

Bhasha Research and Publication Centre

Annual Report of Activities

2017-18

I.

PROMOTING LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The **People's Linguistic Survey of India** (PLSI) has received much acclaim, both nationally and internationally. During 2017-18, 12 new volumes were added to the series, bringing the total volumes published so far to 39. The following series-volumes were produced during the year:

1. *Bhashaka Svatva* (Hindi), Volume 1, Part 1
2. *The Languages of Arunachal Pradesh* (English), Volume 4, Part 2
3. *The Languages of Assam* (English), Volume 5, Part 2
4. *Bihar ki Bhashayen* (Hindi), Volume 6, Part 1
5. *The Languages of Haryana* (English), Volume 10, Part 2
6. *The Languages of Himachal Pradesh* (English), Volume 11, Part 2
7. *The Languages of Madhya Pradesh* (English), Volume 16, Part 2
8. *The Languages of Maharashtra* (English), Volume 17, Part 2
9. *The Languages of Mizoram* (English), Volume 20, Part 2
10. *The Languages of Sikkim* (English), Volume 26, Part 2
11. *Paschimbanger Bhasha* (Bangla), Volume 31, Part 3
12. *Bharatiya Sanketik Bhashayen* (Hindi), Volume 38, Part 1

The Bangla PLSI volume is recipient of the Federation of Indian Publishers 'Award for Excellence in Production' (Second Prize).

A function to felicitate the Scholars involved in the *People's Linguistic Survey of India* (PLSI) was held at the Indian International Centre on 3 August 2017. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India was the Chief Guest at the function. 200 distinguished scholars from across India remained present at the occasion.

Considering the significant contribution of the PLSI, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs invited Bhasha for a Consultation Meet of Tribal Research Institutes of India held at Bhopal on 16 February 2018. Subsequently, Research Officer, Ms. Madhuri Yadav from the Bhopal Tribal Research and Training Institute visited the Adivasi Academy on 8 March 2017 for preparing 'Guidelines on Preservation of Tribal Languages, Dialects and Scripts'. The Ministry has sought Bhasha's expertise for preserving tribal languages.

II.

RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

A) In 2017, Bhasha undertook a project with the support of Centre for Interdisciplinary Development Research, Dharwad on 'Cultural Mapping of the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes/Communities towards a Comprehensive Cultural Conservation Plan'. Under the project, Bhasha is to prepare 20 Community Ethnographies of Denotified and Nomadic Tribes of Gujarat and Rajasthan containing the socio-cultural mapping of these communities. Prepared by members of the community, these ethnographies will give an 'insider's perspective' to their beliefs, traditions, norms, social practices, values and cultural productions. In the second stage, a UNESCO style Language Vitality Assessment of sixty nomadic languages will be taken up. Finally, a Comprehensive Conservation Plan will be developed for these communities.

Bhasha held three workshops during the past year for preparing the Community Ethnographies:

- A Translation Workshop was held on 17 September 2017 at Baroda to discuss the Translation of Community Ethnographies of Gujarat into English.
- The second workshop was held on 25-26 November 2017 at Tejgadh towards Preparation of Community Ethnographies of Rajasthan
- The third and final workshop was held on 6 February 2017 at Ajmer to discuss the Translation of Community Ethnographies of Rajasthan into English

The following ten Community Ethnographies of Gujarat were rendered into English translation by scholars:

- Dafer, Miyana, Bhoi, Madari, Turi Barot, Mandor Bavri, Bharthari, Chamtha, Bharwad and Siddi

The Ethnography series has covered the following communities in Rajasthan:

- Bawari, Bhat, Gadhia Lohar, Kalbeliya, Kanjar, Nat, Raika, Saheria, Sansi

The Rajasthan Ethnographies are prepared originally in Hindi with a translation into English for non-Hindi readers.

B) Study on Outward Migration

With the support of the Centre for Multi-disciplinary Development Research, Dharwad, Bhasha Centre undertook a research study on 'Migration, Its Impact and Modernity' in Gujarat. Under the research study, in-depth discussions and personal interviews were conducted with migrants on the issues of reasons, patterns and impact of migration. The field interviews covered tribal communities in Sabarkantha, Banaskatha, Chhotadudepur, Dahod, Tapi and Narmada districts and coastal communities in Valsad district. The research study undertaken by CMDR with the support of ICSSR, Delhi, is part of a larger project to assess the extent of distress migration and determining the relation between migration and modernity in Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. As part of the study, Bhasha also collated Research Studies and Publications on migration in Gujarat. These are available at the Library of CMDR.

III

ORAL TRADITIONS, ART AND CULTURE

A. National Artists Workshop and Exhibition

With the support of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Bhasha held a National Workshop of Adivasi Artists this year along with organizing a public exhibition of their artworks in Vadodara.

From 8 to 16 January, 35 artists from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka and West Bengal came together at the Adivasi Academy to prepare their art works which included paintings, weaving, clay work, relief work, mask making, bead jewellery, jute work and sculpture. The Workshop was followed by a two-day Exhibition cum Demonstration on 17 and 18 January at the Faculty of Fine Arts, M S University in Vadodara, to facilitate exposure of urban fine arts students to Indian tribal art.

Following is a region-wise list and brief note on the artists who participated in the Workshop-Exhibition and the artistic traditions they represented.

Sr. No.	Name of the Artists	Art Represented
West Bengal		
1	Satyajit Paul	Clay Doll
2	Suman Biswas	Clay Doll
3	Suchand Besra	Sabai Grass Products
4	Bharati Dutta	Sabai Grass Products
5	Guruprada Mana	Madur Weaving
6	Tulu Sarkar	Wooden Mask
7	Jagdish Sarkar	Wooden Mask
8	Jahuran Chitrakar	Pattachitra
Madhya Pradesh		
9	Arjun Paraste	Sculpture
10	Devi Singh	Sculpture
11	Pradeep Marawi	Gondi Painting
12	Dhaneshwari Marawi	Gondi Painting and Relief Work
13	Manoj Tekam	Relief Work on Plywood
14	Santoshi Tekam	Relief Work on Plywood
15	Dubu Bariya	Bhil Painting
16	Sharma Bariya	Bhil Painting
17	Desing Dhurwe	Bhil Painting
18	Sudama Singh	Jute Work
Maharashtra		
20	Meenakshi Vadeya	Warli Panting
21	Nilesh Rajad	Warli Painting
Karnataka		
22	K. H. Jayaram	Hase Chittara
Bihar		
23	Subhash Kumar	Manjusha Painting
24	Anjana Kumari	Manjusha Painting
25	Sharwan Paswan	Madhubani Painting
26	Krishna Kumar	Madhubani Painting
Rajasthan		
27	Vishnaram	Ravanhatta artist
28	Nainaram	Ravanhatta artist
Gujarat		
28	Balubhai Rathwa	Sculpture
29	Bachaliben P Rathwa	Beadwork
30	Leelaben H Rathwa	Beadwork
31	Kinjalben Fatesing Patel	Beadwork
32	Hansaben K. Chauhan	Beadwork
33	Harsingbhai B Rathwa	Pithora Painting
34	Desingbhai Rathwa	Pithora Painting
35	Lalsing D. Rathwa	Painting

The Workshop resulted in wonderful artworks for display at the Museum. The Exhibition at Vadodara had an unprecedented turnout, both in terms of viewers and buyers. The Faculty members and students of the Faculty of Fine Arts thronged the Exhibition on both days and spent extensive time observing the artists at work and holding discussions with them. Visitors included writers, art collectors, doctors, industrialists, and performing artists. Groups of children and teachers from local schools too visited the Exhibition. On the sales front, the artists themselves priced their items and received 100 percent of their sale proceeds.

In addition to supporting the Workshop and Exhibition, ONGC has installed 30 solar street lights on the campus of the Adivasi Academy. Basin Manager, Mr. Arun Kumar took the decision to make this donation during his visit to the Adivasi Academy to inaugurate the Artists' Workshop.

B. Study and Documentation of Art and Craft Skills among Adivasi/Local Communities of Chhota Udepur District

Under this study being carried out with the support of Tribal Sub-plan, Chhotaudepur, Bhasha is documenting the following arts/craft of the Chhota Udepur region: Pithoro Painting, Stonework, Bead Jewellery, Pottery, Wooden Sculpture, Textiles and Canework.

The study will carry a detailed documentation of the following aspects :

- Introduction to the Art/craft practice
- The process of art/craft production
- Utility of the Items made
- Impact of Modernisation on the practice
- Marketing
- Geographical area of the art/craft
- Any stories or songs related to the practice
- Any rituals associated with the practice
- Interviews with master artists

The study will be published as a book and will be useful to promote the arts and craft of the region and generate livelihood for them. Being in Gujarati, it will also be accessible to the communities covered.

IV

A) CHILD PROTECTION (UNICEF)

For the past four years Bhasha Centre with the support of UNICEF, has been active in 133 villages of Kanwant taluka of Chhotaudepur District to provide a safe and protected environment to children. The project requires Bhasha to liaison with the government to implement the POCSO, Juvenile Justice Acts by strengthening the official structures and mechanisms related to child protection and capacitating the community to adhere to child protection measures. When Bhasha began, the community had little idea of the laws on child protection. After four years of working closely with the government and community members, there is sufficient awareness of the need and ways of ensuring a child friendly environment in Kanwant.

2017-18 being the final year of project intervention in Kanwant, Bhasha focused on strengthening community structures and their linkages with the government units overseeing child protection. The following are the key project activities which took place during the year:

- A block level review was conducted of the child protection issues addressed by the Village Child Protection Committees.
- Linkages between Village Child Protection Committee and District Child Protection Committee were strengthened.
- 150 schools of Kanwant were covered under an Orientation Programme in Child Protection Policy. In all, 750 staff members (5 from each school) were covered under the orientation.
- 133 Village Volunteers were felicitated for their contribution in raising awareness about child protection issues in their villages.
- Members of 'Baal Manch', a platform for children, made a presentation to the local authorities on specific issues of child rights violation in the district
- 37 Adolescents were linked to the government's skill building courses, among these 14 adolescents gained admission to the Bedside Assistant Training course at Muni Seva Ashram at Goraj.
- A meeting of 42 sarpanches was held to discuss child protection issues in the talukas.
- A list of 432 single parents and 55 orphan children was submitted to the District Child Protection Unit for availing them benefits of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

- 17 Bal Jagruti Kendras were set up in as many villages. The Kendras will sensitise the village on child protection as well as draw attention in instances of child rights violation.

B. Child Protection (Child Protection Unit, Chhotaudepur)

Bhasha was invited by the Child Protection Unit, Chhotaudepur to form Child Protection Committees in 360 villages of Naswadi and Chhotaudepur talukas. Bhasha trained a team in the process and procedure to be followed for forming the committees. Bhasha's team held community meetings in the villages and formed 144 villages of Chhotaudepur taluka and 216 villages of Naswadi taluka.

V

Vasantshala Training Centre for Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education

During 2017-18 Vasantshala successfully admitted 39 children to government schools. 21 children continued from the earlier batch and Vasantshala enrolled 40 new children, making the total number of enrollments 61. However, a few children dropped out (due to sickle cell anaemia and other illness) and in all, 54 children remained.

Of these children, 33 children are ready to be admitted to government schools in June 2018.

Besides the regular activities of Vasantshala, this year two significant developments took place.

Firstly, Bhasha had two young interns sponsored by VIA e.V. – Verein für Internationalen und interkulturellen Austausch, Berlin, Deutschland for a year-long internship. Mr. Florian Bötsch and Ms. Johanna Hammerl joined Bhasha in September 2017 and have since stayed on the campus of the Adivasi Academy. Florian and Johanna have been teaching English to the Vasantshala children and they have now picked up basic vocabulary and are able to comprehend simple sentences. Having a deep interest in sports, Florian has been training the children in sports and games. The children have spent a lot of fun time with Florian, Johanna and their friends (who visit them at Tejgadh) telling stories, learning songs and making German food!

Bhasha was selected under the American India Foundation's prestigious Clinton Fellowship Programme. Bhasha had sent in an application for carrying out an 'Analytical Study of the Effectiveness/Impact of Vasantshala's Mother Tongue and Multilingual Programme'. Three applicants to the fellowship had Bhasha as one among the three organisations which they had to opt for. Of the three, Bhasha was awarded Ms. Lina J. Khan from the U.S. Holding a graduation in Linguistics and post-graduation in Public Policy, Lina has experience in Monitoring and Evaluation. On a ten-month fellowship which began in September 2017, Lina has stayed at Tejgadh and spent time studying Vasantshala's approach and visiting government schools. She will complete her fellowship in June 2018.

VI

HEALTHCARE

A) AYUSH AYURVED

The AYUSH Ayurved Centre at Tejgadh is being supported by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. The project intends to cover 150 villages of Chhotaudepur taluka in a three year period.

- During the two years it has been running, the project has completed a baseline survey in all 150 villages to capture the health status and the medicinal practices prevalent in the area.
- The AYUSH Centre held 19 health camps and awareness programmes in the following villages in the past year: Chichod, Zoz, Padarwant, Luni, Gabadiya, Gondariya, Koli, Jodavant, Timla, Chisadiya, Vachlibhit, Khajuriya, Moti Sadhli, Khadkhad, Rangpur, Mithibor, Tundwa, Jher, Kanas. In all 1,433 patients were covered by the health camps; they were diagnosed for arthritis pain, digestive disorders, skin ailments, respiratory and urinary tract infections, gynaecological issues, sickle cell anaemia, anaemia, thyroid, diabetes and blood pressure. In cases requiring long-term medication, the patients screened during the health camp come to the Ayush Centre at Tejgadh for further treatment.
- Awareness material about Ayush initiative along with information on symptoms of ailments/illnesses and the use of local plants in the healing process was prepared in Rathwi language and disseminated among schools teachers, panchayat members, college students and families.
- The Ayush centre at Tejgadh runs a weekly OPD. During the past year, 1004 old patients continued their treatment at the OPD and 500 new patients were recorded. Complaints include Respiratory Tract Disorders as Cardiac asthma, bronchial asthma, cold and cough, bronchitis, chronic cold; Gastro Intestinal disorders, Osteoarthritis, Respiratory and Urinary Tract Infections, anaemia, sickle cell, spondylitis, thyroid, high blood pressure, dermatological disorders, obesity, joint disorders, fever and diabetes.
- A pathological laboratory for basic tests is set up under the project so that patients can get their tests done immediately and do not have to travel long distances. Patients who come for OPD and for health camps, both have access to the laboratory facilities. During the year, the laboratory provided services to 1687 patients by conducting tests for sickle

cell anaemia, HBsAG, Sickle Cell, H.B., blood group, Bilirubin, Widal Test, RBS, FBS, PP 2Bs, Uri R-M, Pregnancy test.

- The AYUSH Centre held Orientation Programmes for Government School Teachers in the district to reach out AYUSH Intervention (Ayurved) among them. The purpose of the Workshop is to equip teachers with the medicinal knowledge of local plants and herbs. Four workshops were held during the year on 27 December 2017, 30 January 2018, 22 February 2018 and 27 March 2018. In all 116 teachers in the Chhotaudepur district benefitted from the programme. Eminent experts were invited to address the teachers on a range of topics. The experts include the following:
 - Dr. Kalpana Patel : Children Ailments and Cure
 - Dr. Kiran Chaudhari: The Benefits of Panchkarma
 - Dr. Anilkumar Pandya: Plants and Medication
 - Dr. Vandana Vyas: Life Sciences
 - Dr. Ankur Patel: Ayurved at Home
 - Dr. Rishi Joshi: Mother and Childcare
 - Dr. Rajesh Khakhariya: The Significance of Daily Routine
 - Dr. Dharmishtha Trivedi: Women's Health Issues
 - Dr. Purshottam Mistri: Importance of Lifestyle in Healthcare
 - Dr. Sudhir Joshi: Importance of Healthcare
 - Dr. Ashutosh Pandya: Household Benefits of Ayurveda
 - Dr. Devarshi Pandya: The Benefits of Medicinal Plants

- One of the objectives of the AYUSH project is to see the complementariness between Ayurvedic and the traditional healing practices of tribal communities. To establish a dialogue between ayurved practitioners and traditional healers, the AYUSH centre held two joint workshops on 18 April 2017 and 23 March 2018. In all 40 modern and traditional practitioners came together and had detailed discussions on the following areas of medicine:
 - Ayurved and Public Health
 - The Limitations of Medical Diagnosis
 - Medicinal Plants and their Use
 - Child birth and Women's Health
 - Medicinal Plants and Common Ailments

- A herbal garden to disseminate knowledge and use of traditional plants has been created on the campus of the Adivasi Academy. There are 71 varieties of herbs and 340 plants growing at the herbal garden. Each plant is given a signage indicating the scientific and local name of the plant and its use for particular ailments.

The AYUSH Committee visited Tejgadh for a Project Review on 9 September 2017. Bhasha was further invited to make a presentation during the final AYUSH Project Review Meeting held at Delhi on 12 October 2017.

B. PRAKRITI HEALTHCARE CENTRE

While the Ayush project was undertaken in 2015, the Adivasi Academy has been making health interventions since 2000. There is at the Adivasi Academy, the Prakriti Health Centre which is into allopathic treatment. Dr. Kiran Shinglot, Dr. Shakuntala Joshi and Dr. Jayshree Rao offer diagnosis and treatment to the patients. The Prakriti OPD mainly runs on Sundays. On other days when the patients are few, they are attended by Resident Director, Dr. Arvind Pratap. Since April, there were a total of 4425 patients (1882 men, 2153 women and 390 children) to the centre with complaints of skin problems, RTI, women's health issue, muscular ailments, cardio problems, neurological complaints, gastroenteritis, sickle cell and general ailments.

C. This year, Bhasha took up a small project with the support of India Friends Association, U.S., to assess the impact of government health schemes. Bhasha took up a survey of the extent to which the local community is benefitted by the government's various health programmes. The Survey analysis has revealed that of the 8 Health Schemes that are being covered under this project, the most important as well as popular health schemes which cover most illnesses of family members are Amrutam Card (full family), Rashtriya Swasthya Vima Yojna (full family), and Janani Suraksha Yojana Card (pregnant women to register with nearest govt. hospital for pre-natal medication, safe delivery and post-natal care). While Chiranjeevi Card (mother and infant, but especially for pregnant women who are likely to need C-section care to monitor pregnancy), Mamta Card (expectant mothers and infant till one-year old), are equally important, they do not seem to have many takers. The DOTS card (for TB patients) and Sickle Cell Card (for Sickle Cell Anaemia patients) are given only to persons when they are diagnosed with these illnesses and are given by the agencies appointed by the Health Department. The Rogi Kalyan Samiti (which needs to monitor working of local Primary Health Centres, and ensure that all health facilities implemented by the government works actively and effectively) have been formed in all 13 villages under Survey but informal inquiry with villagers by Survey team-members regarding their involvement and working has revealed that the Samitis have only been formed but they have no or little idea how to go about doing their work. They require capacity-building.

The analysis has also revealed that in some of the remote villages where there is very low literacy, fewer families have taken the advantage of the health schemes on offer as the application forms are impossible to fill in (for an illiterate person).

Based on the survey, Bhasha organised awareness programmes and community meetings in the 13 villages of Chhotaudepur district to reach out government health schemes among the community. On account of Bhasha's efforts, the registrations in government schemes has gone up by 20 percent.

VII EVENTS and VISITORS

Events

Bhasha staff and volunteers from Vadodara participated in the Vadodara Marathon on 7 January 2018. Intern Florian Botsch ran 15 kms under the Vadodara Marathon's International Category to raise funds for Bhasha.

The annual Kaleshwari Mela was held on 13 February 2018. This year, nearly 8,000 individuals gathered to see the mela. The mela was supported by Neogen Chemicals Ltd. whose representatives remained present on the occasion. Bhasha released the *Lakhara* magazine on the occasion.

Visitors

The Adivasi Academy received 2883 visitors during the year which includes children from 20 local schools, 10 universities/colleges as SNTD, M. S. University of Baroda, Azim Premji University, government officers, research scholars, theatre experts and artists.

Developments on the 'Centre of Excellence' front

After a gap of two years, The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has released a grant of Rs. 14,06, 946 under the scheme "Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education" for the following activities:

1. A Pilot Study of Life-Skills among Adivasi and Nomadic Communities of Chhotaudepur and Mahisagar Districts of Gujarat
2. Preparation of Bibliography of Tribal Studies in Gujarat and
3. Upgrading the Tribal Archive Websites on Indian Languages, Audio-visual Documentation and E-publications

The Ministry had called for a meeting on 3 July 2017 and 8 March 2018 to discuss the activities under 'Centre of Excellence'. Though the above project was submitted for 2017-18, it received approval in March 2018. Bhasha is expected to complete the work within 8 months and has been asked to send a new proposal for the year 2018-19 focusing on tribal customary laws, dying languages, music and cuisine.