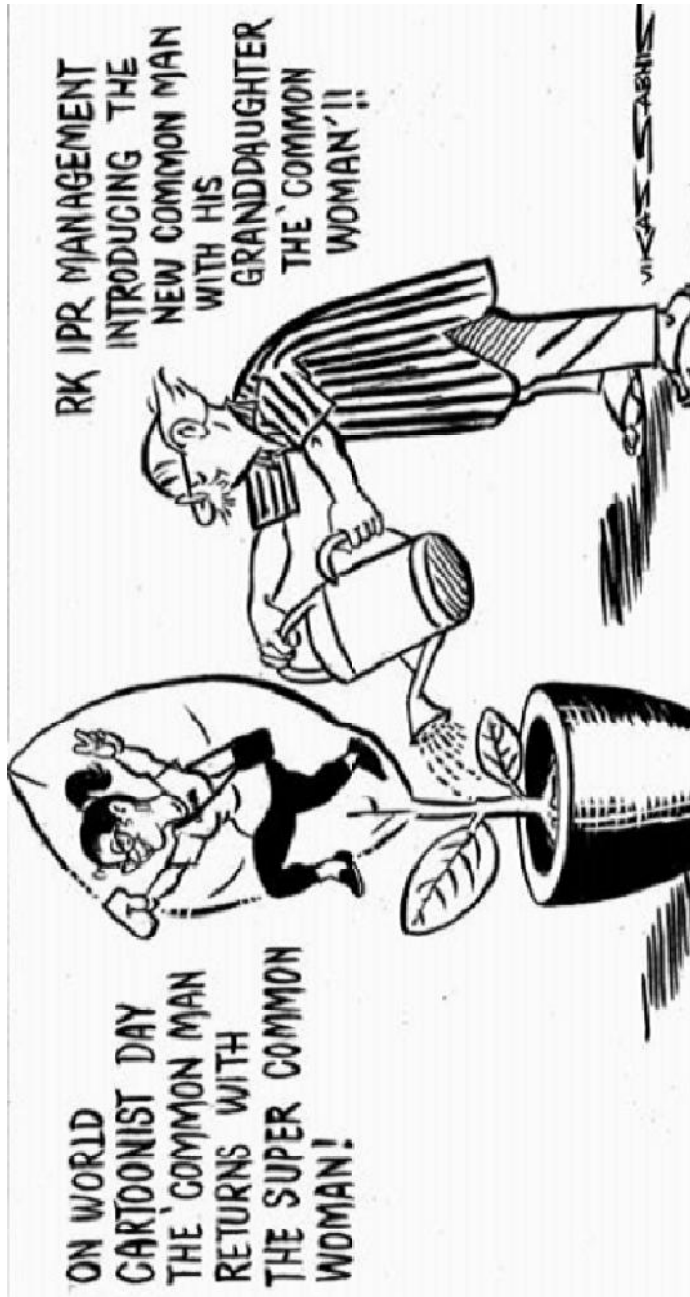




ANNUAL REPORT
1 APRIL 2017 to
31 MARCH 2018



SPARROW
Sound & Picture Archives
for
Research on Women



The Common Woman as imagined by Rimanika Laxman, granddaughter of R K Laxman, drawn by Vikas Sabnis. The Common Woman series of cartoons will soon be in the newspapers.



1 April 2017 TO 31 March 2018



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SPARROW ANNUAL REPORT

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SPARROW

Sound & Picture Archives for Research on Women

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1 April 2017 TO 31 March 2018

**ANNUAL REPORT
1 April 2017-31 March 2018**

PREFACE

The year 2017 began with the usual joy of beginning a new year of archival work but also with anxieties about completing the fifth volume of the five-volume series of 87 writers in 23 languages, *Building a Boat on Hilltops to Sail the Oceans*, with poems and stories of women in Naga, Nepali, Oriya, Gujarati and Marathi. Whatever deadlines we had set up in the previous year seemed to collapse for various reasons and this year began with the firm determination to somehow see through this particular volume. We have managed it almost but the deadline has gone into the coming year but the volume has taken shape to a large extent which gave us some satisfaction.

The new set of trustees have been very supportive like the previous trustees but the fund-crunch remained and while working on the archival projects and taking SPARROW's work outside continued there was always the kill-joy anxiety of having enough funds to keep up the good work.

In the national context, one can say that one's memory of this year was dominated by thoughts of violence against women in various ways. After the Nirbhaya incident in 2012, this year seemed like a year of rape and assault and murder of minor girls. In April 2017, a physically challenged minor girl was raped inside the Lord Jagannath Temple, said the police. The incident happened after the girl went inside for "darshan" and the temple was more or less deserted. In October 2017 in a shocking case, a Christian priest was arrested in Kerala for allegedly sexually abusing a 10-year-old school girl inside a church. According to police, the crime took place on Sunday when the victim had gone to the church for taking Bible lessons. In January 2018, there was the Kathua Rape of an eight-year old child Asifa Bano who was held captive in a temple, sedated and gang-raped in Rasana village, near Kathua, in Jammu and Kashmir. News of sexual assaults on minor girls and boys and children filled the newspaper pages.

There was also a spate of honour killings in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere with the case of Kausalya and Shankar occupying centre stage. Kausalya married Shankar who was a Dalit and her Thevar community rose against the marriage and her own parents sent killers to murder them in Udumalaipettai in Tiruppur district in March 2016. While Shankar was hacked to death Kausalya escaped with minor injuries. The judgment was delivered in December 2017 in which her father Chinnasamy and was given a prison term and a death penalty. Her mother was let off. Since then Kausalya has become an activist fighting caste.



It is not that nothing positive was done for women but they were not seriously discussed. For example, on 11th October 2017, the Supreme Court struck down a law allowing men to have sex with children as young as 15 provided they have married them. Kriti Bharti, a pioneering activist who has prevented thousands of child marriages in Rajasthan welcomed the judgment saying it was a welcome starting point. She said it would be a difficult decision to enforce but that it would have long lasting consequences considering how deeply community attitudes favouring child marriages were entrenched. However, the judges stopped short of revoking an exception in the country's criminal law that permits rape in marriage. They restricted their decisions to minors only and did not comment on marital rape as such. Currently the Delhi High court is hearing a challenge to that law which prevents women from seeking justice for marital rape. The Indian government feels that the change that will be brought about by the scrapping of the exception might "destabilise the institution of marriage and put the husbands at risk of "harassment." But this has generally been the attitude of all governments and the general attitude towards empowering women with regard to seeking justice for crimes within the institution of marriage. When dowry laws and domestic violence laws favoured women there was always the response that they would be misused by women. Even with regard to sexual harassment and rape, after the Mathura rape case when the rape law was amended in 1983, when the onus was on the rapist to prove that the rape had not been committed, there was the fear that women would misuse the judgment to harass innocent men.

There was also cause for Muslim women to rejoice for on 22 August 2017, the Indian Supreme Court also struck down the Triple Talaq in Muslim marriages, a law permitting Muslim men to divorce their wives by uttering or communicating the word "talaq" three times. The government formulated a bill called The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017, and it was passed on 28 December 2017 by the Lok Sabha. The bill makes instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat) in any form—spoken, in writing or by electronic means such as email, SMS and WhatsApp—illegal and void, with up to three years in jail for the husband. It is being debated but Muslim women's groups like the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan support the Bill.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has generally been the butt of many jokes but a note on that from the government with guidelines in the third year of the programme made it clear that the intention was not to stereotype traditional image of women as those receiving largesse by generous men of the family who would provide them toilets in the house so that open defecation can be avoided. The note states the intention and the process to carry out the programme very clearly. The intention was to achieve complete Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages. While the machinery of implementation was to focus on community engagement the emphasis was on women's participation not only in bringing about behavioural changes but also in all aspects including participation in institutions like the Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC). The guidelines also made it clear that in spreading the



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SBM (G) message, messages restoring gender stereotyping like men being custodians of women's dignity and similar images, must be avoided. The note stated that "stories of a brother gifting a toilet to his sister, a sarpanch declaring to take off his moustache unless his village becomes ODF may perpetuate gender stereotyping and portray women as weak and passive as compared to men. The SBM-G messaging should ensure that it does not propagate, even inadvertently, any such gender bias.... It should portray and popularise stories of powerful women and successful women Swachhta champions, to inspire and motivate women across the country to take charge of their own fate, health and safety." The guidelines also stated that the traditional patriarchal notion of women keeping the toilet of the family clean must be broken and that the entire family must be made responsible for its cleanliness. Another important point made by the note is that the third gender must be recognized as equal citizens and users of toilets. The inclusivity is also extended to elderly, pregnant women, the disabled and children and also female users (whose safety and menstrual hygiene have to be taken into consideration) in terms of design which is to be inclusive and barrier free for all concerned.

The theme of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2017 was Women First and Prosperity for All and many Indian government schemes like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which aims to provide free cooking gas connections to poor families are reported to have strengthened the lives of the poor marginalised Dalits and tribal communities and other schemes like Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana to benefit people from across India, without discriminating on the basis of caste, class, religion or region. There have also been several schemes to encourage women's entrepreneurship. The long term benefits of such schemes will register over a period of time but schemes covering women in the rural areas are much needed. How much of these schemes and the good intentions behind them will remain in paper and how much will become reality is to be seen.

It was heartening to see some women who have been working quietly being awarded the Padma Shri award this year. The awards were announced in January 2018.

Lakshmikutty, a tribal woman from Kerala, who prepares 500 herbal medicine from memory and helps thousands of people especially in snake and insect bite cases, is among the awardees. She teaches at Kerala Folklore Academy and lives in a small hut made of palm leaves roof in tribal settlement in a forest. She is the only tribal woman from her area to attend school in the 1950s.

Subhasini Mistry, a poor lady from rural West Bengal, who toiled 20 years as housemaid and daily labourer and vegetable vendor to build a hospital for poor in the state, is another awardee.





LAKSHMIKUTTY



SUBHASINI
MISTRY



SITAVVA
JODDATI



RANI & ABHAY BANG



V NANAMMAL



SULAGATTI
NARASAMMA



LENTINA AO
THAKKAR



VIJAYALAKSHMI
NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN

SPARROW Congratulates all Padma Shri winners

Nonagenarian farm labourer **Sulagatti Narasamma**, who provides midwifery services in backward region of Karnataka without any medical facility, too was awarded the Padma Shri.

Vijayalakshmi Navaneethkrishnan, an acclaimed Tamil folk exponent, who has dedicated her life towards collection, documentation and preservation of Tamil folk and tribal music, has also been given Padma Shri.

Lentina Ao Thakkar, a Gandhian who has served for decades at a Gandhi Ashram in Nagaland

Rani and Abhay Bang, both doctors, who over 30 years transformed health care in Naxal-hit Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, will get the Padma Shri.

Sitavva Joddati, who champions women development and empowerment, especially 'Devadasis' and Dalits

98-year-old **V Nanammal**, India's oldest yoga teacher, who still practices and teaches 100 students daily in Tamil Nadu, has been honoured with the Padma Shri.

Some sportswomen made us proud in 2017.



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The **Indian women cricketers** have done well for themselves. Although they could not lift the world cup against England in the Women's Cricket World Cup held in July, Mithali Raj and her team emerged as champions. **P V Sindhu** played well throughout the year and won silver at the Glasgow world Championships. But what brought cheer to many hearts was the gold won by **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu**. She won the gold in Weightlifting World Championships. This medal was won after 22 years of no win for India. In September 2017 Chanu won the gold at the Commonwealth Senior weightlifting championships held in Australia, and earned a direct entry to next year's Commonwealth Games. **Mary Kom** clinched her 5th Gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championships. The **Indian women's hockey team** under the captainship of Rani Rampal had an astonishing win over China and got qualified for the 2018 World Cup. The girls



INDIAN CRICKET TEAM



INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM



P V SIDHU



S A I K H O M
M I R A B A I C H A N U



MARY KOM



KANCHANMALA

*SPARROW Congratulates
all Sportswomen!
We are very proud of all of you*



SPARROW



**ONCE A STONE PELTER,
SHE NOW LEADS FOOTBALL TEAM**

AFSAN ASHIQ
Captain, Jammu & Kashmir football team

JAMMU & KASHMIR RUGBY TEAM



WRESTLER KAVITA DEVI



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BREAKING STEREOTYPES

ONE GOAL AT A TIME

became the real life 'Chak De' girls. And this win came after 13 years. **Kanchanmala**, a visually impaired swimmer from Maharashtra, became the first Indian to win gold at the world Para-Swimming championship in Mexico in December.

Another wonderful story about what sports can do to a girl is the story of **Afshan Ashiq**. 21-year-old Afshan Ashiq is from Kashmir and was a student leader who was known as a stone pelter. She is now the captain of **Jammu and Kashmir's Women's football team**. We also had no idea about girls in Kashmir being great rugby players. But then when news came of the **J&K Women's Rugby team** emerging winners in the 3rd National Snow Rugby Championship held in Gulmarg in July, it was a cause for celebration. We did not know there was an ice hockey team of Indian women until we read the news that the **Indian Women's Ice Hockey Team** had its first victory in an international match. At the Challenge Cup of Asia held in Bangkok the team defeated the Philippines team. And there were others who made history too. **Wrestler Kavita Devi**, who was a participant in the WWE's Mae Young classic tournament became first Indian woman wrestler ever to be signed a WWE developmental contract. Apart from wrestling, she won gold in power-lifting at the 2016 South Asian Games.

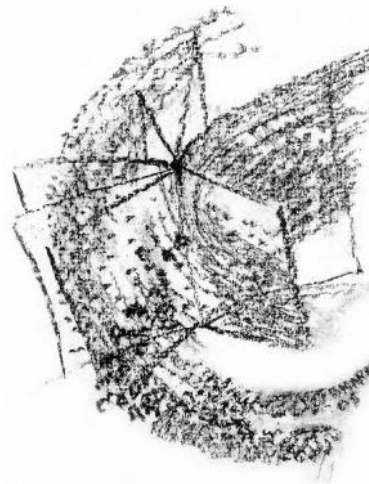


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And this year was also the happening year for the #Me Too Movement which surely will gather more momentum in the coming year. It took a year for the movement to come to India after the allegations against Harvey Weinstein in the USA. In 2017, Raya Sarkar, a law student, prepared a list of men in the academia who were allegedly sexual harassers. It won't be surprising if 2018 will see many men cosy in their positions of power in the academia and the art world being dragged into answer sexual misconducts by them. SPARROW will be following this hash-tag movement carefully.

Where the nation is concerned there has been much anxiety and many debates centering on freedom of expression and secularism. The murder of Gowri Lankesh in September 2017 added to this feeling. While policies for rural women as not largesse but as something due to them are welcome there is still a lingering anxiety that women demanding equal citizenship rights are seen as home-breakers like they have been all these years. There is also the need for women's NGOs to function with ease and freedom. Where SPARROW is concerned we keep drafting several ambitious projects which we feel are very much a part of qualitative development of women and the nation. If these projects get funded our archiving work would become all the more exciting and meaningful.

C S Lakshmi, Mumbai, 2018



POLICY DECISIONS, STAFF STRUCTURE AND TEAM SPIRIT

This is the second year without any special grants for projects. The archival work connected with the regular archival project was continued with some constraints regarding purchase of books and similar expenditure. We have survived on money saved and individual donations. Major policy decisions were with regard to making the nature of work flexible with working from home a possibility. Hence when one of the team members decided to leave the country for a neighbouring country for a long period, ways of her continuing the work from there were worked out and no archival work was disrupted.

New trustees were appointed in December 2017. We were sad to see some of the senior trustees go but we were assured of their constant help and support. The new trustees were Dr Charanjeet Kaur, Dr Sunanda Pal, Dr Vidya Vencatesan, Dr Uma Maheshwari Shankar and Mr. Jerry Pinto. Ever since, the trustees have been seriously discussing about SPARROW projects and Jerry Pinto has made it a point to send us parcels of books so we can save on spending on books.

PROJECT AND ARCHIVAL ACTIVITIES

With no specific funding for any special project the archival project was carried on as usual. It meant editing transcriptions, translating and continuing the work of digitising and archiving photographs and other visual material. We continued our outreach activities of holding workshops and interacting with researchers.

The collaboration with Center for Women Studies, Dibrugarh University, for a project entitled Oral History Project On Stories Behind The Hot Cup Of Assam Tea: Listening To The Voices Of Women Labourers In The Tea Gardens, continued this year.

There was no other specific OHRP interviews this year. But work on other interviews done was continued.

Workshop-cum-training programme on "Institutional Digital Repository (IDR) for National Digital Library India Project" (21st- 22nd Sept., 2017) was jointly organised by IIAS Shimla and National Digital Library India (NMEICT Project), IIT Kharagpur. Senior Librarian Sharmila Sontakke and Librarian Asmita Deshpande attended the workshop in IIAS Shimla. The training included the required configuration of computer, the installation of Dspace, method of creating different categories (referred to as communities in Dspace language), the collections and each resource (referred to as Item in Dspace language). The training was very fruitful for SPARROW Library Unit.



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Dr C S Lakshmi, Director, SPARROW, Dr Charanjeet Kaur, Associate Director, SPARROW, along with Dr Katharina Hoffmann from Oldenburg, Germany, & Nanda Nandekar, PhD student, visited the Partition Museum in Amritsar and a detailed article on the experience will appear in the forthcoming Newsletter.

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

SPARROW is not just an archives waiting for scholars to come and consult it and its archival work also involves taking the archives out in various networking activities involving screenings and interactive sessions, meetings with individuals and groups.

The fifth edition of the South India Writers' Ensemble (SIWE) organised by Pampa (People For Performing Arts and More) at Chengannur, Kerala was an extremely interesting meeting of writers from 24-26 July 2017. Dr C S Lakshmi participated in it as a writer and as Director of SPARROW and spoke about both her work as a writer and as an archivist.

In September 2017, University of Texas, Austin invited Dr C S Lakshmi to attend a Translation conference. The conference generated many opportunities to talk about SPARROW and its translation projects especially the fifth and final volume in the series of volumes on 87 writers from 23 languages.

The Bangalore Literary Festival in October provided an opportunity to again talk about SPARROW and its literature projects and the response of those who attended the festival to SPARROW'S work was very encouraging.

In October 2017, **Nagar Bhagini Garba Mandal**, Vile Parle, Mumbai (a group of women of Nagar community) invited Dr C S Lakshmi as a guest of honour. The Audio CD (A collection of rare garbas of Ma Jagdamba sung during the Betha Garba) was released by Kala Guru Smt. Vandana Desai, Director, Kala Sangam, Vile Parle, Mumbai and given to Dr C S Lakshmi to be archived in SPARROW.

In November 2017, Dr C S Lakshmi was invited for the inaugural function of the **"International Conference: Re-imagining the Text: English Studies and Digital Humanities,"** scheduled on 24th November, 2017. This Conference was a joint effort of the Guild of Indian English writers, editors and critics (GIEWEC) and the Department of English Maniben Nanavati Women's College. Based on SPARROW's archival experiences, Dr C S Lakshmi presented a paper on **Women's Lives as Digital Texts: Some Thoughts on Archiving Women's History and Lives.**



S P A R R O W

SPARROW ANNUAL REPORT

Namaste Educational Academy at Pondicherry organised an International and Interdisciplinary conference in February 8-11, 2018 on Feminism and Gender Studies. Dr C S Lakshmi was invited to speak at the conference. She spoke about issues that concern feminism and Women's Studies in general and presented a power point presentation on **Feminism as Experience: Women We forgot to Include in History** based on the archival collection at SPARROW.

In February 2018, **The IIS University, Jaipur** invited Dr C S Lakshmi as a guest lecturer to speak about **Feminism as Experience: Women We Forgot to Include in History** for the UG, PG students and Research Scholars and a power point programme and a lecture on SPARROW's work was presented and a possible collaboration was discussed.

On 10th March 2018, Jaya Menon from Women Networking invited Dr C S Lakshmi as a chief guest to commemorate International Women's Day. Around 100 activists and their network partners participated. The topic for the programme was 'Struggles of Women and the importance of documenting them' The lecture delivered was based on the archival documentation work done by SPARROW all these years.

SPARROW EVENT: SPARROW LITERARY AWARD 2017

SPARROW Literary Award, instituted by R Thyagarajan, Founder, Shriram Group, was organised by SPARROW in collaboration with the Research Centre for Women's Studies (RCWS) SNDT Women's University, on 9th December 2016, at the Mini Auditorium of the Juhu Campus of the University. The SPARROW panel of judges (N Sukumaran, Kannan Sundaram and Ambai) decided to choose the category of autobiography and biography for award this year. Two awards are normally given for Tamil writers and one for a non-Tamil writer. The SPARROW-R Thyagarajan Literary Award 2017 for Tamil were given to Lakshmi M and Stalin Rajangam and the non-Tamil writer award was shared by two writers: Kalyani Thakur Charal and Ashalata Kamble. The awards were given with the following citations:

LAKSHMI M

Lakshmi M is an activist who has been associated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Thamizh Thesiya Periyakkam (Tamil Nationalist Movement) and various women's struggles. She is currently the Central Committee member of the women's wing of Thamizh Thesiya Periyakkam. Her autobiographical work *Latchumi Ennum Payani* is a truthful account of her life and that of women around her both in the movement and outside it. In appreciation of writing a genuine document which draws attention to the lives of women in politics and their attitude towards family, marriage, motherhood and relationships with other women, SPARROW has great pleasure in giving her the SPARROW Literary Award 2017.



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STALIN RAJANGAM

Stalin Rajangam has brought a new perspective to socio-historical research done so far on Dalit history. His painstaking research to reveal biases in writing history and to find hidden historical truths has brought contemporary relevance to Dalit history. By bringing to the public sphere the rare lives and experiences of those who are lost in the annals of history, he has done the important and much needed work of documenting not only the life stories of Dalit personalities but also that of those who have fought for the rights of the Dalit community. For his untiring and meaningful work of documenting Dalit history SPARROW has great pleasure in giving Stalin Rajangam the SPARROW Literary Award 2017.

ASHALATA KAMBLE

Ashalata Kamble, an activist, writer and a staunch Ambedkarite, has been working with the Dalits for the past 35 years. Her books on the history of women and her poems have been an inspiration to many young aspiring writers. Her lifelong work has been to make visible the works of women like Bahinabai and Savitribai Phule and their literary contributions which have inspired her to be a writer, teacher and also an activist. Her biography *Amachi Aai* on her mother is a continuation of this work and an elaboration of her efforts to redefine motherhood in the context of the lives of women of the working class and their struggles to be mothers. In appreciation of her lifelong work for the Dalit cause and her biographical work *Amachi Aai* published in 2010 depicting what motherhood means to a working class woman SPARROW has great pleasure in giving Ashalata Kamble the SPARROW Literary Award 2017.

KALYANI THAKUR CHARAL

With her poems, essays, stories, biography and now an autobiography Kalyani Thakur is the leading Dalit voice from West Bengal and her name stands out among the Bengali writers. Through her writings which voice the pain, suffering, oppression, struggles and achievements of the Dalit community and as editor of two magazines *Neer Writupatra* and *Chathurtha Dunia* Kalyani Thakur has worked tirelessly to draw attention to the life experiences and history of her disadvantaged community. Her autobiography *Ami Kano Charal Likhidi* documents the life of a Dalit woman in rural and urban Bengal and records her views on feminism in India and its stand on Dalit women and Dalit feminism. For her vigorous and tenacious work in making the Bengali Dalit voice heard and for her autobiographical work which is a historical document of her life and times. SPARROW has great pleasure in giving Kalyani Thakur the SPARROW Literary Award 2017.



SPARROW LITERARY AWARD 2017



Stalin Rajangam receiving the award from Urmila Pawar



Lakshmi M receiving the award from Urmila Pawar



Ashalata Kamble receiving the award from Urmila Pawar



Kalyani Thakur Charal receiving the award from Urmila Pawar

Eminent Marathi writer Urmila Pawar gave away the awards and also gave an excellent speech talking about her own writing and research.

The award function which is normally an informal event with friends and supporters of SPARROW in the audience, went off very well with the usual Mumbai features: delays due to traffic jams, the projector conking off at some point (fortunately it went off after the Tamil speeches whose English translations we had projected!) and mikes screeching at unexpected moments! The SPARROW team, of course, were cool about it all. The programme ended with excellent Abhogi and Hamsadhvani rendered by the students of Swar Sanskruti and our own senior librarian Sharmila Sontakke who had arranged the performance. The tabla player was a young student and he had some very good moments to show off his prowess and he did it with aplomb.

SPARROW SCREENINGS



INTERNS

There were three interns from the Department of English, SNDT Women's University. Ragini Jha, Renuka Joshi and Queenie Pereira successfully completed their internship with SPARROW with Dr Charanjeet Kaur as their mentor.

Two interns Ms. B Yazhini and Komahal from Stella Maris College, Chennai successfully completed their internship with SPARROW.

VISITORS

Many scholars and researchers, professors and students visited SPARROW for consultation and to take a SPARROW Walk.

In December 2017, Asmita Deshpande, Librarian introduced SPARROW to a women's group called *Samvadini* from Borivali, Mumbai. Twenty two members from *Samvadini* Group visited SPARROW and were impressed with the work SPARROW was doing. Again in January, 2018 a small group of ten women visited SPARROW. SPARROW screening was organised for them. Later they invited our senior librarian, Sharmila Sontakke to share her experience of working in SPARROW for the last 18 years. Asmita Deshpande, Librarian, interviewed Sharmila Sontakke on this occasion. It was a very happy moment for Sharmila Sontakke as her work in SPARROW Archives was appreciated.

In February 2018, Sheena M Soman, Assistant Professor, Department of English from Shri M.D Shah Mahila College visited SPARROW along with her 13 students.



Interns from the Department of English, SNDT Women's University with Dr. C S Lakshmi, Mentor Charanjeet Kaur & SPARROW Team.



Presentation by interns: Ms. B Yazhini and Komahal from Stella Maris College, Chennai



Asmita Deshpande interviewing Sharmila Sontakke



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Sheena M Soman,
Assistant Professor,
Department of English
from Shri M.D Shah
Mahila College visited
SPARROW along with
her 13 students.



Samvadini
from Borivali,
Mumbai.



*Urmila Pawar,
Ashalata Kamle
& Kalyani
Thakur Charal*

Many scholars and researchers like Paridhi Gupta from JNU, New Delhi, Sailee Prashant Pimple, Deputy Editor, Gazetteers Dept. Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai, Madhu Jaudeeshan from Mumbai, Anju Christine Lingham, from King's College, London, visited SPARROW for consultation and left remarks saying that they were impressed with the archives.

Visitors like Radhika Viswanathan, Samyuktha Varma from Bangalore, Mallika Leuzinge from University College London along with her sister Helene, and Neetu Routele, Programme Manager at Jagori Resource Centre visited SPARROW.



SPARROW

SPARROW ANNUAL REPORT

SPARROW COLLECTIONS AND WORK RECORD 1 April 2017-31 March 2018



SPARROW
newsletter

SNL Number 36 October 2017

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Editor's Note
This issue of SNL has been delayed and the reason is that we got carried away with the books we were reading. In fact, the issue has become a Book Review Special and we are not going to apologise for we thoroughly enjoyed working on it. Our lead article this time is by Charanjeet Kaur who has written on Pina, the first Paralytic woman poet associated with the Gulabdas dote. From this issue onwards we will be carrying one lead article on women, religion and spirituality as an attempt to explore women's role in our cultural heritage.

The books chosen for review in this issue cover a wide variety of subjects ranging from history of a city like Ahmedabad to an imagined diary of Katurba and from a book for children to the politics of violence in which women become the targets.

The homage section always takes the longest to write for we don't want the homages to be just RIP kind of short condolences but we want to celebrate the life of women who were poets, writers, actors, musicians, activists, politicians, scientists and academics and have showed the way to continue to work, act and fight for justice. The saddest to write this time was that of Ezzati Lambeth, the fearless journalist who was shot dead by unidentified assailants recently. All of us familiar with her writings felt deeply for her demise.

Our special supplement this time carries excerpts from dialogues with writers Urmila Pawar and Bama. And the cover cartoon on the irresponsible 'Leda', by Lakshmi Karandikar.



Serrated Palmyra Leaf, Bamboo Baskets and Brocade Saris: Life and Stories of Two Writers
From SPARROW Archives

SNL 36 Supplement with SNL 36

SPARROW COLLECTIONS AND WORK RECORD 1 April 2017-31 March 2018

SPARROW NEWSLETTERS

One newsletter (SNL 36) with a supplement **Serrated Palmyra Leaf, Bamboo Baskets and Brocade Saris: Life and Stories of Two Writers (Urmila Pawar and Bama)** was brought out.

WEBSITE POSTINGS

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



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SPARROW COLLECTIONS

The rest of the collections acquired and work done during the period is shown in the table below:

Photographs	
Photographs Received	9
Processed (current)	
Backlog Processed and Digitised	62
Cartoons	
English	67
Total	67
Processed and digitised	67
Books	
English	129
Hindi	2
Marathi	21
Tamil	42
Bengali	5
Malayalam	1
Total	200
Processed and digitised	200
Reference Books	
English	7
Total	7
Processed and digitised	7
Advertisements	
English	57
Marathi	4
Hindi	1
Total	62

SPARROW Collections

Hindustan Times, 4 October 2017

CARTOONS

The Hindu, 4 January 2018

BOOKS



SPARROW ANNUAL REPORT

Print Visuals	
English	55
Marathi	2
Hiindi	1
Total	58
Posters	
English	2
Total	2
Calendars	
English	1
Tamil	1
Total	2
Brochures	
English	4
Processed and digitised	4
Newsletters	
English	9
Marathi	12
Processed and digitised	21
Newspaper Articles	
English	1964
Marathi	378
Hindi	80
Total	2422
Processed and digitised	2422
Journal Articles	
English	5
Total	5
Processed and digitised	5

SPARROW Collections



The Hindu, 13 November 2017



Hindustan Times, 4 December 2017



Times of India, 8 September 2017

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1 April 2017 TO 31 March 2018

Journal Articles (Backlog) (2004-2010)	
English	1320
Hindi	10
Marathi	91
Tamil	665
Malayalam	290
Kannada	142
Gujarati	175
Bengali	8
Total	2701
Processed and Digitised	2701



SOME REFLECTIONS

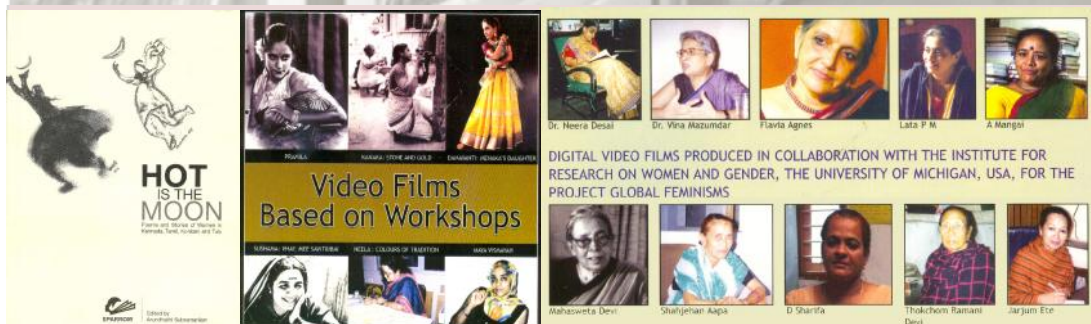
While SPARROW's year end assessment of archival work involves quantification of our work it also involves reliving some of the experiences of meeting people and interacting with them about what our work involves and what brings us joy and what makes us feel low. There was the joy this year of finding like-minded trustees who will be our steadfast friends and supporters but there was the low of struggling for funds too. For every moment of low of financial crunch there is the joy of an exciting new book or a visitor who tells us that she is amazed and overwhelmed by our work or wide-eyed students who promise to come back to be part of SPARROW. There is also the joy of discovering new women whom we did not know, through new stories brought to us by individuals and through books, newspapers and journals and we share these stories with great excitement during lunch hour and it makes all the struggle of running an archives with practically no funds worthwhile. And we don't need much of an excuse for ice cream treats. We celebrate the birthdays of all SPARROW babies and the birthdays and wedding anniversaries of the SPARROW team and we wait for our bachelors to fall in love!



CURRENT SPARROW HOLDINGS



Photographs.....	19267
Ads.....	7449
Books in 12 languages.....	5728
Newspaper Articles in 8 languages.	31018
Journal Articles in 8 languages.....	5090
Brochures in 9 languages.....	2062
Print Visuals.....	4552
Posters.....	1772
Calendars.....	129
Cartoons.....	3629
Maya Kamath's cartoons.....	8000
Oral History.....	659
Video Films.....	1262
Audio CDs and Cassettes.....	929
Private Papers.....	280



1 April 2017 TO 31 March 2018



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

In India Women Spoke, Women Worked,
Women Wrote, Women Acted

Women Chose, Women Demanded,
Women Created, Women Rebelled

30 years of Archiving Women's Lives,
Women's History
SPARROW
For Change For Knowledge

To Change the
World for Women
Come Join Us in Our Mission,
in Our Dream

Tel : 28280895, 28965019
E-mail : sparrow1988@gmail.com
Website : www.sparrowonline.org

FROM INDIA

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

FROM ABROAD

Organisation Name: SPARROW
Bank Name: STATE BANK OF INDIA.
Address: 7, Sarvoday Building, Juhu
Road,
Santacruz (W), Mumbai, Maharashtra,
India, Mumbai: 400 054.
SANTACRUZ (West) Branch
Corresponding FCRA Account number:
Current A/C NO: 10154460173
SWIFT-code / BIC code bank:
SBININBB536
IFSC Code: SBIN0001183
Bank code: 01183

Join us in our mission



SPARROW

1 April 2017 TO 31 March 2018

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.

Sruti Bala

Sankara Narayanan

Chitoor V Srinivasan

S Srinivasan

Andrea Pinto

Vidya K S

N Srivatsa

R Kannan

Annai Charitable Trust

Savita Damle

R Thyagarajan

Bhavani Thyagarajan

Ramachandran Mahadevan

Vijaya Dass

Uma Shankar

Shoba Ghosh

Geraldine Forbes

Jerry Pinto

Devdutt Pattanaik

Muthu Krishnan

Girija Devi

T Sumathy

Aroon Raman

Gujarat Research Society

S Theodore Baskaran

V Suryanarayanan

Soma Sundaram

Meenakshi Shedde

Vimmi Sadarangani

*Thank you all
for your support*



Rain | V M Girija

Not wanting to go out into the rain
lasts
only till one steps out...
as the finger that runs through tresses,
gentle touch that caresses the lips,
the ocean of milk
that swaddles the neck's conch-shell,
bright beads, broken loose
falling on the breasts,
a warm wave of pleasure
sweeping the belly,
the thighs,
the calves,
the toes,
as the pirouette of water,
as the dance of joy,
as the magnificent swirl,
of pleasure,
the rain...



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