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vividha



A non-profit group working in educational communication

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COMET

MEDIA

FOUNDATION

a directory of participants of **stri vividha**

a fair of women producers &  
women's resource centres

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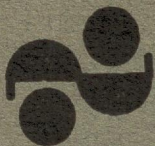
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## **stri vividha**

a development resource fair  
featuring products made by women  
struggling for survival and sovereignty

on the occasion of the  
**8th National Conference of Women's Studies**

### **SURVIVAL and SOVEREIGNTY:**

challenges to women's studies

held by **Indian Association of Women's Studies**  
from **30 May to 2 June, 1998**  
at **SNDT Women's University, Pune**

convened by **Comet Media Foundation**  
with the support of **Aga Khan Foundation**

event coordination  
**Devasmita Menon, Preeti Bhat**

support team  
**V.P. Jacob, Madhavi, Odette Lobo**

booklet design and stri vividha identity  
**Priti Karande**

printing  
**Nadeall Barodawalla at Mindwaves**



● a word from the convenors of **stri vividha**

Despite a widespread belief that science and technology have the key to human fulfillment, globally we find that many developments, especially technological breakthroughs, have not equally benefited all sections of society. In fact, very often the process of development enhances inequality, eroding the livelihoods of those already on the margins of society.

In this context, there have been a number of groups with alternative visions, who have tried to realise their thinking through a wide range of activities during the past three decades. While there is networking amongst these groups, this sharing of experience and debate tends to be limited to activist and academic circles. Unfortunately this discourse tends to take place far away from those not directly involved in such work, especially the urban middle class.

**stri vividha** is a celebration, an assertion of the vitality of a variety of such efforts centred around women taking place all over India. Some of these are experimental, some quite fully

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viable and now working their way into the mainstream. Some of these concern themselves with education and communicating ideas, others seek means of livelihood for women, all within a framework of participative, sustainable and equitable ways of living, thematically linked to certain continuing debates in Indian society from freedom struggle times.

We have discovered that development resource fairs like **stri vividha** are effective means of communication and learning. The fairs are open public events, where everyone is welcome. Visitors can see the whole fair or just the stalls of interest. They can dialogue freely with the participants in the fair. Visitors can spend as much or as little time as they like at any stall. They can go in a sequence of their choice, repeating stalls if they feel like it. In this way the urban visitors to the fair can construct the learning experience of the event in any way they want and find useful.

**stri vividha** also aims to encourage alternatives to the prevalent forms of marketing. The sale of handicrafts gives

visitors an incentive to come to know about the lives of the people who make them. The women artisans conducting sales come to know the tastes of the buyers. Sometimes craft producers are able to connect with designers and buyers of major stores at such gatherings, making mutually beneficial exchanges.

Besides the products and experiences of such groups working in Mumbai and surrounding areas of Maharashtra, there will be participants from Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. We know that **stri vividha** will have something in the fair for everyone of every age—something to read, something to eat, something to wear, something to play with.

For Comet Media Foundation, **stri vividha** is the fourth of a series of development resource fairs. We see these fairs as communication events. For those who do not know Comet, we have been involved in producing communication materials on themes related to development and education, often in collaboration with other organisations and individuals.

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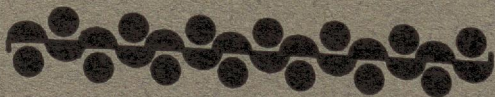


The response to the fair from the participating NGOs has been heartening. Perhaps the time is right for a fair of ideas, of possibilities which have real results to show. Our expectation is that the fair will give Pune dwellers and conference participants an opportunity to meet with development innovators to take home their materials, and to enjoy and even take part in what they have to offer.

We would like to thank the Aga Khan Foundation who came in with a supporting grant to make the fair a reality. We are grateful to Chhaya Datar, General Secretary IAWS for having invited us to put this show together and for extending resources towards it. A special thanks to all **stri vividha** participants who made this joyful event possible.

We hope that this booklet will be useful as a directory to those who have enjoyed the fair.

Chandita Mukherjee  
for Comet Media Foundation



**CONTENTS**

◆ Aalochana

◆ Akshara

◆ CEHAT

*Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes*

**CONTENTS**

◆ CWDS

*Centre for Women's Development Studies*

◆ Chandrakala Mahila Gruha  
Udyog Sahakari Mandal

◆ Comet Media Foundation

◆ Eklavya

◆ FRCH

*Foundation for Research in Community Health*

**CONTENTS**

◆ ISST

*Institute of Social Studies Trust*

◆ Kali for Women

◆ Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

◆ Mahila Harit Kala

**CONTENTS**

◆ Mahila Patchwork

*Mahila Patchwork Design & Anya Udyog  
Co-operative Society*

◆ MASUM

*Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal*

**CONTENTS**

◆ Matrumandir

*Matrumandir Mahila Sahakari Audyogik Utpadak  
Sanstha*

◆ NCAS

*National Centre for Advocacy Studies*

**CONTENTS**

- ◆ Paryavaran Edutech  
*Centre for Environment Education*
- ◆ Prakriti
- ◆ PRIA  
*Society for Participatory Research in Asia*
- ◆ Pune Mahila Mandal
- ◆ Rawat Publications
- ◆ Sabala
- ◆ Sanhita
- ◆ SEWA Cooperative Federation  
*Self Employed Women's Association*
- ◆ Stree & Samya
- ◆ Streelekha
- ◆ Tara Publishing
- ◆ Tezpur District Mahila Samiti
- ◆ Tulika Publishers
- ◆ Vacha
- ◆ VAK  
*Vikas Adhyayan Kendra*
- ◆ WIT  
*Women's India Trust*



a non profit documentation and research centre for women started in 1989

- ◆ to systematically collect and provide information on issues related to the social, political, economic, legal and personal aspects of women's lives
- ◆ to research and document all aspects of women's lives, especially of poor and low caste women's groups and organisations
- ◆ to redefine women's lives and visualise a future which will be emancipatory for all
- ◆ to provide a congenial forum where activists, researchers, students, journalists and others interested in women's issues can meet and discuss matters of common concern

**Kedar 86/11B, Kanchan Galli  
Erandwana Pune 411004  
tel: 0212 344 122**

**AALOCHANA** means critical review. The centre systematically collects and provides information on issues related to the social, political, economic, legal and personal aspects of women's lives.

**AALOCHANA** disseminates the results of its research and documentation through pamphlets, booklets, lectures, seminars and camps. This is done through a network of women's groups, libraries, and regional, national and international women's research centres.

**AALOCHANA** has made "Gangutai", a documentary on the noted educationist Gangutai Patwardhan. Its "On the Threshold" deals with the empowerment of women due to reservations.

**AALOCHANA** is working towards a multi media kit as resource material for empowering women in Panchayati Raj.

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## Akshara

a women's resource centre founded in 1995

- ◆ to support the women's movement and other progressive initiatives in multiple ways
- ◆ to create consciousness on gender issues amongst women's and students' organisations, and in society
- ◆ to campaign and network with other groups

**501 Neelambari, Road No. 86  
off Gokhale Road, Dadar West  
Mumbai 400 028  
tel: 022 430 9676, fax 022 431 9143  
e-mail: admin@akshara.ilbom.ernet.in**

AKSHARA is one of the outcomes of a phase of the women's movement in the early 1980s. This involved street protests and campaigning around sexual violence, dowry murders and other atrocities on women. The organisation grew out of the need for theoretical material to support activism into a library specialising in information on women.

AKSHARA's library comprises of 4,000 books, 10,000 documents and 30 journals.

AKSHARA is also involved in low-cost publications, research and documentation on gender issues. It produces advocacy materials on a number of subjects related to women.

AKSHARA is involved in training in information around in gender and development. It also provides support in capacity building to grass roots groups.

AKSHARA attempts to provide a platform for debate on gender and development issues through programmes like lectures, film shows, posters and exhibitions.

a non-profit research collective for enquiry into health and allied themes founded in 1991

- ◆ to conduct research and action-research on topics of relevance to people's movements
- ◆ to interact with progressive movements in related areas, such as women's groups, trade unions and campaigns and organisations involved in human rights issues
- ◆ to provide research inputs to such groups
- ◆ to identify research priorities in health at local, national or international levels, the findings of which would directly or indirectly benefit marginalised sections in society

**2/B 10 Swanand Aapli, Shiv Darshan Chowk, Parvati, Pune 411 009  
tel: 0212 547 866**

CEHAT represents the outcome of a long process of debate amongst its members and others in the health field. An increasing need was felt for a structure which could in a disciplined manner enquire into the many troubling questions thrown up by and within people's movements. This structure had to have a data base and be able to produce well-substantiated answers.

CEHAT is involved in studies and surveys on women's experience with abortion and contraception, and their perceptions of health and illness. CEHAT also seeks to inform mainstream analyses about the psycho-social trauma of populations forcibly displaced.

CEHAT's projects endeavour to create space for the participation of people in the study without compromising on academic rigour. All CEHAT's projects include ethics committees and are committed to return the results of research to participants and respondents, in an appropriate manner.

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## Centre for Women's Development Studies

a group of professionals striving to work for realisation of women's equality and development in all spheres of social life

- ◆ to work as a catalyst in assisting women to realise their full potential
- ◆ to support women in exercising their active influence on society and its transformation

**25, Bhai Vir Singh Marg  
Gole Market, New Delhi 110 001  
tel: 011 3345530, fax: 011 3346044  
e-mail: cwds@sscwds.ren.nic.in**

**CWDS** tries to disseminate knowledge about women's roles in society and economic trends which affect their lives and status. To further this, **CWDS** promotes and coordinates both fundamental and applied research on women and development. It organises and assists training programmes for scholars, administrations, planners, development agents, communicators, members of women's organisations and cooperatives.

**CWDS** collaborates with academic institutions and grassroots organisations and individuals engaged in allied activities. It provides advisory and consultancy services on women's issues to institutions and organisations, within and outside the Government.

**CWDS** focuses attention on women's special needs like maternity protection, childcare, literacy, education, and opportunities for employment and training.

**CWDS** encourages the re-examination of educational and other value generating processes which promote mystification, ignorance and distortion regarding women and their roles in society.

## Chandrakala Mahila Co-operative Society Limited

a co-operative society registered in 1983, part of Ahmedabad Study Action Group, a multi-disciplinary group of professionals working for the urban, rural and tribal poor

- ◆ to organise women in Dholka into a craft co-operative owned and managed by women
- ◆ to increase production, quality and range of the products and to improve their design
- ◆ to enhance the value of labour paid to craftswomen by adopting better cost and management practices

**Village Sathal, Taluka Dholka  
District Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
tel: 02714 23202, fax: 02714 23689**

CHANDRAKALA is a successful all women rural micro enterprise endeavouring to supplement the incomes of rural families through women's embroidery work. Owned and managed by women, it exemplifies training, support, and growth of local entrepreneurship.

CHANDRAKALA started with a small number of women with the support of ASAG. CHANDRAKALA today has 219 women members and a work force of around 200 craftswomen in six villages. They produce cushion covers, bedspreads, shoulder bags, bolster covers and pillow covers in Kutchi craft styles. This work was not native to Sathal. It was chosen by the women, and they acquired the skills from master craftsmen of Kutch.

CHANDRAKALA has provided a nucleus to many women-oriented development projects in the area. It has raised awareness and confidence levels of local women through its work. Despite restricting social customs, many women in the group are widely travelled, conversant with business dealings, and are working successfully out of their homes.

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## Comet Media Foundation

non-profit organisation involved in producing educational communication materials in print, film and video media since 1985

- ◆ to study developments in science and technology and their meaning for Indian society by looking at areas ranging from science in prehistoric, medieval and colonial times to present day issues such as people's rights over natural resources, the evolution of Indian identities over time, questions of gender equity and analysis of the role of media in society
- ◆ to promote alternative visions for a more equitable society
- ◆ to produce educational materials that reach the subjects of study to wider audiences, in forms that make complex ideas accessible
- ◆ to approach these areas in a manner oriented towards encouraging pluralism, covering a diversity of views, and the debates between them, as part of the process of understanding any phenomenon, and taking a position on it
- ◆ to distribute materials produced by like-minded groups, reaching a wide range of voluntary organisations, government bodies, educational institutions and others working with the community

**Topiwala Lane School, Lamington Road, Mumbai 400 007**

**tel: 022 386 9052;**

**e-mail: admin@comet.ilbom.ernet.in**

**COMET MEDIA FOUNDATION's** inception is linked to making of the series, *Bharat ki Chhap* or *The Identity of India*, the encyclopedic thirteen part series of films on the history of science and technology on the Indian subcontinent. Over the years **COMET** made a number of films, some of which have won awards, national and international. The group has also brought out a number of publications.

**COMET MEDIA FOUNDATION** has in recent years taken up a number of projects in the area of media advocacy, media monitoring & analysis to ascertain the dominant trends in coverage and portrayal of women's issues in the media. This activity is part of the nation-wide Women in Media Networking Initiative, an effort started by the Media Advocacy Group of Delhi. In this connection, a number of training programmes & workshops have been conducted for persons engaged in the field of education and development on the themes of media analysis, media advocacy and laws concerning media. **COMET** has also taken up advocacy and campaigning activity on women's issues through the media. Working with activists in Mumbai, it acts as a facilitator in highlighting the gender perspective in the issues concerned, and to put it across through the mainstream media.

**COMET** feels that an important source of knowledge on developmental issues is the large body of literature and audio visual materials brought out by voluntary organisations involved in activist and academic work across the country. However, such material is not easily available even to those who have an interest in such issues, much less to those unaware of its existence. The **COMET** Documentation Centre collects material on science-technology-society issues and is open to the public on appointment. It also distributes materials produced by like-minded groups along with its own productions.

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## Eklavya

a voluntary organisation working in rural  
Madhya Pradesh, formed in 1982

- ◆ to intervene in school education with a view to providing innovative programmes, alternative curricula and teaching methods within existing educational structures
- ◆ to develop a more receptive framework for implementing science and technology programmes by exploring the science-society relationship

**E 1/25, Arera Colony, Bhopal 462016**  
**tel: 0755 563 380, fax: 0755 510 806**

**EKLAVYA** believes that education should be centred on the needs and thought processes of the child, and only later be addressed to the needs of the concerned discipline.

**EKLAVYA** is convinced that the teacher's role is central to the process of education. Large number of teachers, children and resource persons are associated with the organisation, and have contributed significantly to the growth and development of its programmes over the years. **EKLAVYA** believes that the process of education should be one of constant change and evolution in terms of content and methodology.

**EKLAVYA** has evolved a number of subsidiary activities outside the school structure in order to create a suitable social and intellectual environment in which innovations can flourish.

**EKLAVYA** produces educational toys. It has set up a toy workshop for wood and metal work, providing work to rural artisans. **EKLAVYA** toys encourage children to arrive at concepts through a process of play and experimentation.

## Foundation for Research in Community Health

a research institute in the field of health care  
founded in 1975

- ◆ to collect, collate and analyse available data on the problems of health and illness of our people
- ◆ to study the cost-effectiveness of various models being used in India and other countries
- ◆ to undertake field experiments to test the feasibility of new models and techniques
- ◆ to create a people's health movement

**3-4 Trimiti B, 85 Anand Park  
Aundh, Pune 411 007  
email: frchpune@giaspn01.vsnl.net.in**

FRCH is a research institute working in the field of health care.

FRCH specially emphasises the socio-economic and cultural factors which affect the delivery of health care services. It evolves alternative health care models and methods suited to the specific needs of our country.

FRCH believes that social, educational economic and other factors are as important as medical technology factors in determining the nature of health care services to be provided.

FRCH creates awareness about the relationship of health issues to social factors, and it attempts to influence governmental policy in this regard.

FRCH educates people about the problems affecting their health. It encourages self-help by disseminating information about proper utilisation of available public and private medical services.

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## Institute of Social Studies Trust

a women's studies research organisation and resource centre to promote action-oriented research, founded in 1964

- ◆ to apply a gender perspective to developmental interventions in regional areas
- ◆ to influence developmental policies in selected sections
- ◆ to function as a nodal centre for gender research

**East Court Zone 6, Upper Ground Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003**  
tel: 011 461 7873 fax: 011 461 8724,  
e-mail: [isstdel@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in](mailto:isstdel@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in)

ISST advocates a process of development that encourages women's participation and promotes gender equity.

ISST's grassroots-level research ranges from issues related to women's health, education and economic reforms, to women in the unorganised labour market and their participation in local governance. ISST collaborates and networks with local social action groups to activate local governance structures. Through its research, ISST aims at designing training programmes for field workers, officials and resource personnel.

ISST's documentation centre JIGYASA is a storehouse of information on women's studies. It functions as a resource base for scholars, officials and activists involved in women's studies. ISST's family counseling centre helps women resolve problems of marital discord, spouse desertion, dowry and so on, through counseling and therapeutic sessions.

## Kali For Women

a publishing house concerned with women's issues, founded in 1984

- ◆ to increase the body of knowledge on women in third world countries
- ◆ to provide opportunities to women writers to publish their work

**1st Floor, B1/8 Hauz Khas,  
New Delhi 110016  
tel 011 685 2530, 011 686 4497,  
fax 011 686 4497, 011 686 6720**

**KALI FOR WOMEN** gives voice to existing knowledge and provides a forum for women writers.

**KALI's** list includes works from both the fiction and academic fields. It is primarily concerned with publishing third world studies on women.

**KALI** has initiated various programmes aimed at producing reasonably priced material in the social sciences and humanities with a wide range of collaborators. The areas covered include biographies, general non-fiction, fiction, pamphlets and monographs.

## Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan

an organisation working towards the economic development and empowerment of women of Kutch, founded in 1989

- ◆ to build self-confidence and capabilities of members for their own economic empowerment
- ◆ to develop the ability of women to reach out to a larger environment, negotiate and dialogue over development issues

**11 Nutan Colony, Bhuj,  
District Kutch, Gujarat 370 001  
tel 02832 22 124**

**KMVS** has grown out of a need to assist women dependent on handicrafts, particularly embroidery, for their livelihood. **KMVS** also works towards the empowerment of women through a process of education and critical thinking based on the expressed needs of the women.

**KMVS** at present has a membership of 4020 women from 128 villages situated in the border areas of Kutch district. These are remote, arid, drought prone villages. However their people are rich in traditional craft skills, some of which can traced back to Harappan times. **KMVS** groups produce beautiful embroidery, applique and patchwork craft products under the brand name of QASAB.

**KMVS** manages craft production units which are run and financed by women. The organisation also runs savings & credit programmes, maternal health clinics, a screen printing unit and it conducts environmental activities. **KMVS** is active in six programme areas including education, natural resource management, health and legal awareness.

a women's organisation working with resourceless women in rural Bihar, founded in 1988

- ◆ to set up a new type of rural organisation of women, for women
- ◆ to develop capabilities of rural women through their own organisations
- ◆ to enable rural women to have self-confidence and status in their village
- ◆ to improve their position in society through economic activities
- ◆ to provide support to all rural women working in the key eight economic sectors identified by the group
- ◆ to support rural women to get assets and development resources
- ◆ to improve rural women's individual and group leadership & decision-making abilities

**2/30 State Bank Colony II  
Bailey Road, Patna 800 014, Bihar  
telefax: 0612-283018**

**MAHILA HARIT KALA** represents **ADITHI**, an organisation working with poor and resourceless women in rural Bihar.

**ADITHI** works with women in eight key economic sectors:

- small animal husbandry
- agriculture and forestry
- dairying
- sericulture
- fisheries
- khadi and village industries
- handicrafts and handlooms

**MAHILA HARIT KALA** provides the marketing support to these production activities.

**ADITHI's** programmes are built on the needs of rural women in their traditional economic activities of dairying, goat rearing, fishery keeping, vegetable, fruit and flower production, handicrafts and marketing. New programmes evolved from the experiences of these groups of women attempt to address the social problems of rural women and identify new non-traditional livelihood opportunities.

**ADITHI's** current geographical focus is on eight districts of Bihar: Deogarh, Dumka, Katihar, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Nawadha, Patna and Sitamarhi. It also runs small programmes in West Bengal and with tribal women in Tamil Nadu.

**ADITHI** has provided assistance to many small and local voluntary organisations. It has helped local initiatives to attain registered legal forms, supported fledging organisations to gain a foothold and also aided older women's organisations to consolidate themselves. These initiatives have covered some 52 women's organisations across Bihar.

**ADITHI** plans to consolidate its work with 225 groups and facilitate about half of them in non-traditional economic activities. Alongside technical skills, members of such groups will be exposed to critical issues in group dynamics and solidarity-building. They will also be trained in planning and technical feasibility assessment.

a women's co-operative society registered in 1973, part of Ahmedabad Study Action Group, a multi-disciplinary group of professionals working for the urban, rural and tribal poor

- ◆ to train women of marginalised communities in Ahmedabad to produce patchwork and other handicraft products for employment support
- ◆ to provide legal aid to women in distress and to create awareness of their rights
- ◆ to conduct literacy classes and other educational activities

**Community Centre, Shankalit Nagar, Juhapura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380 055**  
tel: 079 418 031

**MAHILA PATCHWORK** produces and markets patchwork and other handicraft products. The objective of this activity is to make the women economically self-reliant and socially confident. Their products include dress materials, furnishings, bags, purses and office supplies.

**MAHILA PATCHWORK** works with a team of designers to train the women, after which they become part of the co-operative.

**MAHILA PATCHWORK** provides legal aid to destitute women who have been victims of divorce, domestic violence and other social atrocities. Along with this, it creates awareness regarding legal rights among women.

**MAHILA PATCHWORK** plans to work to increase female literacy in the community in future. The cooperative feels that this would be one of their most important interventions in the coming period.

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## Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal

a development group for helping women help themselves, founded in 1987

- ◆ to make women self-reliant and conscious of their human and constitutional rights
- ◆ to provide vocational training and credit facilities to women for self-employment
- ◆ to nurture women's physical and emotional health
- ◆ to create a sustainable and humane mode of development through people's active involvement in rural Maharashtra

**11 Archana Apartments, 163 Solapur Road, Hadapsar, Pune 411 028**  
**tel 0212 675 058, fax 0212 611 749**  
**email:admin@masum.illbom.ernet.in**

**MASUM** evolved out of an action research project related to health education. It expanded into a development group specifically working with the marginalised sections. **MASUM** identifies the various forms of exploitation faced by the community, and helps to organise people to themselves to deal with these problems. One such area is that credit. **MASUM** evolved a savings and credit programme called Streedhan which emphasises the building of women's own resource bases.

**MASUM's** feminist health centre, Streevadi Kendra believes that health goes beyond physical well being. Its approach to health also addresses the socio-cultural and economic factors involved. **MASUM's** Sadaphuli programme focuses on training village women to identify and diagnose common reproductive and gynaecological ailments and provide locally available herbal remedies for these. **MASUM** other projects include a rational drug counter, a rural theatre group, handloom weaving, balwadi programme and family counselling programme.

## Matrumandir Mahila Sahakari Audyogik Utpadak Sanstha

an institution for underprivileged women  
founded in 1982

- ◆ to assist widows and illiterate, unemployed and underprivileged women
- ◆ to help them attain self reliance by training them in skills like catering

### Post Devrukh, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

**MATRUMANDIR** is an experiment in cooperativism. Its aim is to make women self reliant by giving them employment opportunities and raising their income levels. **MATRUMANDIR** also conducts training programmes and provides guidance.

**MATRUMANDIR** is making such products as cocum syrup, jambul jam, mango jam and chhunda and karvanda jam with the help of the Maharashtra State Khadi Gram Udyog Mandal. **MATRUMANDIR** makes its products available to consumers at reasonable and affordable prices, always taking care to maintain hygienic standards.

**MATRUMANDIR's** organisational structure is based on cooperation and mutual guidance. They believe that self-esteem and the independent status of women can develop only with adequate economic opportunities.

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## National Centre for Advocacy Studies

an advocacy centre facilitating social change,  
founded in 1992

- ◆ to strengthen the capacity of people's organisations
- ◆ to advocate issues of public concern and advance policy initiatives
- ◆ to assist the growth of expertise in public advocacy
- ◆ to document advocacy campaigns carried out by social action groups
- ◆ to collate and disseminate information on development issues

**2 Santosh Apartments, Sheelavihar  
Colony, Paud Road, Pune 411033  
tel: 0212 346 460**

**NCAS** conducts training programmes for leaders and activists of social action groups. It develops indigenous course material, organises regional and national workshops on advocacy and facilitates issue-based training programmes.

**NCAS** conducts research on subjects of public concern and documents information relevant for advocacy efforts.

**NCAS'** networking efforts are directed, at coordinating initiatives of different groups working on common issues. It encourages social action groups to build coalitions around common issues and facilitates campaigns undertaken by them.

## Paryavaran Edutech

a non-profit company, functioning as the educational products division of the Centre for Environment Education

- ◆ to disseminate environmental education material

**Centre for Environment Education  
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad 380 054  
tel: 079 644 2642  
fax: 079 642 0242**

**PARYAVARAN EDUTECH** gathers environmental education (EE) software, adapts it for mass production and then disseminates it. It was found that while several organisations develop innovative EE material and programmes, such material often remains unknown, and therefore does not reach potential audiences.

**EDUTECH** works to find audiences for EE. It enables the Centre for Environment Education, **EDUTECH's** parent body, and other organisations to disseminate their EE material. At the same time, it also enables educators and others to easily access quality EE material to support specific programmes.

**EDUTECH** attempts to reach out to institutions, organisations, professionals and a wide cross section of concerned citizens, children and youth, with appropriate, high quality environmental education materials and products.

**EDUTECH** materials cover a wide range of environmental issues and use a variety of media, from print to video to exhibitions. In addition to marketing educational material produced by non-profit organisations, **EDUTECH** also develops special environment-related products like calendars and cards on request.

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## Prakriti

a resource centre for development human resource and empowerment of women, founded in 1990

- ◆ to create awareness among women as well as men on issues affecting their development and growth, dignity and self respect
- ◆ to function as a networking body for women, enhancing their skills, understanding, and capacities for social transformation
- ◆ to identify potential women partners to generate leadership and initiate programmes of social regeneration

**Water Tank Road, Lonara Post  
Gumthi, District Nagpur, 441 111  
tel: 0712 669 122, 0712 669 124  
fax: 0712 669 121**

**PRAKIRTI** has been working for the socio-economic development of women through action oriented programmes like women's self-help groups for almost a decade. It also is involved in consciousness raising on different social issues: legal, anthropological and economic.

**PRAKIRTI** functions as documentation cum information dissemination centre to small groups on gender related issues, support and promote programmes related to women by creating an environment for their growth, dignity and self-respect. **PRAKIRTI** undertakes fellowship programmes with rural youth to motivate them to take up the tasks of rural development.

**PRAKIRTI** believes that women should be made aware of their own identity and potential and share responsibility for reconstruction of society through documentation, dissemination and publication, seminars, meeting and conferences.

**an independent non-government organisation  
registered in 1982**

- ◆ to create opportunities of sharing, analysing and learning among the various formations of civil society
- ◆ to engage in independent and critical analysis of societal trends and issues, development policies and programmes
- ◆ to enable dialogue across diverse perspectives, sectors and institutions

**42 Tughlakabad Institutional Area,  
New Delhi 110062  
tel 011 643 9559, 645 1908,  
fax 011 647 1183  
e-mail: pria@da.too.nl**

**PRIA, or Society For Participatory Research in Asia** has promoted people-centred development initiatives within the perspective of participatory research, strengthening popular knowledge, demystifying dominant concepts and promoting experiential learning.

**PRIA's** basic principle is to support empowerment of the poor and the oppressed, through field studies and documentation, workshops and training programmes, networking and enabling linkages,

**PRIA** has facilitated the strengthening of capacities within grassroots groups, voluntary agencies, NGOs and other formations.

**PRIA** endeavours to promote people centred, holistic and comprehensive evolution of society characterised by freedom, justice, equity and sustainability.

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## Pune Mahila Mandal

a women's organisation working in rural areas and urban slums in and around Pune, founded in 1927

◆ to deal with problems of women and children arising out of urbanisation

◆ to provide services related to education, employment, family planning and counselling to economically weaker sections

**17, Parvati Payatha, Pune 411 009**  
**tel: 0212 443 548, 0212 445 592**

**PUNE MAHILA MANDAL** is a branch of the All India Women's Conference. Founded during the freedom struggle, in recent years, it has been working with the problems of women and children arising out of urbanisation.

**PUNE MAHILA MANDAL** has over 1200 members spread across Pune city, with nineteen sub-committees to look after the day-to-day activities of the group. The organisation conducts activities in the spheres of education, employment, family planning and counselling.

**PUNE MAHILA MANDAL** has recently started industrial job assembly work for women. It also has a unit making ready-made garments and uniforms for school-children, nurses and factory workers. The Udyog Mandir provides sweets and snacks from their outlet and on order. **PUNE MAHILA MANDAL** is active in the field of education. It runs crèches, pre-primary schools and adult education classes in various areas of Pune.

**PUNE MAHILA MANDAL** hopes to work on overall development of selected villages and urban slum localities in future. The plans include installing biogas plants, conducting vocational training and working for total literacy.

New books on  
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<i>Joshi V</i> <b>Polygamy &amp; Purdah</b>	Rs. 300
<i>Ahuja R</i> <b>Rights of Women: A Feminist Perspective</b>	Rs. 200
<i>Jethani U</i> <b>Single Woman</b>	Rs. 250



**Rawat Publications**

3-Na-20, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur 302004 INDIA

Tel: 651022 / 651438 Fax: 651748

## Sabala

an organisation working for women and child development in Karnataka, registered in 1986

- ◆ to strengthen women by providing opportunities for income generating activities, self employment, self reliance and savings
- ◆ to assist women to organise and build their own societies
- ◆ to educate and train women and children to minimise migration and child labour
- ◆ to work unitedly for women's rights and to fight against social evils

**Samatha Building, Kirtinagar B  
Bagewadi Road, Bijapur  
Karnataka 586101**

**SABALA** helps in entrepreneurship development among women working in traditional handicrafts, laying emphasis on skill development, training, production and marketing.

**SABALA** has helped women develop their skills in Banjara and kasuti embroidery, quilt making and other crafts unique to the area. **SABALA** took up this project to check migration and sustain traditional craft by making it a commercially viable activity.

**SABALA** has also been working in the areas of education, non-formal education for working children, watershed development programmes and low cost housing.

**SABALA** provides training and networking of elected gram panchayat women at taluka level, and is also engaged in collective land development activity. In the future, **SABALA** hopes to extend its activities in the talukas of Bijapur district through a network of women's sanghas.

**a gender resource centre founded in 1996**

- ◆ to integrate information services into the field of gender and development
- ◆ to create an information network among women activists and grass root organisations
- ◆ to facilitate the process of collective learning and action
- ◆ to produce advocacy materials
- ◆ to conduct gender training for grass roots activists
- ◆ to provide referral services for women in the areas of violence, crisis management, legal aid, shelter, vocational training and marketing services

**89B Raja Basanta Roy Road  
Calcutta 700029 tel: 033 466 2150  
fax: 033 473 0687, 033 473 5619**

**SANHITA** arose from the belief that unequal access to information strengthens gender inequality. This gender resource centre was set up with the primary objective of collecting, processing and disseminating information on gender issues to groups engaged in action and research programmes.

**SANHITA** has published journals, posters, pictures postcards and other advocacy materials on different gender related issues. They believe that information can be a very powerful tool for empowerment, if it is clear, comprehensible and appropriately highlighted.

**SANHITA** works in collaboration with other groups based in West Bengal in all its projects. It is seen by users as a clearing house for information exchange, and a platform for strengthening solidarity among women.

## Self Employed Women's Association Cooperative Federation

part of SEWA, a trade union of self employed women founded in 1972. ABODANA, BANASCRAFT and KUTCHCRAFT are among the member groups of the Federation

- ◆ to provide means of livelihood to women below the poverty line and to socially and culturally deprived and disadvantaged families
- ◆ to enhance the economic and social development of its present and potential members
- ◆ to encourage and organise participation of self employed women in the co-operative movement
- ◆ to develop their skills by providing education and training in entrepreneurship
- ◆ to provide advisory services, training and technical support services to its members
- ◆ to make urban and rural poor women equal partners in the development process through redistributive interventions

**SEWA Reception Centre, Opp. Victoria Garden, Bhadra, Ahmedabad 380 001  
tel: 079 550 6477, fax: 079 550 6446**

SEWA has been organising poor self employed women in urban and rural areas of India for the past quarter century, helping them to become aware of their worker role and status. **SEWA CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION** works for the active participation of poor self-employed women in co-operatives to ensure work and a steady income. This body represents the concerns of women's co-operatives with policy makers.

**SEWA CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION** has seventy co-operatives as members. This includes artisans' co-operatives, land based co-operatives, livestock co-operatives, trading co-operatives and service co-operatives.

**ABODANA** is one of the oldest constituents of the **SEWA** family. It is the cooperative of women block printers of Ahmedabad.

**BANASCRAFT** is the outcome of **SEWA's** work in Banaskantha district, north Gujarat. Started in 1988, its focus is on women's socio-economic development and leadership. Banaskantha is an arid desert region. When the monsoons fail, local communities are forced to migrate. **SEWA** has attempted to arrest the region's poverty and enforced migration by launching non-farm economic activities, the focus being on providing work to the poorest women.

**BANASCRAFT's** aim was to turn precious traditional skills found amongst these women into income-generating activities with design and marketing support from **SEWA**. The women produce a variety of goods in techniques such as applique, ari embroidery and mirror embroidery using traditional motifs. Today over 4000 women of Banaskantha district have found gainful employment through these efforts.

**KUTCHCRAFT** came into being subsequently, when similar work was started in Kutch by **SEWA**. Over a period of time, **KUTCHCRAFT** has built up a wide range of handmade products, garments and soft furnishings, making buyers aware of the rich visual idioms of Kutch.

**SEWA CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION** deals with issues like access to raw materials, marketing, working capital, production, tools, equipment and work space. The **FEDERATION** also facilitates exports by its members.

## Stree and Samya

a partnership of two publishing houses, Popular Prakashan of Mumbai and Mandira, an independent publisher of Calcutta. They work as joint publishers of two imprints: **STREE** a women's studies list set up in 1990, and **SAMYA** which focuses on the construction of culture, started in 1996.

- ◆ to study and publish literature on the condition of women in India and the fundamental issues facing them today
- ◆ to look critically at issues of privilege and oppression in Indian society

**16, Southern Avenue, Calcutta 700 026**  
**tel 033 466 0812, 033 466 1413**  
**fax 033 464 4614, 033 466 6677**

**STREE's** focus is on women's work and the workplace, whether organised or unorganised, paid or unpaid work. Class relations and political subjection, culture and ideology, marriage and the family, impact of religion are also central themes of their publication activity.

**STREE** plan studies on the past which will suggest guidelines for an understanding of the present. **STREE** is vitally concerned with developing women's studies in Bengali and publishes original scholarly books in that language. **STREE** also translates women's contributions to literature and scholarship in other Indian languages into English..

**SAMYA** takes a critical look at privilege and oppression, inviting the reader to participate in the ensuing debate. It focuses on contemporary issues and those of the past. Examining the roots of injustice and the serious divisions within India, it weaves together scholarly analysis and experiences of activists, attempting a deeper understanding of contemporary changes .

## Streelekha

a project of the society for informal education and development studies in Karnataka, founded in 1985

- ◆ to develop an alternative outlet for the emerging voices of women
- ◆ to ensure that the written word becomes accessible to all women
- ◆ to distribute books published from small, alternative and feminist presses in the third world
- ◆ to provide space for all kinds of creative self expressions by women
- ◆ to act as a reference point for Vimochana, a women's activist group in Bangalore that reaches out to women in distress through informal counseling and legal support

**15/55 1st Floor, Cambridge Road,  
Bangalore 560 008  
tel: 080 560 311**

STREELEKHA grew out of the need to develop an alternative publishing unit for the feminist sensibility. It has tried to make a niche for itself in the academic and activist world.

STREELEKHA not only ensures that women's knowledge finds its way into universities and other places of learning, but also attempts to evolve ways of making such works accessible to all women. To this end, it runs a reading room and library called Kavya for Women.

STREELEKHA is not just an outlet for books and other material. It is also a space for women's creative energies and thinking. At STREELEKHA, authors, poets, researchers and activists share their work and experiences, and hold dialogues and debates on issues of common concern.

## Tara

a children's publishing house founded in 1994

- ◆ to produce innovative and attractive books for Indian children based in their own context
- ◆ to produce books that will be attractive and fun, and at the same time develop children's faculties of imagination and learning
- ◆ to initiate a reading culture which is not merely confined to text books, comics or imported material

**20/GA, Shoreham, 5th Avenue,  
Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090**

Tara is an independent children's publishing house, producing contemporary materials, traditional tales as well as educational books.

Tara's themes include gender awareness, working children and the environment. Many of their publications are based on innovative projects carried out with children.

Tara has also started a series on translation from Indian languages, to provide access to writings in Indian languages to Indian children who primarily read in English.

## Tezpur District Mahila Samiti

a women's organisation in Assam, founded in 1928

- ◆ to focus on issues affecting women in North-East India
- ◆ to assist women to be economically and socially self-reliant
- ◆ to put into action the Gandhian ideology of village self-reliance

**Tezpur District Mahila Samiti,  
Tezpur, Assam 784001  
tel:03712 30534**

**TDMS** is a federation of a more than 70 primary or village mahila samitis, its membership consisting of over 7,000 women. It is one of the oldest women's organisations in the north-east.

**TDMS** runs a weaving project and a number of other training cum production activities which have helped members of rural women's organisations to have regular incomes.

**TDMS** has also helped market these goods in various sales and exhibitions at local and national levels. **TDMS** also has training programs in sericulture and wasteland development.

**TDMS** has set up a legal cell in an effort to build a network with legal activists. It imparts training to **TDMS** members on issues of legal rights, domestic violence and desertion. It conducts a monthly medical checkup and imparts health education to its members.

**TDMS** has also introduced the concept of women's credit unions which provide an opportunity for rural women to stand on their own feet.

## Tulika

a children's publisher based in Chennai

- ◆ to produce innovative books for children
- ◆ to address the needs of children to make connections with their heritage, environment, culture and contemporary reality
- ◆ to stimulate a climate of responsible readership

**7, Prithvi Avenue, Abhiramapuram,  
Chennai 600 018  
tel: 044-498 1639**

TULIKA books cover a range of subjects: from fiction to non-fiction through to researched picture books for children.

TULIKA's bilingual books at the early reading level have been designed especially for multilingual societies such as ours. These books help the child to learn in two languages simultaneously. Readers would have the option to explore one language through the other.

TULIKA also publishes books in regional languages.

TULIKA plans to work with various organisations involved in grassroots literacy work with children to produce innovative books and learning material for this section of children.

a women's group involved in social research and action activities, registered in 1987

- ◆ to create awareness-raising programmes
- ◆ to run a women's resource centre
- ◆ to produce cultural materials concerning women's rights

**5, Bhavana Apartments, Swami Vivekanand Road, Vile Parle West, Mumbai 400 056, tel: 022 836 3469**

VACHA believes access to information is important for any struggle, movement or development programme. This idea has given rise to VACHA women's resource centre. VACHA also creates and disseminates cultural resources such as skits, audio cassettes and videos, songs on subjects concerning women's rights, women's history, environment and peace.

VACHA regularly screens films of interest to women. As part of its research on women in the nationalist movement, it has produced a documentary based on narratives of ordinary women who participated in the freedom struggle.

VACHA has also engaged in various research projects and produced a document on Siddi women living in the Gir forest. Presently it is engaged in a detailed study of the issues concerning older women under its Vardhana programme.

VACHA has established a children's library unit in Mumbai municipal schools. The unit has integrated programmes of academic inputs with social and cultural activities, giving emphasis to the participation of girls. It distributes materials in Marathi, Gujarati, Urdu & English.

## Vikas Adhyayan Kendra

a secular voluntary organisation founded in 1981, engaged in the study of contemporary development issues.

VAK's major areas of concern are:

- ◆ dalits and adivasis
- ◆ women's issues
- ◆ environment & ecology
- ◆ religion and society
- ◆ secularism & communalism
- ◆ theory and practice of social transformation
- ◆ ideology and culture

**D-1 Shivdham, 62 Link Road  
Malad West, Mumbai 400 064  
tel: 889 8662, fax: 889 8941  
e-mail: admin@vak.ilbom.ernet.in**

VAK believes that people are both the subjects and makers of history. Their creative energies are expressed in their day-to-day activities as well as in their struggles and movements. These are experiences of immense value. However, often these remain dormant and diffused.

VAK believes that there is a crucial need to crystallise and consolidate these experiences to lead towards a critical social theory to help realise a vision of society based on the principles of equal rights and justice.

VAK seeks to contribute to this process through the facilitation of a continuous dialogue and interaction between theoretical research and living experience of people.

VAK believes that since 1991, a watershed year for politics in the country, there have been a number of developments which are detrimental to the people and country as a whole. These range from the IMF/World Bank imposed structural

adjustment programmes to the transnational corporation-promoted engineering paradigm of bio-technology, and from communal discourse to gender inequalities. These developments have necessitated serious analysis and working out of strategies to counter them.

VAK's objectives include the critiquing of the various development paradigms and their application to the Indian situation. It also monitors various development alternatives and initiatives including indigenous knowledge systems, both within "mainstream" society and Adivasi cosmologies.

VAK's activities are oriented towards western India, that is Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. This region represents the achievements of the prevalent path of development and also provides gross examples of the resultant destruction of the environment and dislocation of the lives of people.

VAK's major activities include study, research, consultation, publication, documentation, education, campaign and advocacy work.

VAK endeavours to provide support to groups working with the marginalised sections of society through these activities. It maintains a modest library and documentation cell for this purpose.

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## Women's India Trust

an organisation working with under-privileged women, founded in 1969

- ◆ to provide employment opportunities to needy and unskilled women
- ◆ to make women self sufficient by providing skill and income-generating activities

**110/111 New Udyog Mandir  
Moghul Lane, Mahim  
Mumbai 400 016, tel: 446 2506**

WIT is a charitable organisation providing employment opportunities to women from the economically weaker sections of society since its inception 29 years ago. WIT's motto is to help women to help themselves.

WIT provides home-based work in tailoring and related activities on piece-rate basis. Workers can do their work in their homes, in their own time. This has succeeded in drawing many women into economic activity.

WIT Centre at Panvel, started in 1983, provides free of cost training in block and screen printing, nursing, catering, balwadi teachers' training and toy making to women from rural areas.

WIT also runs a stitching unit at the Centre. Here women produce appliqué bedspreads, patch work quilts, shopping bags, cushions covers and soft toys. WIT's food production unit makes excellent quality food products including jams, pickles and squashes.

WIT products are marketed through its retail showroom at Tardeo and through sales regularly organised in different parts of the country and abroad.

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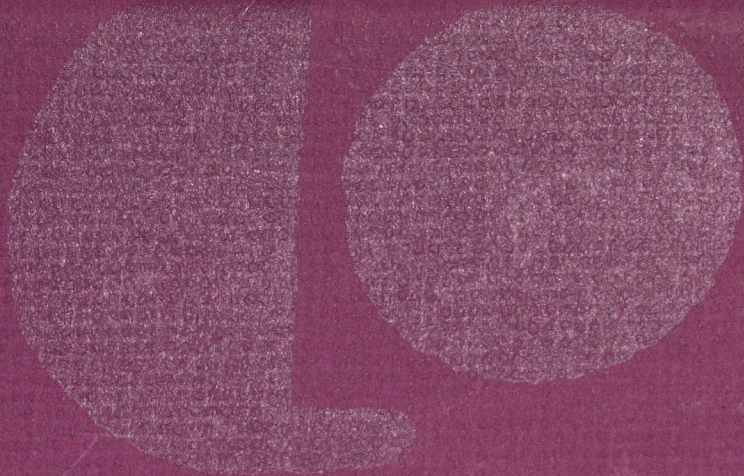
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Other communication materials like

- ◆ posters
- ◆ leaflets
- ◆ tracts
- ◆ learning toys
- ◆ educational videos also available


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enquiries: **Comet Media Foundation**  
Topiwala Lane School, Lamington Road  
Mumbai 400 007  
phone: 386 9052 fax: 022 387 0901  
e-mail: [admin@comet.ilbom.ernet.in](mailto:admin@comet.ilbom.ernet.in)



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● "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" — Luke 2:14



*With Compliments from* PFIZER LIMITED

**women in focus**

Experiences of women as seen by filmmakers from across South Asia will be screened at *stri vividha 2000*, the women's resource fair at the IXth National Conference on Women's Studies.

The films explore the lives of women in the family, at work, as performing artists, and in movements. The selection includes animation, documentaries and feature films.

Coordinated by Comet Media Foundation, the festival features films by students as well as experienced film makers.

Those interested in copies of the films shown at this festival may write for further information to Comet Media Foundation, Topiwala Lane School, Lamington Road, Mumbai 400 007  
tel : (022) 386 9052  
e-mail : admin@comet.ilbom.ernet.in



**stri vividha 2000**

at the IXth National Conference on Women's Studies

**Savera Function Palace**  
8-3-237 Yusufguda Corner  
Hyderabad 500015

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2000**

12:00

**Sushama: Vhay, Mee Savitribai**

(Yes, I am Savitribai) 58 min

Director: Anik Ghosh

Producer: SPARROW

This is part of the *Video Notes* series on women artists by the Sound and Picture Archive of Research on Women (SPARROW). Sushama Deshpande, a prolific theatre actor, speaks about her life and her theatre experience. She performs excerpts from her play on the life of Savitribai Phule — *Vhay, Mee Savitribai*.

1:10

**Uttaradhikar (The Inheritance) 60 min**

Director & Producer: Ananya Chatterjee

This documentary traces the story of the people of the Garhwal and Kumaon hills, and their legacy of insecurity. The film depicts their struggle for a separate state of Uttarakhand and the depletion of natural resources by development processes, that largely affect women.

2:20

**Memories of Fear 60 min**

Director: Madhushree Dutta

Producer: Majlis

The film portrays the socialisation of girl children, making them vulnerable to violence in later life. Four fictional narratives trace the lives of women of varying ages. These are juxtaposed with interviews of women who have had violent marriages and are able to make connections between patriarchy and marital violence.

3:30

**Annapoorna (The Goddess of Food) 25 min**

Director: Paromita Vohra

Producer: T. Jayshree

Set in the lanes of central Bombay's mill areas, the film portrays Annapoorna Mahila Mandal, a women's organisation. Started in 1975 by 14 women who prepared meals for migrant workers, the organisation now has over 150,000 members. The film follows the daily lives of these women intertwining these with the organisation's growth.

4:15

**Barf (Snow) 54 min**

Director: Saba Dewan

Producer: Action India

Barf is a documentary film which takes us on a trek to the Himalayas with a group of adolescent girls from working class areas of Delhi. Moving along with the girls, it shows these girls reflecting on the violence, fear, and deprivation in their city lives. They are energetic, optimistic, curious and at the same time, dispirited, fretful and anxious. Despite the hardships, they exult in adolescent energy, hope and desire to reach the snowline at the end.

5:30

**No Child of Mine 7 min**

Director: Kavita Arvind

Producer: National Institute of Design

This documentary revolves around the lack of sexual awareness among teenagers leading to unwanted pregnancies and abortions. While the film does not take moral positions, it advocates responsible sexual behaviour. It attempts to understand the issues involved, through dialogues with adolescents and medical practitioners.

5:50

**Siddheshwari 40 min**

Director: Amrita Dutta, Radhika Kapur, Anubha Yadav

Producer: MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia

This documentary explores the life and work of the well known thumri singer Siddheshwari Devi (1908-1978). Her thumris were her means of self-expression through which she entranced listeners. Gifted with a sense of humour, she enjoyed cooking and entertaining a variety of people. The structure of the film is based on her music.

6:30

**Skin Deep 90 min**

Director: Reena Mohan

Producer: Majlis

The film is an exploration of body image and self-identity among contemporary urban women in India. They are often overcome by a sense of not being physically attractive and have to attempt to come to terms with such feelings. The film traces the dynamics of the search for femininity and how it permeates the self-image of women.

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2000**

12:00

**Breaking the Barriers 60 min**

Director: Sushma Narain

Producer: UMC, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Domestic violence is often dismissed as a "personal matter". This translates into a lifelong adjustment with physical and mental torture. If it ends in death, it is often passed off as an accident in both medical and police records. This film looks at some of the initiatives taken to mainstream this issue, both by the state and civil society.

1:10

**Dushshomoy (A Mother's Lament) 28 min**

Director & Producer: Yasmine Kabir

Shima Choudhury, a sixteen-year-old garment worker, was picked up by police while travelling with her boyfriend. She was allegedly gang-raped by four policemen that night at the police station. Later, she was sent to prison for "safe custody" where she died under mysterious circumstances. Her case has become a landmark in the Bangladeshi women's struggle against institutional oppression.

1:45

**Can't Say Why 15 min**

Director: Shital Sudhir

Producer: National Institute of Design

Anita Balachandran, the protagonist, is on the threshold of

marriage to Rajiv. She is unable to decide whether she wants to get married with kids and the attendant security or whether she wants her own world, her space and her dreams. This film is an effort to understand the coming of age of women in today's society, and their struggle to determine what they want to do with their lives.

2:00

**Maya Vismayah 58 min**

Director: Chandita Mukherjee

Producer: SPARROW

A part of the *Video Notes* series on women artists by SPARROW, documenting the work of Maya Krishna Rao, a contemporary performing artist. Trained in the classical Kathakali dance form she is a theatre actor and a drama teacher. In the process of a search for a "contemporary form of expression which represents our times", she has evolved her own style of performance combining elements of dance, music, theatre, lighting and video. This film shows Maya discussing her work at a workshop with students, and scenes of her daily life, at her home and her studio.

3:10

**Naja goes to School 7 min**

Director: Shilpa Ranade

Producer: White Horse films & Soumitra Ranade Productions

*Naja goes to School* is an animation film about a 12 year old girl who, despite earning a scholarship, has to stop school halfway. She is the daughter of poor dalit parents who cannot afford to send her to a girl's school in a faraway town and so Naja has to stay at home. The film is based on an episode from the Marathi autobiography *Picture Book of My Life* by Shantabai Kamble.

3:20

**Mani's Dying 7 min**

Director: Shilpa Ranade

Producer: Royal College of Art

*Mani's Dying* is an animation film based on an extract from Nemade's novel *Kosla*. The film reconstructs events surrounding the death of the protagonist's 5 year old sister Mani, in a smallpox epidemic in their village. He is a university student living in a city hostel. He experiences her death intensely and rages against its futility. This film has won the International Critics Jury Award, BIFF 1995 and was nominated as the best British Student Film 1995.

3:35

**Portrait of belonging: Sagira Begum 30 min**

Director: Sameera Jain

Producer: Doordarshan

This documentary is a part of a series on craftspeople living in the old walled city of Delhi entitled *Portrait of Belonging*. This film looks at the life of Sagira Begum, a zardozi embroiderer practising a hereditary craft.

4:10

**Kya Aapko Pata Hai?** (Do you Know?) 25 min

Director: Madhushree Dutta

Producer: Majlis

This is a series of five spots on the legal rights of women. Each spot informs women about the rights granted to them under law and custom. Fantasy characters Rangli and Sangli make each subject come alive.

4:40

**Safia Khan Ki Talash Mein** (In Search of Safia Khan) 18 min

Director: Utkarsh Mazumdar and Nischint Hora

Producer: Sonal Shukla

Safia Khan is a woman freedom fighter whose photograph hangs alongside those of Annie Besant and Sarojini Naidu in Congress House, Mumbai. A member of the Bombay Pradesh Congress, she was a well known person. Yet she disappeared from the scene after 1947. The film traces her life and raises questions about her subsequent obscurity.

5:10

**Mobile Theatre** 30 min

Director: Khalid Ahmad

Producer: Tehrik-e-Niswan

Tehrik-e-Niswan (The Women's Movement) has been working in Pakistan since 1980. Its objective is to raise awareness about women's issues through theatre and television productions. An activity of the Tehrik is its Mobile Theatre programme. Groups of actors travel to neighbourhoods and villages and perform plays on women's issues, followed by discussions.

5:50

**For Maya** 30 min

Director: Vasudha Joshi

Producer: The Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

This documentary film addresses women's discourse through an exploration of the lives of four generations of women in a family of Kumaoni origins. The space the great-grandmother longed for is taken for granted today. Traditional forms of patriarchy have given way to new freedoms, with different aspirations and apprehensions.

6:30

**Guzar Jayegi Raat** 90 min

Director: Khalid Ahmad

Producer: Tehrik-e-Niswan

Zubeida a lower middle class housewife in Karachi, comes out of the house and starts to work as a health worker in a voluntary organisation. As she begins to excel in her job, her husband becomes insecure and accuses her of infidelity. He comes close to a nervous breakdown, going to a faith-healer in a bid to "retrieve" his wife. This leads to further problems and Zubeida has to fight to retain her life and marriage in this fiction film.

## 10<sup>th</sup> January 2000

1:30

**Janmadinam** (The Day of Birth) 105 min

Director: Suma Josson

Producer: NFDC

Janmadinam is a feature film about the subtle and tense relationship between Amma the mother, and Sarasu the daughter. The film is set on the night when Sarasu is about to give birth, when time and space lose their definition. From a flow of images, it emerges that Sarasu was forced to marry Raghu by her parents, though she was in love with Ajay. A few months after her marriage, she passes through Bombay where she meets Ajay during the '93 communal violence. In the aftermath of this meeting, Sarasu is forced to make a choice, and Amma realises that she too has to take a stand.

3:30

**Asli Aazadi** (True Freedom) 55 min

Director: Sagari Chhabra

Producer: SOCH

This documentary film is a tribute to the contribution of women freedom fighters to the national struggle and the quest for freedom today. Among the subjects explored are the Rani of Jhansi regiment, a women's military corps of the Indian National Army and Gandhian freedom fighters. Infused with the songs of the freedom movement, it is a personal quest of the filmmaker for the meaning of freedom in the present.

4:45

**Hamri Baatein** (Our Stories) 63 min

Director: Nandini Bedi

Producer: Action India

Set in four resettlement colonies of Delhi, the film addresses issues of women's reproductive and sexual well being. The work of Sabla Sangh, a women's health organisation, centres around the idea that control over one's body leads to control over other aspects of one's life. The women who work here have a basic but effective knowledge of anatomy and herbal healing.

6:00

**Between Dualities** 30 min

Director: Malati Rao, Madhuri Banerjee, Sulekh

Producer: MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia

This documentary film is centred around three women who are labelled mentally unstable. They are institutionalised because they are not wanted by their families. The film raises questions about how patriarchal power operates in this context, and about the general medical and legal indifference to this issue. It also draws attention to the increasing number of such cases and the ease with which such oppression has received social legitimacy.

6:30

**jee Karta Tha** (I used to Wish) 18 min

Director: Hansa Thapliyal

Producer: Film & TV Institute of India

The story of this film moves around the women in a cluster of middle class families in a small town. Once the men go to work, another world unfolds in the colony. The film explores the relationships and tensions that underlie the women's daily routines. This world is seen through the eyes of a young woman who desires to study further, rather than enter into an arranged marriage. This film won the National Award in the category of the Best Short Fiction Film.

7:00

**Three Women and a Camera** 56 min

Director: Sabeena Gadihoke

Producer: Doordarshan

Homa Vyarawalla was India's first professional woman photographer, with a career spanning from the 1930s to the 1960s. Sheba Chhachhi and Dayanita Singh, who started work in the 1980s are two contemporary photographers. Using the narratives of all three photographers and locating their work in their historical contexts, the film explores their identity and visibility as women and the shifts in their concerns regarding representation and subject-camera relationships.

## 11<sup>th</sup> January 2000

2:00

**Rokeya** 63 min

Director: Manzare Hassin

Producer: Steps Towards Development

Rokeya Sakhawat Hossein (1880-1932) was one of the pioneers of the women's movement in colonised Bengal. The daughter of a conservative, aristocratic family, she was born in an age of cultural regeneration and reform. The film traces her work in the field of Muslim women's education, and her vision as a secular, rational writer and patriot.

3:10

**Sundari: an Actor Prepares** 30 min

Director: Madhushree Dutta

Producer: Majlis

The film is based on the production of *Sundari*, a play on the legendary female impersonator of Gujarati theatre, Jayshankar Sundari directed by Anuradha Kapur. The film explores the layers of identity in cross-gendered impersonation, in the context of contemporary discourse. Played against backgrounds by eminent painters Bhupen Khakkar and Nilima Sheikh, the film also chronicles the process of the theatre production.

3:50

**Manzilen Aur Bhi** 84 min

Director: Khalid Ahmad

Producer: Tehrik-e-Niswan

This is a drama based on the life of a school teacher in a lower middle class neighbourhood in Karachi. She struggles for the rights of her girl students to continue their education in the face of fundamentalist opposition. It also focuses on her life and questions the notion that marriage is the main purpose of a woman's life.

5:00

**A Journey Together** 70 min

Directors: Gargi Sen, Ranjan De with Gouri,

Bharati, Sharadaben and Chhaya

Producer: Action India

The film presents Action India's history, experience and perspective on issues central to its struggle for an egalitarian society. The group has worked in the resettlement colonies of Delhi since 1975. The film weaves together the personal stories of four women who have been with Action India, their experiences, collective efforts, inner struggles, failures and successes.

6:20

**Barred from Life** 25 min

Director: Raman Mann & Partha Sarkar

Producer: British Council Division & View Finder

This documentary examines the lives of women sentenced to life imprisonment. It compares the situation of women prisoners with male prisoners and attempts a gender specific analysis of their incarceration. While life imprisonment terms are to be reviewed in seven years, some of these women have been in jail for 14 to 22 years. The film asks why their cases have not been brought up for discharge earlier and provokes the audience to reflect on the possible reasons.

7:00

**A Woman's Place** 57 min

Director: Paromita Vohra, Maria Nicole,

Catherine Stewart & Pat Van

Producer: Maryland Public Television

Advocates for women's rights have frequently moved for legal reforms in their efforts to accord women equality. But are new laws enough to change old ways? *A Woman's Place* explores this question through the issues of inheritance in a South African village, domestic abuse in an American town and divorce in an Indian city, and profiles the ingenious strategies of women who use law in the age-old conflict between tradition and change.

# **strivividha 2000**

**at the 9th National Conference on Women's Studies, Hyderabad**

