Houses

To an outsider, these mud huts seem like scant protection against leopards, though they are framed with mud bricks these days rather than by karvi plants.

It was only four years ago that the residents of Vanicha Pada decided to replace their mud houses with brick structures. The Pawars’ house is one of the last mud houses, covered only in a sheet of plastic during the monsoon.

Source of income

 Some tribal men work as gardeners in Jogeshwari’s office buildings, using their traditional plant knowledge to maintain manicured lawns. Others have taken up government or private jobs. \

houses nearly 10,000 tribals in 32 padas or hamlets that is spread over 28 km in Aarey Milk Colony.  Together they host some 1027 households, most of them tribal families, according to a 2003 survey by Sramik Mukti Sanghatan. Although living in close proximity to modern civilisation, the Adivasi have not been touched by the basic necessities of modern life, which is education, electricity or water. Their only source for income is through farming that is only possible during three months of the year. Some of these Adivasis’ trace their roots back to the dying Warli Adivasi tribes and to the time before Mumbai expanded north, engulfing everything in its way.

Locals gre bananas,and seasonal vegetables like cucumber,spinach,radish

Leftover produce was sold at farmers market to supplement their incomes

He was one of the two men in the village with full-time jobs; the other works as a security guard in Aarey Milk Colony. The rest used to work as farmers, raising urad, tur and ragi. The harsh weather conditions, however, have forced the community out of the forest in search of work. Men work as daily wage labourers or gather mangoes and cashews to sell in Jogeshwari’s markets, while women work as domestic help in Goregaon. “We earn about Rs300 per day, of which Rs200 is spent on feeding the family,” says Pawar.

Medical facility:-nearest hospital is 20 km away.for som easierwa of life with roads and hosptitals beckons.

Electricity:

Vanicha Pada, an adivasi village in unit 5 of Aarey Milk Colony in Goregaon (E), whose homes have never seen power supply.

The village isn’t an anomaly. Six others among the 27 in the dairy development department-owned Aarey Milk Colony — Devicha Pada, Nava Pada, Parzapur Pada, Jitunicha Pada, Navashacha Pada and Khambacha Pada —  also live in darkness.

Water supply

he 350 people got their first water supply — but only in the form of a single tap — on the outskirts. “It supplies water only for a few hours a day,

Education:

 CSR wing. She learnt that the village had dismal schooling facilities

the NAATA Foundation set up a fundamental education centre, or balwadi, for over 50 toddlers in the village. After the success of the first balwadi, they established three more centres in neighbouring villages.

Art:

Warli art.

Food habits:

The three adivasi villages —Khambacha Pada, Jivacha Pada and Moracha Pada — have the most treasured cooking skills.

The menu was veg and non-veg with dishes like bhopli-aloo dal, methi, lassun chutney, mirchi thecha, ragi roti, rice bhakri, bombils and more. It went so well that her plan is to make it a regular experience and the next pre-booked lunch is coming up on May 29. “The idea is to eat food made with fresh vegetables, in a tree-to-table concept. There is so much talent here and so much can be done for these folk. For instance, they have an abundance of amla trees so they could pickle the fruit and sell it

“Red chilly powder is hardly used in the food, instead it’s whole green chilly,