

25 years...

A Journey

A Struggle

A Joy

ANNUAL REPORT
1 APRIL 2014 to 31 MARCH 2015

The Nest



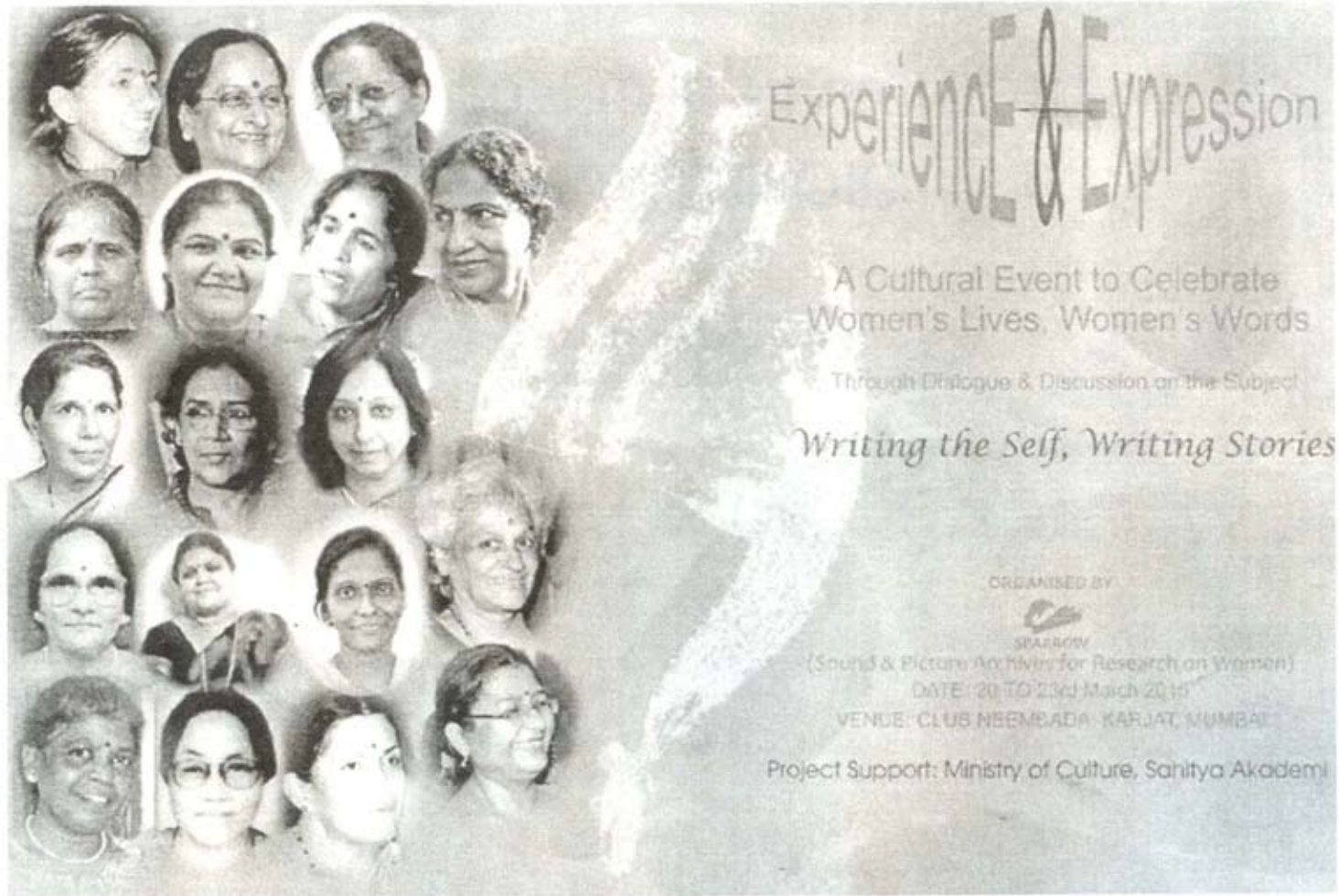
SPARROW
Sound & Picture Archives for Research on

B-101, B-201, B-301, Patel Apartment, Marine Lines Road,
Colaba (E), Mumbai-400048
Registration Number E-11758



SPARROW

Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women



Experience & Expression

A Cultural Event to Celebrate
Women's Lives, Women's Words

Through Dialogue & Discussion on the Subject

Writing the Self, Writing Stories

ORGANISED BY



SPARROW

(Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women)

DATE: 20 TO 23rd March 2015

VENUE: CLUB NEEMBADA, KARJAT, MUMBAI

Project Support: Ministry of Culture, Sahitya Akademi

Women Writers' Meet Experience and Expression

A Cultural Event to Celebrate Women's Lives, Women's Words through Dialogue & Discussion on the subject *Writing the Self, Writing Stories* held at Club Neembada, karjat Mumbai from 20-23th March 2015.

25 years...

A Journey

A Struggle

A Joy

*ANNUAL REPORT
1 APRIL 2014 to 31 MARCH 2015*

The Nest



SPARROW
Sound & Picture Archives for Research on

8-101, 8-201, 8-301, First Apartment, North City Hall, York
Circle 7, York YO1 102AA
Registered Number 211204



SPARROW

Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women

SPARROW TRUSTEES:

Founder Trustees:

Dr C S Lakshmi

Late Dr. Neera Desai

Dr Maithreyi Krishna Raj

Trustees

Dr Divya Pandey

Dr Roshan G Shahani

Dr Usha Thakkar

Dr Shoba Venkatesh Ghosh

Mr. Mihir Desai

SPARROW is grateful to Mr. Madhav Bhagwat, partner, Mouj Print Bureau,
for his help and support in bringing out this publication.

Publication No. 85

October: 2015

Text : C S Lakshmi with inputs from SPARROW Team

Brought out by:



SPARROW

Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women

©SPARROW

The Nest, B-101/201/301, Patel Apartment,
Maratha Colony Road, Dahisar (East), Mumbai-400068.

Phone : 022 28280895, 28965019

E-Mail : sparrow1988@gmail.com

Website : www.sparrowonline.org

Printed at Mouj Print Bureau, Khatau Wadi, Goregaonkar Lane, Girgaum,
Mumbai 400 004. Phone : 022 2387 1050

ANNUAL REPORT
1 April 2014-31 March 2015

PREFACE

The year 2014 had begun well with three conversations which were part of our Silver Jubilee Celebration programme. We had the entire year ahead of us to continue the celebration with more conversations and screenings of SPARROW films. We had drawn up our plans for conversations and screenings for the rest of the year with confirmed dates and venue. Along with this we also had our plans ready for continuing our archival projects, writing new projects and putting together notes on how to go about this year's work. The anxiety of fund crunch continued to haunt us but we tried to drown it in the celebratory mood of the silver jubilee year.

The year 2014, like other years, had its upbeat moments and also some moments which were depressing. There were heartening stories like that of of Hulige Amma and her daughter Roopa from Bellary who have come out of leading a wretched life and made a life for themselves through Sakhi Trust. Hulige Amma who was dedicated to Yellamma and thrown into prostitution, escaped from that and later worked hard hours at an iron ore. She finally became a seamstress thanks to Sakhi Trust.

In April there was the interesting event of Dalit women going viral to tell the world their story. Live streaming, radio shows, flashmobs, a facebook and twitter campaign and an interactive online timeline charting Dalit history, curated by Dalits and driven by Dalit women, became part of April's 'Dalit History Month'. There were also hackathons. A hackathon (also known as a hack day, hackfest or codefest) is an event in which computer programmers and others involved in software development and hardware development, including graphic designers, interface designers and project managers, collaborate intensively on software projects. In this instance it was to chart Dalit history. Al Jazeera STREAM online and broadcast news show, a Doha-based state-funded broadcaster owned by the Al Jazeera Media Network, made this possible.

In April also came the verdict for the Shakti Mills rape case. The three repeat offenders in the Shakti Mills gang-rape cases were awarded the death sentence by the sessions court. Awarding death penalty to the three, the court said, "Mumbai gang-rape accused have least respect for law. They don't have potential for reformation as per facts of case." "The suffering that gang-rape survivor and her family has undergone is unparalleled." the court said.



In April, the documentary *Gulabi Gang*, a 2012 Norwegian-Indian-Danish co-production documentary written and directed by Nishtha Jain and co-written and produced by Torstein Grude, which had been released nationwide in February 2014, was screened at the 14th New York Indian Film Festival. *Gulabi Gang* tells the story of a courageous women's movement that began in 2006 under the leadership of Sampat Pal Devi in the Banda District of Uttar Pradesh.

On 3rd May, the Supreme Court created a 'Third Gender' for transgenders. Hijras or transgenders no longer would be forced to write male or female against their name as the Supreme Court gave them the status of the "third gender". It was for the first time that the third gender got a formal recognition. The apex court passed the judgment on a PIL filed by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) requesting the court to give separate identity to transgenders by recognising them as third category of gender.

Then there was the yatra organised by the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM), a platform of Dalit women. The yatra travelled as much as 3,000 kms across Odisha. It travelled across 11 districts and conducted more than 45 villages/street meetings to map the nature of caste violence against Dalit women in these places. The yatra took place between June 1 and 12.

In September 2014, India became the fourth to land on Mars. MOM (Mars Orbiter Mission) succeeded and did the nation proud. In October Mary Kom from Manipur, nicknamed "Magnificent Mary" punched her way to a gold medal in the Asian games held in Incheon, South Korea.

In the last week of March 2015, some of India's publicly listed companies, which had been mandated to appoint women directors to their boards before April 1, were in a great hurry to get women on board. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had stipulated the requirement more than a year ago, but many companies swung into action only at the last minute. A total of 76 appointments were made on the last day of the deadline. And a total of 201 companies appointed women directors in the last week of March. Maybe it was just a token effort to comply with the requirement. But this will certainly pave the way for getting quality women on board.

There is also reason to feel low. On the basis of annual returns received by UGC about the cases of sexual harassment against women lecturers, professors and research scholars between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015 and on the basis of responses from 84 universities, the Lok Sabha was informed by the HRD Minister Smriti Irani that seventy-five cases of sexual harassment cases in higher educational institutes were reported from



across the country between April 2014 and March 2015, 27 of which were from Delhi alone. That is not good news at all.

Happy, celebratory, assertive and affirmative actions on the part of women affect women's lives as much as news of sexual harassment, road safety and rise in price of petrol and vegetables. While a good documentary, a film well-made, a good theatre production or a good book bring joy and add to the quality of everyday life, a biased news report, a crass ad telling us to be fair and lovely so that we can get a job or a man, or a prejudiced statement saying that women ask for rape when they don't respect the culture of the nation, tell us we still have a long way to go. We women still have to hold our bladder in public places for lack of toilets and where there are toilets we have to bear the stench. It is good to have women on boards of company but there is still a long list of things to do and changes to happen.

The SPARROW team braves the stinking public toilet outside Dahisar station subway to come to office every day. We are able to do this because we have braved much more in the past like shifting every year to a new location, a migratory staff which often meant starting all over again on a project activity, hard disc crashes and pests. This has given us the strength this year like other years, to face not only the pot-holed roads of Dahisar which need special skills in circus during the rainy season but also severe fund-crunch in the organisation this year.

C S Lakshmi, Mumbai 2015



POLICY DECISIONS, STAFF STRUCTURE AND TEAM SPIRIT

The funding situation almost became an existential crisis in more ways than one this year. The regular grants had come to an end and we geared ourselves to raise funds for infrastructure and archival activities. We managed it with great difficulty and with a team spirit that kept us going against great odds. We did our best in continuing our projects and held our heads high. The major policy decision taken by the trustees was to keep the salary structure unchanged for the present and to explore possibilities of taking up new projects which would take us to hitherto unexplored areas. Some ambitious projects have been written and hopefully will happen.

The staff structure has remained the same as last year. But this year we had some student interns and it was nice to see them working diligently. One of the senior librarians who was away on maternity leave returned to work when we had almost given up hope for it was difficult for her to find someone to take care of her child. The Mumbai weather has not been kind to some people in our team and this year also we have seen a round of sinus, tooth ache, fever and body pain and stomach upsets.

The SPARROW team has been keeping up its spirits, despite the hard times we have hit and doing its work as always, efficiently and thoroughly.

PROJECT AND ARCHIVAL ACTIVITIES

We had no specifically funded projects this year but projects already undertaken were continued. These projects were basically archival projects involving the regular archiving work of processing of transcriptions, translations and filing of interviews done and augmenting the existing collection of print and visual material which is part of our regular work. Networking activities of meeting people, screenings and workshops also kept us busy.

We had done nearly 42 interviews the previous year and this year we had the pleasure of rereading the transcripts, editing them and giving them a final shape. We were happy we had not taken up new projects for putting into shape what we already had, needed a lot of time and working together.



SPARROW EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

THE SILVER JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATION PROGRAMME CONVERSATIONS

The programme continued this year and went very well. We had begun the CONVERSATIONS programme to celebrate SPARROW completing 25 years last year and from January 2014 to March 2014 three conversation events were held under this programme and they have been mentioned in our last Annual Report. From May 2015 onwards SPARROW collaborated with Research Centre for Women's Studies in organising the programme at the Mini Auditorium, SNDT University, Juhu Campus, except for the month of June.

The FOURTH CONVERSATION with Purvadhanashree, a Bharatanatyam and Vilasini Natyam exponent and Ranjana Dave, an Odissi dancer was held on 26th April this year. It turned out to be an interesting conversation. Both of them spoke about their gurus, their dance form and what it meant to them. They spoke about the sociological and traditional aspects of dance and mentioned the Maharis, the temple dancers of Orissa, the Kalavanthalus of Andhra Pradesh and the Devadasis of Tamil Nadu and spoke about their own interest in seeing tradition and contextualising it in order to understand it. Interspersed with demonstrations of their art form and its body movements the conversation was able to cover many areas of the different dance forms and the different ways of teaching and learning dance and the changing content of dance. Both of them felt that they were still exploring the many different possibilities of viewing their own styles of dancing creatively and being open to dialogues to collaborate, reflect and explore ideas that inform their creative practice in multi-disciplinary ways.

In the FIFTH CONVERSATION programme held on 31st May 2014 we decided to screen a film of our conversation with five transgender women. In the film *Degham*,



C S Lakshmi in conversation with Purvadhanashree and Ranjana Dave



Purvadhanashree and Ranjana Dave



directed by Vishnu Mathur which was screened that day, Revathi, Kalki, Aasha Bharathi, Priya Babu and Narthaki Nataraj spoke to C S Lakshmi about the transgender experience and the complexities of the body.

The SIXTH CONVERSATION held on 28th June, with the renowned Odissi dance exponent Jhelum Paranjape, became a wonderful event of an artiste sharing her life and work. Jhelum Paranjape began with the fact of her being named after a river in Punjab and ended with her narrating the experience of dancing in an old chapel in Goa and her latest dance composition Maeri on motherhood in which she and her son Bunkim collaborated. The conversation lasted for two and a half hours but all of us felt it could go on the whole night like some of those music festivals and folk performances which last through the night. Jhelum Paranjape kept the audience enthralled with various anecdotes from her life, her learning experience with Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and her performing experiences. And whenever Jhelum could not find a word to say something her beautiful eyes expressed it all. The conversation flowed smoothly like the flow of a river and all of us could immerse ourselves in it and come out feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. No need to go looking for far away rivers to bathe in for Jhelum is close by was how we felt!



C S Lakshmi in conversation with Jhelum Paranjape

The SEVENTH CONVERSATION programme was held on 26th July. It was a much-awaited one because it was a conversation with well-known Tamil and Sindhi Writers Puthiya Maadhavi and Vimmi Sadarangani. It was a conversation that brought out so many different aspects of life, identity and expression. Vimmi spoke about what it was to be a Sindhi writer and how she became one and how her mother supported her writing. She spoke movingly about her visit to Sindh and how she was received by the people there. She also spoke about her short-lived marriage, and how her mother came and took her away and told her she should not be with people who did not appreciate her writing. Puthiya Maadhavi spoke with passion about growing up with a father who was an ardent follower of Periyar and the Dravidian movement and how she herself was influenced by him and the books that she read which were in their house. She spoke about Dalit writing and her views on it and how she always retained the space for writing in her life for it meant everything to her. Asked how she managed

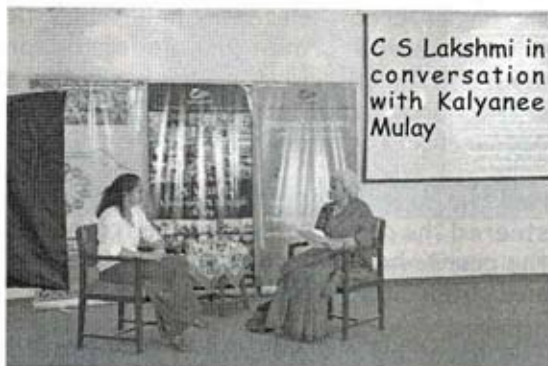


C S Lakshmi, Vimmi Sadarangani and Puthiyamaadhavi

to write with a job in a bank and marriage and family, she jocularly replied that actually she managed to work and keep her marriage only because she continued to write. It was writing that enabled her to do everything that she did.

In the EIGHTH CONVERSATION programme held on 23rd August 2014 we screened two films on Shah Jahan Aapa and Sathyarani Chaddha, directed by Vishnu Mathur. We felt that conversations with two women who fought against dowry needed to be shared for they had passed away quietly after a lifetime of active work against dowry. There was a need to listen to them not only to cherish their life but also to continue our work and to give meaning to our work. Shah Jahan Aapa and Sathya Rani Chaddha fought against dowry and violence all their lives. Both of them lost their daughters to dowry demands. Their own experience and loss made them the kind of activists few of us can be. They founded Shakti Shalini, a women's organisation, in New Delhi.

The NINTH CONVERSATION programme held on September 27th was an extremely lively one. It was a conversation with Kalyanee Mulay, a young actor from the National School of Drama. She has worked with and learnt from eminent theatre directors/performance makers from home and abroad such as Pandit Satyadev Dubey, Satish Alekar, Dr Anuradha Kapur, Robin Das, Tripurari Sharma, Annie Ruth, Sara Matchett and many others. She has done a course in Kutiyattam from the renowned guru G Venu. Kalyanee spoke about her search for something that would mean a lifelong commitment and the various roads she took to reach it. Whatever she did her heart told her she wanted something else. She got into television and got many awards and finally she went to NSD and realised that is what she wanted to do in life—be an actor and a performer. She told us about the work she did with various directors and



what those performances meant to her and how she performed in the play *Unseen*, where she explored the female body and its various bindings and marks. She performed a short piece from an ongoing work which was again an exploration into the mysteries of the body. Asked if she would go back to television she said she did not know, for an actor also has to survive and added laughing that she had recently done an ad for Horlicks.

The TENTH CONVERSATION programme was with Sunita Aralikal held on 18th October 2014. Sunita was born in the village Tupadi in the Nilanga taluk in Maharashtra on 26th August 1956. She was born into a family of cobblers and was abandoned fifteen days after her birth when her mother passed away. Her maternal grandfather, Kundalikrao Mane, brought her up and she studied up to 11th Standard. As a young girl of sixteen she came to Latur to work as a trainee nurse at Vivekananda Hospital. She met Dilip Aralikal who was a social worker, during her work in the hospital. She chose him as her



life-partner in 1971 although he was from another caste. Since the last forty years she has been active in politics and social service in Latur. She has been active doing developmental work involving rights and literacy. She takes special interest in dealing with women's issues and actively supports inter-caste marriages and helps others to fight social injustices like dowry, eve-teasing and casteism. She has worked in the Janata Party, Janata Dal and Congress Party. She has been a member of Nagar Parishad two times and a member of the Zilla Parishad two times. She is presently the Director of Maharashtra Housing Finance Corporation. She is also the president of the Mahila Congress in Latur.



Her political work has taken her to jail twice; once during the drought of 1972 and later during the Emergency. With her autobiography *Hirkanicha Birhad*, which is much acclaimed, she has entered the literary field. The title of the autobiography is inspired by Hirkani who was a simple, brave milk seller at the fort of Chhatrapati Shivaji and who gained fame when she scaled down the steep mountain slope of Raigad to return to her crying child in the village below. Sunita feels that her struggles and the challenges she faced have been akin to the brave effort of Hirkani to scale down the mountain to reach her child.

Her two sons have settled in the US as a software engineer and a doctor. Aruna Burte steered the conversation which held the audience captive as Sunita Aralikar talked about the course her life had taken. Aruna Burte's questions brought out in detail the life of an extraordinary woman.

The ELEVENTH CONVERSATION programme was another screening event when we screened two films produced by SPARROW, on 29th November 2014 at the Mini auditorium, SNDT Women's University. The first one was *Pramila* directed by Asha Dutta which described the life and times of an actress, and producer, Esther Victoria Abraham aka Pramila. The second one was a film on Homai Vyarawalla, the first Indian press photo journalist, directed by Anik Ghosh.

The TWELFTH and the last SPARROW Silver Jubilee Celebration held on 27 December, 2014, actually combined two events. One was a Literary Award event to become an annual event of SPARROW. Su Thamizhselvi, K N Senthil and Meghana Pethe honoured us by accepting the 2014 SPARROW Literary Award instituted by R Thyagarajan of Shriram Group. The jury members were Ambai, N Sukumaran and Kannan Sundaram. Well-known writer, Shanta Gokhale, gave away the awards and spoke warmly about her relationship with SPARROW.



In her acceptance speech, Su Thamizhselvi introduced herself as a young scion who has come in the tradition of women writers like Avvaiyar, Velliveethiyar, Vennikuyathiyar, Nachellaiyar, Karaikal Ammayar and Andal. She spoke about the rural background she comes from and how it has made her familiar with the pain, poverty and hard work that is part of a woman's life. "As a woman, I can clearly feel the pain experienced by women. As someone who has held in her palms the tears of women, I am sensitive enough to understand the intensity and heat of those tears," she said. Describing her literary journey as one involving "search, reaching and perplexity," she said that the award and the occasion will remain one of the greatest moments of her life.

In his acceptance speech, K N Senthil remembered with warmth Sundara Ramasamy and N Sukumaran, two writers he considers his teachers. Speaking of writing and the award, he said, "Writing is made possible through continuous practice but it is a bird that does not obey its master. It wants to measure the entire sky with its small wings.... I believe that the reward of writing is reaching somewhere. An award is its recognised form. There are many new generation writers in Tamil who are working hard and are leaving their imprints on literature. I am happy to receive this award as one of them, on their behalf."

In her acceptance speech, Meghana Pethe said that she was happy to receive the SPARROW award because she was the first recipient of this award. She added that the joy of receiving the award was "almost equivalent to being the first love of a worthy lover" and that the "honour of being the first has a sanctity which holds good even today, although some other sanctities have been



SPARROW 2014 Literary Award winners
Su Thamizhselvi, K N Senthil and Meghana Pethe
with C S Lakshmi and Shanta Gokhale.



SPARROW Silver Jubilee Celebration
C S Lakshmi with trustees Dr Shoba Ghosh,
Dr Usha Thakkar and Dr Divya Pandey



SPARROW Silver Jubilee Celebration
C S Lakshmi with advisory committee members
Neela Bhagwat and Vijaya Dass



rightly questioned and declared debatable as of now by women all over the world." She spoke of writing being a lonely and painful journey and how often the process of writing is excruciatingly boring. Accepting an award from a panel of writers, she said, made the award all the more valuable. She ended by saying that this award would prove to be a trigger for her second cycle as a writer which was "likely to commence anytime now."

The literary awards were followed by the SPARROW Silver Jubilee Celebration programme and it became a day that took us on an emotional high. We recalled almost every moment of our journey of 25 years which we call "a journey, a struggle, a joy". We told our story in images beginning with the inception of SPARROW in the bedroom of C S Lakshmi, being locked up in a garage for a year, shifting every two years and then finally reaching The Nest, in Dahisar. We spoke about everyone who is part of our journey and about those who are no more with us, but without whom we could not have undertaken this journey. The trustees and advisory committee members and friends of SPARROW were honoured with mementoes. The SPARROW team got surprise gifts too. The SPARROW team had its own surprise for the Director, C S Lakshmi. The Chief Guest of the event was Dr Geraldine Forbes who came with her husband Skip (Dr Stephen Greenblatt) who has also been a friend of SPARROW all these years. Dr Geraldine Forbes spoke about how she has been part of this journey and enlivened the audience with stories of how C S Lakshmi made impossible demands in the early years in her letters for archival items! The occasion was made joyous with the Vilasini Natyam performance of Purvadhanashree and by the recitation of the ovis of Bahinabai by Anjali Purohit in her presentation *Bahina's World: An*



SPARROW Silver Jubilee Celebration:
The Chief Guest Dr Geraldine Forbes



SPARROW Silver Jubilee Celebration:
Vilasini Natyam Performance by Purvadhanashree



SPARROW Silver Jubilee Celebration:
Recitation of the ovis of Bahinabai by Anjali Purohit



Exploration of the Life and Work of Bahinabai Choudhary. All those who had worked with SPARROW came for the event and some of them came with their daughters and sons, who we remember we used to call SPARROW kids when they were born. All these kids, we heard, urge their mothers and grandmothers to go back to SPARROW for they tell the kids such nice stories about working in SPARROW.



The evening came to an end and then it was taken to C S Lakshmi's small flat where the award-winning writers, the performers and friends gathered for drinks and dinner. Neela Bhagwat sang and later everyone took their leave reluctantly for no one wanted the night to end!

SCREENINGS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Oral History Association of India had organised a one-day event at the St Xavier's College, Mumbai on 20th November 2014 and SPARROW was invited to introduce the oral history programmes of SPARROW. Meena Menon was also invited to talk about her important oral history project on the textile workers of Mumbai. The film on Shahjahan Aapa was screened and discussed and a large number of students participated.

The Centre for Community Dialogue and Change (CCDC) organised a National Theatre of the Oppressed Conference in November in Bangalore. CCDC is an organisation with a strong commitment to the ideas of democratic dialogue underlying the practice of Theatre of the Oppressed (TO). Since their inception in 2011, they have been trying to take the tools of this unique methodology to different communities in India. They have been inspired by the work of other TO practitioners that they have had the privilege to meet and work with.

The basis of this conference was to encourage diversity dialogues because CCDC believes TO comes in many forms and shapes. The practice of the liberatory pedagogy that is the founding principle of TO is to be found in the work of many who do not identify as TO practitioners. There are educators, both mainstream as well as non-formal, activists in



grassroots organisations and people's movements, and theatre artists who believe that theatre can create change.

The conference was organised with the belief that a gathering of all such people, united by their commitment to the building of a just and equitable society in India, can be a source of inspiration, learning and growth for all of us. SPARROW was invited to take part in the 'Rehearsal for Revolution: Women Enact Social Change' session chaired by Benson Issac on 29th November, 2014. C S Lakshmi made a powerpoint presentation on 'Women's Lives, Women's Words: Archiving Knowledge for Social Change.' The conference was extremely useful in creating a warm dialogue among many different people working in different ways and uniting them not only in sessions but in games, music and dance.

In December came a week of happiness and fulfilment for SPARROW. The Prince Claus Fund chose SPARROW for an award for its work and the award function was held in Amsterdam on the 10th of December 2014. It was a five-day function beginning on the



8th and organised with great care and precision. HRH Prince Constantijn presented the award to the awardees in a simple but elegant ceremony. The principal awardee was Abel Rodrigues, a Colombian artist and plant expert and the other awardees were from various parts of the world and it was a great pleasure to get five days to interact with all of them. SPARROW was nominated by Dr Sruti Bala, Assistant Professor, Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Amsterdam and the historian Dr Uma Chakravathi.

In December Dr Sruti Bala who was in Berlin at the Free University, invited Dr C S Lakshmi for a public lecture at The International Research Center "Interweaving Performance Cultures" on 11th December 2014. A presentation was made entitled 'Through Words and Silences: Understanding Women's

Words and Women's Lives in India.' This presentation focussed on oral history and the collective efforts to set up a women's archives in India. The talk elaborated on SPARROW's perception of oral history as well as on SPARROW's methods of using oral history in general and in particular, with a specific reference to the work conducted in the framework of the Global Feminisms project and the ten oral history documentaries SPARROW produced to understand women's scholarship and action and explore the questions of self, identity, ways of seeing, ways of speaking and ways of maintaining silence. The lecture was organised by Sruti Bala in cooperation with the Center for the Promotion of Women's and Gender Studies (ZEFG) at Freie Universität (Free University) Berlin.

On 3rd December 2014 some students from Valia College, D N Nagar, Mumbai along with Professor Neena Nair visited SPARROW. We took them around for a SPARROW Walk. Some students were from a Commerce background but they enjoyed being at SPARROW.



On January 2015, SPARROW was invited as a guest of the Film and Theatre Appreciation Society of Valia College, D N Nagar, for a screening of the film on Shahjehan Aapa and an interaction with the students thereafter.

Like last year this year also we had five post-graduate interns for two months from Lions Juhu Nandlal Jalan Mahila Mahavidyalaya. The students were very diligent interns and enjoyed working in SPARROW. All of them had to deal with their future and think of jobs and the needs of their families and also prepare themselves to face the question of marriage which the families were most likely to bring up. They spoke about it with us sometimes, not to seek advice but to share their thoughts.

Many scholars visited SPARROW for consultation like Ravinder Singh from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Tanima Sharma, an independent scholar, Dr Kishori Nayak from Mangalore University, Ms Sheena M Sajith from SNTD University, Manjari Singh from Keshav Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, Anjali Shah and Avani Hindocha from SNTD University, Rasika Ajotikar from SOAS, University of London.

Students of Social Work from Sweden Ms. Marika Holappa and Ms Shqipe Ismaili, Hardeep Dhillon PhD student studying Modern South Asian History at Harvard University, Gemma Scott a PhD Candidate from Keele University, Crystal Sharp a writer from Canada also visited SPARROW for consultation. Dr Josna Rege, Director of the Global Studies program, Worcester State University who is on our Advisory Board came and spent some time using the library and working with us on the SPARROW newsletter.

BOOK LAUNCH

SPARROW's fourth volume *If the Roof Leaks, Let it Leak...* edited by Menka Shivdasani, in the series of five volumes with interviews and works of 87 writers from 23 languages, was launched on 26th September 2014 by the renowned dancer, Jhelum Paranjape at the Kitab Khana bookshop as a part of the '100 Thousand Poets for Change' event organised by Menka Shivdasani. Sudha Arora, Puthiyamaadhavi, Anjali Purohit and Menka Shivdasani read out some of the poems from the present volume and the previous volumes, in the original language and their English translation. Sudha Arora and Puthiyamaadhavi also read out their own poems. Menka, Anjali, Sudha and Puthiyamaadhavi made the occasion a joyous and memorable one.



Menka had also taken the volume with her to Singapore at the Asia-Pacific Writers Conference and the book was launched there on 17th July by Shantha Ratii, an internationally acclaimed Kuchipudi dancer, and was well appreciated by everyone who attended it. It was a full house at the Earshot Cafe.

WRITERS' MEET

'Experience and Expression', a Writers' Meet organised by SPARROW and supported by Ministry of Culture and Sahitya Akademi to celebrate women's lives and women's words through dialogue and discussion on the subject, *Writing the Self, Writing Stories* took place from 20th to 23rd March, 2015 at Club Neembada, Karjat.

The writers' meets SPARROW organises are different from the usual. These meets or camps as we like to call them, are planned as cultural events where writers do not read papers but dialogue in groups of two or three with a facilitator enabling the dialogue. Time and space is also provided for extended interaction and dialogues beyond the scheduled time during the day, in the evenings. We carefully choose films to screen along with stories and poems to be read. The screening of the films is followed by interaction and comments and further sharing of experiences. The event is also considered an archival project for material generated from the event like photographs and recorded narratives is archived in SPARROW for future consultation and dissemination.

The methodology of creating conversations among people is a SPARROW method to break hierarchies among writers and dissolve tensions of interacting with one another and generate a camaraderie that would open up dialogues. So the Meet was planned as a different kind of a cultural event that combined many aspects of expression and linking with it a process of sharing, learning, communication and creative archiving. This open method allows sharing and learning at various levels and is a participatory method of working, generation of material and innovative archiving. It is also a method that combines several aspects and unified them as a talking, listening, viewing and sharing experience.

For the 'Experience and Expression Writers' Meet' like the other writers' meets we had organised earlier, we had planned to choose the participants from various regions and languages through a process of consultation with SPARROW language consultants. The selection was to be made on the basis of contributions, ideas for exchange and creative participation of the participants. The 25 participants were to be those for whom experiential writing is an important aspect of expression. But some aspects of this plan had to be toned down due to the fact that the funds we received did not allow ambitious plans of inviting writers from all over India as we could not pay for their travel. We decided to invite various Indian language writers and playwrights in and around Mumbai. When we sat down to make a list of the writers we realised that we could invite 25 writers from many languages, from within Mumbai and around. That cheered us up. We could invite writers from Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati, and English. Just when we were finalising the writers we remembered that Manipuri writer Yenghkom Indira's daughter Ireni Akoijam lives in





Experience & Expression



KARJAT WRITERS' MEET
20-23
MARCH
2015
BADAMBADE



Mumbai and that Yengkhom Indira does visit her daughter every year. She was contacted and we were lucky that she was planning to visit her daughter and she agreed to come for the meet. We were also lucky that Sahitya Akademi decided to grant a small amount which we could use for cash expenses. So we could invite two Tamil writers from Chennai and one Manipuri writer from Imphal. The number of writers who finally confirmed that they would be there definitely was eighteen.

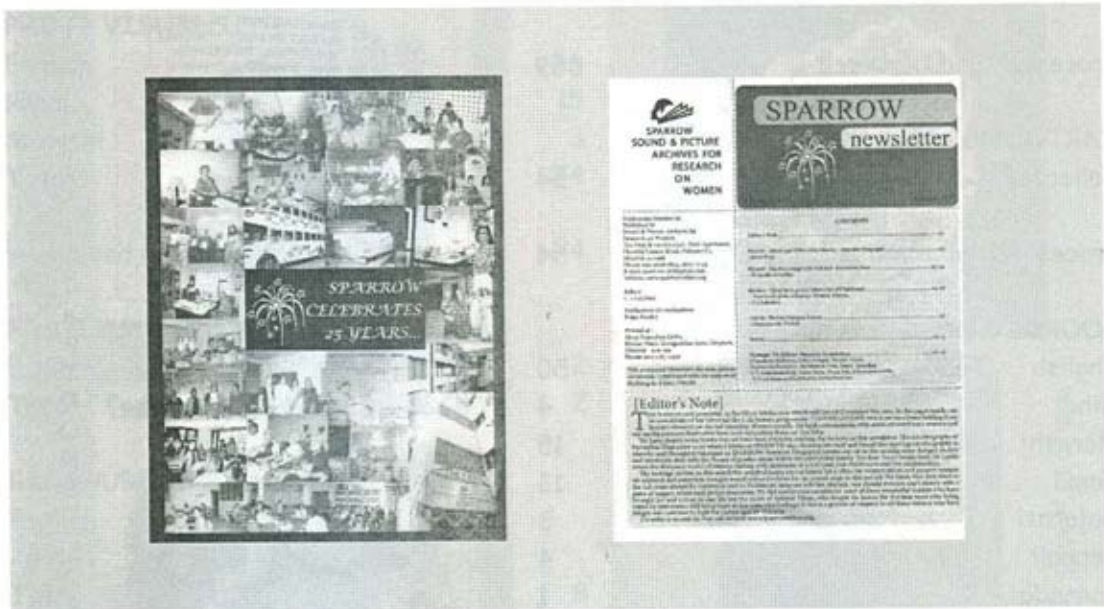
The Meet was to be organised in a way where meals were provided in a common dining room and shared living rooms were provided. The Meet was not designed as an event where people would talk sitting around a table. It was more in the nature of designed conversations where writers narrated their life experiences and their writing career, read their stories and poems and also view films. For this kind of a Meet we needed not a seminar room but a place where we could all stay together for all the three days. The budget did not allow us to take an entire resort like we had done once at Kashid or have the Meet in a huge campus like Adishakti in Pondicherry which we had done two years ago. The search for a place which would suit us began at this point. A few places around Mumbai were located on the web and also some institutions within Mumbai were approached. Nothing really worked according to our plans or budget. That is when we located Club Neembada at Karjat. It belonged to actor Rameshwari and her husband Deepak Seth. The Club had enough space to accommodate all of us. There was a huge terrace where a stage could be built and a large dining and sitting room where the daily sessions could go on. And what was more, there was a swimming pool! And Deepak Seth and Rameshwari listened to all our demands (considering we had a limited budget we did have many demands!) patiently and agreed to do it all within our budget.

SPARROW also prepares reading material for the participants giving translations of stories and poems and details of films to be screened along with bio-notes of the writers. So the furious work of preparing flex boards, posters, choosing texts, translation, editing and finalising the reading material and the other details began almost immediately after our return from Karjat. We also prepared a detailed programme schedule which included morning walks, games to relax, personal narratives, reading out stories and poems, screening of films, late night discussion sessions with hot chocolate, enactment of a play and enough time for fun in the pool and a jam session on the last day. The presence of two theatre persons, Aditi Desai and Sushama Deshpande, made all the difference to this Writers' Meet. Part of the play *Aaydan*, based on Marathi writer Urmila Pawar's life was performed for 45 minutes thanks to Sushama Deshpande and her team and was a fitting end to the three-day discussion and dialogue.

The SPARROW team worked hard to make the event a success and also had fun in the pool, playing games and chatting through the night. This Meet, like the previous ones, had its share of stories, tears, laughter and dance. We have received heartwarming letters from the writers all of whom are insisting that SPARROW Writers' Meet must become an annual affair! Maybe it will in time, and still remain the intimate, warm and meaningful meet it has been designed as.



SPARROW COLLECTIONS AND WORK RECORD
1 April 2014-31 March 2015



SPARROW NEWSLETTERS

The two newsletters for the year were brought out as double issues of 14 and 16 pages respectively. SNL 30 and SNL 31 were both celebratory ones which apart from the regular content of book reviews, articles, events and tributes, detailed our Silver jubilee programmes.

WEBSITE POSTINGS

There were regular website updates with postings on projects, SPARROW Newsletters, Annual Reports, Interviews, Events, and information for supporting SPARROW.

SPARROW COLLECTIONS

The rest of the collection acquired and work done during the period is shown in the table next page.



PHOTOGRAPHS	
Photographs received	539
Original photographs filed	8
Processed and Digitised	669
CARTOONS	
Collected	54
Processed and digitised	54
BOOKS	
English	50
Hindi	4
Marathi	15
Tamil	13
Gujarati	3
Bengali	4
Kannada	1
Maithili	1
Total	91
Processed and digitised	91
Entries Edited (Backlog)	460
REFERENCE BOOKS	
English	6
Gujarati	6
Total	12
Processed and digitised	12
ADVERTISEMENTS	
English	6
Marathi	6

SPARROW Collections

CORNERED #SPARROW

Think you've got a story that belongs here

Mumbai Mirror 06-11-2014

KhUberdaar kyo nahin thhe?

Amul
Safe to take home

The Indian Express 10-12-2014

tooningin JAYANTO

The Hindustan Times 24-04-2014

CARTOONS

1 April 2014 TO 31 March 2015

Hindi 2
Total 14

PRINT VISUALS

English 56
Hindi 15
Marathi 3
Total 74

Processed and digitised 74

POSTERS

English 2
Total 2

BROCHURES

English 8
Total 8

Processed and digitised 8

NEWSLETTERS

English 9
Marathi 12
Total 21


Processed and digitised 21

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

English 874
Marathi 375
Hindi 152
Tamil 2
Total 1403

SPARROW Collections

PARSI BOL
Musicals, Endearments & other Parsi Cultural Performances




Compiled by
Sonia Tangwongsri & Manish Marfatia


Translated by Manish Marfatia
Illustrations by Manish Marfatia & Pratiksha Doshi

BOOKS

विष्मी सदासंगणी
सयाल की तलाश में



'DON'T SING MY PRAISES, GIVE ME SUPPORT'



Sonia Sharmila walks free after 14 years in detention. In English on Wednesday.

The Indian Express 21-08-2014



Processed and digitised 1403

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES (Backlog)

Old Entries 1115
 New Entries 170
Total 1285
 Arranged Total Data Entries 1285

JOURNAL ARTICLES

English 47
 Marathi 11
Total 58

Processed and digitised including backlog 79

AUDIO CASSETTES / CDS

Kannada 01
 Tamil 01
Total 02

Processed and digitised 02

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION INTERVIEWS TAKEN UNDER SPARROW SILVER JUBILEE CONVERSION PROGRAMME

Dr Kusum Pathak
 Ranjana Dave
 Purvadhanashree
 Jhelum Paranjape
 Puthiyamaadavi
 Vinmmi Sadarangani
 Kalyanee Mulay
 Sunita Analikar
Total digital recordings 8

SPARROW Collections

The Times of India 21-08-2014

Navharat Times 6-02-2015

Mumbai Mirror 8-03-2015



WOMEN COPS TURN STREET HAWKS

... ..

मुंबई की लेडी जेम्स बॉन्ड ने सुलझाएँ हैं 75 हजार केस

... ..



Chronicle of a death foretold

Even as India's Daughter reveals our wilful myopia, it certainly outlives its own blind spots

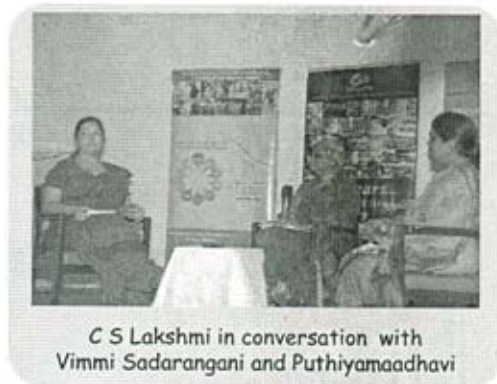
... ..





Interviews Transcribed, DTP, Edited and translated

English	28
Marathi	3
Hindi	2
Tamil	8
Total	41



C S Lakshmi in conversation with Vimmi Sadarangani and Puthiyamaadhavi

SOME REFLECTIONS

When we look back we feel satisfied that we did work despite funding hurdles and we did them well laughing, joking and working together as a team. It was difficult because there were times when we felt low and despondent but the conversation programme was extremely inspiring. Listening to someone like Sunita Aralikal, who was buried as a baby by her father and was rescued and brought up by a poor grandfather who was a cobbler not only brought tears to our eyes but it also taught us that one must never give up one's struggle to live and work in meaningful ways. The SPARROW team is serious about its mission to archive knowledge on women's life and women's work and know that such work may not get appreciated immediately but eventually its worth will be seen. This was proved in December this year when our work was recognised and we received the Prince Claus Fund award. We continue to have our birthday ice creams and hot samosas even during times of despair and tell one another, "What the hell, we now have the Reliance metro; we can reach Andheri from Versova in seven minutes flat!"





Join us in our mission



Contributions to SPARROW qualify for 80 G.
Donations can be sent by cheque or draft marked to SPARROW.
They can also be sent by wire transfer to:
Account Holder: **SPARROW** ;
Bank Name: **STATE BANK OF INDIA.**
Address: Orchid Plaza, Ram Kuwar Thakur Road,
Dahisar (East), Mumbai-68. Branch: Dahisar (East)
Corresponding Saving A/C No: **10154465558**
Bank Code: 4664
IFSC Code: **SBIN0004664**
MICR Code: 400002022



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, 2015				
FUND & LIABILITIES	RS.	RS.	PROPERTIES & ASSETS	RS.
TRUST FUND OR CORPUS FUND:			Fixed Assets :	
Balance per last Balance Sheet	5751377		Immovable Properties	7042109
Add: Donation received during the year/(initial)/FCRA	53309	5904685	Movable Properties	149468
			As per Annexure 'X' attached	
Reserve for Office Space		7865098	Investments	3000000
Balance Brought Forward			Term Deposit with State Bank of India	
Reserve for ZUBAAN			Deposits and Advances:	
Balance Brought Forward		15377	TDS on FD interest(2014-15)	25001
Grant from "Dezaster Project"			TDS on FD interest(2013-14)	7293
Balance Brought Forward	643884		TDS on FD interest(2012-13)	1931
Add: received during the year	0		TDS on FD interest(2011-12)	11897
Less transfer to income and expenditure account	643884		TDS on FD interest(2007-08)	1041
			TDS on FD interest(2006-07)	42905
			TDS on FD interest(2005-06)	10779
		297261	TDS on FD interest(2003-04)	1986
			TDS on FD interest(2002-03)	1264
			TDS on FD interest(2001-02)	3527
			CASH & BANK BALANCES:	
			Balance With FCRA	693464
			SBI (Santacruz-Wy. Current AC	
			Balance With Local	157956
			SBI (Dahisar-E). Saving AC	641423
			INCOME & EXPENDITURE AC:	
			Balance per last Balance sheet	3423109
			Less: surplus during the year	581142
TOTAL RS.		13982421	TOTAL RS.	13982421
PLACE - MUMBAI			As per our report of even date for ASHOK PANDIT & Co Chartered Accountants F R No. 100974W	Dr. C S Lakshmi CHIEF FUNCTIONARY SOUND AND PICTURE ARCHIVES FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN (SPARROW)
DATED: 26th September 2015				For SPARROW Stanley Lakshmi. C.S. TRUSTEES
				
			Amogh Pandit Partner M No. 120866	



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.

List of well-wishers for the year 2014-2015

P Sathyavathi

Mr. Nagappan Poovalingam

Pheroza Godrej

Mithra Venkatraj

V Ravishankar

Mr. T K Somasundaram

Veena Poonacha

Valia Chhaganlala Laljibhai College

C S Lakshmi

Divya Pandey

V Parvathy

J M Girija Devi

Lakshmi Ramalingam

Devdutt Pattanaik

Gowri Ramnarayan

Savita Damle

Meenakshi Shedde

Vidya Menon

Bernard Bate

Raji Balu

Singh foundation

Aravind Kannaiyan

Prince Claus Fund



The SPARROW team is serious about its mission to archive knowledge on women's life and women's work and know that such work may not get appreciated immediately but eventually its worth will be seen. This was proved in December this year when our work was recognised and we received the Prince Claus Fund award. We continue to have our birthday ice creams and hot samosas even during times of despair and tell one another, "What the hell, we now have the Reliance metro; we can reach Andheri from Versova in seven minutes flat!"

