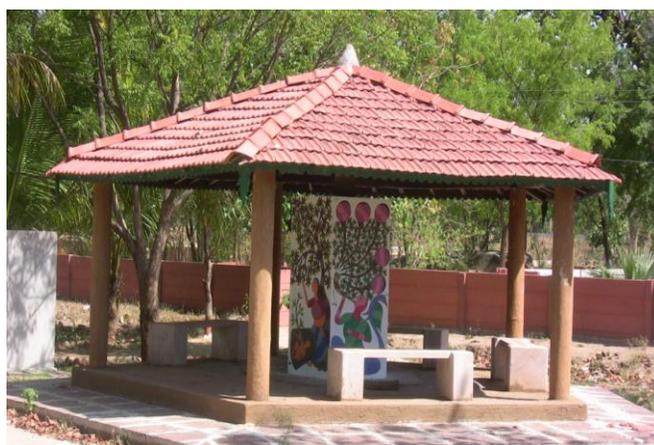


Bhasha Research and Publication Centre



Annual Activity Report

2013-14

Languages: Protection and Promotion

- The *People's Linguistic Survey of India* which Bhasha Centre commenced in 2010, was completed covering all States and Union Territories of the country. To dedicate the volumes to the nation and to felicitate the PLSI contributors, Bhasha held the 'Bhasha Prabha' event at Delhi from 4th to 6th September 2013. The programme, held in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Orient Blackswan and Indira Gandhi National Open University was attended by all PLSI State Co-ordinators, Volume Editors, publishers and Bhasha well-wishers at Delhi. Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Minister for Culture, Govt. of India, presided over the Dedication Ceremony held at Gandhi Smriti.

Of a total of 50 volumes running in 35,000 pages planned under the PLSI series, volumes were published and released for the states of Maharashtra, Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand and on Indian Sign Language. Already, 35 state volumes have been submitted to the publisher and are in the publication process and 7 volumes are in the final editorial stage. The publishers plan to bring out all the PLSI volumes by December 2015. The significant research and information on an overall 780 languages covered under the survey is being brought online on the PLSI website (link of the website : www.peopleslinguisticsurvey.org).

- Bhasha initiated in 2012, preparation of a Ethnography series covering all tribal and nomadic communities in India, about 800 in number. Gujarat is the first state to be covered in the series. In all, 136 communities are identified in the state of Gujarat, of which Ethnographies for 32 communities are completed, the work on 35 communities is in progress and preparatory work on the remaining 69 studies will soon be initiated. The communities in Gujarat include the tribal, nomadic, pastoral and desert communities. During the year, workshops were convened at Mehsana, Baroda, Chorwad, Patan, Padumdungri and Tejgadh for discussion on the ethnographies. A team of over hundred community persons are involved in the preparation of the Gujarat Ethnography series.
- Bhasha was invited by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Gujarat to prepare and disseminate multi-lingual Pictorial Glossaries in eight tribal languages of Gujarat (Rathwi, Panchmahali Bhili, Dungal Bhili, Dungal Bhili, Gamit, Garasia, Chaudhari and Dehwali). Bhasha distributed 40,000 copies of the glossaries worth Rs 35,66,250 across 7925 tribal schools covering 12 tribal districts of Gujarat: Vadodara, Bharuch, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Tapi, Dangs, Panchmahals, Dahod, Narmada, Valsad, Navasari and Surat). The glossaries will contribute to promoting mother-tongue education in the state and facilitate communication between teachers and tribal children.

- Bhasha launched its e-book website which will host all of Bhasha's publications (link of the website : www.bhashaebooks.org).
- Bhasha opened the Bhasha Van or Walkway of Languages to public viewing. Already, 80 languages spoken in Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, are recorded and installed on audio-guides, providing visitors with a commentary on the language history and family, the regions where they are spoken, songs, stories, proverbs, anecdotes, jokes and music clips. The commentary is available in the original language along with a translation in Gujarati and English. The Bhasha Van will be gradually expanded to cover the borders of the entire Adivasi Academy's campus. A unique concept, the Bhasha Van is the only display of its kind. IGNOU has taken up the concept and is developing a similar site on its campus.
- To promote tribal artists and art practices, the Adivasi Academy opened a tribal produce outlet on its campus. The outlet offers for sale tribal art products and is finding good support from the visitors at the Academy.

Art and Culture

- The Photo Archival website for displaying the archival collection of nearly 40,000 digital images with the Vaacha museum was launched in December 2013. The website presently has 6000 images accessible online. This is an open source collection to which further deposits in the digital format will be added. (link of the website : www.bhashaarchival.org)
- After documenting the tribal music of Gujarat, Chhatisgarh and Assam, Bhasha plans to extend its music consortium to cover other states of India. Towards this end the Adivasi Academy held an Ethno-Music Workshop during February 2014. Artists from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Gujarat participated in the workshop to discuss and document the music traditions in these states.
- A Visual Artists Workshop was held from 4th to 9th May 2014 at the Adivasi Academy. The workshop hosted interactive sessions between traditional and urban artists from the fields of painting and sculpture. The workshop resulted in interactive practices of traditional and modern art forms.

- Since Bhasha Centre had not held any event for Barodians for quite some time, a two day Exhibition on Tribal Art and Literature was held at the Faculty of Fine Arts, The M. S. University of Baroda on 22nd and 23rd October 2013. Inaugurated by Prof. K. G. Subramanyan, the exhibition had on display tribal art and books from the Chhotaudepur area and hosted interactive sessions between tribal artists and students of Fine Arts Faculty.
- The annual Kaleshwari Mela instituted by Bhasha was held on 27th February 2014 at Panchmahals. The *mela* has become extremely popular in the area and this year the gathering included performing groups from Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal along with nearly 12000 spectators from around the area.
- The Budhan Theatre has emerged as a group active in both the creative arts and activism. The group continued to spread its outreach through workshops and performances at institutes and forums across the country.

Major workshops were held with :

- World Learning Organisation, Ahmedabad
- Gujarat Sahitya Parishad, Ahmedabad
- FLAME School of Performing Arts, Pune
- Apne Aap Women Worldwide, Delhi and
- Valley School, Bangalore

The Budhan Theatre performed at various forums of which the key performances were held at Kubernagar Gujarati School; Rangmandal, Ahmedabad; Adarsh, Ahmedabad; Arshinagar Project Theatre Festival; Jadhavpur University; Nirma University, Ahmedabad; and Lok Kala Manch, Gomtipur.

Budhan Theatre has received much acclaim and has drawn scholarly research. During the year, Prof. William Gould from Leeds University visited Chharanagar for a film project on Chharanagar and the Budhan Theatre. Other scholars included Prof. Jane Plastow from Leeds University and Dr. Dia Da Costa from Queens University, Canada.

Education

- The Adivasi Academy ran 63 remote learning centres with the support of Reach to Teach, UK in Chhotaudepur, Kanwant and Naswadi talukas of Vadodara district for providing hand holding to the centre children enrolled to government schools. Earlier, the Reach to Centres catered to out-of-school children in the particular faliyas or sub-villages. Last year, in addition to ensuring smooth transition of the children to the government schools, a fresh survey of out-of-school children in the 50 project villages was conducted which has identified 5076 out of school children. This survey is submitted to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Gujarat and the District Education Office who have agreed to commence Special Training Programmes for these children at their respective locations.
- *Vasantsbala: Mother Tongue and Multi-Lingual Education Centre* at Tejgadh enrolled in 2013 a group of 52 children of which 40 children were prepared to be transitioned to government schools in the new academic session to commence in June 2014. A group of organizations including Aide et Action, Eklavya, Pratham and Samavesh have approached Bhasha to organize trainings in multilingual education for their teachers and education teams at Tejgadh. The training is to be supported by the Hemendra Kothari Foundation.
- The batch of 13 women students admitted to the the Certificate in Rural Healthcare course in July 2013 successfully completed the programme in December 2013. A new batch of 9 students admitted in January 2014 who will complete their training in June 2014. The Adivasi Academy has an arrangement with Muni Sewa Ashram, Goraj wherein these students move on to pursue a six-month Vocational Training Courses at Goraj which are certified by the Tribal Development Department, Govt. of Gujarat with assured placements.

The Prakriti clinic continued to function and received during the year, 8040 patients including 3660 men, 3210 women and 1200 children.

- A one-day workshop on ‘Multilingual Education and Devising ICT Material’ for use of teachers and children with the Regional Co-ordinators of Aide-et-Action India, was held at the Adivasi Academy on 22nd and 24th February 2014.

Development Work

Bhasha created over the years five community based organizations to carry forward the development work initiated by the Adivasi Academy across the tribal belt of Gujarat. These organizations include:

1. Adivasi Chaitanya Trust (Vadodara region)
2. Samveg Foundation (Micro-Credit Federation for Gujarat)
3. Kaleshwari Sanskrutik Trust (Panchamahals region)
4. Tapi Rachnatmak Trust (Surat, Tapi and Dang areas)
5. Sarvangi Vikas Trust (Narmada region)

The activities of these organizations include Micro Finance, Micro Enterprise, Food Grain Banks, Organic Farming, Drip Irrigation and Vermicompost. In a new initiative these organizations initiated work with farmers for replenishing and developing water sources to promote agriculture in their areas.

Recognition and Awards

Bhasha received major recognition. Prof. Ganesh Devy, Founder, Bhasha Research Centre and Adivasi Academy, Tejgadh, was conferred the Padmashree in March 2014 in recognition of his contribution to Education and Literature.

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) has acquired from Prof. Ganesh Devy all his published works and unpublished manuscripts, personal correspondence with contemporaries and documents related to his work on language conservation and rights of denotified communities and tribals. The documents running in 40,000 pages will be preserved at the NMML and will be available to researchers in future.

Budhan Theatre's lead actor Kalpana Gagdekar was awarded the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award 2014, for her outstanding accomplishment in bringing dignity and hope for the denotified and nomadic tribes through theatre. Kalpana was also awarded the Kaleshwari Sanman 2014 for her outstanding contribution as theatre artist to the DNT movement.

Bhasha received recognition as a Recognized Research Centre of IGNOU; whereby Bhasha Centre can offer Ph.D. Programme in the area of Language, Literature and Translation under overall co-ordination of School of Translation Studies and Literature of IGNOU.

Visitors

Bhasha had the privilege of visits from:

- Dr. Nandini Rao, Managing Director, Ms. Uday Rao and Ms. Ketaki Bose, Orient Blackswan (June 2013)
- Shri Vinod Rao, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate, Vadodara (July 2013)
- Dr. Kamala Beniwal, Governor of Gujarat (21st September 2013)
- Shri Jenu Dewan, District Collector, Chhotaudepur (September 2013)
- Prof. Tirtheshwar Singh, Acting Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, (2nd October 2013)
- Mr. Julian from *Le Monde* (19th October 2013)
- Research Team of IGNOU (23rd-24th November 2013)
- Prof. T. V. Kattimani, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (February 2014)
- Officials from CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award 2014 for consideration of award to Ms. Kalpana Gagdekar (1st February 2014)
- Dr. Deepa Bhatnagar and Shri Iqbal Ahmed from Nehru Memorial and Museum Library (25th to 28th March 14)
- Students from the following institutes visited the Adivasi Academy for rural exposure and project work: from the Departments of Fine Arts, Sociology, Museology of M. S. University; Tata Institute of Social Sciences; Hemendracharya North Gujarat University, Patan; Indira Gandhi National Tribal University; N. S. Patel Arts College, Anand; Sardar Patel University; Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad; Reliance Foundation, Mumbai; IRMA, Anand; School for International Training, Jaipur and FLAME, Pune.

- The Vaacha Museum had 954 visitors from various states, schools and universities.

Funding Support

During the year Bhasha Centre received funding support from the following international organisations and the government:

The Ford Foundation (U.S.), Reach to Teach (U.K.), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, Jamsetji Tata Trust, Mumbai and Directorate of Museums, Government of Gujarat

Of these, the projects supported by Jamsetji Tata Trust, Ford Foundation and Council for Social Development were successfully completed.

Bhasha's Websites

www.bhasharesearch.org, www.adivasiacademy.org, www.peopleslinguisticsurvey.org,
www.bhashaarchival.org, www.bhashaebooks.org

Compiled for Bhasha Centre by Vipul and Sonal

24th June 2014