent floods in Konkan, or manmade crisis such as atrocities on deprived communities.

The area of expertise of the organization in terms of content area is nature farming, cooperatives, and village governance. This organization has evolved various networking processes such as Jamin Jungle Pani Lokadhikar Andolan, Konkan Vikas Samanvaya Vyaspith, Shodh group etc. at the State level. In terms of services the expertise in information dissemination, training, lobbying, policy advocacy

CONTACT AND OTHE DETAILS OF VIKAS SAHYOG PRATISHTHAN

- Name of the Organisation: Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan (VSP)
- Address of the Organisation: 130/1040, Motilal Nagar No.1, D.B. More Marg
Goregoan (W), Mumbai - 400 104.
- Telephone with STD code: 022-2876 2135
- Fax with STD code: 022-28762035
- E-mail: vspindia@mtnl.net.in
- Website: www.vspindia.org

REGISTRATIONS DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION

- Societies Registration Number: 439/GBBSD - Apr.'95
- Public Trust Registration Number: F 18691 - Dec.'96
- Income Tax Under section 12 A: INS 33520 - Dec. '98
- FCRA Registration Number: 083780697 - Nov. '99

Significant achievements and activities during April - 2008 to March 2009

Program Development:

- Paralegal Training program for Vidharbha Region - Indian Institute of Paralegal studies
- Women Empowerment & violence - Women Power connect
- DT/DNT Rights base approach in Western Maharashtra, Vidharbh & Marathwada - Action Aid
- Productivity Development and advocacy in Vidharbha region - Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.
- Campaign for GMO resistant & Ecological Farming - Swiss Aid.
- Bio-diversity & peoples right - Adharkar Institute, Pune
- Biodiversity protection & community initiative - Oxfam Trust etc.
- Wada Na Todo Abhiyan - peoples manifesto in konkan region.
- SPMW (Social Protection for Migrant workers) - CESS Hyderabad

Program Intervention & Commencement

- Reclaiming livelihood and food security in drought prone areas of Buldhana district.
- Paralegal Training program for 20 grassroots activists from Vidharbaha region
- Campaign for GMO resistant & Ecological Farming - Ratnagiri district.
- DT/DNT Rights base approach in Western Maharashtra, Vidharbh & Marathwada - Action Aid
- Smile Konkan Centre - Konkan Region
- We can - Konkan region
- SPMW (Social Protection for Migrant workers) - Vidharbha, Konkan, Western Maharashtra & North Maharashtra regions
- Youth Development index research - Vidharbha & Western Maharashtra
- Bright Future - Buldhana

Organizational Interventions / Consultancies

- Execution of annual action plan 2008 - 2010
- Organization Development exercise with Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha
- Program formulation support to Gramin Yuva Pragatik Mandal , Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha, Shramik Sahyog & Sakav.
- Formulation of GMO campaign Proposal of Yuva Rural Association.

- Participatory Site Assessment of MSM & sex workers in Raigad district for Ankur & Pathfinderinternational.
- Workshop on agriculture & biodiversity in collaboration with Konkan Krishi Vidyapith(Balasaheb Sawant Agriculture University).

Project Wise Significant Achievements

A. Project RLFS (Reclaiming livelihood and food security in drought prone areas of Buldhana district)

VSP is working in Buldhana district from last 3 years, and intervened on addressing livelihood issues. Based on the experiences the processes on the capacity building was initiated under this project to secure food security of the deprived sections in the Buldhana district.

Key Points of the Project

- Capacity building of existing community forum which promoting alternatives of livelihood assets.
- Promotion of entrepreneur groups for value addition and fair cost for agriculture and allied agriculture produces for livelihood and food security.
- Promotion for collective interventions for developing agro based livelihood assets in form of cooperative to reduce market risks and generate livelihood & employment options at grassroots level which reduce the drudgery and establish good governance & village institutions.
- Skill up gradation and capacity enhancement of grassroots workers and organizations.

Achievements

Project Management

1. Project orientation and commencement: a project orientation workshop conducted with the network partners and associated staff to held clarity of the project intervention. Role clarity and responsibilities discussed and project commenced. Project Implementation agreement done with the local partners.
2. Appointment of the project staff: the appointment of project staff has been undertaken at VSP and local organizations (Project coordinator, field coordinator, 4 community organizer, 12 village Animators etc.)
3. Team building: five team meeting conducted on monthly basis to discuss the insights and taken review of the project implementation. The inputs sessions in each team meeting has been organized. Six monthly activity plan and network mechanism has been developed.

4. Project Activities :

- a. Started trainings on livelihood promotions the nature farming training conducted for 30 potential members from entrepreneurs groups selected for project. Due to the training cultivation of nature farming technique adopted by participants and one hector land came under cultivation in Mandava forest village Mehkar tehsil. Participants have developed live fence in their field to get more income approx. 3 acres of land covered. Mango plantation undertaken in 3 acres of land.
- b. In a view of restoration of water and water harvesting, 3 different models have been established in Nadura, Mehakar & Sehgaon tehsils. The response of villagers is very high to explore the ways.
- c. Under capacity building process peer learning workshop is conducted in month of July 2008. One hundred eight and 43 representatives of CBOs & NGOs benefited, gender, livelihood, RTI, Forest Act information & SHGs process discussed in the event.
- d. 4 new cooperative formulation processes started, 18 SHGs group got major loan in which 5 SHGs started business activities for livelihood resources.
- e. Dialogue with government agencies for water facilities in the villages under drought situation and undertaken village level advocacy events on getting employment through MREGA/NREGA scheme. Advocacy interventions on drought & health issues.

Impacts of the intervention

- The stake holders are very curious and supportive for capacity building and developing entrepreneurship aspects for food security and livelihood assets.
- The understanding on the developing assets and local resources is increased in the stake holders they are asserting project perspective.
- Attention of media on the project activities.
- Sharing and knowledge building with local NGOs, CBOs and media persons on the project perspective. Government authorities and financial institutes are keen to understand the project interventions.
- The local political leaders are asking about the intervention is going on and they are asking to start the same interventions in their constituencies, there understanding is this program is under government schemes and packages. We need to made clarity with them on this perspective.

B. Campaign for GMO resistant & Ecological Farming

In the first phase of the "Save the Farmers Campaign in Ratnagiri District", Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan has intervened to address the farming issues in Ratnagiri district of Konkan region in the support of Swiss Aid. In second intervention the conscious focus was to work mainly from women angle as the agriculture in this district is mainly depends on them and they are the more vulnerable in the distress situation in agriculture. The focus of the program was.

- Advocacy to demand favourable policies for ecological perspective and promotion for ecological cultivation methods.
- Strengthening inherent learning and capacity building processes to build up support structure to the families depended on agriculture and promote the perspective of ecological cultivation and equality perspective in context of gender.
- The awareness campaign to promote cultivation systems and sharing responsibilities within men and women and advocacy with the local institutions.
- Intervene for capacity building of rural forums to face the challenges coming through global development scenario.
- Sensitize government department and governance for taking care of proper implementation of existing feasible government schemes.

Based on above mentioned points project intervention started with member organizations in Ratnagiri district.

Project Coordination and Management

1. Project Orientation And Planning Meeting With Project Staff And Associated Organizations:

Project orientation and planning meeting with the associated organizations and staff members has been conducted at Chiplun on 18th May 2008 to discuss the program intervention perspective and decide plan of action at village level activities, the project perspective and activities details shared with the members and prepared common action plan to run the activities.

2. Appreciative Enquiry with Participating Organizations:

To promote learning and actions on the reflection periodical coordination meetings was conducted with the partner organisation to execute the project activity. Appreciative enquiry methods used for the meeting and the chief functionaries of Shramik Sahyog, Sanvad, Sahil & Sneh Samruddhi Mahila Mandal has been attended the meeting along with their program staff.

3. Field Visits Of Program Coordinator And Program Organizers:

The program coordinator and program organizers consistently visit to the field areas to enhance participation and facilitate processes at village level along with the representatives of local organizations. The focus of the meeting was to enhance sharing and learning on the farming issues and develop effective relationship with the people. The visits and discussions are more fruitful for the both side and we learn a lot from the grassroots people (women's, youths, Panchayat Members and Farmers) about the reality and issues.

Project Activities and Achievements

Awareness Campaign:

- 37 Village level meetings (Mass Meetings):

During the reporting period 37 village meetings have been conducted in Chiplun & Sangameswar blocks and 1584 (Male - 601 & Female 983) participants have been benefited for the discussion and sharing in the meeting. The issues at village level i.e village governance, health, farming issues has been discussed, there was qualitative participation from the elected member of village panchayats and assured to discuss the issues in Gram Panchyat Meetings

- 27 Street Plays on farming issues:

To enhance awareness on feasible farming cultivation the group of youths who is associated with VSP under process Vikas Anubhav has taken responsibility to organise street plays and cultural program in the project villages. Total 27 programs organised in Ratnagiri districts in which 11 programs hold in the project area.

Capacity Building & information support

- 4 Farmers Resource Center:

Facilitation and exchange on the agricultural issues 4 centres have been activated in Chiplun & Sangameswar blocks on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti (2nd October) and keep updated by availing various resource material on agriculture and ecological farming, the daily news papers are available in the farmers resource centers.

Advocacy & opinion Building

- Advocacy meeting with the government officials, local social leaders & potential farmers:

The advocacy meeting was held at Chiplun Ratnagiri on 19th May 2008 at Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Mandir to discuss the new agriculture policies: opportunities and threat to the farmers and farming communities. Above 120 farmers and other stake holder have attended the event.

- Regional Exchange Meeting on Agriculture and water issues

The regional Exchange Meeting on Agriculture & Water issues has been conducted on 4th & 5th May 2008 at Chiplun in collaboration with NCAS Pune. Dr. Mukund Ghare, senior social activist and expert in agriculture & water issue

C: Vikas Anubhav (Konkan Region)

Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan is facilitating Anubhav Shiksha Center in four district of Konkan Region i. e Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Raigad & Thane. Based on the processes evolved at state level and the project document VSP has keep focus on enhance reach out and provide opportunity to the youths to express themselves as a individual as well as Vikas Anubhav Group.

Activities and Achievements

VSP has executed its strategic plan for the year 2008 to 2011, based on the strategic planning and intervention on ASK initiatives the intervention plan has been prepared in the collaboration with the member organizations and associated groups in Konkan region. The strategic planning focus was right based approach and promotion for developing livelihood alternatives for the youth so the value based education and experiential learning kept in central point and orientation processes have been designed.

1. Youth Motivation (Yuva Prabhodhan) :

To building the perspective of youths through motivational activities, value based discussions undertaken with education institutes & colleges. The dialogue with the

college professors have been done and share the ASK core value with them i.e Social Justice, Gender justices, Democracy, Secularism, Honesty & integrity, Environmental sustainability & Dignity of labor.

Youth reach out

No.	District	Youth			Professors	Other
		Male	Female	Total		
1	Ratnagiri	753	442	1195	15	83
2	Sindhudurg	427	238	665	17	117
3	Raigad	516	326	842	10	12
4	Thane	275	175	450	0	24
		1508	929	2437	42	236
	Previous reach out	5152				

Total reach out 7589 college non collage youths

2. Orientation Program on Vikas Anubhav values

We taken 6 orientation meetings in village level in this meeting we discuss value of vikas anubhav, issues /problem of youth, livelihood opportunity etc... Also we are trying to motivate them for taking initiatives in the village development and governance aspects. The details of undertaken activities are follows

Name of the program	Venue	Dates	Participation	
			Male	Female
Orientation Meeting with youth	Guhagar	11 June 2008	17	8
Orientation meeting	Dapoli	12 June 2008	12	4
Orientation meeting	Savantwadi	17 June	22	14
Youth workshop for Ratnagiri district	Oni	21 & 22 June 2008	40	10
Youth Orientation (Ratangiri & Sindhudurg districts)	Vaibhavawadi	17 th , 18 th , 19 th August 2008	54	32
Youth orientation	Savantwadi	29 th , 30 th November 2008	34	29

3. Youth Forum :

As a part of youth forum 1201 youths are registered under Maharashtra Yuva Parishad and they have submitted membership. The youths participated are from

Chiplun , Guhaghar ,Sawantwadi, Vaibhavwadi, Phonda, Mahad ,Poladpur tehsils. 1201 youths are in process of Maharashtra Yuva Parishad

4. Youth Exchange :

- A. The youths from Konkan region was participated in various outer programs and events such as National Youth Campaign, Ahmadabad & Banglore for Vision Mission Programs. Also the opportunity given to some of the youth members to participate in National level program of WNTA, Mumbai & Delhi.
- B. 4 potential youths leaders from Konkan region is participated in Youth Study course and playing good role in the process. The youths are independently taking responsibility to enhance intervention in the region and qualitative participation
- C. Above 200 people was participated in Maharashtra Yuva Parishad inauguration event orgained in Mumbai.
- D. 17 participants participated in a policy level workshop on agriculture issues in konkan which is organized by VSP at Chiplun.
- E. 4 youths participated in biodiversity work shop organized by Konkan Krishi Vidyapith and Vikas Sahyog Prathishthan at Dapoli to protect natural resources for livelihood sustainability.

Reference Material distributed

- 1500 copies of brochure & flyers have been distributed in the region for creating positive atmosphere for the process.

Overall Outcome of the Project Intervention

- Youths are assertively reflecting on values and their issues, the interest of participated youths are increasing and they are taking leadership in mobilizing other youths for more involvement of the youths.
- The youths are more conscious about the developmental approach and to grow himself as a good civilian in the society.
- The members are very sensitive about gender based violence and difference between men and women. The understanding is increasing that men and women are equal and both has rights for access and entitlements of common resources as well as the community resources.
- Reach out enhanced in the region were the identity of institution and as a process is increasing.
- The members are participating village governance process as well as reduce barriers in form of cast, class, religion, gender and traditions.

D: Economic Justice Campaign

Economic Justice Campaign to sustain Rural Livelihood in Maharashtra which is initiated by YUVA Rural Nagpur, as a regional partner of this campaign Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan has taken responsibility to implement the specific activities in the Konkan region within the time frame negotiated with Yuva Rural Association.

Activities Implemented

1. Divisional Workshop on Agriculture Policies & Gaps: a divisional workshop on agricultural policies and policy gaps was organised at Lokmanya Tilak Vachan Mandir, Chiplun on 19th May 2008. To address the local farming issues and its context in national agriculture policy. The workshop attended by farmers, activists, expert in agriculture sector, professors and youth leaders.
2. Signature Campaign: the regional signature campaign was started from month of June 2008 on the context letter commonly prepared to give suggestions on the policy document and policy. The context of the signature campaigning was corporate approach of the government towards farming issues and policies. The government has promoted contract farming, the APMC policies, New Seed Bill, SEZ in the state and these policies and promotions are against local people and in favour to the big corporations and companies. These policies will affect the livelihood sources of the local people so the demands on government should stop these promotions and start pro farmer initiatives in the context paper and taken signatures from the various stake holders from the region.
3. Rally on the Campaign issues: The rally on economic justice issues was organised during 22 23 July 2008 in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. The perspective of the rally was to create awareness on the agriculture related policies and build up people opinion for the proper policies of the livelihood sustainability of the rural people. The points of the Rally was corporate farming and its drawbacks, the agriculture policy and gaps to fulfil and secure the livelihood of farmers, fund allocations for agricultural schemes, monoculture, market functions and rates of agro produces etc.
4. School & College Campaign: the input sessions on the campaign issue has been conducted in various colleges from Raigad, Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg district total 22 schools & colleges have been covered under college camping and the reach out maintained with above 4200 students in the region.

Meeting with Media representatives: the one day workshop with media representatives was conducted at Chiplun on 25th July 2008. To convert attention of media on the economic issues of the region. The 9 senior media representatives were attended the workshop. The campaign issues discussed with the media persons and appeal them to raise the issues in media.

Advocacy meeting: to advocate the issues at the level of administration and policy makers different meetings was conducted with the revenue department and local MLA's. The meeting with local MLA Mr. Bhai Kadam was conducted in 20th May 2008. Also the demand letters submitted to Tahasildar of 5 block i.e Chiplun, Rajapur, Ratnagiri, Vaibhavawadi & Savantwadi.

E: Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan Manifesto process implemented in Konkan region with the objectives that




1. Government should be accountable for the MDGs and fulfilment of the promises given in common minimum program.
2. Holding accountable to the political parties to put the campaign issues in their manifesto as the 15th assembly elections are coming. The declaration of peoples manifesto.

Actions performed in the process

- Regional Capacity Building workshop was conducted at Malvan 23 people grassroots activists attended the program.
- Regional meetings of the NGOs and other forums were organized to organise the events of manifesto.
- Regional public hearing was organised at Vengurla, Sindhudurg in which 2 MLA and one Minister was given assurance to present the campaign issues in front of government and their political parties
- Another exchange meeting conducted at Ratnagiri on 21st February 09 in which 1 MLA and other district head of each political party have been attended the program. Mr. Datta Patil, convener of WADANA TODO MAHAABHIYAN was the resource person

Publications and Reference Material

During the year number of initiative to publish the issue based material and publication was undertaken. The material development is helps to create identity with outer world and it was helpful to update knowledge of the associated individuals and organizations. Following material has been developed during the year

	Farming Calendar: The informative calendar for farmers was developed and published to increase consciousness on the farming issues under Shetakri Vachava Sheti Vachava Campaign. 2000 copies distributed in the field
	Publication of Karyakarta Sanvadini: On the occasion of new year the informative diary was published in which the planner and important legal information on compliances related NGOs was given in the Sanvadini and it was helpful to NGOs to follow the process and plan at their level. 2000 copies were disseminated.
	Posters and other reference material on VAW: the posters and other literature was developed on Violence Against Women and distributed in the field