



**reports  
from  
the  
village**

Excerpts from the daily log  
of the field personnel of the  
Saharanpur Integrated Rural Development Project.

**CENDIT**

Centre for Development of Instructional Technology  
Post Box 3342 New Delhi 110 014 India

## INTRODUCTION

This is the second in our series of reports from the village, covering the period May to August 1978. These reports are somewhat different in character from the earlier ones. Two other people, whom we spoke of last time, have now entered the scene - Prabhakar Jauhari in his capacity as legal adviser to the villagers and the Project; and Santosh his wife, who works with women. The initial work of introducing and explaining the Project (carried out, as we saw in the last set of reports by Mahesh Mittal and Mohan Godbole) is now complete; and home visits by the health workers as well as the dispensing of medicines, has fallen into a regular routine and pattern. Mohan, Mahesh, Santosh and Prabhakar have therefore moved on to other areas of work, and have begun to expand the scope of the SIRD. Mahesh has made a visit to the South to look at other development projects and to see what can be gained from them. Mohan is very involved with schemes for wood workshops, and cooperative dairies, Santosh, with the formation of Mahila Mandals, and Prabhakar, with providing counsel to the villagers. Prabhakar's reports do not figure very prominently in our collection. This is because they record the progress or otherwise of various cases in hand, and without knowing the background of the cases, these jottings are meaningless. We have, therefore, included occasional recordings by him and have appended at the end of the reports, brief histories of the cases referred to in these jottings. For the period that Mahesh was on his visit to the South, he wrote a consolidated report which we have reproduced in its entirety at the end of our daily reports, rather than break it up into small notes. Later reports by Mahesh consist of records of medicines bought and purchased, and very little of this has been included. Apart from this, Santosh has written a short piece on village dais. This, along with a report of a visit by two trainees to the Karnal Dairy Research Institute written for them by Mohan, have also been reproduced at the end of the regular entries.

1.5.78 Monday Godbole

Today was Peeth day. Because of this I met many people; some of them complained about our programme and said we did not provide them with enough medicines. They said that although they understood all ~~what~~ they wanted was medicines when someone fell ill. After I had tried to explain how difficult it was for us to provide all they needed at once, some of them understood and promised to explain to the others. Some of the people want to grow medicinal plants in the village.

3.5.78 Wednesday Godbole

These days the TB hospital is not receiving many reports of TB patients, and some reports are even being lost so that the patients have to go again. I have promised the patients I will look into this.

6.5.78 Saturday Mittal

Raj Kumar (VHW) from Dholaheri village has persuaded one person to clean the drains in the village. The villagers will contribute towards his salary. At Raj Kumar's 'gher'\* the kitchen garden is well established and this will be a demonstration centre for other people.

7.5.78 Sunday Mittal

Went to Lucknow today where I met Dr SN Tiwari, Assistant Director, Medical Health Services, UP. He suggested we get our Centre recognised as a TB sub-centre through Dr Sudhir Gupta, then we will be able to get all kinds of facilities. Later I met Mrs Tripathi, ANM training incharge at the Health House. She has promised to help us in training indigenous midwives.

13.5.78 Monday Santosh

The Health Worker training began today. The topic for today was Malaria.

\* gher - a place where men congregate.

13.5.78 Monday Godbole

VHW training began today at 5pm. All the VHWs were present except the one from Dholaheri.

15.5.78 Wednesday Prabhakar

There are eleven promoters for the cooperative dairy. Today we discussed the dairy and its management.

15.5.78 Wednesday Mittal

In the morning I examined two malaria patients from Ferozabad and dispensed medicines. In the evening, VHW training, the topic today was Tuberculosis. We used slides to explain to the VHWs about the disease.

16.5.78 Thursday Godbole

We asked the VHWs about malaria and TB today and they said that because of the training programme and the use of slides they had understood quite a lot about the disease. The TB posters had also helped because they could show these to the villagers. We asked them to prepare a report on how people react to the posters etcetera.

16.5.78 Thursday Santosh

Today was a hot and windy day. In the VHW training we talked of TB and looked at some slides of the lungs.

17.5.78 Friday Prabhakar

The case of Trilok Chand vs Nanduram and others and State vs Trilok Chand has been settled by a compromise. Nanduram was paid Rs 700 as damages for the compromise and not to press his charges. The other case was withdrawn unconditionally ( see note giving history of case).

17.5.78 Friday Mittal

In the morning Santosh and I went to Pather. While I examined patients Santosh made contacts with the women.

In the evening in the VHW training we had no material to show the VHWs except one card of Anaemia showing pale lips, tongue and skin. On the other side there was a healthy face. The topic for today's training was blood deficiency.

18.5.78 Thursday Mittal

Today I went to the District hospital and met Dr Gupta. He suggested the name of a Lady Health visitor to recruit in our project. I think this is a very good idea.

20.5.78 Saturday Santosh

Went to Dholaheri with Mahesh. The VHW Rajkumar was not there and the villagers complained about him to us. He does not seem to be doing his job properly. Later we went to Pather village.

I also spoke to some of the women. With them the 'purdah' system is very strong and they do not do much work outside their houses.

20.5.78 Saturday Mittal

In the VHW training today we spoke of skin, ear, eye and tooth diseases. We discussed in brief how to identify these diseases. In the villages people do not clean their teeth before or after meals, and especially after cane chewing. This results in dental problems. We spoke to the VHWs about this and told them that though chewing cane helps to clean the teeth, if the mouth is not washed afterwards, this can cause infection. The villagers usually go to traditional dentists or village practitioners for all ailments, and these people use unsterilised instruments etcetera, so more disease is caused. We advised the VHWs to refer all such cases to the District Hospital.

21.5.78 Sunday Santosh

No work done today as I was not feeling well.

21.5.78 Sunday Mittal

Today one five-year old child fell into the village well and it took nearly an hour to take her out. By this time she was dead. When the villagers brought her to me I could not do anything except try to

give her artificial respiration . The police have been informed.

21.5.78 Sunday Godbole

Mahesh and I went to Pather, Nathmalpur and Govardhanpur to collect some information about carpenters. This we gave to Rajive.

22.5.78 Monday Santosh

Topic for today's VHW training was child care. I showed them some slides on this, and they were very pleased with them. They also complained that the village women do not listen to them at all.

23.5.78 Tuesday Prabhakar

Nathmalpur visit. I discussed with the villagers the need for legal aid in the village and explained the government plan for legal aid to the weaker sects.

23.5.78 Tuesday Godbole

Prabhakar and I went to Nathmalpur. Prabhakar gave legal advice to some people. Then we tried to get some carpenters for the wood workshop. Some people refused to come. They were asking for Rs 22 per day. One boy is prepared to come. He will be in the unskilled category.

24.5.78 Wednesday Mittal

Santosh and I went to Pather and 12 patients were examined there. Later in the evening we discussed family planning for the training programme. We discussed the female reproductive organs and methods of contraception. Only Jaibhagwan knew about the 'safe' period.

24.5.78 Wednesday Godbole

The wood workshop began today. I went to Pather to see how many carpenters were ready to work. Four were ready then and three came later on so we had seven people on the first day. I prepared a register for the wood workers .

24.5.78 Wednesday Santosh

I went to see some Muslim families in Pather village today along with VHW Mohammed. In two or three families the women complained that they are not allowed to go out at all, and there are some women who have not been out of their houses for more than four years. Even if they are ill they are not allowed to leave the house to see a doctor. Most of the time their husbands think they are pretending to be ill to have an excuse for going out. Only if they really get ill a doctor is asked to come to the house. We talked for a long time to two old women who were ill and finally managed to persuade them to come and see Dr Mahesh.

26.5.78 Friday Prabhakar

Today I discussed the problems of pending cases in the court with a school teacher who lives in Dulani. He told me stories of toutism and misconduct of the advocates, and asked me to contest his case. I was unable to help because the case is weak.

26.5.78 Friday Mittal

Lady healthworker Premlata came today. She has done her health visitor course from Lady Harding school and is registered with Punjab Nursing Council. Rajive has suggested we keep her on a seven day probation period.

27.5.78 Saturday Mittal

This evening the monthly malaria report was sent with Jaibhagwan to PHC Sarsawa malaria unit. Dr AK Jain from there suggested we send one of our workers for training in examination of slides. Jaibhagwan has already done some work in this connection so he will go for training for 5 days from Monday.

28.5.78 Sunday Godbole

Today Santosh and I spoke to some women of Ahari Abdullapur about forming a Mahila Mandal. I also discussed a Radio Listener's Club with them. I am also interviewing some carpenters and getting their opinions on our workshop.

28.5.78 Sunday Mittal

Our Ahari-Abdullapur VHW is going to marry on 1 June so he was not available today.

29.5.78 Monday Godbole

13 carpenters came to the wood workshop today. Five skilled and eight unskilled.

30.5.78 Tuesday Prabhakar

A Harijan of Sultanpur came to seek advice on which I gave him but no action has been taken yet. The date fixed in his case is 5 July 1978.

2.6.78 Friday Mittal

Premlata went to Pather today and immunised two pregnant women against tetanus. In the afternoon when I came back from Saharanpur she asked me for 3 days leave. She is very keen to find a government job and she has only come here because she was not getting one. I feel that her performance is not satisfactory and that she is not sincere in her work. She will not be coming from tomorrow.

1.6.78 Thursday Prabhakar

Today I advised Prakash, a participant of the wood workshop about the procedure for registration with the Small-scale Industrial Corporation and the Khadi Village Industrial Corporation and the Khadi Village Industries Commission.

2.6.78 Friday Godbole

Some special items have been prepared in the wood workshop. Only the finishing is left. Since Jagdish Singh the foreman came the work has been going quite well.

3.6.78 Saturday Santosh

Dr Mahesh and I went to Dholaheri. VHW Rajkumar was there. With him we met 10-12 women of the village when they were all

doing the 'lipai' of their houses. We spoke to them about child care and nutrition. One old woman who was there told us that the villagers were not keen to change their habits at all, and that is why they say everything is in the hands of God.

6.6.78 Tuesday Godbole

Yesterday was the last day of the wood workshop and today Mohammed Ahmed came from Sultanpur to put the finishing touches to it. Mahesh and I have booked a truck and tomorrow this stuff will be transported to Delhi.

7.6.78 Wednesday Santosh

The women of Pather village have quite a lot of health problems and because there is no ANM or lady doctor they cannot get good treatment. Whenever I meet any woman she always tells me about her daughter-in-law's ailments. It is becoming necessary to have an ANM here.

7.6.78 Wednesday Mittal

Santosh and I went to Pather. There was an emergency case there from Panchkua. We asked his attendants to shift him to Sultanpur immediately. There we examined him and took his blood for investigation and immediately started intravenous fluids. The patient is a tuberculosis lung patient who has been taking regular treatment from local practitioners. He was severely dehydrated and had nothing to eat for the last four days. After five hours of struggle he regained some consciousness. As he is from a very poor family we did not charge him for anything.

7.6.78 Wednesday Prabhakar

Today I examined the report of Rayala's case and the Buddhu (s/o Mangat) case. (See note for history of case).

8.6.78 Wednesday Mittal

The patient from Panchkua is better today - we have registered him

\* lipai - applying a coat of cow dung on floors.

in our TB register for one month's treatment and have advised oral **feeding**.

10.6.78 Saturday Santosh

Prabhakar and I went to Dholaheri. Along with Rajkumar (VHW) I visited some houses where the women complained that in spite of feeding their children properly the children still remained weak and thin. I told them that they should show their children to the doctor periodically because village children have a lot of worms in their stomachs and even if they get good food, sometimes it does not have much effect.

9.6.78 Friday Prabhakar

Went to Raghunathpur and met some people. We talked about the Panchayat's problem regarding recovery of taxes and other dues from the villagers. I found the Panchayat people themselves are not interested in this because many of them are Tyagis and there are large dues sums due from them. Casteism is the biggest barrier in the recovery of taxes.

NOTE : On 13.6.78 Mahesh Mittal left on an extensive tour of the South. For the period that he was there he wrote a consolidated report which is appended at the end of these jottings.

15.6.78 Thursday Santosh

Prepared family planning for Danatpur VHW told me about a Mahila Mandal for the village. He said there are some women and girls in the village who are interested in learning cutting and sewing but they do not have any machines. I told him we would arrange for the machines but that it would help if one of the girls of the village knew cutting and sewing - then she could teach the others. He has promised to speak to them about this.

17.6.78 Saturday Prabhakar

Today I prepared papers for the registration of the Firozabad Milk Society and discussed the rules and regulations with Mohan.

17.6.78 Saturday Godbole

Today Santosh, Prabhakar and I went to Dholaheri where we found some of the villagers complaining about the work of the VHW Rajkumar. Here, in Dholaheri the Harijans are not willing to pay for medicines at all. I tried explaining to them about the 'controlled rate' of our medicine but they did not want to listen.

18.6.78 Sunday Prabhakar

Today I advised one Kantooram about his problems. Kantooram is an illiterate who was elevated to the membership of the Nyaya Panchayat as no other Harijan was available at that time. He had some grievances against the Gram Pradhan. I advised him to contact the ADM (D) with a letter of complaint, containing the specific charges or to meet me at court to get the draft prepared and presented.

18.6.78 Sunday Santosh

In Ahari-Abdullapur I asked Manmar, a Harijan, to clean the drain near his house but he was not prepared to do so. So I told him that if he did not do so, I would do the work as I did not want to see him ill and he would surely fall ill if the drain remained so dirty. He felt very ashamed and after we left he cleaned up the drain.

20.6.78 Tuesday Prabhakar

Today I visited the Employment Exchange and the Assistant Registrar for the Cooperative for the Firozabad scheme. That office referred us to the ADO (Coop).

20.6.78 Tuesday Santosh

Prabhakar and I met VHW Jaibhagwan at Raghunathpur. In the Harijan basti here there are many cases of malnutrition. We spoke to the Harijan women about this. Later Jaibhagwan told them about the Mahila Mandal and how we planned to work it.

21.6.78 Wednesday Santosh

In Pather I met a dai called Raghikin. I asked her what are the things she uses to make a delivery and to cut the cord. She told me

that she does not use anything special to cut the cord but once it is cut she spreads ground supari on it. I am trying to meet the dais of all the villages to find out if they are interested in a training programme but she would not go out anywhere for it. We will have to think about this.

21.6.78 Wednesday Godbole

We need five more people for the cooperative dairy. But for the training no one is willing to spend any money at all.

22.6.78 Thursday Godbole

In Dholaheri we gave medicines to a man called Mangal but he refused to pay us. He lives in the Harijan basti. The Harijans seem to have become used to free things so they refuse to pay.

23.6.78 Friday Prabhakar

Today I met the ADO (Goop) according to the reference of the Assistant Registrar. He promised me his support and further referred me to Mr Sharma, Supervisor (Coop).

28.6.78 Wednesday Godbole

Because of heavy rainfall I could not go to any village, so I stayed at the Centre and prepared the dairy scheme.

1.7.78 Saturday Prabhakar

In Dholaheri met Rajkumar, his father and other neighbours of his house. From this visit I learnt something interesting about villagers and their knowledge of law and jurisprudence.

One of the persons there asked me to explain the concept of justice and equality and another asked for an explanation of the modern slogan 'social justice'. After listening to my explanations for some time one of them said to me, "You are a dogmatic person. Ask the same question of an illiterate or poor person. You have read books and contest cases for money. How can you think of a 'just society?' ". He added that he thought lawyers were bookish people

4.7.78 Tuesday Godbole

I went to Govardhanpur. Because of the rain the roads are very bad. Later I went to Dulani where I spoke to Yaseenchacha about the work of road building and repairing potholes, but he put me off with the excuse that this was the time for paddy growing. It seems that there are many small political groups in the village and they keep fighting so no work is done.

Later I went to the 'Bhangi' colony. Here everything was neat and clean and a few boys were doing some cleaning work. Three of the men in the colony want to breed pigs. Because the village is mostly Muslim-populated they want to get a licence quickly. I have asked them to submit an application to the District Board.

5.7.78 Wednesday Santosh

In Pather the women and children to whom we had given injections in May came for a second dose. Unfortunately we did not have enough stock for everyone. The women seem to be willing to form a Mahila Mandal but at the moment they are very busy with the sowing. They will be free in about 10 days.

5.7.78 Wednesday Godbole

There is a man in Pather who has been ill for three years - both his feet are inactive because some years ago something fell on them. He wants to go to Delhi for treatment since his treatment here has not helped but he has no money. (He has been getting treatment from outside).

Santosh and I went to the Harijan basti where there is a whole family who is suffering from cough. This they have got from their grandmother but when I told them this they refused to believe me. After some time a man came out of the house - he told everyone to be quiet, then listened to what I said and promised to send all these people for treatment.

5.7.78 Wednesday Prabhakar

Gulam Sabir a farm labourer came to seek advice on matrimonial matters. His son-in-law is not coming to take his daughter and he

(Gulam Sabir) wants his daughter to divorce him. I asked him not to be hasty and to ask his daughter to write to her husband because legal counsel should be a last resort in such cases.

6.7.78 Thursday Godbole

So far there are only eleven people for the dairy. Once we have the correct number we hope to succeed. Prabhakar will help us in this.

9.7.78 Sunday Prabhakar

Discussed the dairy affair with Mohan and explained the provisions for deposit at bank and loan.

Later I met one Baburam who told me that electricity had been disconnected from the building hired as a clinic for non-payment of bills, but according to him there are no unpaid bills. I will look into this matter.

10.7.78 Monday Godbole

Peeth day. Riyasat Ali from Firozabad brought two men who are interested in starting a poultry farm and who want to take a loan for it. They are already doing some poultry work.

11.7.78 Tuesday Santosh

In Dolaheri everyone is busy with paddy sowing. I met two old women who said we must not teach the village women to sew city style clothes.

11.7.78 Tuesday Godbole

Today I visited Govardhanpur. I found small groups of people all over the village discussing politics. They were all preparing to go to Delhi for the kisan rally.

12.7.78 Wednesday Godbole

We have formed a Mahila Mandal in Dholaheri and worked out a programme for them.

This is :	Education programme	: reading, writing etcetera.
	Practical education	: sewing and the use of sewing machines.
	Health education	: house cleanliness, women's ailments and illnesses and care of children.
	Home life	: budgeting for home, cooking, kitchen cleanliness etcetera.
Cultural programme		: village songs etcetera.

13.7.78 Thursday Godbole

In Firozabad work has begun on the cooperative dairy scheme. There are eleven persons in it and enough money has been collected for the registration of the society. Prabhakar is helping with the registration work.

17.7.78 Monday Santosh

Today I prepared a map of Choti Pather and read some books on child care. We also discussed the Mahila Mandal and spoke to a girl called Kusum who has done the 'Usha' sewing course from Sarsawa. She told us that if we start teaching we must be very careful because the village girls are not at all punctual.

18.7.78 Tuesday Santosh

A Mahila Mandal has been formed in Dholaheri. There are eight women in it. All of them are Saini by caste. None of them is educated, and except for one woman who is 29, the others are all between 13 and 16 years old.

20.7.78 Thursday Godbole

Prabhakar and I went to Saharanpur today to check up on the registration for the cooperative society for the milk scheme. We have to submit three copies of our application.

20.7.78 Thursday Santosh

All the women of the Mahila Mandal were present in Dholaheri today. They wrote down their names etcetera, and we began by

teaching them tacking.

21.7.78 Friday Godbole

The roads leading to Daulatpur are all in a bad state because of the rain. I managed to get there with much difficulty today after leaving my bicycle at Pather and walking. Talking to the people I found that they are quite ready to start an education programme. I went to the village school and found that the teachers were sitting together and gossiping and the children were having noisy fights in the classroom. I taught them about plants and their cultivation.

21.7.78 Friday Santosh

In Dholaheri some of the women complained that they found it difficult to keep clean because they had to work with animals all the time and they did not like doing this. I tried to explain to them how it was possible to at least keep everything around them clean and then if they had time to concentrate on their own cleanliness. They agreed to try this in the future.

22.7.78 Saturday Godbole

Dholaheri village is in a bad state because of the rains - people manage to come as far as Chilkana only two or three times in a month. Santosh is busy with the Mahila Mandal and it is going very well. Rajkumar (VHW) is ill with malaria so he has not been able to do much work.

22.7.78 Saturday Santosh

Yesterday at the Mahila Mandal we learnt how to read the numbers on an 'inchitape' (tape measure) and today we have learnt how to make a pyjama.

24.7.78 Monday Godbole

I went to Saharanpur today to find out about the possibility of getting a sewing machine for the Mahila Mandal. It seems we have to submit a report on the Mandal and then we will be able to get a machine.

26.7.78      Wednesday      Godbole

We went with Rajive to Pather where they have made two 'pukka' latrines. We met Mahavir the carpenter from the wood workshop and showed him photographs of the workshop. He was very pleased to see them.

26.7.78      Wednesday      Prabhakar

Today Rajive and I met Banarsi of Patni and asked about the matter of Harijans in his village. He assured me that the problem had been solved according to the aspiration of the Harijans and that there could be no foul play in this regard. (See note on case for details).

27.7.78      Thursday      Prabhakar

Went to Meerut to the Registrar's office for the Cooperative dairy matter but it was difficult to meet him as there is a great deal of bossism here and people are not allowed to go inside the rooms. This office referred us to Parpatpur dairy. There we were referred to the National Dairy Development Board where we met with the senior milk inspector.

28.7.78      Friday      Santosh

Because of the Mahila Mandal I have to go to Dholaheri every day and this way I am making a lot of contacts. If I manage to find even one trained girl here I will see if she agrees to teach the women here.

31.7.78      Monday      Godbole

Peeth day. I went to the Peeth mela and met some Harijans from Firozabad. We had tea together and they spoke of wanting to breed pigs. We will see what can be done about this.

2.8.78      Wednesday      Godbole

There has been a lot of rain so I stayed at home and read things on the 'Keep your village clean' idea.

3.8.78 Thursday Godbole

Santosh and I went to Pather and I took Santosh to a school where she met some students. They are holding an exhibition for 15 August - this is organised by the Bal Vikas Kendra School, and the children display things they have made themselves. This is a way of encouraging the children in improving their skills. From here we also found out that the Government is running a programme on plant education and that this has been in operation for almost a year now in four villages. In Pather Zaheer Ahmed is looking after this. Similarly there are people in other villages.

3.8.78 Thursday Santosh

In Pather Mohan and I spoke to teachers in the primary school about vaccinations, and about their exhibition. Later Shadi Bharat and his wife came and told me that in spite of there being 5-6 dais in the village, people have to suffer a lot of inconvenience. Often these dais go to their homes or across the Jamuna. And because each one has fixed houses to work in where she has been going for years, no one else will go there.

4.8.78 Friday Godbole

Today I found out about the terms and conditions of a bank loan for the cooperative dairy. The bank gives loans to only those people who can deposit 25% of the amount beforehand and who can produce two guarantors. All this takes 1-2 months because the debtor has to fill in a bank form, and anyone earning less than Rs 1800 in a year has to have his form signed by the Panchayat, the VLW\* and the tehsildar. After doing all this he can get the money at 4% interest.

The Punjab National Bank, Chilkana, claimed that Firozabad is outside their area (which extends for 10 km limit) so they cannot give loans to people from there. But when I said that Firozabad was only 3 kms away, the bank manager told me to get one of the villagers to give a representation to this effect to the manager of the bank's main branch. Later when some people came from Firozabad to the centre I taught them how to sign their names in

\* Village Level Worker

**Hindi**, and they taught me to sign in Urdu. From them I learnt that there is another obstacle in the way of our dairy scheme. The Government has just raised the number of participants necessary to form a cooperative to 30 instead of 11 - as it was earlier. This is really disappointing news. It was difficult enough to get 11 people, I do not know how we can ever manage to get 30.

4.8.78      Friday      Santosh

It has been raining heavily and I could not go to the village. I stayed at the centre and drew maps. In spite of the heavy rain one Saini girl came from Ahari Abdullapur, she told me that she wants to learn **sewing** quickly, and I told her that we would do this in the Mahila Mandal.

6.8.78      Sunday      Godbole

One boy came from Pather. He wants to make posters for the exhibition. I gave him chart paper and colour pencils.

7.8.78      Monday      Godbole

VHW Rajkumar's brother came to see Prabhakar to get some advice on getting a job. I asked him why he did not work on the farm instead, but he complained that working on a farm was very hard work. Almost every youth in the village thinks this way. They all want a job because they say that then they don't have to work so hard and they can make some 'extra' income.

8.8.78      Tuesday      Santosh

I Went to Pather with a girl called Sarla. A new school has been opened in Pather and Sarla has a job there. The school is called Bal Vidhya Bhawan. Then I spoke to a couple about our periodic visits to the villages. We come to the villages to check on the health and cleanliness of the villagers. The woman told me that in the villages people have so much work to do that they hardly ever have time for anything else.

10.8.78 Thursday Santosh

Continuous rain has made it difficult to go into the villages. All our rooms are leaking and the clinic is leaking most of all. In the evening the Ahari Abdullapur VHW came and we prepared folders and maps.

11.8.78 Friday Godbole

It has rained heavily and many houses in Sultanpur have collapsed.

12.8.78 Saturday Santosh

The rain has not stopped - we were unable to go to Dholaheri. There are mostly very young girls in the Mahila Mandal there - we must try to get some older women. I have spoken to the VHW about this.

12.8.78 Saturday Godbole

Four VHWs came to the Centre today. The home visits have decreased because of the rain but those VHWs who have been making home visits are suffering now because the water, and constant walking in it has affected their feet. One of them told me that his son had got puss in his ears as a result of infection from the water. I asked him to use spirit but he said that his grandmother had already given the child some kind of mixture with 'lahsan' (garlic) in it. These old women in the villages often have such remedies.

13.8.78 Sunday Godbole

In spite of the rain Prabhakar and I went to Ahari Abdullapur, but when we got there we found the school was closed because of the rain. Then when we went to peoples houses we found that all of them are very inconvenienced because of the rain - many children who were going to take part in the exhibition have now refused because of this reason.

Rameshchand and Mehboob came for a day from Karnal. They are very happy with the training course. They are also very excited because they take a bath under what they call an 'ulta phuara' (upside down fountain), i.e. a shower, and because they have milk and eggs with breakfast every morning !

15.8.78      Tuesday      Godbole and Santosh

The children's exhibition began today. People were very pleased to see their exhibits, especially a model of Pather that one of the boy's had made. Jaibhagwan Gupta, a young boy who had made many interesting things, won a prize, and Rajbala, a girl from Choti Pather got a prize for sewing and knitting. People from other villages came and looked at the posters and read the messages on them.

18.8.78      Friday      Santosh

Mohan prepared some ~~pictures~~ etcetera for the 'keep your village clean' project. We have prepared quite a lot of material for this.

18.8.78      Friday      Godbole

I went to Firozabad yesterday and returned the money to the people who wanted to form a dairy. This seems to have convince them of my honesty, and they are all willing to put in money again whenever we are able to form a society.

Riyasat Ali has been working on the issue of rubbish dumps and the villagers have agreed not to have these near the village pond but somewhere away from the village. There may be 30 people here to form a cooperative for the dairy.

19.8.78      Saturday      Santosh

I went to Raghunathpur with Mohan. Mahesh Tyagi's baba has died here so we stayed there.

Because of the rain all the village roads are full of water.

23.8.78      Wednesday      Santosh

I took a 'tonga' to Pather. Today we gave TT injections to two s women and four were given other sorts of injections. I had told the wife of one of the men to go for X-ray but because of the conditions at her home she has not been able to do so. She is not looking well at all. I have again advised her to go for treatment as soon as possible.

The Mahila Mandal programme will begin in 15 - 20 days. The

women have been telling me that in Pather no Hindu woman will go into the house of a Muslim woman and vice versa.

23.8.78      Wednesday      Godbole

In Pather today I met several young people - both educated and uneducated, and listened to their different ideas on various things. One thing they all want is a youth centre in the village.

Later I went to the Bhangi colony and we discussed the pig breeding plan. Prabhakar has brought the necessary forms for this from Saharanpur. The Pradhan told me that ~~this~~ Friday, and on every Friday after that the Peeth mela would be held in Choti Pather. This would have the advantage that people would not need to go as far as Sultanpur.

25.8.78      Friday      Godbole

There was a large crowd for Peeth. The atmosphere was very festive. On one side the Muslims stood in small groups, on the other side one could see glimpses of scenes from Janamashtami. There was a lot of buying and selling - people had bought up everything and now they were making fun of the shopkeepers, telling them to bring more stuff next week. Later I went to listen to a 'katha' and suggested to the pandit that along with his katha he should tell people about health and cleanliness. He was very happy to do this.

26.8.78      Saturday      Godbole and Santosh

Today was Ramnaumi day. In Dholaheri the VHW had cooked food for us and it was a pity that we could not stay to eat it. But we joined the villagers in their prayers. In this way, by joining in at festivals we manage to get close to the people, to know them and their problems and they begin to trust us more.

27.8.78      Sunday      Godbole

Mohammad Mirza from Pather came and told me that the boys are talking of forming a youth club and that the Pradhan has promised them a room for this.

28.8.78      Monday      Santosh

I have tried to explain tot he women in Dholaheri how unqualified the village dais are. So many cases are spoilt by them - I hope the women begin to understand this.

## VISIT TO DIFFERENT PROJECTS IN SOUTH INDIA

Mahesh Mittal

This trip to the South was planned with one of my friends, Dr Narender Gupta, who works in the slums of Delhi for an organisation called Community Action for Development. Our aim was to share our experiences and exchange views with like-minded persons - working in rural development.

We left Delhi on 13 June and arrived in Madras on 15th morning. We visited CDRA (Centre for Development of Research and Action) and met Dr Hanifa who told us about this organisation. Their main activities are non formal education, self employment, health, organising seminars etcetera, and evaluating other projects. Dr Hanifa stressed the scientific analysis of problems to find their root causes. A lady doctor, Dr Sathya stressed that the role of health professionals in the present socio economic setup should be to find the root causes of illnesses. She feels that 90% of the illnesses that people claim to have are really consequences of poverty, and says that overall development is not possible without a real social change. She gave examples of countries such as China and Russia where real change has led to real development. Mr Vincent, also from the CDRA feels that individual approaches within limited spheres do not provide any results until one can develop a task force to break the present socio economic structure. This in its true sense would be socialism.

On the 16th we visited the Don Bosco Youth Centre, where we met Mr Felix Keikare, the Director. He mainly works in the slums around Madras. They have established Youth Clubs as he feels that the youth have more potential to organise themselves around issues. Later at night, we went to Service Civil International health centre and met Miss Sue Steiner, a British volunteer. This centre is in a very remote village. Miss Steiner runs a dispensary with the assistance of a trained midwife and two volunteers from the village. A good number of patients come for treatment as there is no other medical facility nearby. There seems to be a scarcity of water in this area. Skin infestations, Tuberculosis and Leprosy are common.

On the 18th morning we arrived in Madurai and visited People Action for Education and Liberation and met Mr Y David, Director. He is working with oppressed classes like weavers, fishermen, landless labourers, industrial workers etcetera. He told us how people never come forward to ask for change of any sort unless there is a burning issue. As in Kanya Kumari, where the fishermen earned their living by trapping or netting fish. During the emergency a relative of the minister managed to get an import licence for a netting machine and did all these fishermen out of their livelihood. Because of this they took out a procession and staged a dharna to demand their rights. The weaver class also is being exploited by Trade Unions.

The next morning we went to Amblikay and visited the Christian Fellowship Community Health Development Training and Research Institute. This institute mainly emphasizes the training of Community Health Guides. The names for these guides are called by the Panchayat and the candidate is selected after an interview. They are trained for two years - three days a week they come to the Institute and three days they work in the villages. This is a government recognized course. The CHGs also train up VLWs. At each Health Centre (these are called Mini Health Centres) there is one male and one female CHG responsible for three and two thousand population. Apart from this the Institute also runs a Health Insurance Scheme which the CHGs assist in. They work with the doctors and also help in the socio economic development programme by providing loans, vocational training, cooperative schemes etcetera. This project is in its third year and they now plan to withdraw the doctor so that the CHGs can take over.

After some discussion on this we went to the Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre. Leprosy is in high incidence in this area, and Leprosy patients are isolated from society. This Centre provides them vocational training in things such as weaving, carpentry etcetera, so that they can manage to make a living.

In the evening we visited one Mini Health Centre. The CHG showed us how they work. He told us that whenever they organize an immunisation programme in any village they come the day before and show a short film on the topic. The next day they find a long queue waiting for them. But if they come one week after the film there is no response. On the morning of 20th June we had a brief

discussion with Dr Jacob Cherrian who stressed the role of Community Health Guides as they are better accepted by the villagers. In the afternoon we went to Gandhigram where Mr Sethu Narayanan, the Assistant, Public Relations Officer took us to different centres. We visited the Children's Home. Most of the children **come** from hospitals or through courts and are orphans and destitute. They are given proper medical care at the homes, and looked after. Some **are adopted** by good families; and when girls reach marriageable age the Gandhigram carries out the marriage. The Gram also runs a Khadi and village industry where the spinners now use an improved new model metal charkha which has made quite a difference in their source of livelihood. There is also an Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare which trains Community Health Workers, Sanitary Inspectors, Midwives and Health Visitors.

The next day we went to Kanya Kumari with Mr J Fatinson who took us to see the fishermen community. We met more than 200 women who were collected at one place and were knitting nets using nylon thread. They asked us if they should become violent or peacefully go to jail. We were surprised to see the strength of their organisation. But **is** this the answer to find proper social justice?

On the 23rd morning we were in Bangalore at the Indian Social Institute. The ICI organise different courses for those who are involved at grass root level on various aspects of approaches to development.

Left for Poona in the evening and the next morning (25th) met a Dr Anant Phadke who is a member of a Medico Friends Circle working in the slums of Poona. This is a group of people involved in health and related activities, dissatisfied with the present health system in India. Although he agrees that health problems cannot be solved in isolation from general socio economic problems, he feels that the solution to this problem is political and does not want his organisation to become a vehicle of political change. Later we discussed why doctors tend to vote for the glamorous jobs with a secondary regard for society's needs. The present medical system is to blame for this - the system is such that doctors are never mentally prepared to go out and work in the village.

On the morning of the 26th we reached Vadodara and met Dr Ashvin Patel who is running a dispensary in a village of Bharuch district. He is also of the view that it is impossible to propogate an efficient social and health programme against a background of poverty. He believes the problem would be solved by a national health scheme in keeping with our life system, needs and aspirations. He does not agree with Anant's view when he says that the MFC should limit its role in analyzing the health system in detail and not the socio economic system. Without understanding the social basis of health technology and health services we cannot make a detailed scientific critique of the present health system. We returned to Delhi on the 29th morning.

## DEBT RELIEF CASES

### Chota's Case :

Chota of Malakpur Gumti had taken a loan of Rs 1000/- from Mr Hukum Chand Jain, a local moneylender, and had given him as a pledge his wife's gold instruments (two and a half tola). Chota says that two months ago he repayed ~~the~~ amount and was told by Hukum Chand that the latter would return his jewellery after he had taken it out of the bank. Chota believed this but now Hukum Chand is demanding another thousand rupees, and he alleges that Chota has not repayed the debt.

I feel this case is genuine and requires help. It is also urgent as Chota needs the gold ornaments (which he values at Rs. 3200/-) to sell to be able to buy 4 bighas of land.

### Kantooram's case :

Kantooram is a harijan labourer who has his own house and some small bit of land. He had borrowed some money from one Hukum Chand Shahri and to repay the debt he worked on Shahri's fields and repaid a sum of Rs 1200/-. One day, without warning, Shahri reduced Kantooram's wages. Kantooram left the work and repaid Rs 200/- more to Shahri after this. On 10.1.78 he suddenly received a notice from Shahri to pay Rs 4147/- and 20 paise. Kantooram has paid back the major part of his debt and only ~~has~~ Rs 1000/- to pay, but he never executed any promissionary note. I have replied to Shahri's Counsel taking the defence of the UP Debt Relief Act and the Abolition of Bonded Labour Act, and Shahri has agreed to compromise and accept the Rs 1000/-.

The trouble is that the Chowdhry of this village does not want the labourers to live without indebtedness. They always make stupid and false claims to exploit the labourers and force them to work without paying even the minimum wage. To my opinion this is a social evil and some defence against this exploitation should be provided to the poor labourer.

## CASES OF VICTIMISED HARIJANS

Nanduram's case :

Nanduram was an 'asami' of Trilok Chand Jain and in the zamindari days his family used to work as 'begar'\* on the fields of Trilok. After the abolition of zamindari Nandu remained working on Trilok's field but after 8 or 9 years, he started a small timber cutting business of his own. In this business he came in contact with orchard owners and began to purchase and sell orchard fruits. His family became well established and he left the work of hired labour.

About three months ago Trilok asked Nandu to work as Hali (ploughman) on his farm. Nandu refused. Trilok then expanded his proposal to Nandu's son. Nandu said his son was working his own business independently and if Trilok wanted him to work he could ask him himself. This annoyed Trilok, but he could not say anything then.

Then on 7 November 1977, Trilok called Nandu to his farm and repeated the offer. Nandu refused. Trilok then claimed that Nandu's animals were harming his family crop. Nandu asked him why he had not informed him before so that he could have done something. Trilok began to scold Nandu and when the latter answered him back, he asked how Nandu, a simple man, dared to speak like this to Trilok, a landlord. He began to accuse Nandu's son of spoiling the chamars, and then his son, Babbal, assaulted Nanduram.

Immediately after this incident Nandu came to see me. He had some injuries on his head and cheeks, obviously caused by some blunt instrument. I advised him to go to the police. I also came to know that the Minister (State) for Social and Harijan Welfare was visiting Sultanpur on 2 December and I told Nandu, and one leader of Harijans called Santoo to go and discuss the matter with him and that I would be there if they needed help. This worked and the police were unable to hush up the case. It is now in court.

\* Begar - Without payment - non salaried.

2. This case arose out of Nanduram's case. Trilok has involved Nandu's sons and some other Harijans for ulterior motives.

The complaint says that Ramdia, Sukkar, Baljit, Jaipal, Karat Singh and Telu drove their animals into the Complainant's farm on 14.11.77. All of them at that time were equipped with lathis. Desu, an employee of the complainant's grandmother, saw that these people were driving their animals towards the farm to harm the complainant and his grandmother. He tried to snatch their animals and all of them intentionally attacked him, and **intimidated** him by saying they would kill him. This case has come to me for consultation. All the accused are Harijans and two of them are sons of Nanduram. I have moved a bail application for them.

There are two sides to this case. One is the side of the poor and the other is the side of the rich who has earned a lot by exploitation of the poor and money lending etcetera. He is a habitual offender of the Untouchability Offence Act but till now no one has dared to accuse him. Now that some people of the Harijan Community have dared to raise their voices against him he wants to crush them. I am morally bound to provide legal aid as this is a matter of social defence and social justice. Such cases need really good defences.

#### Rayala's Case :

The present dispute arose due to the sale of a plot. The plaintiff claimed 250 sq. feet from this plot. The plot is in the limits of the town area and all the land except 250 sq. feet lies under a pond. This is the only piece of land that can be utilised and this is in the possession of Rayala and Suggam who are using it to store cow dung cakes etcetera. Suggam had bought this land from Trilok Chand Jain about 15 years ago but that Trilok Chand had not given him any receipt. Trilok Chand has now, in connivance with the plaintiffs (one Mrs Dahnkar, Suhela, Kantoo and Chotu) executed a sake deed in their favour some 6 or 7 months ago and now plaintiffs are claiming the land is theirs. They have presented a suit in the court and obtained a stay order for the maintenance of the status quo.

## LEGAL EDUCATION

The object of this exercise was to teach a Sarpanch how to make a decision on a matter. The problem posed was this : Budh Singh, a local leader of the Janata Party and an alleged 'dalal' of the police created a fuss about the 'flow of water'\* in his field, claiming that it belonged to him. The dispute was between him and the Harijans. Budh Singh complained to the police, the Harijans went to the Nyaya Panchayat. Banarsi, from the Panchayat when called upon to make the decision held that the way was common. Budh Singh threatened to call the police but Banarsi told the Harijans to give a written complaint if the police came. Later the police tried to get the Harijans to give in writing that they had compromised but the Harijans went to Banarsi who told them that they need not do this since they had not made any complaint. When the police found that Banarsi had understood their tricks, they abandoned the case. For the first time in the village the Sarpanch's judgement had overridden that of the police. Our achievement was that people were made aware of the Panchayat's powers of its working.

\* Small Stream.

## DAIS IN THE VILLAGE

Santosh Jauhari

Nowadays dais are found in every village. As there cannot be a MHC or PHC in all the villages it is necessary to have dais. Mostly these dais are untrained and uneducated and they have learnt to deliver babies from some older women in their households.

Village dais have their own special method of working. They are usually older women. During deliveries they do not use any implements, neither do they bother to wash their hands before or after the work. They use any household knife or pair of scissors or even a bit of glass to cut the cord of the baby. Because of this the child sometimes contracts tetanus. Often if the dais are not available village women just get some older women in their homes to perform the delivery. Dais also massage the pregnant women and this is very harmful. To make the delivery easier they oil the stomach of the mother. Although they should not take any risks like this dais are untrained and they do not know this. They do not even know that implements should be sterilised before cutting the cord and this can be done by putting them through a flame and drying them in the air. In spite of this the villagers have an odd attitude towards the dais. Whenever a pregnant woman has even a small ailment the villagers send for a dai at once. They say that 'these dais have delivered thousands of our children and they know all about them'. Yet, whenever something goes wrong they complain that the dais are uneducated. And when such a thing does happen the dais sit back and do nothing. They do not believe in any kind of immunisation injection for the child. Not only this, when they find that a baby is in the wrong position in the mother's stomach they sometimes try to reverse the position by massaging the stomach. This can create complications.

If dais are trained it would solve a lot of problems of the village women. But none of them even want to be trained because according to them everything is in the hands of God. And if ever a child dies because of the faults of the dai, some parents say 'God did not want us to have this child'. If a boy is born the villagers give the dai anything she asks for and this way she makes a lot of money. Apart from this the dais have certain limitations which make it difficult for them to be able to take training.

These are :

- 1 Dais are usually older women so they find it difficult to accept the idea of taking training. They want to continue with what they have been doing all along.
- 2 Normally dais can only speak their own language or dialect and unless someone who knows this can train them they cannot take training.
- 3 The MHC and PHC are usually quite far from the village and because of their age village dais find it difficult to travel.
- 4 Village customs make it difficult for the dais to go out or to many people. They stick to whichever community they live in. If they try to do anything different or go out, their husbands or men from the neighbouring houses oppose this.
- 5 Village dais do not believe in family planning - they feel, like the villagers, that every child is a gift of God. And apart from this they do not believe in it because if they did their source of income would be cut down. And dais do not want to lose these advantages.

## DAIRY REPORTS

As told by Rameshchandra Sharma and Mehboob to Mohan Godbole

We left Pather at 8.30 am on 1 August 1978, and went to Sarsawa from where we took a bus to Karnal. At around 12 noon we arrived at the Karnal Dairy Research Institute. The chowkidar at the gate took our names and let us in. In the office we met the supervisor and spoke to him, then he took us to the hostel where he had arranged for rooms and food for us. All this looked very fine and he was very kind to us. In the bathrooms there were 'ulta phuaras' (Showers) for us to take baths with, and everything was very clean. Then we all went back to the office and discussed a few things, afterwards we came back and had a shower bath - this was a new experience for us and it was very enjoyable.

In class on the 2nd we were told about cows and the running of dairy farms. Apart from the classes we shall also make educational tours to the following places:

- 1 Sighoya, where ten cows have been bought on loan by some Harijans. These people have also taken some land on 'theka' (contract) where they grow grass for the animals. They have cross breed cows. There is also a centre which has a bull. The milk is checked at the centre and the Harijans are paid at the rate of Rs 1.50 per kilo for it. Medicines are also available here.
- 2 Panipat. Here we saw cross breed and Halistein Freisan cows. These cows have won a prize in the animal livestock exhibition of the National Dairy Research Institute.
- 3 Shyamgarh. We saw a large underground piggery here. Piglets were kept at a slightly lower level - this so that they would not die with the weight of the mother upon them. We also saw a poultry farm in which on the ground floor there were the living quarters and above these the poultry farms. We asked many questions and got quite a lot of information.
- 4 Sheikhpura. Here we were shown a film on the upkeep of livestock, and on milk, maize, sugar, etcetera, and then we went round a few houses to see how people kept their animals.