

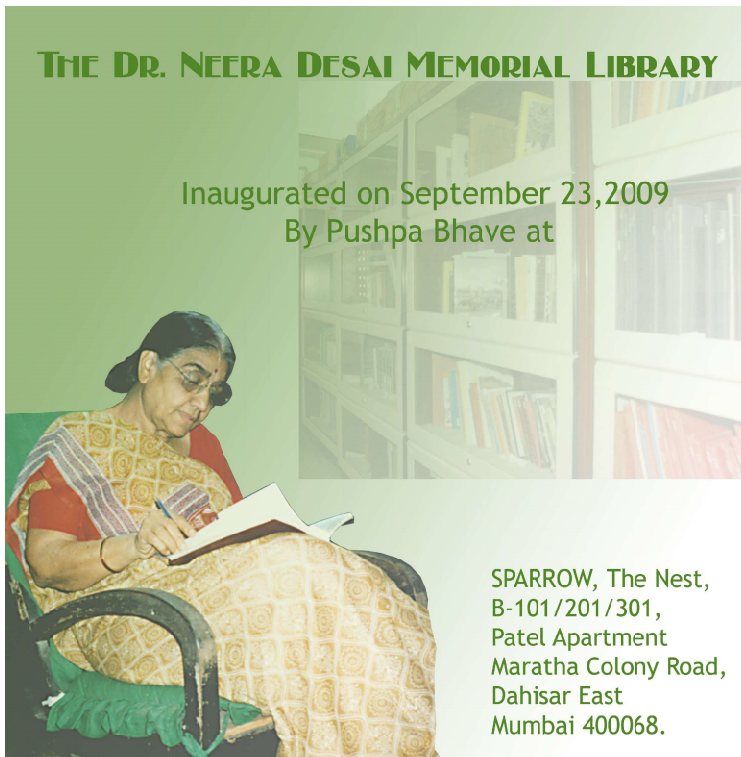
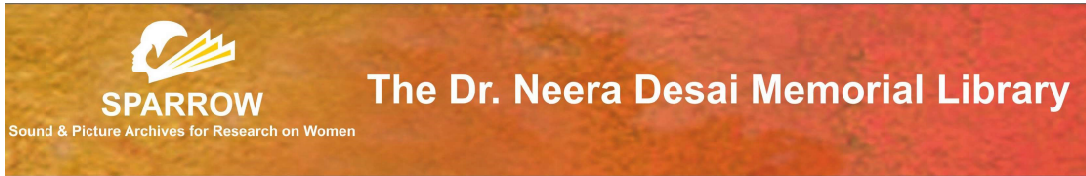
# ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2023 to 31 MARCH 2025



SPARROW

**Sound & Picture Archives for  
Research on Women**



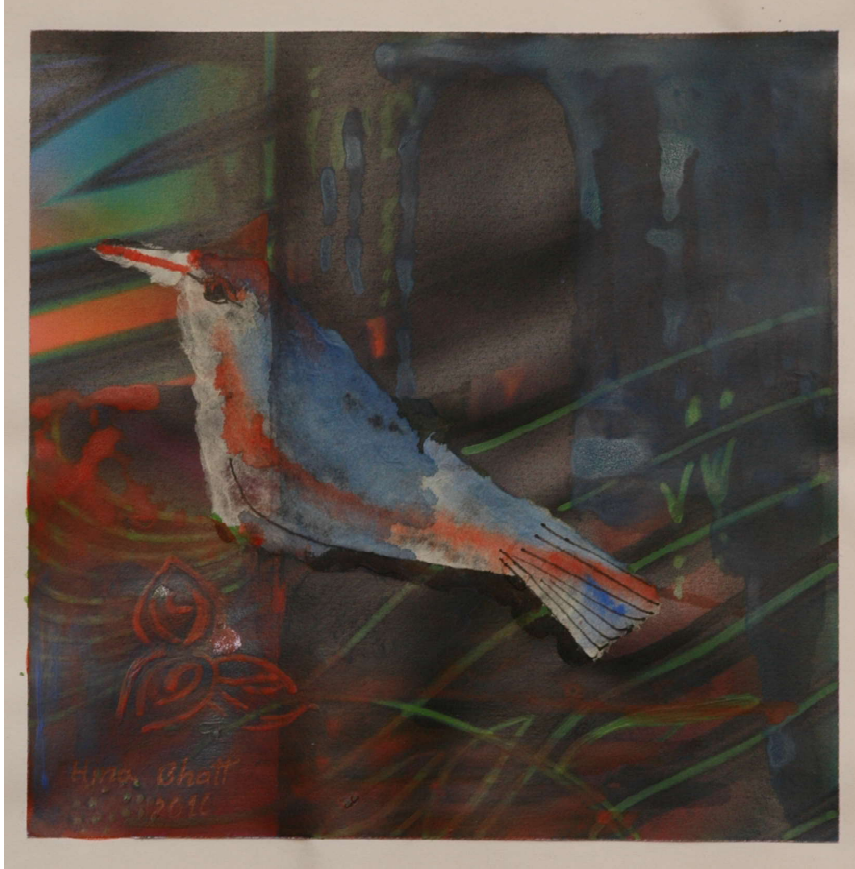
**WITH  
CONSULTATION AT  
OUR PREMISES,  
SPARROW WALK  
AND INTERNSHIP  
WHICH WERE  
OUR REGULAR  
FEATURES  
SPARROW IS ALSO  
OPEN FOR ONLINE  
CONSULTATION**

SPARROW is happy to announce that the digitised catalogue of its Library is available online on our website [www.sparrowonline.org](http://www.sparrowonline.org)

You can go to our website and click on LIBRARY to view and search the SPARROW Catalogue.

1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

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# ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2023 to 31 MARCH 2025



SPARROW

Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women

## SPARROW ANNUAL REPORT

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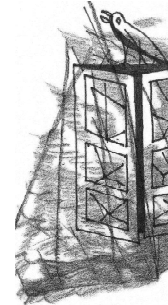
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Brought out by:



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1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

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ANNUAL REPORT  
1 April 2023-31 March 2025

PREFACE

All of us working for women and archiving women's life and history know that while empowerment is the magical word used by all politicians, is not a single stroke happening; empowerment is a process and a journey. Many programmes for women have been launched in the last 11 years and with the goal that in future the focus will not be women's development but actually be women-led development. In the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2025, there were major social developments concerning women in India centered on landmark legislation for political representation, significant increases in workforce participation, and government initiatives for economic and social empowerment. Legislation like the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, passed in September 2023, was considered historic. The law reserved one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and the Delhi assembly. This reservation will be enacted after the next census and subsequent delimitation exercise which will help determine the exact number of reserved seats. This reservation was to be extended to the assemblies of Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir.

Many other schemes were also aimed at economically and socially supporting women. Support for women entrepreneurs through Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, introduced in the Union Budget for 2023-24, was a small savings scheme exclusively for women and girl children, offering a 7.5% interest rate. Namo Drone Didi Scheme launched in August 2023, was an initiative to train women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to become drone pilots for agricultural purposes. It provides an 80% subsidy for drones, enhancing both rural livelihoods and financial independence. Lakhpati Didi Initiative is a programme under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, which aims to empower women in SHGs to earn a sustainable annual income of at least <sup>1</sup> 1 lakh. By March 2025, it had enabled 1.48 crore women to achieve this goal.

In this period there has been increased access to education and the number of females in higher education has increased, in fact, more than that of males. Many schemes like *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, Mission Shakti, have shown good results statistically. This has reflected in breaking gender barriers and more women are now seen in what are considered male-dominated fields earlier. Women cadets graduated from the National Defence Academy for the first time in May 2025 and women are being enrolled as Agniveers in all the three services.



It has also led to more women in other fields like STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and aviation. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Gramin (PMAY-G) reported that over 72% of new houses were either solely or jointly owned by women, boosting their role in household decision-making. The Jal Jeevan Mission provided tap water connections to millions of rural households, significantly reducing the time women spend fetching water and improving their overall well-being.

Where safety for women in general and in work places is concerned, under the Mission Shakti umbrella, several schemes for women's safety were reinforced. Over 800 One Stop Centres (OSCs) became functional as of early 2025. These were to provide support to women facing violence. Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (SHe-Box), a portal, was launched in August 2024, offering an online system for women to register complaints regarding workplace sexual harassment. Legally speaking, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 legislation strengthened the existing provisions for crimes against women, including sexual offenses and trafficking. Nearly 15,000 Women's Help Desks became operational in police stations by early 2025.

These are, no doubt, major efforts. However, one must not forget that whatever progress has been made in these areas has not been without ongoing challenges. And anyone working with women and concerned about their history and life will understand that these challenges are related to gender-based violence, the digital divide, and persistent patriarchal norms. There is not a day when one does not open the newspaper to see terrible rape cases and horrifying murders after a relationship goes awry. Workplace harassment has also been regular news in the papers.

The challenges are also in terms of actual implementation of the developmental policies in paper. It has been seen that there have been implementation gaps. These gaps were especially in rural and marginalised communities. This was because of low awareness because they were not educated about the policies. And the last-mile delivery of the benefits was weak because of bureaucratic slackness. A 2025 survey indicated that there certainly was a digital gender divide. 51.6% of rural women aged 15 and older still did not own a mobile phone. This limited their access to online services, education, and employment.

There have been a few concerns related to Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th constitutional amendment Act) as well. These have been enumerated by



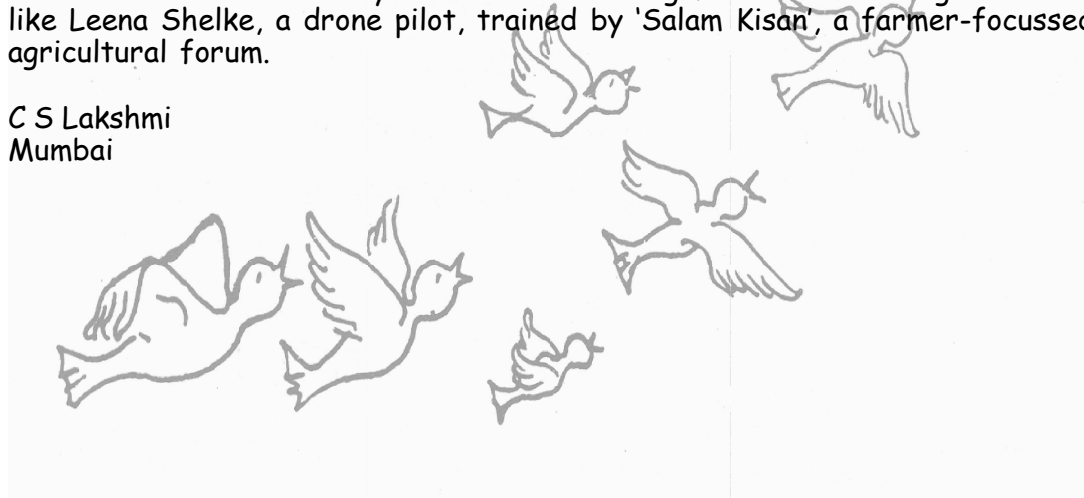
1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

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the Vajiram content team on their website. The basic question that arises regarding reservation is regarding equality vs. reservation. Some critics argue that reserving seats for women may conflict with the principle of merit-based competition and equality, as enshrined in the Constitution. There is also the question of whether the voter's choice will get restricted because of this. The voter may not be able to choose candidates freely if reservation for certain seats is mandated. Moreover, women, unlike caste groups, do not form a homogeneous category. Where women come from different socio-economic backgrounds, the diverse challenges faced by them may not be addressed by a uniform reservation policy for women. Concerns also persist that some women elected through reservation may become "proxies" for male relatives, undermining the law's intent. This phenomenon has previously been observed at the Panchayat level in the Sarpanch Pati phenomenon. The political outcome may also be not what is imagined or desired because the rotation of reserved seats and differences in state-wise implementation, may lead to uneven representation, hence become unpredictable. The Act also does not provide for any reservation in the Rajya Sabha or in State Legislative Councils, which means women's representation will remain limited to directly elected lower houses.

It is in this context that archiving women's lives and history had to be done in the last years. Both exhilarating news and the contextual and conceptual limitations had to be taken into account documenting and archiving all aspects. Some of the names of women SPARROW would like to hold conversations with for our Video Conversation programme, have been drawn out of material documented in these two years. We are looking forward to talking to women like Leena Shelke, a drone pilot, trained by 'Salam Kisan', a farmer-focussed agricultural forum.

C S Lakshmi  
Mumbai



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SPARROW

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**POLICY DECISIONS, STAFF STRUCTURE,  
AND TEAM SPIRIT**

The positive internal factors for SPARROW will always be the team spirit that exists and the keen interest shown in learning and understanding new archival ideas and technology as a part of archiving.

Routine archival work and new projects kept SPARROW engaged in these two years. Each and every project linked and coordinated different aspects of archival project work. One of the positive internal factors was, as always, the resilience of the SPARROW team to take on challenges.

There was also the crisis of maintenance for after occupying the current building in 2008, only occasional repairs had been done and some major repairs needed to be done. Early drizzles in June 2023, warned us of the possible leakages that may happen and repairing work began and extensive repairs had to be done so that the ACs, computers, the archival vault and other damp areas could be protected from heavy rains. This disrupted the work but we tried to work despite that.

We successfully managed to identify three eminent individuals to join our Board of Trustees to replace the three who had requested to be relieved of their duties as trustees. The new trustees have shown keen interest in the work of SPARROW and have already begun to contribute in its work. New Advisory Committees were also formed with members from within and around Mumbai and outside Mumbai. Members of our Advisory Committee from outside India continued to be our longstanding patrons and supporters, Dr Gerldine Forbes, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emerita, Department of History, State University of New York, Oswego, Dr Sruti Bala, Associate Professor at the Dept. of Theatre Studies of the University of Amsterdam and also affiliated to the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis, where she also serves as a member of the advisory board and Dr Josna Rege, Professor Emerita, Worcester State University, Worcester, MA, U.S.A.

Our battle in this period had been mainly with the Charity Commissioner's office. The online-offline had not yet got resolved and despite the best efforts of the lawyer we have employed, things are moving slowly. The FCRA factor in this period, has also not been easy because the SBI main office in Delhi insists on money transfers through SWIFT mode only and those abroad find it difficult to take the trouble of going to the bank and insisting on a SWIFT mode transfer and

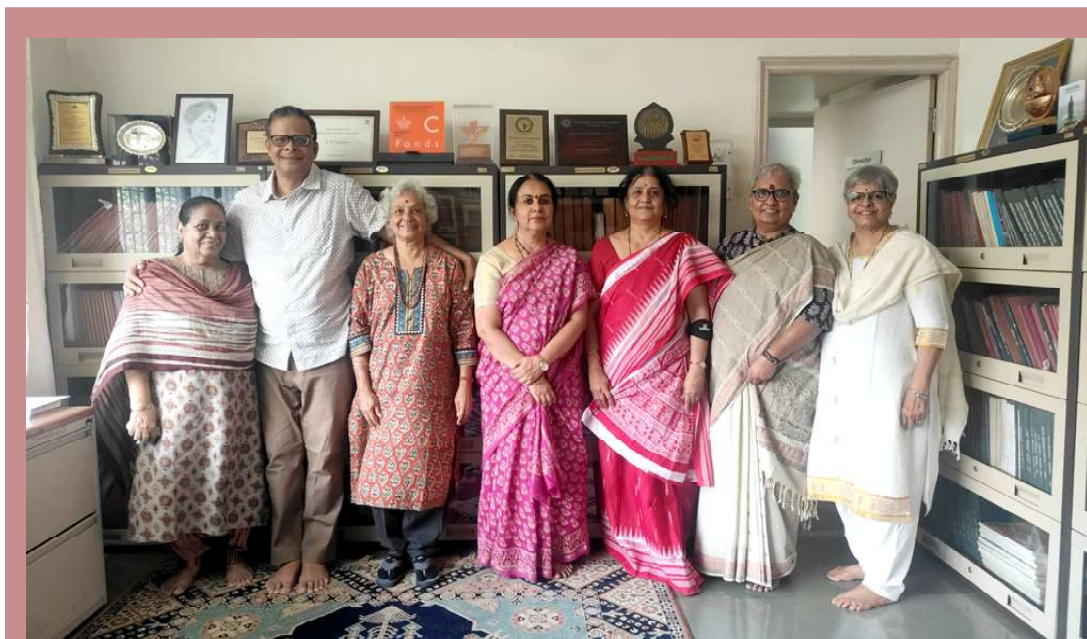


**1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025**

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not a direct money transfer. As a result, many donations sent from abroad were sent back to the donor by the SBI.

A great positive factor during this period, was the never-say-die attitude of the SPARROW team. We are a team working in harmony. So whatever internal factors like illness, difference of opinion, time factor in the case of an emergency at home are always worked out. There is much more ease in the way we are coordinating even while working from home some days due to family reasons. Working from home, constant communication on WhatsApp even during non-office hours is part of the coordination pattern we have created and working late in the office after office-hours to complete some aspects of a given project is by individual choice and there is no need for pressure to be put on anyone. We enjoy this way of working where we are aware of the advantages and disadvantages of every member of the team and the work is adjusted according to that.



**Present Trustees of SPARROW**

**L TO R:** Dr Charanjeet Kaur, Mr Jerry Pinto, Dr C S Lakshmi,  
Dr Mala Pandurang, Dr Uma Maheshwari Shankar, Dr Padma Deshmukh and  
Ms. Sujata Tandel.



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**SPARROW**

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We would like to keep our core team small and take external help on an ad hoc basis. Many offers have come from people who know archiving and are researchers but we have not been able to employ them as they need full time employment on a UGC scale of pay and we prefer to collaborate on a project-wise basis.

### PROJECT AND ARCHIVAL ACTIVITIES

The regular archival projects like cataloguing of books, articles, print visuals, and posters, audios and films, marking and cutting newspaper articles and print visuals, acquiring books and journals, transcribing and translation of oral history interviews done, identifying and acquiring private papers and photographs, writing and commissioning book-reviews and articles for the SPARROW Newsletter, uploading the website and maintaining the Face Book page went on as usual. Digitisation work is an ongoing work and is in process for all the collected materials.

We also continued our outreach activities of holding one day workshops with students and interacting with researchers with enquiries and taking visitors for SPARROW WALKS.

Our regular archiving work was as interesting as always with each new book or a visitor taking a SPARROW WALK creating ripples of excitement.

We continued with our ongoing project entitled "Making Oneself, Making History: Archiving Women's History" for the Purpose of Bringing Women's History into the Public Sphere Through Online/ Digital Presence, Events/ Meets, Publications and Continued Archiving. The project involved video-filmed conversations, oral history, women writers' camps, publications in different languages and audio books. The project is progressing with great enthusiasm and relentless perseverance to achieve its goals, despite challenges such as budget constraints and limited personnel.

All the projects have kept us on our toes and we loved that because the entire SPARROW team gets involved when a particular project is being done handling different aspects of the project. As always, we enjoyed working on all the projects.

The following work list will give an overall view of the work done in these two years.



**1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025**

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## **ART IN LIFE, LIFE IN ART**

For the project on **Art in Life, Life in Art**, interviews were done with women classical and folk artistes with the intention of publishing a bilingual book in two parts and in two languages (Tamil and English). Some 6 interviews were conducted with a few disappointments. Some musicians' lives are managed by their families, mainly daughters and two musicians had to be finally removed from the list of musicians because after a year of trying the daughters of both the musicians could not give a single date for interviewing their mothers. We had to reluctantly strike their names off from the list although we had added several other names to it. Alamelu Mani, an eminent senior musician residing in Mumbai, the mother of singer Hariharan, Sumana Chandrasekhar, the ghatam artiste, A Kanyakumari, the well-known violinist, Dandamudi Sumathi, the mridangam player in Vijayawada and Usha Vijayakumar, the gottuvadhyam artiste in Thrissur are some from the list.

All the interviews done so far have been transcribed and in the process of being translated. Translation done of some interviews are in the process of finalisation. Final work on acquiring photographs and other material of the entire group of artistes is going on. The final work of writing will begin soon.

## **WOMEN RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY**

The Women, Religion and Spirituality project, is a project all of us get involved in, in terms of knowing about women from various walks of life. Their interviews included aspects of their life and also their views on religion and spirituality. It brings into focus many women from different regions like Ladakh, Chennai and different cities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and Delhi, engaged in different professions like running a restaurant, arranging women-led mountain trekking tours, doing heritage related work, and working as propagators of the peaceful aspects of various religions and academic work, talking to us about their life and the different ways in which religion and spirituality become a part of their lives.

All the interviews are in different stages of transcribing, translation, and proof reading. Final work on acquiring photographs and other material of all the interviewees is going on. Some more interviews are planned for the coming year. Transcriptions and translation work is going on of all interviews conducted in these two years.



### LEARNING TO LISTEN: CONVERSATIONS

Our Conversations project has really opened the doors to many in Mumbai itself who are doing amazing work quietly without much publicity. SPARROW has made 27 films so far and we were happy to get this project entitled Conversations for making 6 films per year for five years. We hired a team of a Director, Camera Person and Sound Recordist who decided to work with us for all the films. We started with 6 films per year but due to over budget we decided to do only four per year.

The women we chose in the conversations were from different fields like a writer, a Poet, a Dancer, a Painter, an Educationist, a Social Activist, a Filmmaker, a Musician, a Journalist, a Stand-Up comedian and a Buddhist Nun. First, we thought of doing it only in Mumbai but seeing some women's incredible work we could not stop from travelling till Ladakh to shoot Dr Palmo Tsering from Ladakh Nuns Association. We have successfully completed video recording of 16 films.

We had the Director, three qualified editors, two women and a man, sitting in SPARROW office and editing the Conversations films and it was good to watch the films taking shape. The post production stage is going a bit slow as we are also subtitling the films and transcribing and editing and subtitling took longer than usual because not all of them were in English and it involved translation also. The editors and the film team needed more time to do sound and colour corrections so that it could finally be taken to an editing room and finalised. At present only one has been fully finalised and the rest are all in different stages of work.

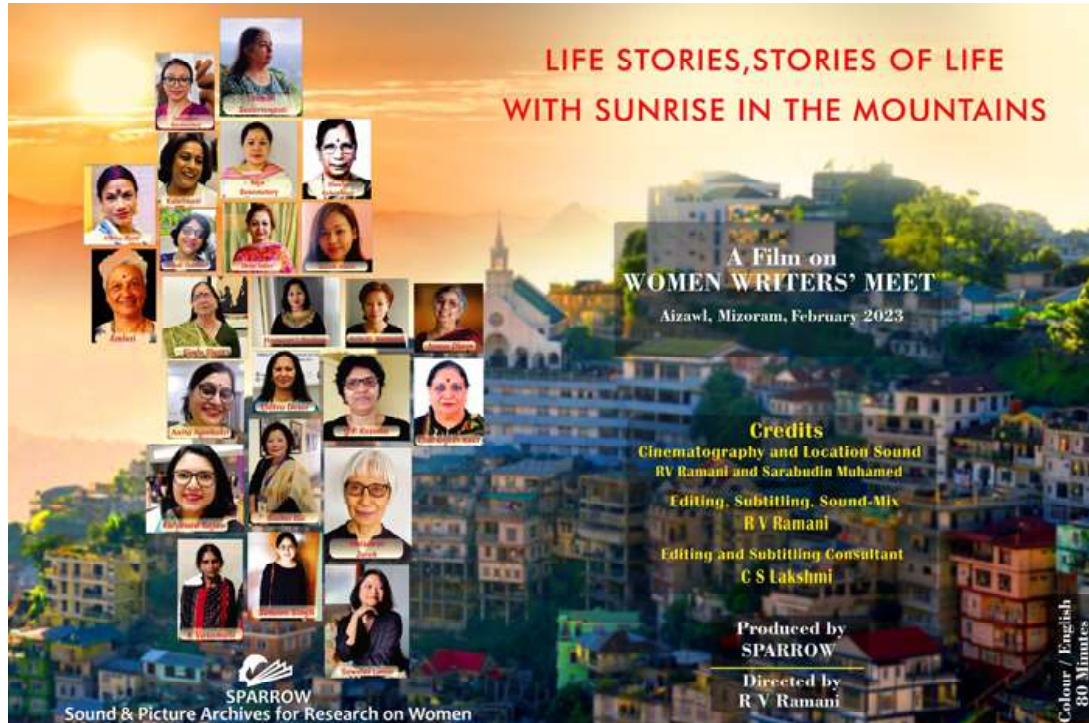
### WOMEN'S LIVES WOMEN'S WORDS: WOMEN WRITERS' MEET 2025

The film on The Women Writers' Meet called Women's Lives, Women's Words organised by SPARROW in collaboration with the Department of English and Culture Studies, Mizoram University in February 2023 has been completed and uploaded on our website. The Meet was a huge success. SPARROW has brought out a special issue of the Meet. The next Meet was planned in 2025.

Since we had organised a Meet successfully in Aizawl, Mizoram, 2023, we thought this Meet would be a cakewalk for us. It was not! After initial plans to have the Meet at Dharamshala, the trip to Dharamshala to plan 2025 writers' meet in April was made. We set out to Dharamshala to discuss the Meet with our Buddhist nun friend Ven Tenzin Paldrön at the Thosamling Nunnery with whom we thought



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we would collaborate, but it turned out to be a bit disappointing because despite all the trouble we took to travel to do the recce the venue was not suitable. We were keen on Dharamshala because difficult terrains are challenging and since our Meets are not the usual Meets, Dharamshala would have been ideal. But it was not to be. Other places like Shillong and Guwahati were also considered but did not work out. We came back disheartened but immediately began thinking of other venues.

Then began a desperate search for an ideal location around Mumbai. Aarti, our accountant, enterprising as always, visited many resorts and reported and since many things had to be taken into consideration including the budget, a second round began with Pooja, Aarti and C S Lakshmi which finally led us to the Green Hills Villas in Bapsai and its wonderful owner Mukesh and his wife Kamini. But budget was still an issue. That is when generous friends, stepped in to help us. Once the venue was decided all other plans about food, menus, ways to have fun and also do serious work began to take shape.



SPARROW

### TRANSLATION & PUBLICATION: HISTORY OF A JOINT FAMILY

One of the positive internal factors is always the resilience of the SPARROW team to take on challenges. Working on the family maps of the translation of the Tamil book on joint family, was not easy for no one in the team apart from the director, knew Tamil. This led to some healthy laughter when Tamil names were mixed up to mean some atrocious things and also a lot of satisfaction that we could do it. Having lost our publisher friend Madhav Bhagwat of Mauj Printers, we had to work out different ways of doing our printing and it taught us many things.

Printing and releasing of the Joint Family book in Tamil and English (July 2024) made us feel thrilled as it added one more feather in SPARROW's Publication cap. It was a lot of hard work but both the books have been well received.



The Tamil version *Oor Aikkiya Kutumpac Carittiram* and the English version *History of a Joint Family* are out. The Tamil version is available on Amazon and we are still to find a distributor for the English. Till we find a distributor the book can be ordered by writing an email to SPARROW

#### ***Oor Aikkiya Kutumpac Carittiram* Family History (Tamil Edition)**

##### **Author**

V.S. Visalakshiammal

##### **Translated by**

C S Lakshmi and Malathi Ramanathan

##### **Website Link**

<https://books.kalachuvadu.com>

##### **Buy on Amazon**

<https://www.Amazon.in/dp/BOD9BRQRNG?>

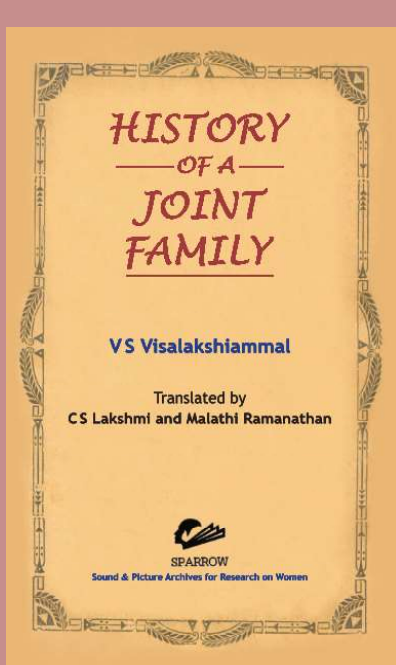
##### **Get the e-book**

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1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

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**HISTORY OF A JOINT FAMILY**  
Family History (English Edition)

**Author**

V. S. Visalakshiammal

**Translated by**

C S Lakshmi and Malathi Ramanathan

**Contribution Price** Rs: 300/-

The book can be ordered by writing an email to SPARROW

(sparrow1988@gmail.com)

**Buy on Amazon**

<https://www.amazon.in/History-Joint-Family-V-Visalakshiammal/dp/8192540324>

### **TRANSLATION & PUBLICATION: SISTER SUBHALAKSHMI'S AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

SPARROW took the unfinished autobiography written in Tamil of the legendary social reformer Sister Subhalakshmi (also written as Subbalakshmi by many) written in the magazine *Jaganmohini* from the late forties for translating into English and printing it both in Tamil and English.

The work of designing, preparing the manuscripts for print is going on. The publishing will be done in collaboration with Swasam Publications Pvt. Ltd, a publishing house based in Chennai.



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SPARROW

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**TRANSLATION & PUBLICATION: AMACHI AAI BY ASHALATA KAMBLE, A BIOGRAPHY ON A MOTHER.**

Translation and publication of the Marathi book *Aamchi Aai* in five languages (English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil and Gujarati).

Translation work of English, Gujarati and Hindi is completed. A lot of time is needed for very careful editing and also for vetting. Work on all the language versions is going on simultaneously.

**PUBLICATION: TELLING STORIES: GRAPHIC BOOK IN FIVE LANGUAGES**

SPARROW is working on a graphic book of life stories with illustrations. The book is based on the lives of 14 women from the SPARROW archival collections.

This project is getting more exciting with translations into different languages bringing in many helpful translators, illustrators, advisors and consultants. The work of writing the life stories in English and translating it in different languages (Hindi, Tamil, Marathi and Gujarati) is going on.

**REAL LIVES, VIRTUAL ARCHIVES: A VIRTUAL SPACE FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY**

Regarding the virtual archives, after considering many designs we finally arrived at the decision to shoot the SPARROW archives and its archival material as a part of the virtual SPARROW WALK and began to identify different technicians who would do the shoot for us. All this has been a great learning experience.

The Virtual space page created by SPARROW with a small video of SPARROW VIRTUAL WALK uploaded on SPARROW Website <https://www.sparrowonline.org/virtual-archives/> was well received and drew many students and teachers and groups to come to the archives for a SPARROW WALK and also request for workshops. A revamp of the SPARROW website work is going on. All the sections will be updated, and also A NEW VIRTUAL PAGE will be created for outreach purposes.

SPARROW Virtual Archives  
SPREADING THE WORD TAKING THE DIGITAL ROUTE  
SPARROW VIRTUAL WALK  
<https://www.sparrowonline.org/virtual-archives/>  
<https://youtu.be/vZn6asJ72Zo>



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

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## AUDIO BOOKS

The audio project was especially interesting as this was the first time we were venturing into this field. But we found very competent people to execute this



project for us who were doing it at our rates because they loved our work. That was very heartening. The audio project took us this time through a lot of paperwork to get a Payment Gateway.

5 SPARROW booklets were converted into audio and podcast on different platforms as SPARROW IN AUDIO in 2023-2024. Some more booklets are in process and will be done in 2025.

We have been enjoying the work as it took us into different areas of work which were both interesting and challenging. Interviews, preparation for the Women Writers' Meet, Virtual Archives explorations, venturing into audio book publications and continuing our regular archival project work made our work days hectic but also enjoyable.



**SPARROW EVENTS, WORKSHOPS,  
SCREENINGS  
AND OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

**EVENT**

In July 2024 SPARROW became the venue for an event, Oral Traditions and Women's Archives organised by Tanvi Shah, theatre maker and Nalanda Arts Studio Associate Director, as a part of their Desdemona Roopakam Mumbai Tour. Sushama Deshpande, the theatre artiste, Shruti Veena Viswanath, a singer, song catcher, stirrer of her stories, educator and curator and C S Lakshmi from SPARROW and the entire SPARROW team and an invited audience took part beginning it with a SPARROW WALK followed by talks and discussions and music.



**WORKSHOPS**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023:** A group of young men from MAVA, (Men Against Violence and Abuse) visited SPARROW for a SPARROW WALK. The students were shown a documentary on Homai Vyarawalla followed by an interactive session. They interacted with SPARROW Team and promised to visit again with more people.

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2024:** SPARROW conducted a one-day workshop with students from the Department of English, Valia College, Mumbai on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Seventeen students along with Professor Neena Nair and Ankita Vora visited SPARROW. The students took the



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

SPARROW WALK and saw the SPARROW archives, and were excited to see SPARROW's archival collections. The master class with Dr C S Lakshmi on how SPARROW came into existence interspersing it with many details of the politics of everyday life kept the students engrossed. The students were shown a documentary on Homai Vyarawalla followed by an interactive session.

SPARROW Team was happy to share their archival knowledge with the students and thanked Professor Neena Nair for bringing the students.

**13th February 2025:** SPARROW conducted a one-day workshop with students from the Department of Sociology, Sophia College for Women, Mumbai on 13th February 2025. Seventeen students along with Professor Sukanya Menon and Dr Chitra Adkar visited SPARROW. The students took the SPARROW Walk and saw the SPARROW archives, and were excited to see SPARROW's archival collections. The master class with Dr. C S Lakshmi on "Women's Lives, Women's Words: Some Thoughts on Feminism as Experience" and "Writing Women into History" kept the students enthralled. The students were shown a documentary on Shahjehan Apa followed by an interactive session.

SPARROW Team was happy to share their archival knowledge with the students and thanked Professor Sukanya Menon, Dr Chitra Adkar for bringing the students.

**WOMEN'S LIVES  
WOMEN'S WORDS**  
Department of English, Valia College,  
D.N Nagar, Mumbai invites students for a **ONE DAY WORKSHOP**

**SPARROW Walk**

**Workshop**  
• SPARROW Walk  
• Master Class with Dr. C S Lakshmi  
• Screening

**Venue**  
**SPARROW**

**Screening**  
**HOMAI VYARAWALLA**

Date: 19 December 2024  
Time: 9:30am to 2:00pm

**SPARROW**  
Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women  
The Nest  
D-101/202/301, Patel Apartment, Maratha Colony Road, Dahisar (E), Mumbai-400068  
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E mail: sparrow1988@gmail.com • Website: www.sparrowonline.org • FB: https://www.facebook.com/sparrowngp/

**WOMEN'S LIVES  
WOMEN'S WORDS**  
**One Day Workshop** for students of the  
Department of Sociology, Sophia College, Mumbai

**SPARROW WALK**

**Workshop**  
• SPARROW Walk  
• Master Class with Dr. C S Lakshmi  
• Screening

**Venue**  
**SPARROW**

**Screening**  
**shahjehan apa**

Date: 13 Feb 2025  
Time: 9:30am to 2pm

**SPARROW**  
Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women  
The Nest  
D-101/202/301, Patel Apartment, Maratha Colony Road, Dahisar (E), Mumbai-400068  
Phone: 022-2805019/995237724  
E mail: sparrow1988@gmail.com • Website: www.sparrowonline.org • FB: https://www.facebook.com/sparrowngp/



**SCREENINGS**

SPARROW documentary on Homai Vyarawalla was screened at Bangalore International Centre (BIC) on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. Ms. Sandhya Kannan and her team were very keen to have this collaboration as they were very much interested in SPARROW's work. The screening was conducted followed by discussion with Dr. C S Lakshmi.

**Homai Vyarawalla**  
India's First Woman Photojournalist

71 mins | 2006 | English

WEDNESDAY  
22 Jan  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Details on our website

Speaker  
C S Lakshmi  
Director, SPARROW

SPARROW Stall at HSSF Exhibition

**OUTREACH**



SPARROW participated in HSSF Exhibition, Malad, Mumbai, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025. SPARROW set up a stall with books and posters which was visited by many.

All SPARRPOW Newsletters are available online. You can download from [www. http://www.sparrowonline.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.sparrowonline.org/newsletters.htm)



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025



One day workshop with students from Sophia College, Mumbai.



Dr C S Lakshmi with students from MAVA for Orientation workshop



Sharmila Sontakke and Asmita Deshpande with students from Valia College, Mumbai for one day workshop.



Dr C S Lakshmi with Mava Team



### SPARROW-R THYAGARAJAN LITERARY AWARD 2023

The genre chosen for SPARROW-R THYAGARAJAN Literary Award 2023 was autobiographies, biographies and memoirs. The SPARROW Literary Awards are normally given to a woman and a man writing in Tamil and either a woman or a man for the non-Tamil language category. The SPARROW panel of judges this year were D I Aravindan, T Parameswari and Ambai for Tamil and our consultant as always, was poet and writer, Sukumaran. For the year 2023 SPARROW decided to choose one woman and two men instead of one, for the Tamil language award. They will be sharing the award. In the other language category, the language chosen was Kannada and a woman was chosen for the award. The final award decisions were taken by D I Aravindan, T Parameswari and Ambai on the panel of judges.

The writers chosen in Tamil were **Naseemunnisa, Vareethiah Konstantine** and **Thirukkumaran Ganesan** for their books *Anbulla Anees* (Dear Anees) (Kothai Pathippagam, 2019), *Kaiyaru Nadhi* (A River Deprived) (Kadal Veli Pathippagam, 2022) and *Kari Viruntum Kavuli Verrilaiyum: Saathiyinar Chutta Vadu* (A Mutton Feast and Some Betel Leaves: The Scars of Caste). In the other language category **Shymala Madhav** was chosen for her autobiography *Nale Innu Kadide* (Tomorrow Still Awaits) (Bharathi Prakashana, 2021).

**Naseemunnisa's Anubulla Anees (Dear Anees)** is family history and autobiographical details as told by a grandmother to her grandson. It is a movingly written book in great detail which has not received the attention it deserves.

Naseemunnisa is a homemaker and not a writer but when she was over 70, and had lost her son, she felt the need to write down notes to her grandson about their lifestyle, society and culture for him to know about his family, so that he could remember his ancestors under all circumstances and also for him to tell his children. Her purpose was also to tell a younger generation person like him about Islam and its ways and its teachings in the way she has understood them and also to make him aware of the character traits of his ancestors. She wrote them down in an 80-page note book. Later she was persuaded by her family and friends to turn it into a book.

It came as a shock when we heard the very next year that Naseeminnisa had breathed her last in November 2024. We were happy that she got recognition for her book while she was still active.



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

SPARROW-R THYAGARAJAN LITERARY AWARD 2023



Thirukkumaran Ganesan



Naseemunnisa



Dr. Vareethiah Konstantine



Shyamala Madhav



**Vareethiah Konstantine's Kaiyarunati (A River Deprived)** is an honest and poignant portrayal of a father with a daughter who is mentally afflicted depicting his life and the life he lives s as a care-giver.

Dr. Vareethiah Konstantine, from a coastal fishing family (Pallam, Kanyakumari), is a researcher-activist, writer, editor, publisher, trainer and consultant on coastal resource politics and participatory development, a translator, columnist and counsellor. He has published over 30 research papers and authored /edited over 25 titles, six campaign booklets. As founder-publisher of Neidhalveli & Kadalveli Publishing houses, he has published 35 titles exclusively on the sea coast and its people. He was formerly Associate Prof. & Head Dept. of Zoology at St. Jude's College, Thoothoor. He has been bestowed with several awards for his works.

**Thirukkumaran Ganesan's Kari Viruntum Kavuli Verrilaiyum: Saathiyinar Chutta Vadu (A Mutton Feast and Some Betel Leaves: The Scars of Caste)** is a deeply distressing book that talks about the painful experiences of caste and its wounds in a forthright and genuine manner.

Thirukkumaran Ganesan is from Tiruloki village that is near Thiruppanandal in Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu. He completed his D.F. Tech., Direction course in the Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Institute, Chennai. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the same institute in the Department of Direction and Screen-play Writing. He has a post-graduate degree in Tamil and Sociology and an MPhil in Tamil. Currently he is pursuing research on the subject "The portrayal of Tamils and identity politics in alternate cinema" for a doctoral degree from the Thanjavur Tamil University. His first poetry collection entitled *Nilaverikkum Iravukalil* (In the Nights of the Shining Moon) was published in 2007. He has with him two screen plays for which he is looking for a producer.

**Shyamala Madhav's Nale Innu Kadide (Tomorrow Still Awaits)** is a uniquely written autobiography that dwells lightly on the self and places it in the context of the family including the entire social and cultural history of the region

Born in Mangalore, Shyamala Madhav took to writing at an early age. Her first poem "Kadalina Kare" was published in *Rashtrabandhu* magazine, when she was just eleven. Married life brought her to Mumbai. Memoirs of her grandmother were published as "Amrithavarshini" in *Belli* magazine in 1971. Her other works are Kannada stories, features, translated stories and travelogues in different magazines in Karnataka and Mumbai. Besides, she was the president of Srijana,



**1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025**

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a forum of women writers in Kannada in Mumbai for two years. Her translation and publication of *Alamapanah*, the Urdu novel of Rafia Manzurul Amin, was followed by translations and publications of many English classics like *Gone with the Wind*, *Frankenstein*, *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*. Her translation of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* was awaiting publication in 2023. Under translation is M M Kaye's mega novel of epic proportions, *The Far Pavilions*.

All the writers honoured SPARROW and the panel of judges by accepting the awards.

### **SPARROW-R THYAGARAJAN LITERARY AWARD 2024**

The genre chosen for SPARROW-R THYAGARAJAN Literary Award 2024 was translation. The panel of judges decided to prioritise this year, not only translation from one Indian language to another but also translations from endangered and marginalised languages into Tamil. The SPARROW Literary Awards are normally given to a woman and a man writing in Tamil and either a woman or a man for the non-Tamil language category, as stated above. The SPARROW panel of judges this year were D I Aravindan, T Parameswari and Ambai for Tamil and our language consultant this year for translation into Assamese was Dibyajyoti Sarma. Our award consultant as always, was poet and writer, Sukumaran. The final decision regarding the awards were taken by the three judges on the panel, D I Aravindan, T Parameswari and Ambai.

The translators chosen for the 2024 award were **Dr R Karthick Narayanan** and **K Vasamalli** for their translation from Toda language into Tamil and **Dr B Vijaykumar** for his translation from Tamil to Assamese and Assamese to Tamil.

**Dr R Karthick Narayanan** is a passionate linguist and dedicated archivist with a profound commitment to preserving the linguistic diversity of India. With a wealth of experience in documenting and revitalising lesser-known languages, Dr Karthick's work bridges the gap between academic research and community-driven language preservation. He holds a PhD in Linguistics from Jawaharlal Nehru University and specialises in Sociolinguistics, Language Documentation and Digital Archiving. He researches linguistic diversity, multilinguality, language use, and documents and archives linguistic resources of tribal and indigenous languages in India.

Currently, he serves as the Chief Community and Data Officer at UnReal-TecE LLP. Previously, he was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Moturi Satyanarayana



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SPARROW

SPARROW-R THYAGARAJAN LITERARY AWARD 2024



Dr R Karthick Narayanan



Dr B Vijayakumar



K Vasamalli



**1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025**

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Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences at Krea University, where his research focused on language endangerment within the multilingual communities of the Nilgiris. His forthcoming monograph, *Multilinguality, Vitality, and Endangerment: Insights from the Lived Experiences of Multilingual India*, informed by both his doctoral and postdoctoral research, was expected to be published by Cambridge Scholars Press sometime in 2024.

Dr Karthick has previously held research positions at esteemed institutions such as the Central Institute for Indian Languages, Sahitya Akademi, and Sikkim University. He is the co-author (with K Vasamalli) of *Marum Ulagil Maraya Oligal* (Sounds that Remain in a Changing World, Sahitya Akademi, 2017), documenting Toda songs and narratives, dedicated to documenting Toda oral arts. He played a pivotal role in developing India's first endangered language archives, SiDHELA (Sikkim-Darjeeling Himalayas Endangered Language Archive), and is a valued language archiving consultant for Basha Sanchika, the Language Repository of India hosted at the Central Institute for Indian Languages. Dr Karthick is passionately committed to safeguarding linguistic diversity and harnessing digital tools to protect and promote traditional practices and knowledge systems.

**K Vasamalli (Vasamalli Kurtaz)** who is the first graduate of her community, is a social activist and a Toda language expert and a collector of Toda songs and stories. She is a Toda Community Coordinator, State Tribal Welfare Board Member (2008) and now District Tribal Welfare Committee Member. Till 2021, she was a member of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL). She has co-authored with Dr Karthick Narayanan a book documenting Toda oral narrative entitled *Marum Ulagil Maraya Oligal* (Sounds that Remain in a Changing World) published by Sahitya Akademi in 2017. She coordinates with tribal women self-help groups to facilitate their development and empowerment. She is currently working on a Toda Dictionary and planning to bring out a book of stories, songs and culture of Todas.

**Dr B Vijayakumar** is an Assistant Professor of Tamil Language in the Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Gauhati University Assam. He has done MA (Tamil), MA (Linguistics), a PhD in Linguistics and has a Diploma in Assamese and Hindi. Prior to joining Gauhati University, he was working as a lecturer cum Junior Resource Person at the Central Institute of Indian Languages (Govt. of India), Mysore. Since 2014, he has been teaching Tamil to the students of North East India. Three research scholars from the same region have completed their research under his supervision, and four scholars are currently doing their research. He has authored books, dictionaries, second language



learning materials, translation works and several academic articles. His translation of *Tirukkural*, and his scholarly articles comparing Assamese literature, drama tradition and cultural aspects with Tamil culture and his work in lexicology have been much appreciated. In recognition of his contributions, he has received several prestigious awards, including Dr Radhakrishnan Award, and Tamil Sudar Award from the Government of Tamil Nadu and Tirukkural Academy from Malaysia, to mention a few. In October 2023, he was honoured with the 'Tirumarai Tirumagan Award' by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu for his efforts in translating Tamil literary works into languages of the Northeast region of India.

All the writers honoured SPARROW and the panel of judges by accepting the awards.

### RESEARCHERS, VISITORS AND INTERNS

SPARROW is always happy to welcome researchers, visitors and interns. In these two years SPARROW has had a lot of visitors, researchers and interns.

In 2024 two students (Kanchan Marathe and Ms. Aroshi Suvarna) from the Department of English, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai completed their internship.



Visitors: Binduben Bhatt & Mr. Harshad Trivedi.



Resercher: Dr Tess Little from U.K.



Resercher: Avishi Gupta from Mc Gill University, Montreal.



Interns from SNDT.



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

Resercher: Dr Tess Little from UK  
Visitor:



Resercher: Adriane Meusch, Bayreuth University, Germany.



Visitor: Nandini Oza from OHAI.



Visitors: Shilpi Goswami, curator of Museum from Delhi and Niyatee Shinde.



Visitors: Dr Charanjeet Kaur, Ms. Sujata Tandel & Lalita Barve



In 2025 four students (Ms. Sachi Karande, Ms. Ritika Chauhan, Swati Gaikwad and Maryam Farooqi) from the Department of History, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai completed their internship and three students (Ms. Sarah Dabreo, Ms. Avanti Naik and Ms. Kulsum Shaikh) from the Department of English, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai completed internship in 2025.

The comments we receive from visitors, researchers and colleagues from colleges who continue to send us interns are very overwhelming. Watching the interns work and telling us they love what they are doing is a great morale booster.

Karen Sajan and Pritika Menta completed their internship in 2022, in SPARROW while doing MA in English from SNDT College. They liked the work of SPARROW so much that they came back and did six months of unpaid internship. Their internship helped SPARROW a lot in various projects.

**SPARROW COLLECTIONS  
AND WORK RECORD  
1 April 2023-31 March 2025**

**SPARROW NEWSLETTERS**

The elaborate Homages we do in our newsletter is an attempt to include the work and life of many different women to make them a part of women's history. Whenever we do a homage, we immediately bring to the archives relevant



Visitor: Ammel Sharon from QAMRA Archives, Bangalore,



Visitor: Ashalata Kamble, Ms. Nanda Kamble and Ms. Chhaya Bansode



Visitor: Anjali from NCBS, Bangalore



Interns from SNDT



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025



Visitor: Nivedita Louis,  
Nithya Pandian, Subagunam  
from Chennai

Visitor: Wandana  
Sonalkar, Simrita  
Gopal Singh and  
Medha Kotwal from  
Aalochana, Pune.



Visitor: Sruti Bala  
from Amsterdam.

Visitor: Sumana  
Chandrasekar.



archival material we may have missed in terms of books, private papers and so on. One newsletter has become more like a journal. SNL 44 with two supplements of homages and book reviews was published. Our newsletters have received a lot of appreciation.

All our newsletters are available on SPARROW website or available in the following link <http://www.sparrowonline.org/newsletter.html>

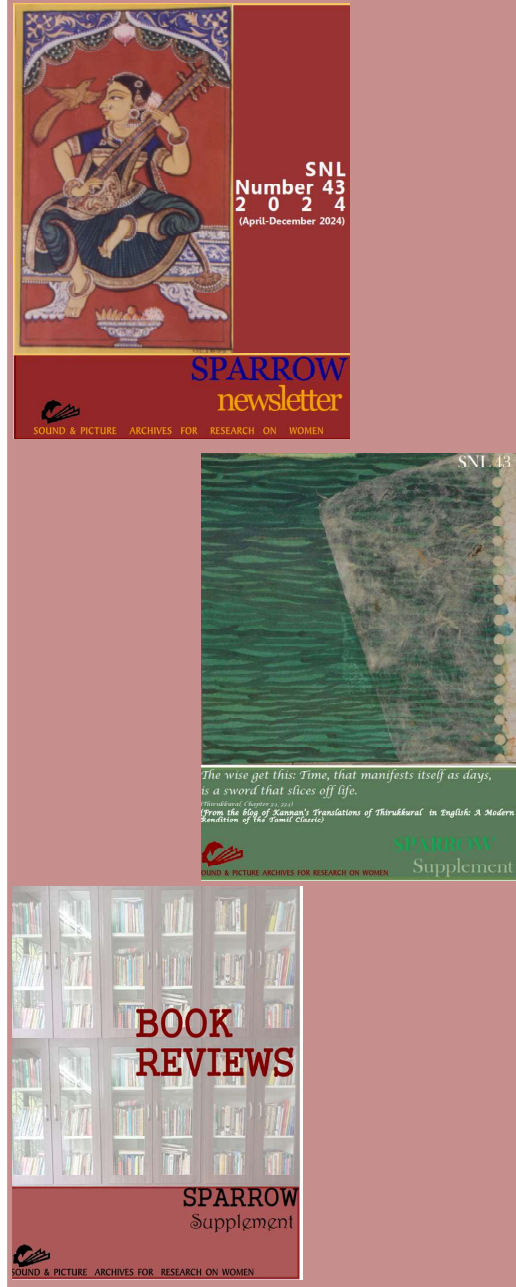
### WEBSITE POSTINGS

There were regular website updates with postings on projects, SPARROW Newsletters, Annual Reports, Interviews, Events, and information on how to support SPARROW through donations and other means. SPARROW also has a Facebook Page. Our Facebook posts have been updated regularly. Do visit SPARROW page at <https://www.facebook.com/sparrowngo/>

### SPARROW COLLECTIONS

The digitised catalogue on the website has been receiving good response and the archival library team has been happy to deal with many queries based on the catalogue.

The work done on existing collections which are still being catalogued and work done on collections acquired during this period is shown in the table below:



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

<b>Photographs</b>	2205
<b>Cartoons</b>	
English	34
<b>Books</b>	
English	441
Tamil	374
Hindi	22
Punjabi	2
Kannada	9
Marathi	44
Gujarati	1
Telugu	12
Konkani	6
Assamese	2
Maithili	1
Bengali	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>916</b>
<b>Children's books</b>	
English	63
Bengali	2
Oriya	1
Tamil	16
Telugu	7
Kannada	9
Khasi	1
Assamese	1
Hindi	10
Sindhi	3
Marathi	7
Nepali	3
Konkani	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Print Visuals</b>	
English	116



SPARROW Collections



Sunday Times, 28 July 2024



Times of India, 8 March, 2023

ADVERTISEMENT



NBT, May 2023



Times of India, 22 August 2023



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

Hindi 2  
 Marathi 73  
**Total 191**

**Brochures**  
 English 28  
 Tamil 4  
 Hindi 3  
 Gujarati 1  
 Marathi 3  
**Total 39**

**Calendars**  
 English 5

**Newsletters**  
 English 16  
 Tamil 24  
 Marathi 8  
**Total 48**

**Advertisements**  
 English 93  
 Marathi 6  
 Hindi 6  
**Total 105**

**Newspaper Articles**  
 English 1051  
 Hindi 49  
 Marathi 215  
 Tamil 1  
 Malayalam 3  
**Total 1319**

**PARIVARTAN MAHILA SANSTHA**  
 REG. NO. MAHA/10192/IL. ATUR. DT. 28/11/2000  
 Main Office- 2nd Floor, Sudama Smriti, Near Pragati College, Nandivli Road, Uombivil East

**Village Development Programme**

- 10 villages from 14 urampanchayat in Minkhada River
- Khewadi Project with 1260 children in 26 hamlets
- Formation of more than 500 SHCE
- Work related to various acts MGNREGA, PESA, Forest Act etc.

**Mukta Programme**

- More than 350 girls
- 17 girls rehabilitated through marriage
- 4 girls were for adoption
- 5 girls were integrated in the family
- Health, nutrition, education facility provided to all girls.

**Dilasa Virangula Programme**

- 15 senior vikasra etc. started
- Every Friday new events.
- Over 4000 participants every year
- 6 cultural programs every year. 800+ participants
- 5 big Event, 600+ participants every year

**Sakhi Nivas**

- 100 girls level Capacity
- Safe & affordable place for working women
- Canteen facility available
- Capacity of 20 senior centers for Day care centre
- Capacity of 20 Children for Creche
- Indoor & outdoor play area

**For More Details Please Contact**  
**Varsha Parchure**  
**+91 98902 07034**

BANK Details - Parivartan Mahila Sanstha, State Bank of India, Account no: 30977195973, IFSC: SBIN0005156 BRANCH CODE 5565, DOMBIVLI EAST

BROCHURE

### Trials for Worlds adds to Antim's huge workload

**Avishkek Roy**  
 avishkek.roy@htimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Antim Panghal returned home on Sunday after defending her world junior championships title and was back on the mat by the evening.

The 18-year-old, India's new wrestling sensation, is starting a huge workload in only her first year in the senior international circuit. She will have to take the trials for the World Championships in Pattala from Friday. Chances are that she will make it to the team and then get ready for two biggest competitions of her career, World Championships (Sep 19-24) and Asian Games (Oct 4-7), within a span of a few weeks.

It means that till the Asian Games, Antim would have gone through the painful process of weight cutting a staggering four times in six weeks - a scenario that can result in injury for the talented youngsters.

Antim's normal weight, for example, is 57-58kg. She will have to cut five to six kilos every time, a process that starts a week before the competition or trials. Earlier, there was talk about one trial for the Asian Games and Worlds. That could have saved her from expending energy in at least one event, and instead shift focus to two major events. However, the ad hoc panel it currently runs the sport - conducting two separate trials has only added to her workload.

"It will be difficult to compete in so many competitions in such a short time. It takes a week to recover from a competition, but I have no choice. I have to take the trials for Worlds. I cannot cut down on my training but maybe, I will focus more on recovery and take good care of my diet and training," says Antim, who bagged silver at Asian Championships in April in her first senior show at international level.

The Asian Games trials were held on July 23 where she won three bouts. Antim had petitioned the Delhi High Court against the ad hoc panel's decision to give Vineesh Phogat a direct entry in her 59kg category for the Asian Games. Phogat, one of the faces of the wrestlers' protest, later pulled out due to a knee injury, paving the way for Antim (kept in reserves) to compete in the Asian.

Antim's coach Vikas Bhardwaj says it is always a risk to reduce weight too many times in such a small window.

"In Jordan (1-20 world), she had to show weight twice - on August 17 and then before the final the next day. She again has to give weight for trials in four days. The body will feel weak. She has not recovered from the rigours of competition," says Bhardwaj. The trials for the Worlds are on August 23 and 26.

"When you lose weight, you can regain it within 10 days, but it takes about two months to regain strength. I won't push her much in training."

There was so much uncertainty and delay over the trials that it caused much anxiety for the wrestlers. Several others from the medal-winning 1-20 squad in Jordan will also take the Worlds trials. India finished with a record haul of three gold, one silver and three bronze.

**Bajrang asked to prove fitness before Asiad**

It was learnt that Bajrang Punia has been asked to prove his fitness before the Asian Games as he looks to skip the Worlds trials. Bajrang has sent a proposal to travel to Kyrgyzstan for training from August 21. But no exemption has been provided to any wrestler for trials. It was learnt that Sports Authority of India has asked Punia to appear for trials or give a fitness certificate.

Hindustan Times, 22 August 2023



SPARROW Collections

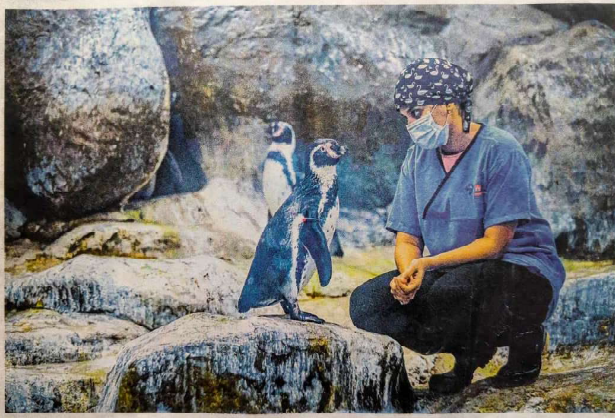


Lokmat, 22 April 2023

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

'Humboldt to see you, Doc'



A curious Humboldt penguin named Oscar looks at Dr. Madhumita Kale, head veterinary doctor at the Birculla Zoo, inside the temperature-controlled penguin enclosure of the zoo in Mumbai, on World Penguin Day (April 25). The day is observed in honour of these remarkable birds and their place in our world, as climate change and other pressures threaten their habitat and food sources, leading to significant declines in some populations. Photo: Emmanuel Yegini

The Hindu, 28 April 2023

Rashmika video reveals how scary AI deepfaking can be

POLITICALLY INCORRECT

SHOBHANA DE

Actor Rashmika Mandanna became the unfortunate target of a deepfake video that went viral recently. Tomorrow it could be one of us, our children, or even grand-children. All it takes is a photo or a video from a social media profile and an app that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to identify their lip movements and generate a convincing audio track. Just imagine the shock that comes with realising that your image and voice are being manipulated to do things you would never do. Rashmika's impactful plea on social media drew attention to this new menace. "We need to address this as a community and with urgency before more of us are affected by such identity theft," she implored, pointing out that India needs a law to deal with such a crime. She said she was in India, she would not have known how to handle it. In Rashmika's case, British influencer Zara Khan, who was in the original video, was quick to deny involvement and issue a warning. "Not every thing on the internet is real..." That's just it: Who can tell what's fake, deepfake or deepfake-fake?

Soon after this incident, a morphed video of superstar Kareena Kapoor, again during the rounds. Purported to be a leaked clip from her forthcoming movie, it featured a tight sequence between two women dressed in towels. Movie stars are far more vulnerable to such demeaning, dehumanising acts which are designed to humiliate and mislead their enormous fan bases. That it's not just celebrities — it's an easy to digitally undress an ex-girlfriend and circulate the image or video to the world as revenge. A 2018 report by Denialix, a company that monitors deepfakes, found that 96% of deepfakes were non-consensual sexual deepfakes, and 3% featured women.

However, there seems to be very little experts on AI deepfakes. This is just the tip of the iceberg, with AI deepfakes, drawing attention to how easy it is to be manipulated as AI-generated images get disturbingly sophisticated.

Generative AI has another dark side — chatbots that make things up. Experts call them 'hallucinations'. Worse still, there is no accurate way of predicting how often these things 'hallucinate'. A New

York Times report cited research done by a new start-up called Vectara which estimated that chatbots invent information in at least 9% of the time — and as high as 27%. This is far from reassuring news, as we rely increasingly on these AI tools.

If that's not enough, audio deepfakes which use cloning software are on the rise. A few years ago, the head of a UK energy company was fooled into sending cash to his German CEO on the basis of a "call" in his voice on a headset. According to a report by McAfee, about half (47%) of Indian adults have experienced or known someone who has experienced some kind of AI voice scam. What would a scammer do if they possessed a dataset and their child's voice? Would the parents/teen parent have either the time or capacity to cross-check the voice before wiring funds? Deception at this level can seriously impact the lives of common citizens, not just high-profile celebrities.

Deepfake creators are ten paces ahead of those tracking them. So far, we have not come up with water-tight solutions or even basic protection of our dignity and autonomy. Author Salman Khushna raised it when he said: "So, freedom is under pressure from the left as well as the right, the young as well as the old. This is something new, made more complicated by our new tools of communication, the internet, on which we depend for our safety, our lives and it is difficult for many people to tell which is which."

Some prominent Hollywood stars like Tom Hanks and Scarlett Johansson have raised an alarm about the use of AI-generated voices and images in advertising. The latter has even taken legal action against an app. But what do people outside these charmed circles do to retain control over their identity, stay safe from potential scammer or even sell the truth from the deepfake beast? In the Ukraine-Russia conflict as well as the Israel-Hamas one, the use of deepfakes raised concerns. The Mandanna video is a wake-up call that something needs to be done to keep up with the complex, rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence. Social media platforms especially have to do more to correct the spread of deepfakes. Without proper regulation, it will be difficult to harness the benefits of AI while protecting the vulnerable from its risks. Till that happens, don't take anything at face value.

DIGITAL DANGERS: Not just celebrities like Kareena and Katrina, ex-girlfriends are targets too



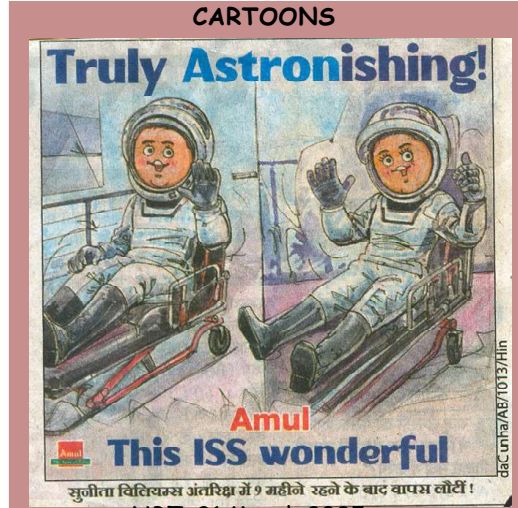
Times of India, 12 November 2023



SPARROW Collections

1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

<b>Journal Articles</b>	
English	107
Tamil	2
Malayalam	2
E-articles	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Private Papers</b>	
<b>Vibha Rani</b>	
Newspaper Articles	133
Print Visuals	9
Brochures	7
Advertisement	1
Journal Articles	9
Poster	1
Articles	5
Chapters from the book	4
Letters	2
Book	1
<b>Chitra Desai</b>	
Journal Articles	26
Badges	5
Cover Page	1
Certificate	1
Letters	8
Newspaper Articles	15
Chapter from the book	1
Brochures and Invitations	11
Other documents	9
<b>Indumati Raman</b>	
Brochures	2
Booklet	1
Audio CD	1
Artefact	1
<b>Anjana Mehra</b>	
Brochure/Exhibition Catalogue	1



Vanvasi  
Kalyan  
Ashram,  
Maharashtra



# Why Do We Tell Men Not To Cry

Stuti Malhotra

In the annals of recent memory, the spectacle of our beloved 'boys in blue' shedding tears has captured the collective heart of our nation. These tears, emanating from sheer joy and happiness, have been a poignant experience for every Indian. Witnessing our icons openly display their emotions be it through jubilation Bhanagra, ecstatic jumping, affectionate kissing, triumphant shouting, or heartfelt crying - has been profoundly moving. It is a testament to the breaking of the antiquated taboo that men should not cry.

Tears, the divine endowment from God, are the purest expression of human emotion. Traditionally, the realm of tears was seen as exclusively feminine, a biased belief that men must always remain stoic. However, this archaic perception is rapidly being dismantled. Men, too, are

blessed with emotions and the ability to express them. When a believer is struck by a calamity, the tears that flow are a soulful turning towards the Divine, irrespective of gender. Humanity often awaits its grand, mystical signs, but those with a lively consciousness find profound meaning in the quotidian happenings around them. Their hearts beat in tandem with the roll of thunder and the flash of lightning, and as raindrops fall, tears stream down their faces.

God holds in high regard the individual who uncovers truth through personal intellectual effort, who perceives the Divine in the unspoken realms, who champions absolute truth, whose soul is steeped with reverence. The shedding of tears lightens the burden on one's heart, and in the intimate whispers shared with the Divine, one feels a profound

sense of fulfillment.

In contemporary society, men coexist and interact within a complex web of social relationships. Trust and mutual confidence are paramount in maintaining this intricate social fabric. Agreements and decisions between individuals often require solemn oaths, invoking God's name to underscore their gravity.

The breach of such agreements disrupts social harmony and hinders constructive progress. There are two ways to solemnise an agreement in God's name: one is through the formal utterance of an oath, and the other involves an implicit reference to the Divine. Breaking an agreement sanctified by God's name is particularly egregious, revealing a troubling hypocrisy - using God's name to gain trust while disregarding divine principles for personal gain.



THE SPEAKING TREE


Empathy and a well-wishing mentality can infuse any discourse with a transformative power. Let us strive to bring this empathy and understanding to our societal discourse, where everyone's emotions are respected and valued.

Let us strive to listen in our young men the invaluable lesson of expressing their emotions rather than stifling their feelings of joy, happiness, sadness, or sorrow. The act of expression, far from diminishing their masculinity, lightens the soul and alleviates the burdens of mental stress. There is no rationale for one to carry the heavy load of unspoken emotions. Rather, true strength lies in the courage to reveal one's inner emotional landscape. It's time we challenge the societal norms that dictate men should be stoic and unemotional and instead empower them to express their feelings openly. This change will benefit the individual and contribute to a more empathetic society.

Times of India, 6 July 2024

she SAID

SHRIYA MURMU



## I love my surname. It just took a while

NEWS PAPER ARTICLES

**THE FIRST** thing people identify when you first come out of your shell is your name. It is what makes you unique. But what if your name becomes subject to no humiliation but ridicule?

People did not realise that 'Murmu' as a surname existed and were unaware that it was always there. What they did think was that the pronunciation of 'Murmu' sounded like 'mumma' or 'mumma (puffed rice)', 'Waman Shree', a Somali-British writer, says, "My name doesn't allow me to trust anyone that cannot pronounce it right." I lived this quote while I struggled as one of the few tribal students in my class.

Living almost 20 years in Bihar, I would hear the morning roll call at school. I would

pray the teacher at the desk would know me enough to call me only by my first name. With all the internalised oppression, stemming from the lack of representation, I discreetly decided to omit my surname, 'Murmu', while introducing myself. Back then, my Facebook profile just read 'Shriya Shanka'. I was not ashamed of my surname. I was just scared to carry it around with me. It was made to believe that it was not ideal because it was not mainstream.

While I did realise the rich culture of my community later, in my teens, I was barely proud of where I came from. The societal innuendo that my name needs to be scrutinised somehow led to a distorted identity. Was I just a woman? Was I too tribal? Should I speak less about my history? Should I say my name less often?

The sense of 'otherness' rose in me each

time someone acted surprised by my name. And as much as the 'other' has its own identity, it is always deemed less worthy or less dominating. This is a probable outcome when a society or an educational institution lacks an ethnically diverse pool of teachers. This pushes us into a discussion on how decision-making positions also lack individuals from marginalised communities. I was unaware that dropping my surname would not only mean I was distancing myself from my community, there was also no non-scholarly authoritative figure to help me with my sense of identity.

I understand the significance of my surname now. Chudrier Chul writes on Medium, "My name... is (a) prolonged legacy of battles we've lost and yet we've prevailed; (b) my name is so unremovable. My name is intentional and it will be said

with great intention." I read this and it has stayed with me.

I learnt how asserting myself as an 'Adivasi woman' would require an influence on my community. After all, identity comes from comradeship. My name comes as a generational treasure - it was not just my identity I was carrying but all my previous generations and their stories, their struggle with identity, their assertion.

This realisation came in bulk only when I came back to Jharkhand in my mid-20s. It was then that I admitted that I am Santhal without hesitation. I was just like any other Adivasi in Jharkhand. I did not try hard to assert my surname. From my professors and my batchmates to random hotel and tea shop owners, I would find at least one 'Murmu' in every group. I did not have to hide deliberately. In fact, the similarity made

me want to connect with people - I know their idea of identity, their home town, their dialect. Because in everything we shared, I felt I belonged. Every time I utter 'Murmu', people would spread out their hands to either wish me 'Jahar' (salutation) or 'Ja' 'Yeshu' or even 'Ja' 'Jahar'.

The feeling of being scrutinised had changed to acceptance. I accepted myself because the community did. My Instagram handle now has 'Adivasi' written and my name in Santhali script, O Chaki. A little late but I grew out of seeing myself as 'other'. When I see my name today, I don't see humiliation or ridicule anymore.

The writer is a Trainee Sub-Editor with The Indian Express. National Editor Shanti Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column.

Indian Express, 5 January 2025



Front Page-2 3 जनवरी 2025, पृष्ठ 10

**गणतंत्र दिवस में पहली बार आर्मी, नेवी, एयरफोर्स का जॉइंट महिला दस्ता**

पुष्पकान्त सिंह जी 'पु' को दूध तिरांगे में 1950 में लॉन्च किया गया था। 2022 में 75वां जन्मदिन मनाया गया।

**तीनों सर्विस में महिला अग्रिम**

आर्मी, नेवी, एयरफोर्स में पहली बार महिला दस्ता का गठन हुआ।

**एयरफोर्स में पहली बार महिला दस्ता**

एयरफोर्स में पहली बार महिला दस्ता का गठन हुआ।



Lokmat, 16 January 2025



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

**Bharati Kapadia**  
Slide Shows  
Audio Cassette  
Audio CDS  
DVDs  
Brochures

9  
1  
4  
4  
5

**Stuti Malhotra**  
Reference Book  
Book  
Issues of Newsletter  
Journal Issues  
Wedding Invitation

1  
1  
6  
3  
1

**Alamelu Mani**  
Audio CDS

2

**Malathi Ramanathan**  
Journal Articles  
Research Papers

3  
9

**Usha Vijayakumar**  
Newspaper Articles  
Journal Article  
Magazine

11  
1  
1

**Shruti Sridharan**  
Newspaper Articles  
Brochures  
Other Documents

6  
8  
3

**Viji Venkatesh**  
Books  
Issues of Newsletter  
Posters

3  
7  
8

**Suryabala**  
Books

14

**Games Theory: Nirmala Rings In Big Tax Changes**  
Times of India, 24 July 2024

**तिने गाजवलं मैदान...! ११ सेकंदांत पटकावला अखिल क्रमांक**  
Lokmat, 25 January 2025

**POWER OF OLDER WOMEN**  
The Hindu, 21 January 2024



Dandamudi Sumathi Ramamohana Rao  
Brochure 1

Usha Vijayakumar  
Newspaper Articles 11  
Journal Article 1  
Magazine Issue 1

K Vasamalli  
Brochure 1  
Newspaper Articles 2  
Card 2  
Photocopy of a Certificate 1

Menka Shivdasani  
Books 5  
Newspaper Articles 10  
Poster 1  
Journal Articles 2  
Other Material 1

Oral History Recording Project  
Interviews done under projects:  
General OHRP 4  
Life In Art And Art In Life 6  
Women, Religion And Spirituality 15  
Writers' Meet 2023 interviews 24  
CONVERSATIONS 16  
Total 65

\*\*\*\*

JOURNAL ARTICLES

RIGHT ANGLE  
BANSURI SWARAJ

### When tradition marries technology

In this digital age, where a tweet flutters away faster than a thought, the tradition of storytelling remains quintessential for our collective consciousness as well as our cultural connections. From the exquisite codices of the Ramayana to the magnificence of the Mahabharata and the fantastical fables of the Panchatantra, India has a robust storytelling tradition that boasts a treasure trove of wisdom.

When I was a child, storytelling was a mandatory nightly ritual. My mother (former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj) was usually the narrator (narrator), shouldering the responsibility of whisking me away to the land of the midnight with her vivid narrations. Her go to aid would normally be the Panchatantra. Each narration would end with a moral of the story—a life-lesson etched in my brain till date. On the days Ma was co-sleeping, my father (former governor Swaraj Kaulshal) would read to me. He had just one story in his repertoire that was repeated unambiguously and designed to lull me to sleep. The plot was simple—it was about a boy and a stubborn radish stuck in the ground that the boy desired to pull out for a salad. That would spin a yarn naming every relative that came to help the boy in his arduous task, but as I was about to drift off, he would drop the moral: "Eka main hai hai! (There is strength in unity)". His plot of behest as a path to slumber was surprisingly effective—who knew a radish could be so supportive!

The Indian heritage of storytelling is incredibly diverse. Haldipatan in Karnataka and Akharika the Kaddipatan in Tamil Nadu blend the art of storytelling with music and dance. Dastanawari from Chhattisgarh mesmerises the Mahabharata through dramatic performances by artists like Irfan Bill. This style is a brilliant example of how mere recitation without theatrical spectacles can keep the audience invested in the narrative. In Rajasthan, Kamal uses a portable wooden shrine with a beautiful panel of images painted on it. The *Kamawalis* or the story tellers (these are intricate words while narrating the tales).

The proliferation of television channels in India and the omnipresence of social media, amplified by messaging platforms, have transformed storytelling traditions. Famous authors like Mohit Bajaj have used these platforms to widen their reach globally. In an age of influencers, millennial authors like Isha Khosla (I for Gen Z) and Anuradha like Indresh Upadhyay (I have mastered the spell of reels and captured a younger audience).

The Modi government has taken deliberate steps to preserve, propagate and promote India's intangible cultural heritage and storytelling through initiatives like the Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India. The inclusion of 12 elements of intangible heritage in the UNESCO list highlights their global significance.

Digitalisation has played a key role in the preservation of India's storytelling. A digital repository of endangered tribal languages, rituals and stories has been created by the National Mission on Cultural Mapping. The *Kaputli Colony* in Delhi used YouTube to share performances. Embracing technology is vital for preserving oral traditions. Digital archiving, interactive storytelling apps, social media campaigns and virtual sessions can enable these narratives to thrive.

Whether recorded by a 360-degree lens or searched tirelessly for the right caption for your photo or creating a reel, we are all, on a daily basis, creating a story and setting a narrative. As rightly articulated by the director played by actor Shah Rukh in *Director 183*: "We are all stories in the end, just make it a good one, chief!"

Bansuri Swaraj to the LRA. Sushma Swaraj from New Delhi.

The Week, 24 August 2024

INDIA @ 2025  
COST OF WELFAREISM

By YAMINI AIVAR

## REFRAMING THE CASH TRANSFER DEBATE

CASH TRANSFER SCHEMES SHOULDN'T BE TREATED AS FREEDDIES, THAT SAID, THEIR POPULARITY WILL HAVE MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR DEMOCRACY

adki Behin, Ladli Behana, Lada Lakshmi, Oshin Lakshmi, Maha Lakshmi, Matya Samman, Puri Dehna Sukh Samman... In 2024, India witnessed an explosion of cash transfer schemes targeting women. The total amounts transferred are small, averaging about Rs 1,000 per month, but the reach is wide. According to data reported about 0.6 per cent of the GDP annually on the schemes, reaching 24 per cent women, according to estimates by Axis Bank. No political party will now risk the electoral battlefield without such welfare guarantees in their arsenal. In Maharashtra, the electorate had to wait a few extra weeks for election dates to be announced, in order for the cash benefits of Ladli Behin Yojana announced in June to accumulate in the bank accounts. In Delhi, on the eve of the state election, the Aam Aadmi Party, widely credited for having direct education and health on the electoral agenda, chose to add the promise of the Mukhyamantri Matiya Samman to its electoral offerings. The ever-increasing welfare policies the need to compete over cash transfers is the core issue on which we have political consensus.

Electoral theater notwithstanding, public investments in these schemes are not quite heading the bank. Consider our BRICS colleagues. Brazil spends 4.2 per cent of its

India Today 13 January 2025

40

SPARROW

1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

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## ARCHIVING AS AN ACT OF COMMUNICATING EXPERIENCES

The more we archive, the more we realise that we are into an in-depth communication with those young and old, who care about women's history, telling



them about experiences and life stories they would otherwise never come to know. We find establishing contact with many different women and archiving their private papers or their family papers and talking to them often leads to women we may not have known otherwise. This effort to reach out to as many women as possible through personal contact, books, conversations and films, to make them a part of the archives and a part of women's history has been the rich reward of archiving. Gearing the archives to the needs of new themes of research

has also been a learning experience. Communicating this experience through workshops and other events, through books, newsletters and films to people from varied backgrounds has opened the doors to a world of young and old friends and strangers who have later become friends.

If people want to know who benefits by this archival communication, we have to repeat that a quantitative analysis of our work cannot be done as we are not a field-based organisation and the impact of our work cannot be immediate benefits. We feel that more people coming forward to help us with interviews and transcriptions, is in a way a sign of our work impacting people. Many people eager to write and do reviews for our Newsletter is also a sign of our having made the archives a participating space and not an exclusive one.

Yes, there is that sky which is the limit when a sparrow decides to fly! Those who enthusiastically donate every time we approach them have also not let us down but more donors would add to the kind of projects we could take up. Not all good wishes have turned into money this time. But the sky still looks blue and this sparrow is never too tired to fly.

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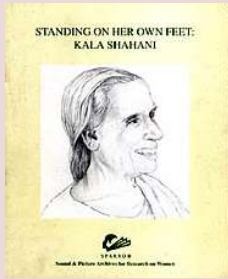
SPARROW



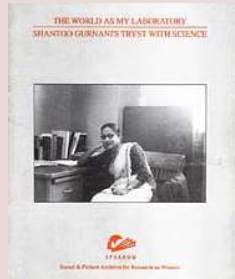
Solvanam - Tamil Arts and Literature

Solvanam -Tamil Arts and Literature has republished some of the SPARROW booklets brought out in Tamil in 2 volumes in July 2001. Apart from publishing the booklets in the Solvanam online magazine, they are also on Solvanam YouTube channel.

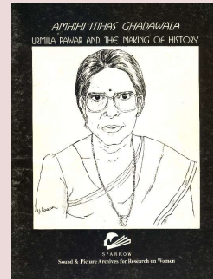
<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCEk2q9JZIE7Y6ACZ6y87ieQ>  
Voice, Video: Saraswathi Thiagarajan



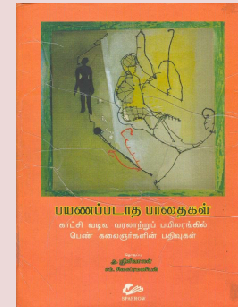
Standing on her own feet: Kala Shahani November, 1997.



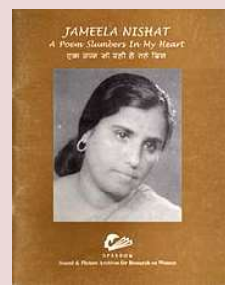
The World As My Laboratory: Shantoo Gurnani's Tryst With Science April, 1998.



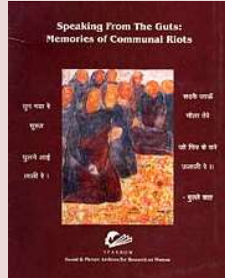
Amhihi Itihas Ghadawala: Urmila Pawar And The Making Of History July, 1998.



Sakhubai: Talking In The Transplanting Season October, 1998.



Jameela Nishat: A Poem Slumbers In My Heart January, 1999.

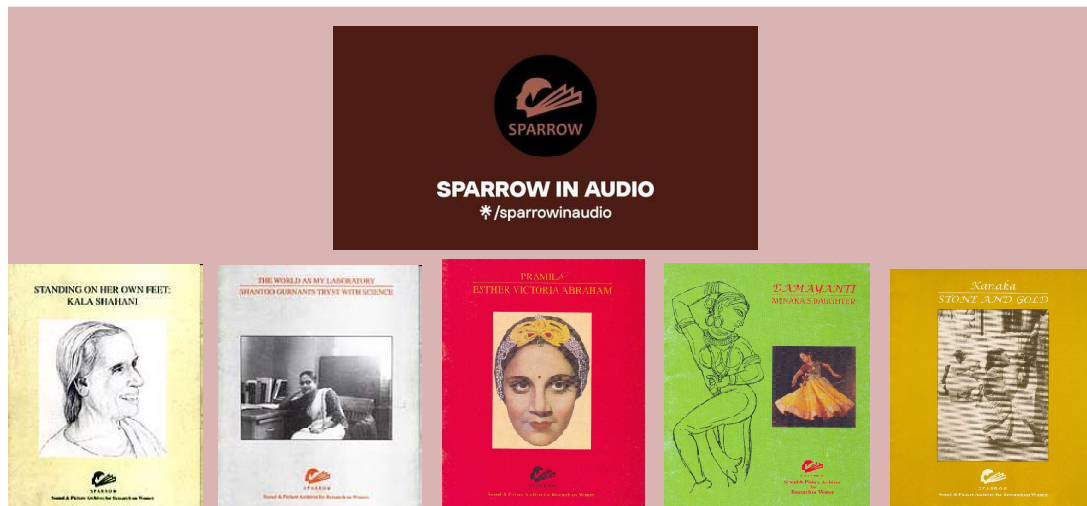


Speaking from the Guts: Memories Of Communal Riots December, 1999.

Tamil volumes:  
July 2001  
Solladha Kadhaigal - Untold stories  
Payanappadadha Padhaigal - Untravelled Roads  
Ediors: A. Srinivasan, M.Sivasubramaniam



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025



## SPARROW IN AUDIO

Written and presented by **SPARROW**.

Produced by

**OfSpin Media Friends.**

Inspiring Stories of Women by Sound & Picture Archives for Research On Women (SPARROW)

Listen to inspiring stories of women, whose lives are a testament to what a dream, fuelled by will, can do.

SPARROW is a non-profit committed to creating archives of oral history and visual material connected with women's lives and experiences which have remained hidden in the crevices of history, keeping their history alive through various media. It believes that positive change is possible only when we understand women's lives, history and struggles for self-respect and human dignity.

Giving below the PODCAST link of trailer launch and further details in different platforms <https://www.sparrowonline.org/sparrow-in-audio/> [linktr.ee/sparrowinaudio](https://linktr.ee/sparrowinaudio) Here's the Linktree link that contains all the other links

**Happy Listening!**



SPARROW

## CURRENT SPARROW HOLDINGS

Photographs.....	21005
Ads.....	7805
Books in 12 languages.....	7600
Newspaper Articles in 8 languages.....	40070
Journal Articles in 8 languages.....	6295
Brochures in 9 languages.....	2421
Print Visuals.....	5124
Posters.....	1775
Calendars.....	135
Cartoons.....	3817
Maya Kamath's cartoons.....	8000
Oral Histories.....	742
Documentary Films.....	1288
Audio CDs and Cassettes.....	934
Private Papers.....	301

**SPARROW Virtual Archives**  
**SPREADING THE WORD TAKING THE DIGITAL ROUTE**

**SPARROW VIRTUAL WALK**

<https://www.sparrowonline.org/virtual-archives/>

<https://youtu.be/vZn6asJ72Zo>



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

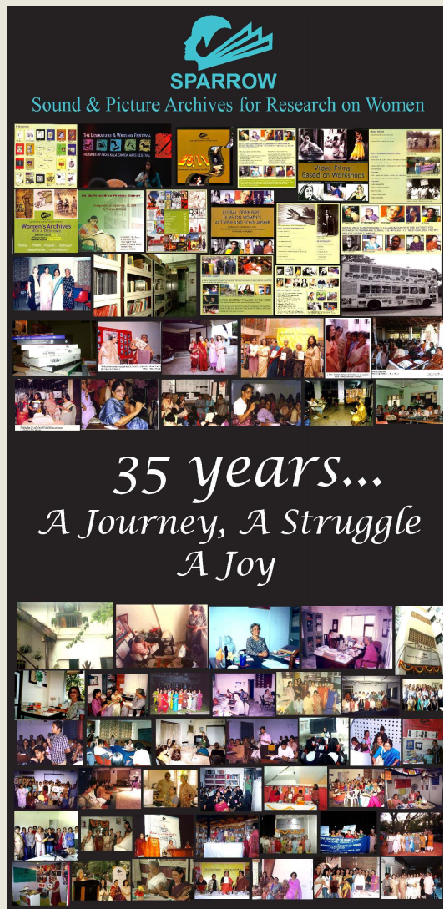


*Do visit our website and also join us on our Facebook page.*

Website <http://www.sparrowonline.org/>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/sparrowngo/>

**Contributions to SPARROW qualify for 80 G.** Donations can be sent by cheque or draft marked to SPARROW OR can be sent by wire transfer.

### BANK TRANSFER DETAILS






Name Account Holder: **SPARROW**  
Name of the Bank: **AXIS BANK**  
Address: B Wing, Madhuban, L T Road, Dahisar (West) Mumbai-400068.  
Tel No. 022-28940257/9/61  
**Saving Account No. 917010041910597**  
**IFSC Code - UTIB0000701**  
Branch: Dahisar West Branch

*Join us in our mission*



SPARROW

BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS' ACT, 1950 . SCHEDULE VIII [vide Rule 17(1)]			
NAME OF THE PUBLIC TRUST : SOUND AND PICTURE ARCHIVES FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN. R. NO. : E-11958 (Bom)			
FUND & LIABILITIES		PROPERTIES & ASSETS	
RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
<b>TRUST FUND OR CORPUS FUND:</b>			
Balance per last Balance Sheet	5804684		4438285
Add: Donation received during the year (Indian)/FCRA	0	5804684 As per Annexure 'X' attached	138267
<b>Reserve for Office Space</b>			
Balance Brought Forward	7865098	Term Deposit Local	1129719
<b>Reserve for ZUBAAN</b>			
Balance Brought Forward	15377	<b>Deposits and Advances:</b>	
		TDS on FD interest (2023-2024)	6968
		TDS on FD interest (2022-2023)	5659
<b>Reserve for Dezaaire</b>		Security Deposit	2450
Balance Brought Forward	163721		15077
TDS Payable	24555		
<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE A/C:</b>			
Balance as per last Balance sheet	-5217971	<b>CASH &amp; BANK BALANCES:</b>	
Add: Deficit for the year	-373287	Balance With FCRA	
		SBI (Santacruz-W)- Current A/C- Bank	2025588
		SBI FCRA (New Delhi Main Branch)	27116
		-Current A/C-Bank	2052704
		<b>Balance With LOCAL</b>	
		Axis Bank (Dahisar-W)- Saving A/C- Bank	503135
<b>TOTAL RS.</b>	<b>8277177</b>	<b>TOTAL RS.</b>	<b>8277177</b>
PLACE : MUMBAI	As per our report of even date for ASHOK PANDIT & Co	Dr. C.S.Lakshmi	CHIEF FUNCTIONARY
DATED : 21st September 2024	Chartered Accountants	SOUND AND PICTURE	ARCHIVES FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN (SPARROW)
	F R No. 1010674W		
			
	Anmogh Pandit		
	Partner		
	M/No. 120866		
			
		For SPARROW	
			
		TRUSTEES	



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS' ACT, 1950.			
SCHEDULE VIII [vide Rule 17(1)]			
NAME OF THE PUBLIC TRUST : SOUND AND PICTURE ARCHIVES FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN. R. NO. : E-11958 (Bom)			
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2025			
FUND & LIABILITIES	RS.	RS.	PROPERTIES & ASSETS
			RS.
			RS.
<b>TRUST FUND OR CORPUS FUND:</b>			
Balance per last Balance Sheet	5804684		4216371
Add: Donation received during the year (Indian) /FCRA	0	5804684	114530
<b>Reserve for Office Space</b>			
Balance Brought Forward		7885098	1199388
<b>Reserve for ZUBAAN</b>			
Balance Brought Forward		15377	
<b>Reserve for Dezaaire</b>			
Balance Brought Forward		163721	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
TDS Payable		2822	
<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE AC:</b>			
Balance as per last Balance sheet	-5696238		
Less: Surplus for the year	1703885	-3892373	3699564
			35098
			3634662
<b>TOTAL RS.</b>		<b>9959329</b>	<b>TOTAL RS.</b>
			<b>9959329</b>
PLACE : MUMBAI	As per our report of even date for ASHOK PANDIT & Co. Chartered Accountants F.R.No. 100674W		Dr. C.S. Lakshmi CHIEF FUNCTIONARY SOUND AND PICTURE ARCHIVES FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN (SPARROW)
DATED : 26th September 2025			

Amogh Pandit  
Partner  
M.No. 120866



For SPARROW  
Trustees  
Dr. C.S. Lakshmi



SPARROW

*We thank all our trustees and advisors who reposed immense faith in our efforts which has made it possible for us to spread our wings. They continue to stand by us. We also thank our funders, donors, supporters, well-wishers, friends and many more who have supported us in many ways.*

*R Thyagarajan  
Aroon Raman  
Afried Raman  
Geraldine Forbes  
C S Manohar  
Vimmi Sadarangani  
Vijaya Dass  
Rama and Kanchana Viswanathan  
Devdutt Pattanaik  
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Sukanya L Anathkrishnan  
Shobha Subramaniam  
G J V Prasad*



1 April 2023 TO 31 March 2025

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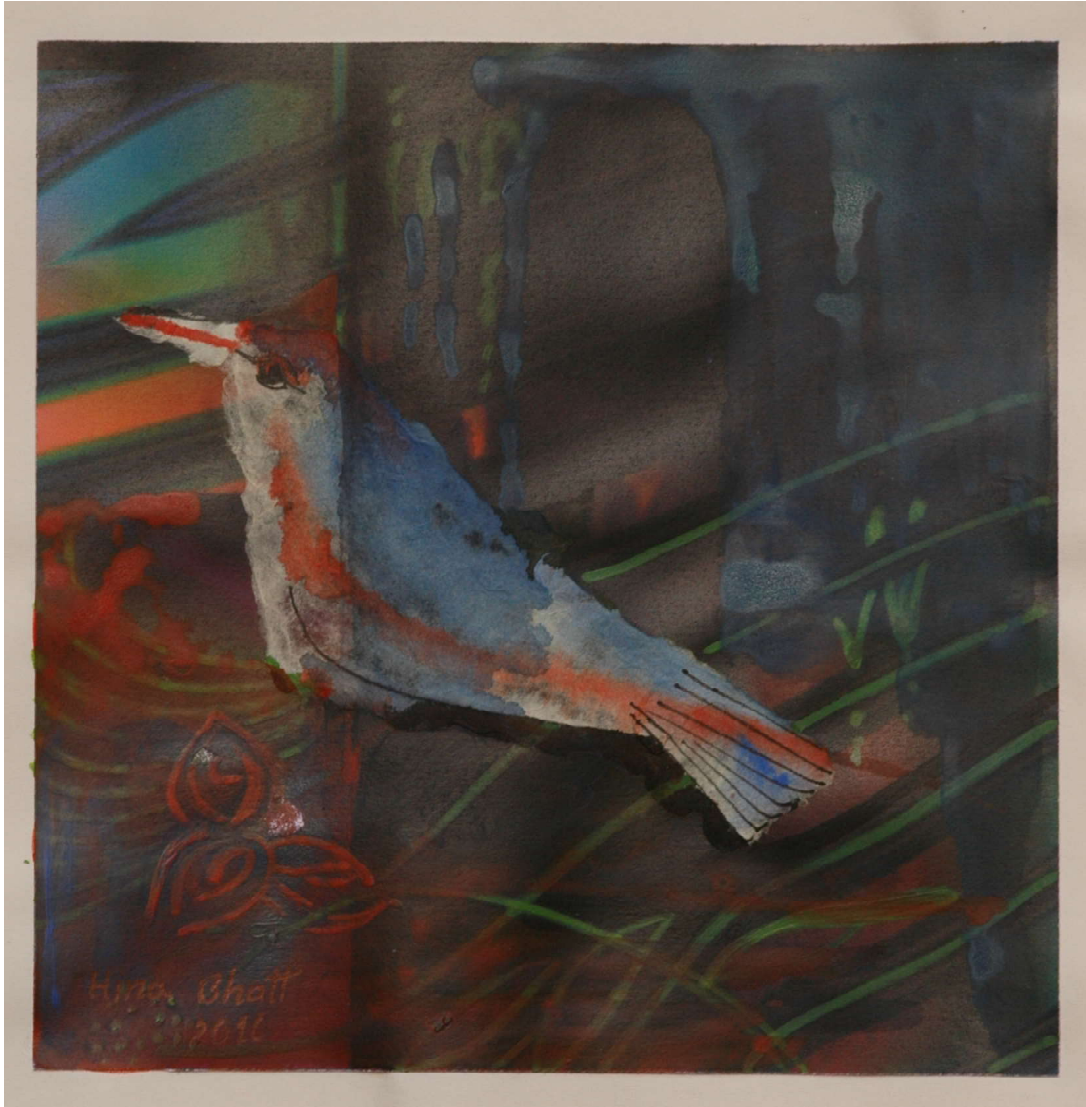
*Kamala Narasimhan*  
*V K Srinivasan*  
*Valia College*  
*Perumal Murugan*  
*Sagoon Singh*  
*Dr. P Kanthamani*  
*Sophia College*  
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*Bilal Moin*  
*Sridhar Venkatanarayanan*  
*Seetha Narayanan*  
*V G Narendra*  
*V Padma*  
*Arvind Kumar Nangia*  
*C Y Gopinath*  
*Mridula Maluste Sood*  
*Kawal Mohan Singh*

Positive change is possible only  
when we understand  
women's lives, history and  
struggles for self-respect and  
human dignity.



## SPARROW ANNUAL REPORT

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Yes, there is that sky which is the limit when a sparrow decides to fly! Those who enthusiastically donate every time we approach them have also not let us down but more donors would add to the kind of projects we could take up. Not all good wishes have turned into money this time. But the sky still looks blue and this sparrow is never too tired to fly.