

# FELLOWS' PROJECTS

## IDEOSYNC- UNESCO INFORMATION FELLOWSHIP

**Project Abstracts for the 2022 November  
Special Cohort on Intersectional  
Feminism and Digital Rights**

## DOCUMENTARY

# Invisible Women

Mehar Ali P

In recent years, rural women's empowerment has become a major topic of discussion in prominent political and policy forums. Governments see micro-enterprises as an effective instrument for rural women's social and economic development and therefore implement various schemes to train, support and fund women entrepreneurs from rural settings. Yet, women living in rural areas face challenges due to unequal access to information about governmental schemes, productive resources, services and inadequate or inaccessible infrastructure. The documentary addresses the challenges and issues faced by four women led enterprises and small-scale businesses in Karassery Panchayath, Kerala.



## About the Fellow



Mehar is a sociology graduate from Hindu College, University of Delhi. He is interested in ethnographic documentation and has done a couple of creative projects from a sociological point of view, including visual essays, photo stories and documentary films. Some of his photography works are recently exhibited in a fine arts photography exhibition at the All India Fine Arts and Craft Society, New Delhi.



[Click here to watch](#)  
['Invisible Women' on Vimeo](#)

## PODCAST

# The Social Disguise

Sreshta Ladegaam & Divya Patnaik

Technology in the last decade has advanced and developed at an accelerated pace and has subsequently managed to establish itself at the center of all social, economic, and political interactions. Social media did facilitate many progressive movements across the world, but the global rise of extremist ideologies, coupled with the infrastructural biases of social media platforms have facilitated and amplified the growing anti-feminist cultures online. The podcast series generates awareness and conversation about how the history of the evolution of social media platforms and their infrastructure points towards the inherent bias against women and highlights the rising antifeminism on digital platforms.



[Click here to listen 'The Social Disguise' on Sound Cloud](#)

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## About the Fellow



Divya Patnaik is a PhD scholar at IIT Bombay, working on the intersections of gender and technology. Her specific interests include gender and culture. She completed post-graduation in Women Studies from Tata Institute of Social Science Mumbai, and an MPhil from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.



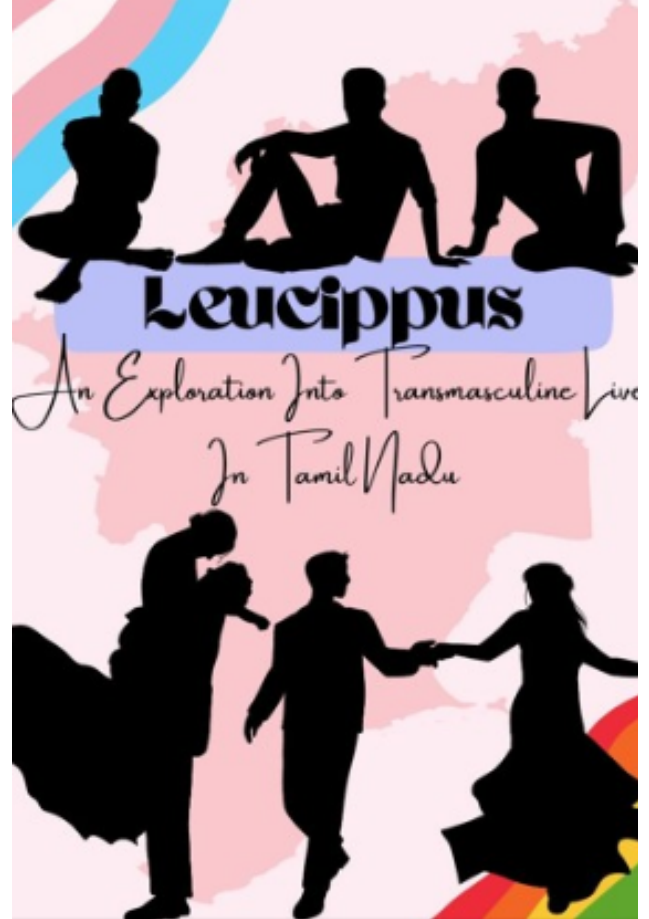
Sreshta Ladegaam is a communications professional based in Hyderabad. She has a master's degree in communication & media studies from the University of Hyderabad. She has previously worked with Software Freedom Law Centre India (SFLC.in) and The Siasat Daily. She is passionate about research in digital cultures, digital rights, feminist media studies, bridging the digital media literacy divide, and understanding the impact of technological governance & platform capitalism on marginalized groups based on gender, caste, religion, sexuality & disability.

## PODCAST

# Leucippus: An Exploration Into Transmasculine Lives in Tamil Nadu

Abirami Raveendranath

In Tamil Nadu, the trans feminine community, or rather those who identify as transwomen have been well represented, as much as minority representation goes. Contrast this with official government forms, the options given under the sex category are Male, Female, Other/Transgender. While the clubbing of a gender identity under sex is in and of itself something that has to be addressed separately, due to common understanding, transgender has come to denote transwomen. This contributes to the erasure of transmasculine identities, especially that of transmen. This project visibilizes the transmasculine identities, especially transmen in Chennai and Tamil Nadu as a whole & educates on other transmasculine identities such as androgyny.



## About the Fellow



Abirami is a Sociology graduate from Chennai, who is passionate about gender and sexuality. Her ardour for understanding human relations has steered her interest towards research, the product of which has been multiple research studies that explore the intersectionality of gender, sexuality, religion and culture. She has been highly involved in educating underprivileged children through her volunteering.



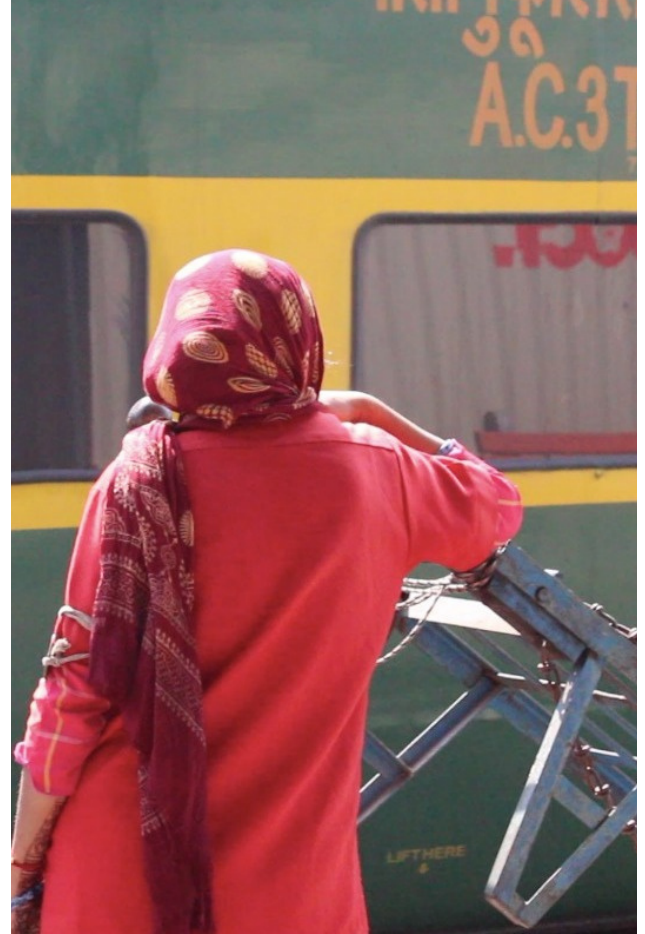
[Click here to listen 'Leucippus: An exploration Into Transmasculine Lives in Tamil Nadu' on Sound Cloud](#)

## DOCUMENTARY

# Women In Red

Sejal Patel

Even though the Indian Railways issued official badges to women coolies decades back, women porters are still a rare sight. Traversing this space is oftentimes a challenge for them due to the male-dominated nature of this profession. They are met with prejudices such as being called "weak," resulting in receiving lesser gigs than their male peers and thus impacting their work and lives altogether. The film aims to tell the stories of women who have historically been neglected from films to acutely documented literature. The film also documents how patriarchy and sexism at workplaces are not just limited to households or office spaces but the informal and especially gig-based work becomes the open outlet for the two.



## About the Fellow



Sejal is an independent journalist and filmmaker based in Delhi, India, with a strong research focus on rural and data journalism, and the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field. She has done her post-graduation in Masters's in Convergent Journalism from AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia. Through her scholarly endeavors, she aims to challenge established norms, foster social justice, and instigate transformative change.



[Click here to watch 'Women In Red' on Youtube](#)

## DOCUMENTARY

# Kapde, Bartan Aur Auratein

Shurabhi Shukla

An invisible existence, especially when recognition from the state and the society can prove to be a feat, is difficult to sustain. The Waghri have, however, been living a life of invisibility for decades now. These are a denotified; nomadic tribal community of Gujrat who migrated to various states over half a century ago to escape their drought-stricken homes, in search of alternative professions. The Waghri women go door-to-door bartering new utensils for old clothes and sell these clothes after renewal to service-class workers. The project documents their everyday lives which includes the process of unrecognized, informal occupation of the Waghri and their interactions with stakeholders.



## About the Fellow



Shurabhi is a liberal arts graduate from Ambedkar University Delhi. An extensive study of the arts during her undergraduate degree, combined with adjusting to life in the national capital, has come with multiple realisations of the raging social inequalities, and to view them all through an intersectional feminist lens. She is passionate about communication and media production because as she sees it as the best medium to reverberate change.



[Click here to watch 'Kapde, Bartan Aur Auratein' on Youtube](#)

## PODCAST

# *Ae-Ri Sakhi*

Ritika Chauhan & Kumar Chandan Samal

Despite government reports of a better sex ratio, rampant patriarchy and practices like 'Pradhan Pati' remain significant hurdles to women's emancipation in the state. These practices and social issues inevitably restrict women's access to welfare schemes and measures in an already downtrodden situation especially the one's hailing from rural backgrounds. Rural women, particularly those of caste marginality, are more deprived of information access due to various social and economic barriers. This communication project will give the rightful space to these women in Haryana to engage in conversations about the issues they are facing, and to put forward the community perspective for further intervention at academic and policy level.



[Click here to listen 'Ae-Ri Sakhi' on Sound Cloud](#)

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## About the Fellow



Ritika is a first-generation learner, born and brought up in North Haryana. She completed Bachelors in Journalism from University of Delhi, New Delhi. Her mission is to help women in rural spaces get their due representation, agency and rights.



Chandan has completed Bachelor's degree in journalism from Delhi School of Journalism, University of Delhi. He has a keen interest in the space of tech policy and assessing development policies for women. He is natively from Ganjam, Odisha and a polyglot skilled in Odia, Hindi, English, Spanish, and Urdu. His previous experiences include working with acid attack survivors and hearing and speech disabled persons. He is an unequivocal supporter of LGBTQIA+ rights. He strives to make better spaces for marginalised voices in society.