

- CONTEXT** Chikhale ashram has been doing women's events with villagers in the Panvel Block. We have only had two hours for these forums. They have been set up by local government workers. We wanted these forums to be EVENTS and not just meetings. We wanted them done only in the local language. We wanted them to be events which linked the cluster demonstration to the block. We used the construct the Village Workshop created in Dec. 1978. as the foundation for the forum. We changed the opening and closing.
- PILLARS**
- We discovered that there were five pillars to the forum. If one of these pillars was left out the event didn't happen.
- A WELCOME which includes singing a song together (Ragupati) and everyone in the room introducing themselves in some way.
- A SPIN with pictures of care, courage, creativity, and corporateness
- A SHARING by several cluster (teaching village) women of their engagement in the village- pre-school, industry, training etc.
- A WORKSHOP which brainstorms the Vision, blocks, pushes at one depth issue, gets out steps to deal with that issue and creates a corporate resolve.
- A CLOSING which includes giving of gifts to the local women's organization and a ritual (These are the times . We are the people.) Two gifts have been crucial: the Global Women's montage and the workshop data charts.
- EVENTS**
- In the end of November 45 women met together at the Block Development Office in Panvel to look at ways in which women might be catalyzed to engage in developing their communities. In January another meeting was held and it was decided that two women's forums would be set up by the Gram Sevaka (local government woman worker) who works with the nutrition centres and pre-schools in two villages. Five women from the Chikhale Cluster agreed to participate in those meetings. Fifty women attended the event in Palispe and twenty five in Shirthon. The five cluster women came to both meetings. Nuton Chandane from Chikhale and Sunanda Maaske were a fine teaching team. Both communities struggled with the depth issue of corporateness and experienced a new kind of collegiality with women who would come from other villages to share victories and struggles with them. Women are setting dates to visit Chikhale cluster in the near future. A local government worker for three other villages attended the Palispe meeting. She is considering doing forums in those three villages in March. The Block Development Office continues to initiate all of the women's meetings for the block.


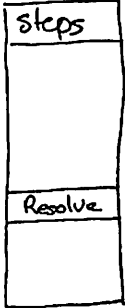
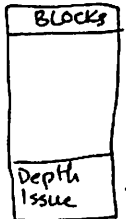
VILLAGE WOMEN'S FORUM
SPIN PICTURE SHOW

Suggested Picture 2"by 3'	CARE COURAGE CREATIVITY CORPORATENESS
<p>1. Footsteps into the distance.</p> <p>2. Care Mountain or lotus</p> <p>3. Courage or wedge breaking through a brick wall</p> <p>4. Creativity</p> <p>5. hands re reaching out to each other</p>	<p>There was once a village where everything stayed the same day after day. Nothing new ever happened there. The youth all wanted to leave the village and go some place where they could find excitement,</p> <p>Then care showed up and began to work with all the issues of the village.</p> <p>Then courage came, and things which seemed impossible were done.</p> <p>Then creativity walked into that village and new images of the future emerged.</p> <p>Finally corporateness came to that village and people who never talked to each other began to work and celebrate together.</p> <p>AND THAT VILLAGE WAS NEVER THE SAME AGAIN.</p> <p>I remember when _____ came to my village _____. (Choose one of the 4 C. . Give a 2-3 minute example.</p> <p>My village has never been the same.</p> <p>Yes, when care comes, a community is different.</p> <p>Yes, when courage come, people are different.</p> <p>Yes, when creativity comes, the future is different.</p> <p>Yes when corporateness comes, the world is different.</p>
<p>6. Women's Montage</p>	<p>Women across the globe are deciding to build new communities.</p> <p>What builds new communities is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Courage Creativity care Corporateness</p>

Chikhale

Village Women's Forum
(How we make a difference in the community where we live?)

Qtr. III

OPENING	WORKSHOP	CLOSING
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Song (Ragupati)</p> <p>Conversation Name Where born</p> <p>Spin - Picture Show Care Courage Cooperativeness Creativity</p> <p>Sharing - by cluster or teaching village women of their engagement in the village</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>HOPES</p>  </div> <div style="width: 40%;"> <p>What are the dreams and hopes you have for your community? (make a long list)</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Steps</p>  </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>BLOCKS</p>  </div> <p>What is blocking these from happening? (Give examples first)</p> <p>Underneath these blocks, there are some real deep issue?</p> <p>What is one of these depth issues? (Get a consensus)</p>	<p>Celebrate the work</p> <p>Give a women's montage (mounted) to a leader of the group.</p> <p>Give the workshop charts to the group leader.</p> <p>Ritual These are the times we are the people</p>
<p>Spin Script Examples Pictures</p> <p>2 or 3 women from village</p>	<p>3 CHARTS - markers, tape</p> <p>Brooding on Method</p> <p>Tea organised</p>	<p>Mounted women's montage</p> <p>Find out local leader of the grp.</p>

CHIKHALE CLUSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

11/2

Report on

CHIKHALE CLUSTER WOMEN'S FAIR

4 March, 1983

The Contradiction

During the year 1981-82 Mahila Mandels were registered in all 10 villages of the Chikhale Cluster. During the year 1982 activities of the Mahila Mandels concentrated on the sponsorship of the pre-schools in the single villages and opening a Sewing Centre in Wangni village. Other ideas of activities for the Mahila Mandels seemed limited. The contradiction seemed to be in the arena of the linkage of the Mahila Mandels with resources in the surrounding area and structures through which to express their ideas and creativity beyond the single village setting.

The Proposal

It was proposed that an event be planned that gave an opportunity for the Mahila Mandels to work together and experience the creativity of other women in the cluster. It was suggested that the event be called a "Women's Fair" in order to leave open the question of what activities it would include.

The women in the Chikhale Ashram worked on a model that would be highly participatory and would relate village women to resources outside the cluster. They were also concerned that it be the work of the village women themselves and that it be an enjoyable, memorable occasion. They worked on the steps needed for set-up of the event and wrote a few letters to resource people, like the Land Research Institute to schedule the demonstration of the solar cooker.

The Implementation

The idea of the Fair was then presented at the Pre-school Guild meeting 16 February, 1983. The pre-school teachers became very excited about the idea and were instrumental in setting up a meeting of the Mahila Mandel presidents and representatives 3 days later at the Karnala Bird Sanctuary. Twenty-three women were at the half day meeting where they brainstormed ideas for the Fair's programme and set the date - 2 weeks later.

The next week was spent with two teams organizing the set-up of the Fair - two ashram women teamed with two village women. They organized the invitations, exhibitors, funding, and visited many villages to talk to women about them coming. A donation from Orkay Polyester - Rasayani of Rs 1001/00 covered most of the expenses for the Fair.

A second meeting was held at the Chikhale Ashram the following Friday to make posters and distribute invitations. The total programme was put together and assignments were made for the day itself - hosting, registration, preparing and serving snack, exhibit set-up, programme co-ordination, etc.

The second week of intensive preparation was spent with two teams visiting villages in the cluster and Panvel Block to distribute invitations, as well as setting up the practical arrangements of ordering food, shamiana and checking on the presence of the exhibitors. Every night the Chikhale primary school girls and the ambar charkha girls practiced their dances for the Fair and every night anticipation of the event grew. They were coached by the Chikhale Pre-school teacher and several other village women.

The day before the Fair, the programme was finalized, the practical arrangements reviewed and set-up of the exhibits began. Women began to appear at the ashram to display their handicrafts and to do rangouli designs.

The Day of the Fair

The Fair started at 12 noon with registration and touring of the exhibits and demonstrations. The programme of songs, dances and drama began at 1:30. Snack and tea were served after 3:00 p.m., then competitions were done, as well as re-touring the exhibits and just talking. The sense was that no one wanted to leave. Everyone was amazed when Mr. Shah from the Land Research Institute brought the rice he had cooked in the solar cooker, one hour before.

As guests from Bombay and Panvel arrived, they were escorted through the exhibits, then a seat was found for them in the entertainment area. They were immediately drawn into the activity of the moment. Over 300 people, some 200 women from 20 different villages, as well as some men and children attended the fair. A very wide spectrum of people - both economically and socially - was represented.

The Evaluation and Future Implications

Tendays after the Fair a small group of women met to evaluate the Women's Fair event. The highlights of the Fair, they felt, were the songs and dances by local women and girls, the demonstration of the solar cooker and the exhibits by the women themselves. The most important factor, they said, was that the Fair was done by the village women for the village women. They also felt it was important that the women in the cluster worked together on one event. They said the solar cooker made a big impact on everyone.

There is talk of having some similar type of an event in Lonivali or Wangni village after the monsoon. Already a cooking demonstration has been scheduled by the Mahila Mandel in wangni for one of the resources people who was unable to attend the Fair due to illness.

Report prepared by women of
the Chikhale Ashram, ICA: India

19 March, 1982

The second annual Women's Awakening Institute was held at Yatri Niwas in Sevagram on April 11, 12 and 13. One hundred women participated from twelve villages of the Wardha Block and from the city of Wardha. Eighty women were from the local village sector, ten were from Wardha representing the voluntary sector and ten were from Wardha representing the public sector.

The event was opened by Nirmala Gandhi, the daughter-in-law of Mahatma Gandhi and the Gandhi Ashram Preschool presented a cultural event. In the first workshop the women divided into groups by villages to list village information, draw a village map, and work through basic village issues. Major concerns had to do with village environment such as drinking water, drainage, roads, toilets, preschools.

In the second workshop the participants met in cross village groups. They talked about the main issues facing women in Indian villages today. The issues discerned were: 1) the dowry system, 2) lack of cooperation among women, 3) few employment possibilities for women, 4) excessive drinking in the villages, and 5) limited chance for education for women.

The third session included talks given by the president of the Wardha Women's Organization, the Wardha Women's Cooperative Society and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer who is a woman. The talks centered around the journey of building a women's organization and starting industries and programmes for women.

The event enabled new channels for dialogue between the urban and rural women. It showed us that women are ready and wanting events which expand their consciousness of the women's movement and society in general. And it allowed us to see that the leadership potential for future programmes can be found in the villages.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CONSTRUCT

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Women's Movement Talk Women's Issues Wkshp.	Reflection Conversation Two Year Practical Plan
Opening	GWF Women's Conversa-	Closing
Village Information & Issues	Wardha Representative Talks	In the closing a two-year plan of women's programmes for each village was presented to the District CEO and two Deputy CEOs.
Social Welfare Movie	Prohibition Movie	