

# FELLOW'S PROJECTS

## IDEOSYNC- UNESCO INFORMATION FELLOWSHIP

2021 December Special Cohort on  
Intersectional Feminism and Digital Rights

# INSIDE THE GHETTO



## About the Fellow



Anusha Arif holds an LLM from TERI School of Advanced Studies. She completed her graduate degree in Law from Aligarh Muslim University. Interested in exploring Inclusivity within religious spaces and the subjective nature of the language of resilience. She is passionate about working towards ensuring the constitutional rights of minorities.

## PODCAST

# Inside the Ghetto

*Anusha Arif*

The project is aimed at creating a space for Indian Muslim Women and other sexual minorities within the community to share their ordinary lived experience to find stories of relevance. The project comes from within the community and for the community to highlight challenges that young Muslim women face in the world through a gendered lens. This series of podcast highlight the prejudice of ghettoization that is often associated with the Muslim community in India. And, at the same time, unfolds the aspects that lead to the segregation of the community from the others in metropolitan cities like Delhi. Through this project, people in the community can find a safe space to share experiences, voice concerns, and reflect on the past as well as the possibilities for a more inclusive space within the community and outside it.



**[Click here and listen to inside the Ghetto on SoundCloud](#)**

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## DOCUMENTARY

# Burning Tears

*Kuldeep Kumar*

More than 40%-60% of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh families have at least one migrant member. Among these, a significant number are migrant husbands. The documentary tries to explore the lives of women and looks at the cause of male migration after they leave impacting their wives and family. It displays the harsh reality of young husbands who end up leaving their families for a sustained livelihood. Male migrants end up leaving their homes for years which impacts the healthcare and education of the children.

The pain, separation, and lived experiences of these women are captured in songs and long ballads. This documentation is also an attempt to enfold the situation of male migration in Bihar and its impact on the impact on women's life.

## About the Fellow



Kuldeep Kumar holds a post-graduate diploma in International Law and Diplomacy. He completed his graduate degree in Humanities and Social Sciences from University of Delhi. Kuldeep is interested in exploring the socioeconomic and cultural impacts of migration and climate change in vulnerable communities.



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Burning Tears on  
YouTube](#)**

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## DOCUMENTARY

# Lost Fish

*Shataakshi Verma*

The rapid urbanization at the coasts of Mumbai has harshly affected the Koli fishing community known as the original inhabitants of the coastal landmass. Land reclamation, the Coastal Road project, and the Shivaji statue are some of the infrastructural projects that the community has opposed in the last few years. In addition to this, none of the Koli communities in Mumbai owns the piece of land that has always belonged to them. The consequent environmental degradation and climate change have also caused a severe loss of livelihood for this indigenous fishing community. The communication project documents their struggles, resilience, and fight toward saving their livelihood and land rights. The documentary was created with the community as participants as well as some experts on land rights and urbanization. It assists in creating awareness and solidarity towards the Koli community from the wider public eye in their fight against the loss of culture, livelihood, and land.

## About the Fellow



Shataakshi Verma is a development professional and an artist who has worked in Afghanistan on Gender, Peace, and Conflict along with grassroots organizations across rural India. Shataakshi is a postgraduate in social work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She aims to use film and art as tools to document lived realities of a community's conflict and resilience.



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Burning Lost Fish on  
YouTube](#)**

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## PODCAST & ARTICLES

# Makers of Sound

*Sayati Das*

'Makers of Sound: Who are the roadies? Where are the roadies?' revolves around tracking the lives of 'Sound Roadies' – a group of people who are severely marginalized within the live music/sound industry, and more generally, are not a category that is well known to the greater mass. The lack of information about the Roadies and their continued marginalization is largely fueled by the overarching hierarchy that is present within the performance space, with a centralized gaze/attentiveness towards the performer(s) – however, this process of marginalization does not begin at the performance space, it is perhaps as a virtue, is embedded within the social identities of the roadies. One continual theme that is observed within the interviews is a need to 'settle' – most of them have/had (often unfulfilled) ambitions of being a musician and have now chosen this career path so that they can be nearer to the stage, in some capacity.

## About the Fellow



Sayati Das is a postgraduate in Sociology from Presidency University with a special focus on the Sociology of Media, Sound, and Music. As a trained singer, she has continuously engaged with consuming, listening, and producing music. Her research interests lie in new media, communication technologies and gender.



[Click here and listen to Makers of Sound on SoundCloud](#)

[Click here to read Makers of Sound: Notes from the Field](#)

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## DOCUMENTARY

# *Ka Shna Sur - Crafting Sounds of the Khasi Hills*

Upatyaka Dutta

Folk instrument makers and their indigenous knowledge are central to the sustenance of the cultural ecosystem of Meghalaya. This documentary film presents a picture of the different ways in which Khasi folk instrument makers are making a living through this traditional livelihood practice. It also highlights how this occupation sustains local culture and in turn, is sustained by local cultural practices and ecology. The role of women in folk instrument making and playing instruments is deeply investigated, as well. This communication project portrays how a self-sustaining community of Khasi instrument makers can assist in the self-determination of the tribe through the transmission of indigenous knowledge.

### About the Fellow

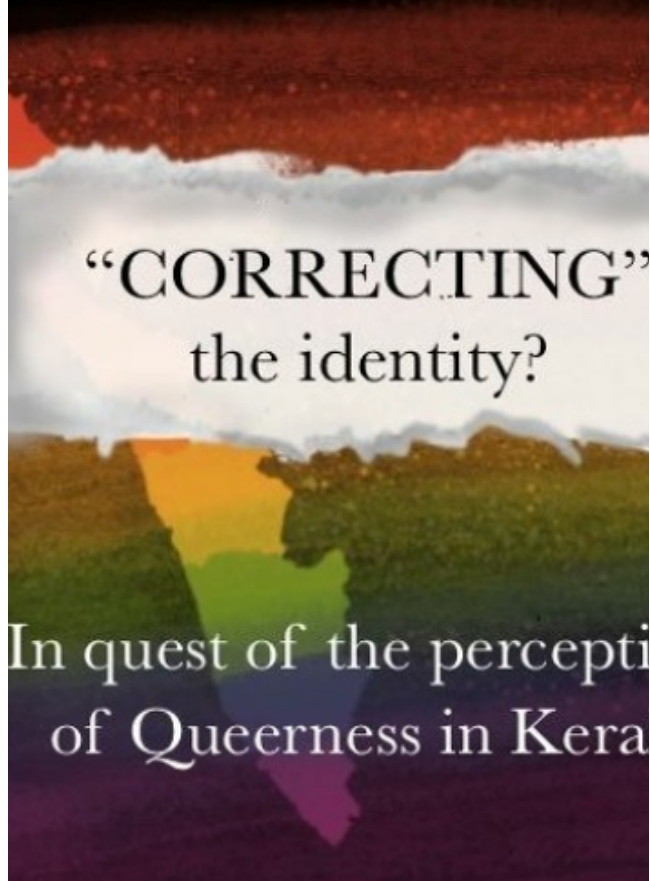


Upatyaka Dutta is a postgraduate from SOAS, University of London. As an anthropology student and a musician, she is passionate about colliding the two worlds together. She looks at development through an interdisciplinary lens of cultural and ecological sustainability. Her interest lies in the issues of self-determination of the indigenous communities from the North East region.



**[Click here and watch to Ka  
Shna Sur on Youtube](#)**

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## PODCAST

# "Correcting" the Identity?

*Oormila Devi*

Even as the discourse around gender identity and sexual orientation are slightly better than how it used to be in the past decade or so, the attempts to "fix" them through religious corrective centers, chemical castration, counseling, or/and even electroconvulsive therapy still exists in the society. The problem that lies at the core of this is the outlook toward queer sexuality and queer identity as an "addiction" that calls for rehabilitation. Therefore, it is important to address the concerns of the community and start a discourse around the normality of being queer. This project addresses the issues faced by the queer community about their sexual and gender identity. Intended towards the stakeholders, this project is an attempt to enhance society's understanding and awareness of the problem with practices such as the conversion therapy.

## About the Fellow



Oormila Devi is a post graduate in English Literature from Central University of Tamil Nadu and obtained bachelors in Arts and Education from University of Mysore. who is passionate about teaching. Her interests lie in the area of Queer and Gender Studies with deep passion for teaching.



**[Click here and listen to "Correcting" the Identity? on SoundCloud](#)**

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## PODCAST

# A Women's Road to Money

*Sakshi Meshram*

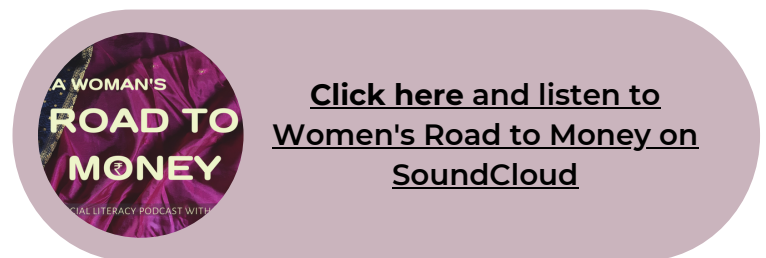
Women, more often than not, are invisible during conversations related to money, even when they start earning. Money seldom enters into a woman's day-to-day conversation and remains a subject they feel underconfident about. This lack of exposure hinders woman's journey to becoming financially literate and additionally aren't able to maximize the worth of money. The podcast caters to facilitating a dialogue about money and financial literacy. It also encourages money-related conversations in the day-to-day lives of women to make it a less taboo subject and give women a greater and more autonomous voice. In turn, there is a hope that the women will become comfortable in negotiating their salary, bring in more conversations surrounding money, and challenge gender and women's wealth gap.



## About the Fellow



Sakshi Meshram is a Political Science graduate from the University of Delhi. She has been involved in international dialogues, management, research, media, and communications and is passionate about the causes of women and marginalized communities.



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## DOCUMENTARY

# *Tu Itni Daring Kaise*

Annabelle D'Costa

'Tu Itni Daring Kaise', is an attempt to explore the city's biases against its women experiencing homelessness, extending disproportionate marginalisation towards them. The documentary highlights how by failing to meet some of their most basic needs, the city absconds from its responsibility towards this at-risk population. It is an attempt to explore and examine some of their everyday lived harsh realities that puts them at a double disadvantage, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From understanding what homelessness truly entails to examining the associated risks women have to take to access, engage or experience public spaces, this documentation shares the perspectives of those who are experiencing homelessness, and those who advocate for them.

## About the Fellow



Annabelle D'Costa hold a bachelors degree in English Literature from St. Xavier's College, has about four

years of work experience in creating digital, user-friendly content. Her interests lie in gender and sexuality.

She uses humor as a coping mechanism, and believes that the world too could do with a little laughter.



**[Click here and watch Tu Itni Daring Kaise on Youtube](#)**

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# SPACES WE OCCUPY



## About the Fellow



Somava Das is a post graduate in Journalism and Mass Communication from Assam University and holds an undergraduate degree in Computer Science. She is passionate about everything on internet, mental health, LGBTQ+ rights, environment and education.

## PODCAST

# Spaces We Occupy

*Somava Das*

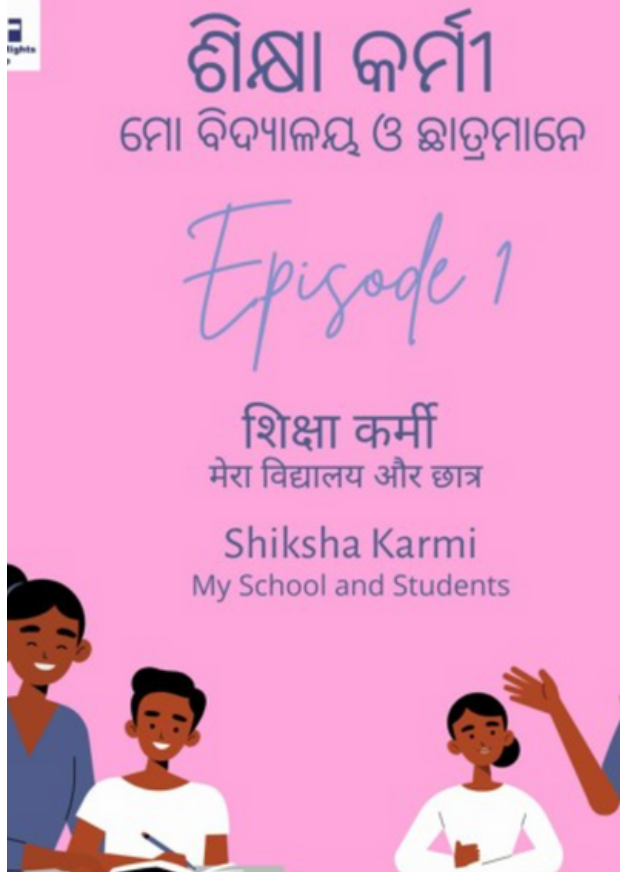
Online education has been hailed as the next best thing. Although the circumstances due to which online classes became a routine are quite tragic, the format has been largely celebrated. This project is an attempt to talk to the teachers who were engaged in online classes over the two years of the pandemic, the issues they faced, especially female teachers who had to balance their roles as a professional and as a woman, and how they negotiated a space when the boundaries between both overlapped. The project also brought forth stories of harassment and abuse that female teachers have had to endure, from students and senior colleagues. They also spoke about the lack of joy and connectivity they went through while teaching online. The digital divide too stood out as an absolute truth via these conversations. On a macro level, the project was about teachers talking about teaching online. On the micro level, the stories stood as a testament of patriarchy and the great power imbalance.

SPACES WE  
OCCUPY



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## PODCAST & PHOTO ESSAYS

# Shiksha Karmi

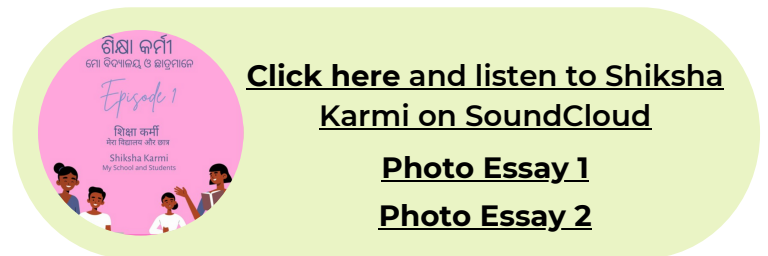
Akanksha Kujur

Teachers are the backbone of any educational institution. A lot of government schools in India assign duties to teachers that are beyond the purview of imparting knowledge, such as opening of bank accounts for children, linking the accounts with Aadhar Card, monitoring voting booths, and visiting door to door collecting data for Census among many other surveys. Although, these duties are incidental and auxiliary to the duty of imparting education it requires focus and commitment, asking them to be mentally and physically dedicated to this responsibility outside their dedicated hours in the school and sometimes, even compromising on the school hours if the need be. Education is a serious matter and the teachers should not be overburdened with additional workload which deflects them from their primary responsibility. 'Shiksha Karmi' is a project based on the lives and experiences of government school teachers from tribal and rural Odisha.

## About the Fellow



Akanksha Kujur completed her bachelors in Media and Communication from Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication, Pune. Her interest lies in accessible education, socio economic inequalities through a lens of communication. She is passionate about working on holistic education and illiteracy.



[Click here and listen to Shiksha Karmi on SoundCloud](#)

[Photo Essay 1](#)

[Photo Essay 2](#)

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## PODCAST &amp; PHOTO ESSAY

***Pushta se Awaaz****Shabrana Qadri and Ishtha Verma*

Economically and socially marginalized groups from all over India move to Delhi in search of employment opportunities and sustenance. While most of them live there alone, some move along with their families (including wives and children) and seek refuge in slums. While it becomes easier for men to navigate their roles in the workspaces, it is noted that women tend to suffer more due to the inadequate living conditions within the slums. One such is the Yamuna Pushta region which has rendered shelter to several migrants. Research informs that no substantive attention is drawn to the women who come along with their husbands solely to assist them. Amidst this starkly visible gap, it, therefore, stands imperative to convey the story of these women, accompanying the struggles they face in this urban milieu and the deficiency of their support structure.

This communication project looks forward to raise concern surrounding migrant women who are live in complex situations. These women lack agencies that would essentially empower them. This attempt will not only strike a conversation about existing problems but also call for attention from NGOs and other social advocacy groups.

[Click here and listen to Pushta se Awaaz on SoundCloud](#)



Shabrana Qadri is a fellow associated with FreeDem Initiative by Ideosync Media Combine. She completed her post graduation from IGNOU. Her work involves bringing out narratives on women's health, questions the existing laws on age of marriage for women through audio stories.

Ishtha Verma holds a post-graduate in Development Studies from Ambedkar University, New Delhi, and a bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Delhi. She is passionate about working with developmental issues through an on-ground intervention.

