

A Report on

Visit to Adivasi Pada at Umar Mali Near Kasara

27th March, 2010



Study Conducted by



Mai Marathi Sanstha, Mumbai

www.maimarathi.org

Preface

Maharashtra is said to be one of the most active state in our country. However, there are some places not far from Mumbai which are still miles away from development. In a bid **to sensitize its members about prevalent situation and to focus our future programme outside Mumbai**, Mai Marathi organises study visits each year to remote places, this helps the members to study the real situation on hand. Previously similar kind of visit was organised at Prabal Machi, 30 Kms from Panvel.

The object of this stopover was to visit three adivasi padas at Umar Mali a unscheduled station after Khardi. The team led by Ms.Seema Shelar, Head, Education & Child Care Cell, Mai Marathi, aptly supported by Shri Abhimanyu Baste & Shri Dattatraya Walvankar along with the team of Mai Marathi visited these padas and interacted with people. This report is a public document meant with an effort to highlight the prevalent situation in the area where the study team visited. It also suggests & seeks to undertake some strategic interventions to overcome the existing situation.

I place on record heartfelt thanks to the entire team of Mai Marathi. A special word of thanks to Shri Jeevraj Sawant from Rashtriya Seva Dal & Smt. Rajani Sahastrabuddhe, Rudra Sanstha, Sharad Thakare from Meljol. I also appreciate Shri Samir Manchekar of Mai Marathi for doing the entire groundwork for this visit. Last but not the least in any ways, I sincerely acknowledge here all the donors who responded to our appeal and donated Money, Books & Clothes for the students. On behalf of Mai Marathi team I hereby would like to announce that assure that each and every penny was spent only for the purpose it is meant.

Bhushan Paithankar, President

Mai Marathi Sanstha, Mumbai

Visiting Team

- 1) Shri Vijay Joshi, Secretary, Mai Marathi Sanstha
- 2) Ms. Seema Shelar, Treasurer & Head, Education & Childcare Cell, Mai Marathi
- 3) Shri Abhimanyu Baste, Programme Coordinator
- 4) Shri Dattaram Walvankar, Programme Co-Coordinator
- 5) Shri Samir Manchekar, Member, Mai Marathi Sanstha
- 6) Shri Jeevraj Sawant, Rastriya Seva Dal (NGO)
- 7) Mrs. Rajani Sahastrabuddhe, Rudra Sanstha (NGO)
- 8) Shri Sharad Thakre, Meljol (NGO)
- 9) Shri Bharat Korde, Member, Mai Marathi Sanstha
- 10) Shri Nimish Nadkarni, Member, Mai Marathi Sanstha
- 11) Shri Bhushan Joshi, Member, Mai Marathi Sanstha
- 12) Ms. Anjali Wadekar, Member, Mai Marathi Sanstha
- 13) Shri Nitesh Mahadik, Member, Mai Marathi Sanstha

Village Surveyed

Shirol Village (03 kms off Umar Mali Station). No. of Pada Visited : Three

- 1) Chafyacha Pada
- 2) Ambyacha Pada
- 3) Pethyacha Pada

Date of Survey : 27March 2010 (Saturday)

Methodology Adopted

- 1) On the spot visit to the village.
- 2) Interaction with Students, Teachers & Villagers.

The village Shirol comes under Shahapur Taluka in Thane District. A bit of information about Thane District & Shahapur Taluka is therefore pre- necessitated to get a clear picture about the place surveyed.



Thane District Thana District at a Glance

Geographical Location	
North Latitude	18 ° 42' to 20 ° 20'
East Longitude	72 ° 45' to 73 ° 48'
Climate & Rainfall	
Minimum Temperature	17.5 ° Celsius
Maximum Temperature	34.4 ° Celsius
Average Rainfall	2,576 mm.
Administrative Departments	
Total Tahsils	15
Total Panchayat Samiti	13
Cities	37
Total Villages	1,748
Desert Villages	23
Population (As per 2001 Census)	
Total	81,31,849
Rural	22,29,376
Urban	59,02,473
Male	43,77,747
Female	37,54,102
Administrative Institutions	
Municipal Corporations	6
Municipal Councils	9
Gram Panchayat	960
I.R.D.P. Blocks	13
Police Stations	61
Police Out Post	111
Agriculture	
Geographical Area	9,33,700 Hectors
Area under Forest	3,30,300 Hectors
Area Not Available for Cultivation	1,27,900 Hectors
Total Cultivable Land	4,29,500 Hectors
Literacy	
Total	80.67 %
Male	87.06 %
Female	73.10 %
Animal Husbandry (Animal Census 1997)	

Total Livestock	11,57,000
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Co-operatives (2003-2004)

Total Co-op. Society	19,695
Agriculture Co-op. Credit society	411
Non Agricultural Co-op. Credit Society	1,381
Other Cooperative Societies	17,903

Irrigation

Major Projects	2
Medium Projects	1
Beneficial Area	77,185 Hectors

Industry (2003)

Registered Industries	5,084
Working Registered Industries	4,632

Electricity

Electrified Villages	1,748
Electricity used for Household	2,30,42,60,000 Kilowatts Hours
Electricity used for Agriculture	6,31,10,000 Kilowatts Hours
Electricity used for Industry	3,19,21,30,000 Kilowatts Hours

Public Health

Hospitals	28
Dispensaries	43
Primary health Centres (PHC)	122

Education

Primary Schools	4,518
Secondary Schools	937
Higher Education Institutes	189
Adult Education Adivasi Ashram Schools	72
Govt. I.T.I.	15
Private I.T.I.	11

Transport & Communication

Total Railway Track	286 Kilometer
Villages Connected by Permanent roads	1,589
Villages Connected by Temporary roads	45
Total Road Length	6,350 Kilometers
National Highway Length	226 Kilometers
State Highway Length	1,205 Kilometers
District Roads Length	1,980 Kilometers
Village Roads (Rural) Length	2,939 Kilometers
Post Offices	428

Telegraph offices	49
Number of Telephones	8,55,771

Shahapur Taluka

Total Villages	228
Population	
Male	1,40,587
Female	1,32,757
Total	2,73,304
Castewise	
Scheduled Castes	11,211
Scheduled Tribes	89,997
Literacy	
Male	80.69
Female	57.19
Average	69.30
Land under cultivation	(in 00 hectares)
Geographical Area	1,574
Forest Cover	714
Under Cultivation	664
Under Irrigation	15
Main Crops	(in 00 hectares)
Rice	146
Nachani	36
Wari	10
Education	
Institutions	410
Teachers	1,165
Students	33,563

The mentioned team of Mai Marathi (page no. 03) reached Umar Mali Station at 09.30 am which is actually a non scheduled stop before Kasara Station on the Central Line.

Shirol village is about 03 kms off Umar Mali, towards Mumbai Agra National Highway No.03. It takes around 15 minutes by vehicle, from Umar Mali Station drive on National Highway No 3 towards Nashik to the village. The Adivasi Pada can be reached through a mud ridden road.

In Shirol Village, there are 12 Adivasi Padas. The team visited three Padas & interacted with the Students & Teachers in the Primary Schools. The Padas that the team visited were :

- 1) Ambyacha Pada
- 2) Chafyacha Pada
- 3) Pethyada Pada

The population of these three Padas is around 350. Ambyacha Pada houses 44 houses, Chafyacha Pada has 43 houses, Pethyacha Pada has 42 houses. Electrification has been done in the village. The road leading to these Padas are not developed. Though one can see pipes and stones kept aside on the way for building the road. It was informed, that these stones were lying there for years and the road was never constructed. The distance towards the Padas by walk is about 30 minutes. Though Electricity has reached village, the schools we visited at Chafyachapada & Ambyacha Pada were not connected with Electricity. The following observations were noted during the interaction with Students, Teachers & Villagers are as under :

- 1) **Composition of the Village** : The village comprises of people from nomadic Thakar Tribes.
- 2) **Modern Signs** : The Electrification of Village is done, there are no Landlines yet in the Padas, but people have cell phones. Some villagers have satellite dish antennas.
- 3) **Occupation** : Farming during Monsoon (Kharif Crop). Work as labourer in lean period. Few men were working with Central Railways & Telephone as Contractual

Labourer. Those working as Labourers with these organisations were bit well off than other. Paddy & Wari is cultivated during monsoon.

- 4) **Schools** : 12 padas have 12 primary schools upto 04th standard. There is one Ashram School about 01 hour walking distance from these Pada. This being the residential school, people avoid sending their kids to secondary education and utilize the kids for household or farming activity. Parents usually send their kids to school as both the parents are engaged in their occupation. Mid Day Meal Scheme also happens to be a dominant factor here. The Schools are Government aided Primary School and there are two teachers in each schools.
- 5) **Dropout Rate** : The dropout rate after 04th standards is unusually high due to the reasons cited above.
- 6) **Vices** : About 99% of the villagers were chronic alcoholic and had other vices. The economy of the village is also dependent on boot legging.
- 7) **Political Groupings** : The Gram Panchayat is currently under the control of NCP
- 8) **Sanitation**: There are wells in each Pada. The water lasts till March end, in April & May water is supplied by Tankers.
- 9) **Medical Facilities**: There is a Primary Healthcare Centre at Shirol, but the doctors rarely visit there. There are hospitals at Kasara.

The Kids were very well trained in chafyacha pada. The teachers namely Shri Sandeep Wakchaure & Shri Dileep Shinde were taking very good initiative through innovate ways of learning. The kids were living in extreme poverty, none of them had footwear to wear, the dresses were torn and soiled. They did not have the requisite books, study material etc. Few students looked very bright and promising.

As a part of this visit Mai Marathi distributed Stationery items like drawing books, color boxes, pencils, sharpners, erasers, rulers and chocolates, biscuits etc. It also appealed members to donate clothes etc. the following was the collection, which was distributed to the kids.

Received with Thanks

Name	Donation
Shri Milind Borsutkar	Rs. 1500
Shri Bhushan Paithankar	Rs. 1500
Shri Shubham Takle	Rs. 100
Ms. Sangeeta	Clothes
Shri Ganesh	Clothes
Shri Sajan	Clothes
Shri Rupesh	Clothes
Ms. Nanda	Clothes
Ms. Smita	Clothes
Master Neel Shelar	Clothes
Shri Santosh Patil	Pencils & Erasers
Ms. Leena Kalangutkar	Clothes
Ms. Prafulla	Bhagwadgeeta
Shri Vijay joshi	Clothes & Biscuits
Ms. Rosy Remedios	Clothes
Shri Anand Atre	Rs 500
Ms. Lata Patkar	Clothes & Stationery
Ms. Pallavi Bhatkar	Clothes & Stationery
Ms. Prachi Madhavi	Clothes & Stationery
Shri Gautam Gupta	Clothes & Stationery
Ms. Sunita Sawardekar	Clothes & Stationery
Ms. Sayali Nalawade	Clothes & Stationery
Shri Nanda Shah	Clothes & Stationery

Photo Gallery



The Primary School at Chafyacha Pada



The Students at Chafyacha Pada 72 in all.



An Improptu Cultural Programme. Students performing Adivasi Dance.



Sane Guruji's Rashtriya Seva Dal's National Executive Member
Shri Jeevraj Sawant interacting with kids.



Distribution of Drawing Materials, Biscuits, Sharpners, Erasers, Pencils, Color Box etc to Kids.



Felicitation of Teachers.



Mai Marathi Sanstha Team with Kids.

Suggested Areas of Intervention

Short Term

- 1) To facilitate continued education to reduce dropout ratio after fourth standard.
Follow up with authorities.
- 2) Regular Visit to these Padas to follow up the progress of the Kids, support their regular educational needs.
- 3) Spread the plight of these areas to all through possible means.

Long Term

- 1) To conduct meetings with villagers & sensitize them of the changing situation around them.
- 2) Sensitize them about the ills of alcoholism. Tie up with organisations working in these areas.

Online Links

Report available at

www.maimarathi.org/eng/umarmalireport.pdf

Photo Gallery of the Event

<http://picasaweb.google.com/maimarathisanstha/VisitToAdivasiPadaAtUmarMali?authkey=Gv1sRgCPPMjuPH0MyGzAE#>

Video Gallery

www.youtube.com/maimarathi09