

# STELLA MARIS COLLEGE



2000-2001

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Head, Department of Fine Arts

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# **Stella Maris College**

**(Autonomous)**

**Chennai - 600 086**

**2000 - 2001**

# EDITORIAL

*'Beauty is truth, truth beauty' - John Keats*

The beauty of life in Stella Maris campus is the result of the search for Truth-Truth seen in multi dimensions as knowledge, art, culture and above all humanity. Stella Maris is a rich blend of the cultural and intellectual ethos that makes up India. The cocurricular and extracurricular activities of the college encompass a wide range of interests as evident in the reports presented here.

In the last issue of the college magazine, we began a series on eminent Stella Marians. As a continuum, we have focused on a few Stella Maris alumnae who have excelled in the Performing Arts. These women are all renowned and celebrated faces, and Stella Maris has played a role in nurturing their talents. The interviews provide an insight into the determination with which they transcended the struggles they encountered in their attempt to excel in their field and to share their talents with the world at large. Such is the grit and the inner strength of the Stella Marian!

The cover design with its earthy nuances and rich texture, is not only a salute to the Stella Marian Performing Artistes portrayed here, but to Indian womanhood...her multifaceted nature, so calm and serene, yet so full of fire and courage.

Stella Maris provides an ambience that grooms the student to take on her social commitments as a humane person, in a multi-ethnic society. The articles, stories and poems of the faculty and students reflect this sense of social commitment and responsibility that they have imbibed.

At once, daring and challenged...driven to excel,  
willing to share... kind and sensitive,  
respectful yet courageous...thoughtful and philosophical...  
such is the Stella Marian woman... who thrives here.

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# **COLLEGE DAY - 2001**

## **REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL, DR. SR. ANNAMMA PHILIP, FMM**

Esteemed chief guest of the day, Dr. S. Sadagopan, Founder and Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore, Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial and Chairperson, Governing Body of the College, Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Superior and Secretary of the College, Sr. Sundari, Superior, Stella Maris Convent, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal and Secretary, Stella Maris College, members of the Governing Body and the Academic Council, valued friends, parents, benefactors of the College, cherished alumnae, dedicated faculty, administrative and supportive staff and dear students,

Today as we celebrate our 54<sup>th</sup> College day, we stand at the frontiers of tomorrow's technology, awestruck at the power of the human mind, which knows no limits, to explore, to discover, to transcend. Imagine! A click of the mouse gives us the power to make every learner generate knowledge and share it with people across the globe.

I stand before you with a deep sense of gratitude to God who has been magnanimous, and allowed us to experience His powerful presence.

At the outset, it is my pleasant duty to thank Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Secretary, of the College and place on record, her dedicated service and constant endeavour to concretise the vision of the institution. Her boundless energy often left one gasping, and her indomitable presence once again on this campus these past three years was a source of strength. Dr. Sr. Colleen North has taken over the onerous responsibility of Secretary of the College from September 2000.

Before I embark on a brief account of the events of the academic year 2000-2001, I would like to place on record our deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to three of our senior faculty and two of our supportive staff who have been cherished members of the Stella Marian family and who will be retiring this year.

Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Vice-Principal, will be retiring after 15 years of collegiate service. She has shared the administrative responsibilities as Dean, Curriculum Development and Superior, Stella Maris Convent. As faculty member of the department of Zoology and in her capacity as Vice - Principal she has endeared herself to one and all. Responsible and systematic, Sr. Rita, brings a special touch to all that she does with her quiet dynamism.

Dr. Sr. Angel Mary, Head, P.G. Dept. of Fine Arts, will be retiring after 27 years of service. She has been of immense support to the functioning of the institution and has shared in college administration in her capacity as Dean of Student Affairs and Head of the PG and Research department of Fine Arts. Sr. Angel Mary has ably continued the good work of her predecessors to ensure that the Fine Arts Department retains its unique and commendable position.

Sr. Leony Mary, Head of the UG department of Mathematics will be retiring after 30 years of untiring service, marked by unwavering integrity and the spirit of self-sacrifice. She has served the college in various capacities including Superior, Stella Maris Convent and Director, Computer Centre. She was instrumental in setting up the first computer centre at Stella Maris College. Astronomy is her abiding passion and this led to the setting up of the Telescope atop the main building. A pillar of unstinting support to the institution, she has given of her best to the college, as well as to her colleagues and students.

To our supportive staff, Mr. Devasigamani who is retiring after 33 yrs of service and Mr. Rueben, who is retiring after 19 years of service, we would like to express our deep debt of gratitude and appreciation. Loyalty and hard work have been the hallmark of their devoted service on this campus.

It is with a deep sense of regret that I recall the members of the Stella Marian family who have passed away during the last academic year.

Sr. Irene Mathias was Principal of Stella Maris from 1968 –'78, Assistant General of the FMM Congregation from 1978 – '90 and former Head of the Department of Chemistry. The well-designed library block that you see here is a standing testimony to her shrewd perception and foresight. Dynamism and strategic planning motivated her to send several of the faculty on FIP to complete their doctoral studies, thus preparing them to accept the challenges posed by autonomy. A woman of faith and vision, she was keenly interested in all that happened in the college up to the very end.

Dr. Mrs. Mythili Raman, former Head of the Department of Sanskrit, who passed away in June 2000, was a devout person and inspired her colleagues with her deep knowledge of the riches of Indian Culture. Her loyalty to the institution and the noble values she embodied will continue to inspire all of us who have had the opportunity of associating with her.

The events of the past year hasten to become a part of the annals of the history of Stella Maris College, and have carved indelible impressions of our search for truth and our quest for excellence. This quest culminated in the National Assessment and Accreditation



Council, Bangalore, awarding Stella Maris College the coveted five star status. The team, which visited the college in January 2000, commented that '*Stella Maris is an institution which spares no effort in its quest for imparting knowledge and developing the all round excellence of the students*'.

Information Technology has today become a powerful force to reckon with and has spread its web far and wide. Stella Maris College was one of the pioneers in creating an awareness of the myriad ways in which IT can be used as a tool in the educational process. The departments of Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics and Zoology organised an *International Conference on the Use of Information Technology in the Teaching of Science* in August 2000, which was ably co-ordinated by Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza and Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan.

At this point I would like to express our gratitude for the generous sponsorship and technical assistance from Cognizant Technology Solutions, Pentamedia, Ramco Systems, Ford India and others as well as the constant support and encouragement of the advisory committee, that made the conference a great success.

The conference drew resource persons and participants from across the globe. Spread over three days, it highlighted aspects such as Computer Based Testing and Computer Modelling. During the conference, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip presented a module on '*Spectroscopy*'. This was done using multimedia with technical support from Digiscape Gallery. Dr. Mrs. Rukmani Sridharan and Dr. Mrs. Felbin Kennedy presented a paper on "*Visualisation of some mathematical concepts*". Dr. Mrs. Rajeshwari Thiagarajan, Head of the Department of Computer Science and her faculty also presented a programme specially conceived and developed for administering Computer Based Testing. We are proud to say that Stella Maris now offers CBT for some of its undergraduate courses. We have also produced the proceedings of the conference on CD, which is being sent to all the participants.

The Conference gave the college the necessary impetus to link up with the IT industry and multinational companies. I would like to express our gratitude to Dr. V. Chandrasekharan, Chairman, Pentamedia who will be providing 50 computers to the college. A *Memorandum of Understanding* has also been signed with Pentasoft for jointly offering computer education to the students of Stella Maris and the public at large.

Taking its cue from the rising number of career women over the last decade, the Department of Commerce organised a State Level Seminar '*Women in Business*'. Eminent speakers were invited to cover various aspects of Entrepreneurship, and students presented papers on '*Women Entrepreneurs in the city*'.

Exchange programmes on an international scale have opened up new avenues for our faculty. The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia selected Dr. Ms. Susan Oommen as their visiting scholar at Rutgers University, USA. Dr. Mrs. Kamala Aravind and Mrs. Gita Balachander have been selected by the United Board for short term programmes and are currently at Davidson College, North Carolina. I would like to express our gratitude for the generous financial support extended to Stella Maris by the United Board. Dr. Mrs. Sundari Krishnamurthy, recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship is currently at Hillsborough College, Tampa, Florida.

The spirit of learning and research continues to motivate faculty members to present papers at International, National and State Level Conferences, Seminars and Workshops. They have also been called upon to be Resource persons by various organisations and institutes of Higher Education. Dr. Sr. Colleen North and Dr. Mrs. Prema Bhat attended the *General Assembly* of the International Federation of Catholic Universities held at Perth, Australia in August 2000.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Dr. Mrs. Nirmala Kanakaraj and Dr. Ms. Mendoza attended the *Second Annual General Body Meeting of the IFACHE* held at Bethlehem in July 2000. Mrs. Pearl Paul and Mrs. Sandra Stephen presented a paper on '*Poverty and Unemployment*' at the International Conference organised by the Universities of Tor Vergata and Sacre Coeur in connection with the Jubilee Year 2000. Mrs. Zonita Mason, Dean of Students was selected to participate in the International Conference on '*Campus Ministry in the Asian Context*' at Seoul, South Korea in July 2000. Sr. Maria Sundari, co-ordinator of the Campus Ministry Programme participated in an *International Conference for Chaplains* held at Rome in connection with Jubilee Year 2000. Dr. Mrs. Geetha Sridharan was invited to the International Conference on '*Women's Studies in Asia 2000*' organised by the Korean Women's Institute, Asian Centre for Women's Studies, Ewha Women's University, Seoul, Korea in October 2000. Dr. Mrs. Ulaganayaki Palani, was invited to an International Conference on '*Thirukural*' in Decembr 2000 at Malaysia where she presented a paper on '*Economic Thought in Thirukural*'.

As a member of the Peer Team of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip has helped assess three colleges in Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

A Southern Regional Training Programme for Resource Persons on the *Detection and Prevention of Food Adulteration* was conducted by the Department of Chemistry with financial support from the NCSTC, Department of Science and Technology, Government of

India. Co-ordinated by Dr. Geetha Swaminathan and Ms. Mary George, the programme drew 44 participants from NGO's and Educational Institutions who were given training and also supplied kits devised by Dr. Geetha Swaminathan.

A one-day symposium on '*New Trends in Mathematics*' was organised for faculty of Mathematics of city colleges. Faculty from about 15 colleges participated along with the postgraduate students of Stella Maris. The resource persons were all alumnae of the department holding responsible academic positions. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. R. Balasubramanian, Director, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai

Two teams of faculty members were resource persons at workshops organised by Maris Stella College, Vijayawada, in connection with the implementation of Autonomy. Dr. Ms. Oretta Mendoza conducted a 3-day workshop on Autonomy at St. Anthony's College, Shillong. The college has also played host to several groups from other institutions who visited the college to study the functioning of Autonomy and the Credit Based System.

The Department of English conducted a *Workshop for English Teachers in Higher Education* in May 2000 with resource persons from the US and financially supported by the United Board. The Department of English also conducted a *Refresher Course* in English Literature for faculty members in collaboration with the Academic Staff College, University of Madras.

Improving professional competence is the keyword among the faculty members of the college and several of them are continuing their research work. In this context, we congratulate Dr. Millie Nihila and Dr. Annette Mathews who have received doctoral degrees during this academic year. Dr. Mrs. Madhu Dhawan received the prestigious Millennium Award in the Hindi Literary field. She is also listed in the Who's Who Directory of the Asia-Pacific and Sahitya Academy.

Despite the multitude of extra-curricular activities and the intense involvement of our students in projects and curricular programmes, our academic record has been commendable. The overall percentage of passes for B.Sc. 84%, B.A. degree is 73%, B.Com. 77%, M.A. 91%, M.Sc. 93%, and PGDCS 100%.

Shri. Ashok Varadhan Shetty, I.A.S. Secretary at the Chief Minister's Secretariat and Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Tamil Nadu, the chief guest at this year's *convocation* expressed his appreciation for the commitment of the management and faculty and commended the varied achievements of the college.

The postgraduate diploma courses in *Computer Science* and *Medical Laboratory Technology* continue to send into society qualified and capable apprentices who have excellent job placement prospects, thanks to the comprehensive training they have received.

Endowment lectures and other events form part of the teaching–learning process at Stella Maris. The Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture of the Economics department, the Srimathi Indira Gandhi Endowment lecture of the History department, the Sr. Juliet Irene Rolling Trophy for Inter-collegiate Quiz in Chemistry and the Sindhu Memorial Inter-collegiate Dance competition are some of the annual events.

The annual publications of the College include *the College magazine*, *History Update*, *the Literary Journal* and *Star of the Sea*, a student endeavour.

When the students of Stella Maris opted for '*Hazar Churashir Ma*' a play by Mahasweta Devi, "they dared much", according to Elizabeth Roy in her review in '*The Hindu*'. "The play, impressed one with a performance above the banalities of a college production," she wrote. This annual theatrical production staged at Museum Theatre and directed by Mrs. Sushma Ahuja won much critical acclaim. The innate histrionic talents of the students also found expression in '*Bayen*' a play by Mahasweta Devi, which when first staged at the Intercollegiate Natak Competition won the Best Overall Production, Best Director and Best Actress awards. This play was re-enacted at the request of SCARF at the *Narada Gana Sabha* as part of their public awareness programme.

Besides their academic pre-occupation, students have made time for enthusiastic participation in various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Unit of Stella Maris has excelled once again and several of our cadets have garnered trophies and medals for the college especially at the National Level Camps. Cdt. Lily Sophia has the distinction of being the only girl cadet selected for the *Skeet Shooting Competition* and won the gold medal. Cdt. Bibi Alexander and Cdt. Deepa Santha Maria, represented the Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Directorate at this year's Republic Day Camp. Cdt. Deepa, was also selected for the *Republic Day march past* on the Rajpath. Cdt. Kohila was adjudged the best cadet at the *Basic Leadership Camp*.

At this juncture I would like to place on record the dedicated and loyal service of 2/ Lt. Dr. Mrs. Felbin Kennedy who will be relinquishing her position as NCC officer of the Stella Maris Unit after a tenure of eight years. The flame of leadership will pass on to Mrs. Dolly Murray, Faculty, Department of History.

The NSS with its 225 volunteers worked through various projects and lent a helping hand to the disadvantaged individuals of society. The main activities include Aids Awareness, Pulse Polio immunisation and Adult and Continuing Education. Ms. V. Valli, II year Physics was chosen to represent the University of Madras – NSS unit at the National Youth festival held at Mizoram. 'Horizons 2001' a state level Vocational and Career Guidance Programme was organised at Stella Maris in collaboration with the University of Madras in which over 500 NSS volunteers participated.

Sports, Games, Karate and Yoga, all contribute to the physical fitness and well-being of students. Stella Maris represented the Madras University South Division in several major games and athletic events, and also participated in the All India Inter-University tournaments in Basketball, Table Tennis and Cricket.

Ms. Suganthi Anbu of I B.Com was selected as one of the Indian Probable for the Junior National Basketball team 2000, for her contribution as the three-point scorer. J.P Femin, N. Vinaya and R. Hemavathi of our college, represented Tamil Nadu in the Senior Basketball championship held at Bangalore and secured the third place. Our college Basketball team participated in several State and All India Intercollegiate and Open Tournaments and bagged the winner's trophy on six occasions. Not to be outdone, the faculty of Stella Maris emerged winners in the Madras University Inter-collegiate Staff Throw Ball Tournament.

The Functional Literacy Programme continued its mission of transformation and empowerment of women at its target village at Attanancheri in Paddappai. The 150 student facilitators participated actively in the conduct of the various instructional programmes in '*Skill Development and Training*', '*Legal Literacy*' and the workshop on *Street Theatre*. A major achievement has been the formation of nine self-help groups among the women. The 'Literacy-day' celebrations were held on September 8, 2000. The commitment of the faculty advisors of this programme is indeed commendable.

About 300 students participated in the activities of the student cell of the ISTD, which focussed on Communication, the theme for this academic year. The activities included workshops and lectures on Personal Effectiveness, Assertive Training, and Effective Time Management.

The Office Bearers of the Students Union – Anusha Mahalingam, Radha Kumar, Tesmi Jose, Anna Thomas, Shikha Bhattacharji and Ala Lazar Alapatt had a year brimming with activities under the guidance of the Deans of Student Affairs. The numerous activities of

the Students Union contributed towards the enrichment of campus life. Their motto '*Making Things Happen*' was the catalyst for the several inter and intra-collegiate competitions, cultural, events and seminars. Among these were 'Trisha 2000', the inter-year competitions and Melange, the inter-collegiate competitions. An interface between the student body and '*people who have made a difference in spite of personal and societal odds*' took centre stage at the Union seminar '*Samarthatha*'. Commendable efforts were also taken by the students to improve environmental awareness and culture consciousness. Regular celebrations on campus included the MTC Busmen's Friendship day, Teachers Day, Workers day, Independence Day, Christmas, Pongal and International Women's Day.

Talent and skill were rewarded when our students walked away with Overall winner trophies at the inter-collegiate cultural competitions at Ethiraj College, the MGR Janaki College, and JBAS College.

The students of the Department of Fine Arts undertook a unique project: the restoration of 500 antique art objects at the Government Museum. The Department also organised several workshops in printmaking, creative painting etc.

Inter collegiate events such as *Reactions 2001* of the Department of Chemistry, *Impulse 2001* of the Department of Physics, *Interactions 2001* of the Department of Botany, *Combat 2001* of the Department of Commerce and '*BC to AD -2001*' of the History Department had students from various colleges participating in a number of cultural activities. The Department of Social Work held a Research Seminar and '*Unnathi*' the student's forum organized a seminar on '*Social Work Intervention in Educational Institutions*'. The department also organised a workshop on 'Puppetry' to help students learn the art of alternate communication skills.

Art and culture occupy pride of place in Stella Maris and this year the college undertook major renovation work of the oldest building on its campus - The Bonaventure Block, built in 1821.

A third computer laboratory with 40 systems was inaugurated by Mr. Manivanan, I.A.S., Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Faith formation and Social awareness contribute to character building. Exposed to a world of consumerism and power, the youth of today are seeking solutions beyond the scope of science and technology. A deepening of faith in the Transcendent, the need for prayer and reflection are offered to the students through value education classes. The

dynamic Campus Ministry group took the initiative to invite the Rex Band, one of the best Gospel Bands in Asia to perform at Stella Maris. The programme was a tremendous success as the music enthralled the audience.

Through the Social Awareness Programme students are exposed to the social realities of the society. Working with NGO's and other governmental organisations, the students become increasingly aware of the need for an attitudinal change towards the poor, the elderly, and the less advantaged members of society.

'*Sangamam*', an outreach programme of Stella Maris works with various groups in the fishermen community at Kasimode in Royapuram. The team facilitates programmes to educate the women, youth and child labourers towards empowerment and community organisation. *Sangamam* is running two transit schools since 1994 for child labourers in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. UNICEF has adjudged these Transit Schools the Best.

The research project entitled '*University and Community Development, Education and Training for Community Organisation*' in collaboration with IFCU is currently in its intervention phase. Dr. Mrs. Prema Bhat, Director of the project, attended a meeting held at Manila in the Philippines.

The Alumnae Association of Stella Maris is forging ahead with its increasing membership. Headed by dynamic office-bearers, the members take every opportunity to meet and recall with nostalgia their fun-filled days as students in Stella Maris. This year the enterprising group organised an exhibition cum sale by the Entrepreneurs from among the Alumnae Association members. With items ranging from textiles to leather goods and dried flower arrangements the sale was a grand success. The association also partially sponsored '*Horizons 2001*', the state level Vocational and Career Guidance programme.

Contributions for the victims of the Gujarat earthquake were made from the Management, staff and students. The students' response to this natural calamity was spontaneous and overwhelming - they contributed in cash and kind. The contribution of the college amounts to over Rs. 2.5 lakhs. This was routed through the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Caritas India. The students also raised over Rs. 2 lakhs towards the Earthquake Relief Fund through 'March2Gujarat' a three-hour cultural programme of Music and Dance organised along with six other colleges in the city and IIT Madras. In order to provide staggered help to the quake affected areas, a team of 18 volunteers comprising faculty, sisters and students will be leaving for Gujarat.

The smooth functioning of the college would not have been possible without the committed work of administrative staff guided by Sr. Florine Monis, Mrs. Felcy Romeo and Sr. Ann Mathew, the examination office, ably directed by Dr. Mrs. Bhagavathy Jayaraman, and the supportive staff directed by Sr. Hilda.

Having placed before you a brief report of the activities of the past year, I would now like to reiterate my deep sense of gratitude to:

- Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial and Chairperson of our Governing Body
- Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Superior and Secretary of the College,
- Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni and Dr. Evelyn Chandrasekharan, the Vice-Principals,
- Dr. Sr. Angel Mary, Mrs. Lakshmi Venkatasubramaniam and Mrs. Zonita Mason, the Deans of Students Affairs,
- Dr. Kamala Aravind, Dr. Geetha Sridharan and Dr. Chitrlekha Ramachandran, the Academic Deans,
- Mrs. Savithri Sankaran, the Controller of Examinations,
- Mrs. Celine Rodrigues, Associate, Controller of Examinations and Co-ordinator, Evening College,
- Sr. Mercy for contributing to create an eco-friendly campus
- Members of the faculty, for their commitment in the teaching-learning process and for sharing responsibilities in the administration,
- Our dear students who with their youthful exuberance, add to the vitality of campus life,
- The University authorities, the Education Department, the Regional Directorate, the Directorate of Collegiate Education, and the University Grants Commission for their co-operation, advice and help extended so willingly and generously at all times,
- The All India Association for Christian Higher Education, the Xavier Board, the Indian Overseas Bank Extension Counter at Stella Maris College and other agencies,
- Public and private sector organisations and agencies for supporting our projects and programmes,



- All the benefactors who have instituted scholarships to help deserving students,
- All our well wishers, for their sustained interest in the activities of the college.
- The Public utility departments and services of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Central Government for their timely assistance.

A special word of thanks to you dear parents for entrusting us with the formation of your daughters. I would like to leave you with this thought:

At this moment in time when society faces growing divisions that include the digital divide and the genetic divide, it would perhaps help, to pay heed to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's exhortation: "*It is not what you say that matters, but what you do. Think, therefore, of the vast opportunities that the world offers to those who are keen of mind, strong of character and fleet of foot*".

May our youth imbibe the resilience and power of the human spirit to tread new pathways and make unique contributions to the future that awaits them!

May the Star of the Sea guide us onwards!

Thank you and God Bless!

## IN APPRECIATION

**Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni**, fmm Vice Principal, retired after 15 years of service as a committed and eminent teacher of Zoology. She began her career as Principal and Correspondent of two leading schools in Andhra Pradesh and this experience groomed her well for her post as Vice Principal- a post to which she has added dignity and sanctity. Simple and unassuming, lovable and at the same time assertive, she has demonstrated a firm sense of conviction as well as a strong sense of justice.



Her field of interest is Cell Biology and Environmental Biology. As a teacher she has inspired her students to work hard and go far beyond the confines of classroom teaching. Adept at combining kindness with firmness, she has revealed her capabilities both as an able administrator and a dedicated teacher. The example set by her is certainly worthy of emulation.

**Dr. Sr. Angel Mary**, fmm Head of the Department of Fine Arts and Dean of Student Affairs retired after a long span of 27 years of service at Stella Maris College. Her association with the college began when she enrolled as a student of Fine Arts, during the tenure of Sr. Edith Tomory, the Foundress of the Fine Arts Department.

Sr. Angel's field of specialization is Renaissance and Baroque Art and Indian Aesthetics. She has travelled widely in India and abroad. Last year she had the privilege of visiting Japan and other South East Asian countries to study the architecture of Buddhist shrines and temples. Being a student and teacher of Fine Arts, she considers every travel a learning experience in Art appreciation.



As a person Sr. Angel Mary as her name suggests, is calm and serene, cheerful and warmhearted, with a philosophical attitude to life. She has a wonderful sense of humour with which she regales her colleagues in the department. It is precisely these striking qualities that have enabled her to shoulder the twin responsibilities of Head of Department as well as Dean of Students with ease and grace.

**Sr. Leony Mary**, fmm the Under Graduate Head of the Mathematics Department, retired after more than 30 years of service at Stella Maris. She studied in Stella Maris both for her graduate and postgraduate degrees. Her area of specialization being Space Science, she has a passion for Astronomy and Computer Science. A very dynamic teacher and academician, she was the first among the faculty to do a course in Computer Science and was instrumental in setting up the First Computer Centre at Stella Maris in 1987. She also initiated the computer based testing and evaluation for the mathematics students. She was invited by the Generalate to assist in the setting up of Computer facilities at the Secretariat of the Congregation of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Rome.



Despite her frail health and lean constitution, she has an indomitable will to reach out to those in need, students, colleagues and friends alike. Ever brisk and active, Sr. Leony is well known for her enthusiastic and zealous nature. Over the years she has built up an excellent rapport with her students, by sharing with them her width of knowledge as well as by guiding and inspiring them through the vagaries of life.



**Mr. Deivasigamani**, Special Grade Office Assistant, retired after 33 years of untiring service in Stella Maris College. Known and respected for his dedication and loyalty, his services did not stop with the duties that were assigned to him. He was always willing to help and assist at every occasion.

**Mr. R.N. Ruben**, Supportive Staff, retired after 19 years of service to the institution. Quiet and sincere in his work, his interests extend to carpentry as well as playing the harmonium. In fact whenever the non-teaching staff had mass in the chapel, he was the one to play the harmonium. His sincerity and obliging nature indeed endeared him to the teaching and the non-teaching staff alike.



*The Stella Maris Family wishes God's abundant blessings of good health, joy and peace on all the retiring staff. We thank you for being pillars of strength and support to this institution.*

# NCC REPORT

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is an established avenue to channelise the physical resources of the youth of our country. One of the top units of the NCC belongs to Stella Maris College.

The NCC began its work much before the commencement of the academic year, with five cadets attending an exciting All India Trekking Expedition to Ooty. The cadets were Sergeant (Sgt.) Jaya, Corporal (Cpl.) Vinodha, Cpl. Radhika Narayanan, Cpl. Beneeta Xavier and Cpl. Sophia.

The first Combined Annual Training Camp was also held before the commencement of the academic year in which sixteen of our cadets participated. The Stella Maris NCC Company emerged the overall winners. The cadets won the second place in Contingent Drill, Group Song and Group Dance. Cadet (Cdt.) Dalareen Fernandez won the first place in Individual drill and emerged second in the Best Cadet Competition. Cdt. Lourdes Jeanette won the first place in First Aid and Group Firing, the third place in Signals and the overall Best B.L.C. Cdt. Kohila won the first place in Signals and Snap Shooting and the second place in First Aid. She was placed second in the Overall Best B.L.C. Competition.

The freshmen were enrolled in July 2000 and were initiated into the NCC activities at the Annual Inaugural Camp held for two days at the Besant Camping Site, Theosophical Society, organized by the NCC unit of Stella Maris College. The camp was a two-day continuous workshop consisting of Flag Area, Line Area, Quiz and cultural activities like Solo Song, Solo Dance, Group Song, Group Dance and a Variety Entertainment Show. It exposed the first year cadets to life in a camp. Our Chief Guest was Lt. Col. Solanki, the Deputy Director (Personnel) of the TNPAN Directorate. He judged the Flag Area and Line Area along with the Administrative Officer of 1 (TN) Girls Battalion, Lt. Chandra.

Six cadets were selected for the State Level Tal Sainik Inter-Group Competitions at Tiruchi, which comprised of First Aid and Home Nursing, Signals, Firing and Map Reading. Two of the Air Wing Cadets, Flight Cadet (F/Cdt.) Lily Sophia and F/Cdt. Preetha were selected for the Vayusainik Inter Group Competitions. Their Contingent Madras B Group won the overall banner. Cdt. Lily Sophia holds the distinction of being the only girl cadet to be selected for the Skeet Shooting Competition from the group. She also won the gold medal.

Ten cadets representing Madras A were selected for the Republic Day Inter Group Competition held at Coimbatore. The group won the overall second place. Cdt. Kohila, Cdt. Ambica Banu and Cdt. Lourdes Jeanette were selected to represent the Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman Directorate in the All India Tal Sainik Camp Competitions held at Delhi. Cdt. Lourdes represented the Directorate in the Signals Competitions and emerged fourth. Cdt. Kohila was adjudged second in the Best Cadet Competitions. Our Directorate won the overall banner.

F/Cdt. Lily Sophia represented our Directorate in the All India Vayusainik Camp Competition held at Bangalore. She was the Solo Singer of the Directorate. Cdt. Bibi Alexander and Cdt. Deepa Santha Maria were selected for the Republic Day Camp at Delhi. Cdt. Deepa was selected to march on Rajpath. Our Directorate held a fighting third in the overall position.

The Inter-Company Competitions were conducted among the four companies, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta, on December 21, 2000 and on January 8, 2001. The various competitions contested by the companies in the run for the Best Outgoing Company included Contingent Drill, Individual Drill, Cross-Country, Signals, First Aid and Home Nursing, Firing, Map Reading, Best Cadet Event, Best Tal Sainik Camp Cadet and General Knowledge & General Service Knowledge. Charlie Company emerged the overall winners and walked away with the trophy for the Best Company of the Year 2000-2001. As a source of encouragement we invited Major Herber and Captain Ashwin, an ex-cadet, to speak to the girls regarding recruitment into the Armed Forces.

As part of our Social Service Program, we held a program at Shanti Bhavan for the young children. We put up a Drill and Cultural performance and tried to instill in them a sense of patriotism. The children responded enthusiastically.

The Stella Maris Company took part in the Cado Fest 2001, an Inter-Collegiate NCC Meet organized by D.G. Vaishnav College NCC Unit. We won an overall third. Cdt. Sowmya Nandakumar got the first place in the Best Cadet Competition, while Cdt. Rebecca Khan got the third. We won the Individual Drill Banner, got the second place in Flag Area, Signals and in GK & GSK and the third in Quiz and First Aid. In Culturals we won the first in Orchestra, second in Group Dance and the third in Solo Song. Twenty-seven cadets appeared for the 'B' Certificate Examination and eighteen cadets appeared for the 'C' Certificate Examination.

Preparations were then on for the NCC Day which was presided over by Commodore PR.Franklin (AVSM. VSM.). The Stella Maris NCC unit has certainly proved its mettle in terms of sheer grit and determination.

## NSS REPORT

The National Service Scheme (NSS) trains students to become responsible citizens and effective leaders. Through individual and collective participation in various activities, the NSS also seeks to create awareness and to arouse the social consciousness of the student volunteers.

The total student strength enrolled this academic year was 225. The regular projects in institutions for the disabled, the handicapped and the blind were continued this year as well. The special programmes this year included blood donation camps, Pulse Polio immunisation, AIDS awareness, cultural shows on social evils as well as health. Stella Maris College was selected as one of the eight colleges to implement the AIDS Control and Awareness Programme by APAC and the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Madras. Three students have undergone a Peer Educators' Training at Voluntary Health Services, Chennai. In this connection, a Red Ribbon Club has been formed in the college to promote awareness of AIDS among students.

Student volunteers have attended various seminars, one day programmes and rallies organised by the NSS, University of Madras and at the Inter-collegiate level. The ten day special camp at Padappai was attended by 86 students who participated in activities ranging from personality development, health awareness and competitions at the local schools based on the theme 'Youth for a Healthy Society'.

Special mention must be made of V. Valli, II BSc Physics, the NSS volunteer chosen to represent the NSS, University of Madras, at the National Youth Festival at Mizoram.

The major challenging project undertaken at the State level, on request from the University of Madras is the Vocational Information and Career Guidance Programme, organised on March 3 and 4, 2001. 'Horizons 2001' –thus aimed at enlightening the student community on the various options available in choice of careers. The computer training institutes, publishers and software companies put up stalls. A seminar was organised with experts from various fields such as the Civil Services, Information Technology, Web Designing, Journalism, Management, Interior Designing, Hospital Management, the Media, Advertising and Social Work, who shared their expertise with students on different career options. 'Horizons 2001' certainly provided 'a passport for a bright future' to every student who participated.

With determination and hard work as its objective, the NSS unit of Stella Maris College has rendered selfless and quality service to society, while enriching and strengthening itself in the process.

## GAMES REPORT

During the academic year 2000-2001, many students of Stella Maris brought home laurels, having participated in games, with great enthusiasm and vigour, in a spirit of healthy competition.

In the Inter-collegiate Tournaments the SMC teams won in Basketball and Lawn Tennis and were runners up in Chess. Several students represented the Madras University South Division in the following games and athletics.

- |                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Basketball</b>        | - | J.P. Femin, I BA History<br>V.K.Sharmila, I BA History<br>R.Hemavathy, III BCom.<br>N.Vinaya, III BCA<br>Irene Rachael, II BCom.<br>K.S.Judith Sweety, II BCom.<br>Jyothsna John, II BCA<br>Melinda Susan Mathew, I BCom.<br>Suganthi Anbu, I BCom.<br>Subashini, I BCom. |
| <b>Cricket</b>           | - | Arpitha Preetha, I BA History<br>Bairavi Mani, I BCA<br>Althea, II BCom.  |
| <b>Shuttle Badminton</b> | - | Preethi, II BSc Physics   |
| <b>Lawn Tennis</b>       | - | Meera, II BA Literature<br>Sudha, I BCom.<br>Ranjani, II BA Sociology<br>Tara, III BA Economics   |
| <b>Table Tennis</b>      | - | Radhika, III BCom.<br>Preetha, II BA Economics  |
| <b>Volley Ball</b>       | - | Juliet, II BSc Mathematics  |

- Hand Ball** - J.P.Femin, I BA History  
R.Hemavathy, III BCom.  
N.Vinaya, III BCA.  
Melinda Susan Mathew, I BCom.  
Suganthi Anbu, I BCom.  
Subashini, I BCom.
- Table Tennis** - Preetha, II BA Economics
- Cricket** - Althea, II BCom.

The Madras University Women's Basket Ball and Table Tennis teams bagged the winner's trophy for the second consecutive year in the All India Inter-Universities tournament. Several students from SMC were members of the prize-winning teams.

Suganthi Anbu of I B.Com. was selected as the Indian Probable for the Junior National Basket Ball Team in August 2000 for her contribution as a three point scorer. J.P.Femin, N.Vinaya and R.Hemavathy represented Tamil Nadu in the Senior Basketball Championship held at Bangalore and secured the third place. The college Basketball Team participated in several State and All India Collegiate and Open Tournaments this year. Of the Eleven Tournaments played, SMC bagged the winner's trophy on six occasions and were runners up on three occasions. J.P.Femin, N.Vinaya and Irene Rachael won the best players' award in several tournaments. The Basketball Team bagged the winner's trophy at the All India Tournament conducted by VVV College, Virudunagar, and each player was awarded a gold coin weighing 2 grams. Bairavi Mani and Arpitha Preethi represented Tamil Nadu State in Cricket. Devi Subramaniam represented Tamil Nadu State in Water Polo this year. Stella Maris looks forward to more laurels and achievements in the sports field in the years to come.



## THE STUDENTS' UNION

**'MAKING THINGS HAPPEN'**

'Making things happen...' was the logo and motto of the Students' Union through the academic year 2000-2001. It has been an eventful year for Stella Maris College. All activities were based on the following objectives:



- To give equal opportunities for all students to display their talents.
- To encourage greater participation of the students in all college activities.
- To create an awareness among the students of Social and Environmental issues.
- To keep open the channels of communication between the student body and the administration.
- To bring together, the students of all city colleges.

It was decided to continue with the practice of involving the Clubs in all the Union activities. The clubs played an important role in the open air assemblies, special assemblies organised to felicitate the MTC workers, Administrative and Supportive Staff, Freshers' Assembly, Road Safety Awareness, Cancer Awareness, Human Rights Day and so on. It was decided to bring back the concept of Club Rotation.



The Students' Union Office bearers with the Principal, Vice Principals and Deans of Students

One of the first major events on campus was the Fresher's Talent Day – a day devoted entirely to the First Year Students to give them an opportunity to display their varied talents. The events conducted, along the lines of the Inter-years were, Music, Dance, Myriad and Face Painting. Friendship Day followed this – when the campus was transformed, with many stalls and the sound of music reverberating aloud.

The biggest event of the year, the Inter Years, was held during September 13 – 16, 2000. The event was titled 'Tvisha', meaning light or splendour. A total of 45 events were conducted over the 4 days with two new events namely College T-Shirt Designing and Jewellery Designing. The college was teeming with activity, with each year doing its best to excel in the true spirit of healthy competition. The Second Year Students emerged the overall winners of 'Tvisha 2000'

In order to increase student awareness of AIDS, Ms. Kavitha Chandok of DESH was invited to speak to the students on the occasion of World AIDS Day and red ribbons were distributed. In promoting women's empowerment, Damini, the students cell, conducted a special assembly and the students staged the play 'Bayen' by Mahaswetha Devi. On Human

Rights Day a special assembly was held to sensitise students to human rights issues especially Child Labour.

The Union Seminar for this year was 'Samarthatha', which aimed at giving students the opportunity to meet people who have achieved something in life, in spite of personal or societal obstacles. The dignitaries invited included Mr. Manohar Devadoss, an artist, Mrs. Shanthi Ranganathan, who is well known in the field of rehabilitation of drug and alcohol addicts, Mr. Illango of Kuthambakkam village, Ms. Vandana and Ms. Vaishnavi of the 'Banyan', Ms. Shivashankari and Gulzar from SHARE.

The Inter Collegiate Cultural Festival, 'Melange', was held on January 5-6, 2001. It comprised of 27 events and a total of 12 colleges participated. The Ethiraj College emerged the overall winners.

The students of Stella Maris participated in several Inter-collegiate cultural competitions and emerged winners in the following:

|              |                      |                 |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| ☛ Jhankar    | MOP Vaishnav College | I Runner Up     |
| ☛ Rhythm     | MGR Janaki College   | Overall Winners |
| ☛ Srishti    | Ethiraj College      | Overall Winners |
| ☛ Charisma   | JBAS College         | Overall Winners |
| ☛ Aakruthi   | GSS Jain College     | Overall Winners |
| ☛ Deep Woods | MCC                  | Overall Winners |

Apart from these events the students took part in Natak, an Inter-collegiate Theatre Festival, organised by Masquerade. The college team won the Best Production Award in addition to getting the Best Actor, Best Director, Best Sound and Best Light Management prizes. The college teams participated in select events in Bharath Utsav and Saarang conducted by IIT and won many prizes. The students also took part and won prizes in several Essay Writing, Oratorical, Poster Making, Quiz and Debate Contests conducted in the city.

The Grand finale for the year was the Union Day celebrations held on March 23, 2001. Certificates were distributed to all those who participated and assisted in the various activities organised by the Union. Club Day was also celebrated with performances by the Western Music, Western Dance, Folk Dance, Light Music, Abhinaya Dhvani and Dramatics Clubs.

The Students' Union Office Bearers for the academic year 2000-2001 were;

|                               |   |                     |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| President                     | : | Anusha Mahalingam   |
| Vice President                | : | Radha Kumar         |
| General Secretary             | : | Tesmi Jose          |
| Treasurer                     | : | Anna Thomas         |
| Cultural Secretary (Arts)     | : | Shikha Bhattacharji |
| Cultural Secretary (Sciences) | : | Ala Lazar           |



## THE ISTD STUDENT CELL

The Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD) Student Cell at Stella Maris College offers enrolment to undergraduate students as an optional Professional and Skill development programme. The activities of the Student Cell commenced in July 2000 with the election of Office Bearers for the academic year and a formal inauguration programme held on August 7, 2000. As enrolment is voluntary, it is noteworthy that 278 members enrolled and about 215 have qualified for credit and certificate awards. The overall emphasis of ISTD has always been Human Resources Development. However, in keeping with the requests of the student members, efforts were made to include programmes focussing on Media and Communication and the career prospects in these fields.

The sessions held during the year were as follows:

- ❖ August 7, 2000: *Managers of the Millenium*: Mr. Shekhar Arora, Chairman-ISTD Chennai Chapter.
- ❖ August 11, 2000: *'Quest for Excellence'*: Mr. S. Nahar, NICE Institute for Excellence
- ❖ September 18, 2000: *'Careers in Web Content Creation'*: Mr.G. Ishwar Prasad, Manager- Rolled-Up Sleeves New Media Pvt. Ltd.
- ❖ November 27, 2000 : *'Personal Effectiveness'*: Mr. N. Rangaswamy, ISTD.
- ❖ December 4, 2000: *'Science and Commerce'*: Dr. V. Kumaraswamy. Deputy Director-Tuberculosis Research Centre, Indian Council for Medical Research.

- ❖ December 6,2000 : *Assertive Training*: Mr.V. Mohan, Consultant, Global Adjustments
- ❖ December 7, 8, 9,11 and 13, 2000: *Annual Industry Visit to 'The Hindu' Publishing Division*
- ❖ December 2, 2000: *Interpersonal Communication*: Ms. Sangita Soman, Public Relations Manager, Avigna Technologies
- ❖ December 21, 2000: *How to Handle Group Discussions and Interviews*: Edutech India
- ❖ January 19, 2001: *Intensive Training in Public Speaking*: Mr.V. Mohan, Consultant, Global Adjustments
- ❖ February 8, 2001: *Time Management*: Mr. Narasimha Rao, Sr.Manager, TQM & Personnel, L&T.
- ❖ March 23, 2001: *Changing Business Scenarios*: Mr.R. Mukundan, Secretary-ISTD Chennai Chapter.

At the Valedictory function, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, our Principal, awarded certificates to 215 ISTD members.

**Anusha Cherian**  
*III BA Economics*



## SANGAMAM

### AN EXTENSION UNIT OF STELLA MARIS COLLEGE, ROYAPURAM

The extension unit of Stella Maris, Sangamam, works with various groups of the fishermen community at Kasimedu in Royapuram. The staff of the unit organise programmes to educate women, youth and child labourers towards empowerment and community organization. At present, Sangamam is running two transit schools for child labourers in this area with the support of the Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board. The children of these schools are successfully placed in regular schools. The staff are also working with civic bodies to improve health and sanitation in the community.

The research and the field-team of the unit are involved in an International project entitled "University and Community Development, Education and Training for Community

Organization” in collaboration with the International Federation of Catholic Universities, Paris. Dr.Sr.Annamma Philip, our Principal, is the President of the project, while Dr. Prema Bhat is the Director and Ms. Sandra Joseph is the Research Co-ordinator. Dr. Prema Bhat was invited to Santo Tomas University, Manila, Philippines, for a consultation with project leaders from other Asian countries, from December 4-8, 2000. The research project is currently in its intervention phase. It tests theoretical models in the field in keeping with the ethics of community practice.

The hard work put in by the unit is recognised by the Slum Clearance Board, leaders in the community and other project partners. The transit schools run by Sangamam are considered among the best in the area of intervention. All this has been made possible only because of the committed and dedicated project team. The transit schools were started in 1994 during the action phase of the project on “Culture and Drug Use/Abuse in The Asian Setting”. The transit schools were continued in the present project as the need for them was expressed by the community. The teachers of the schools are given special training to handle the children who come from the weaker sections. One transit school is situated in G.M. Pet and the other in Nagooranthotam. Each school has 25 students. They are also given noon meals so that they will be motivated to come to school. The students are then placed in regular schools in the area. Constant follow up is made on the progress of the students. In the recent visit of the UNICEF officials, the transit schools run by Sangamam were judged the best. The students of Social Work who are placed there are actively involved in the transit school programmes which is part of the overall project of Sangamam.

**Ms. Sandra Joseph**  
*Department of Social Work*



## FUNCTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

Stella Maris College has been actively and ardently involving itself in multifarious programmes relating to rural upliftment, particularly the development of rural women. The Functional Literacy Programme, initiated in the year 1992, aims to equip rural women with skills for self empowerment, leading to community development.

A total of 150 students registered for the programme this year and 104 students participated in an orientation programme on July 15, 2000. The one-day programme was conducted by Mrs. Shanthi Karunakaran. The students were given the opportunity to visit

Padappai village on a weekly basis. With the guidance of the Mass Literacy Programme, the women in the village were able to form 9 self-help groups. As a result of active participation, 2 groups received Rs.25,000/- as a revolving fund.

A two-day workshop on communication was held on August 26 and 27, 2000. The resource persons were Dr. S. Muthiah, Mr. Palaniswamy, Mr. Muthukoothan and Mr. Kalaivanan.

The students were trained in the various methods of communication including Puppetry and Villupattu.

On July 29, 2000 a group of 20 students were addressed by the BDO and Extension Officers of the Block Development Office. They spoke to the students about formation of self-help group, functioning of the groups and the need to take up literacy projects at the village level.

A three-day workshop on Street Theatre was held from November 17-19, 2000. The resource persons were Mr. Muruges, Mr. Kaleeswaran and Mrs. Kala of the Culture and Communication Centre, Loyola College. The students were trained in script writing, singing, mono acting and role-play. This workshop enabled better communication between the students and the villagers.



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip interacts with the villagers.



'Puppetry' as a means of communication

There were also two workshops held for the residents of the village. The BDO, Mrs. Shanthi Karunakaran and Mrs. Madhavi conducted the first on August 27, 2000 in the Block Development Office of the Padappai village. Forty enthusiastic women attended this workshop. The morning session started with a talk by the BDO, Mr. Manivasan, on the need to start productive ventures by the group. He enlightened the women on the criteria

to select projects and also suggested a few profitable ventures that could be undertaken. Mrs. Shanthi Karunakaran spoke on the ways and means of functioning well in groups. Mrs. Madhavi spoke about the Magalir Thittam of Tamil Nadu Development Corporation for Women.

Literacy Day was celebrated with great fervour on September 8, 2000 in Stella Maris College with an open air assembly. The celebration was to create awareness among the student community on the need to teach those with little or no education. The Chief Guest for the day was Mr. Rajaram, IAS, Executive Director, Tamil Nadu Development Corporation for Women. He spoke on education as a means of empowerment of women in the rural areas.



*Tie & Dye demonstration at the workshop for women*

A survey was undertaken on December 23, 2000 in Padappai village. This was to study the functioning of the programme in the village. The survey conducted revealed that 85% of people were aware of the college team working in the area; 65% knew the reason for the students' visit to their village; more than two thirds were also aware of the training programmes/workshops conducted by us and had attended the same. The main reason for not attending the programme however was the inconvenient time during which sessions were organised. It was heartening to hear that 50% of the ladies had heard of the self-help groups through the efforts of the college team.

Mrs. Shanthi Karunakaran conducted an orientation workshop on legal literacy, focussing on the rights of women, for the village women, on January 20, 2001. The last activity for the academic year was a workshop for women, conducted at Stella Maris College on March 3, 2001. The resource persons included Mrs. Lakshmi Priya, Mrs. Latha, Mr. Shramik Vidyapeet and Dr. Stephen. This was attended by 64 women who were trained in candle making and tie and dye. Dr. Stephen gave an enlightening talk on women's empowerment.

The year's programme concluded with the Valedictory Function on March 31, 2001, at Stella Maris College. The function was presided over by Mr. John A. Joseph, Director, State Resource Centre, and Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal of the College, distributed the certificates.

**Ms. Punitha**  
*Department of Economics*



# STELLA ON STAGE

## 'HAZAR CHURASHIR MA'

When the curtains came down on Mahasweta Devi's *Hazar Churashir Ma* on February 15, 2001 at Museum Theatre, it marked the end of more than just another play. It was the end of what will go down in Stella Maris history as one of the most eventful years in dramatics and theatre.

The tradition of theatre in Stella was an old one but one that was in desperate need of revival. The production of *The Sunshine Boys* in 1999-2000 was the beginning of this revival process. *The Sunshine Boys* played to full houses on both days and this success was motivation enough for Stella to dream bigger.

The beginnings were ordinary enough – Inter Years 2000. It was a time when new talent revealed itself, talent that gave rise to new hopes and new, bigger dreams. Inter-Years saw the staging of three diverse plays by three diverse playwrights and the winner was Mahesh Dattani's *Final Solutions* by the second years. The recipients of the first and the second best actor awards, Aparna Ram and Sheethal Govindan were to play a major role in Stella's future successes.

In the course of the year, the Dramatics Club also invited theatre personalities to conduct workshops for its members. Hans Kaushik and Praveen, leading members of Chennai theatre circles, conducted workshops on basic theatre skills; on using more than just the voice and the face; on using the body itself to enhance the acting procedure. These workshops were extremely successful and there was a clamour for more of this kind.

Just when Stella was waiting for dramatic opportunities, Masquerade, a Chennai theatre group rose to the occasion. They announced "Natak", Chennai's first ever inter-collegiate theatre festival and the dramatics club was all agog. Here was an opportunity that was not to be missed. Divya Sivaramakrishnan and Ranjeeta Thomas started searching for an appropriate play and narrowed in on Mahasweta Devi's *Bayen*.

*Bayen* was a play with tremendous scope for performance, lights and sounds. Intense and tragic, *Bayen* told the tale of a Chandidasi Gangadasi, a woman branded a 'bayen', scorned by society, rejected by her husband and separated from her son. *Bayen* also told the tale of a man torn between two opposing forces – society and love. In the end, neither force triumphed, for the defeat of love was the defeat of society.



*Bayen* was a challenge beyond belief. For the first time, every single aspect of a production was looked after by the students themselves – from the casting to the rehearsing, from the designing of lights and sound to the creation of the sets. The ambitious crew headed by Lekha Washington decided to create every item from scratch. A tree was made out of wood and paper, railway tracks were created after days of hammering and sawing, and every single object on stage was virtually hand-made.

*Bayen* was also a play with innovative opportunities for light and sound. Hours and days were spent in the studios, searching for the “perfect” sounds; Bindumalini of the Fine Arts Department was roped in to translate the songs into Bengali and set them to tune which she did with aplomb; Vaidehi of the History Department was recruited to teach Sheethal Govindan and Pratyusha Gupta to dance – a requirement for their respective roles! It was a hectic time but the cast loved every moment of it.

*Bayen* was staged on November 24, 2000, as the inaugural play of Natak and the reaction was beyond expectations. The actors had the audience in tears and there was wholesome praise for both the acting and the technical departments. And when Stella Maris was declared the winners, the only surprised people were the cast and crew themselves, who could not believe the extent to which their hopes had been fulfilled.

Stella won more than the Best Production award; they walked away with the Best Actor for Sheethal Govindan, Best Director for Anupama Srinivasan, Best Lights for Nasra Roy and Best Sound for Shikha. It was indeed a clean sweep!

Later in the year, the team staged *Bayen* thrice more. One performance was for the college itself, especially for those who had missed the original staging of the play. It was this performance that guaranteed the staging of a college production! Then there were two back-to-back performances, one for the English Department and another at the Narada Gana Sabha, for SCARF, a voluntary organisation. As Yamini who essayed the title role said, the cast improved with each performance and was glad to have the opportunity to stage the play more than once.

*Bayen's* success motivated the dramatics club to aim towards a full-fledged college play. The team began reading plays furiously; the search for the perfect director began. Finally, they zeroed in on Mahasweta Devi's (again!) *Hazar Churashir Ma* and invited Mrs. Sushma Ahuja to direct it. The decision was made, to stage the college play on February 14 and 15 at Museum Theatre.

This was the beginning of hectic planning and equally hectic execution of that planning. Workshops were conducted, auditions were held and the outcome was a surprise. The ambitious director decided to have a double cast, with different actors essaying the two lead roles on the two days. This meant double the work but no one was daunted. Rehearsals were soon in full-flow and this time, it was an entirely new experience. This was the first time the cast was working with a professional. As Pratyusha said, this meant no more fooling around! It meant five weeks of dedication, sincerity and commitment.

And committed they were. For the next one month, their worlds were restricted to *Mother of 1084*; classes were forgotten, homes were forgotten; everything revolved around rehearsals and more rehearsals. Mrs. Sushma took care not to overwork her cast. It was hard work, yes, but it was also a lot of fun as the cast discovered. More than 40 people got to know each other better and learnt to work as a team; learnt to put up with each other's moods, with their eccentricities and declared that all the hard work would be worth it if they could stage it successfully on February 14 and 15, 2001!

The dress rehearsal on the 13th was far from Mrs. Sushma's vision of the play but there was still hope. She was confident that her cast would not let her down on the final day. And sure enough, they didn't. Rising to the occasion, the cast and crew turned in a magnificent performance. The lead players Sheethal Govindan, Pratyusha Gupta on Day-one and Anjali Ramachandran and Natasha Jamal on Day-two performed beyond their abilities. The performance received positive reviews in all the leading newspapers; but more than that, it gave the actors confidence in their own abilities. It gave them faith in themselves and this was their biggest gain from the play.

It was, in all, a year that no one had anticipated. But it was a year that every single member of the college welcomed; a year of dreams that were shockingly fulfilled; a year that gave several students confidence in their own abilities; a year that re-laid the foundation for Stella's theatre activities.

**Anupama Srinivasan**  
*II BA English*



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE

## AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - A REPORT

The International Conference on 'Information Technology in the Teaching of Science' (ITTOS) proved to be a mega event of the College, this year. It was the first step taken by Stella Maris College in fulfilling its ambition of equipping the faculty members with the latest technological tools that could be used for better teaching. This three day event was held between August 24 and 26, 2000 and attracted many college teachers from all over the Country and abroad. The conference was organised by the Departments of Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics and Zoology. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm was the Convenor of the conference and it was co-ordinated by Dr. (Ms.) Ordetta Mendoza, Department of Botany and Dr. (Ms.) Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry.

Information Technology, IT, is currently causing a worldwide revolution in assimilation, storage, presentation and communication of knowledge and information. No doubt, its penetration into the field of education technology is as inevitable as its presence in all other walks of life. Multimedia, Simulation and smooth Interface with audio and video equipments are facilities of computers which can be of great use to teachers for improving the efficiency during lecture sessions, tutorials and practical classes. The importance of IT and its role in reshaping education is an accepted fact. The focus today should be on developing thinking skills in students rather than just integrating IT into the curriculum.



Mr. Philip G. Spender delivers the Presidential address. On stage are (L to R) Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Mr. Ramraj, Dr. S Shankaran, P. Raghunathan, Sr. Mary Rose and Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip.

The Conference attracted the participation of 108 members of the Science faculty from colleges and Universities in India and abroad. The resource persons included expert educationists and planners for the future of education, those who have ventured to use

IT successfully in class-room teaching and who have developed technical tools for teaching and evaluation, in addition to product designers and users from the industry.

The objectives of the Conference were:

- To recognize IT as an integral part of higher education in Science
- To share information on the existing resources available for Science education
- To present expert views
- To identify future trends
- To evolve an action plan for equipping teachers with the relevant tools

The sessions spread over 3 days focused on

- Review of current status of IT in Science teaching
- Exposure of existing products and tools
- Planning curriculum design for basic IT skill transfer
- Exploring what could be done beyond classrooms
- On-line testing methods and evaluation methods and tools
- Getting ready for future challenges

Mr.R. Ramaraj, MD and CEO, Satyam Infoway Ltd., Chennai, inaugurated the Conference on August 24, 2000. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Sankaran P. Raghunathan, Chairman, Blueshift Technology Park, Atlanta, USA. Mr. Philip G. Spender MD, Ford India, Chennai, gave the Presidential address. Sr. Mary Rose fmm, Provincial, Madras Province, released the brochure and unveiled the IT Products and Services Exhibition that formed part of the Conference.



Special invitees to the Conference

Mr. S. Mahalingam, Executive Vice President, Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai, chaired the first session and remarked that the Internet Revolution is redefining the limits of communication. At this session the following presentations were made:



Mr. Philip G. Spender with Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip and Sr. Mary Rose at the exhibition of IT tools and services.

- Dr. Meena Kumari, Aptech Ltd. Mumbai, spoke on 'On-line Education - Creating a revolution in teaching-learning'. She stressed on E-learning and its global requirements.
- Mr. Jeffrey M. Armstrong, Dean Eastern Iowa Community College, USA, made a presentation on 'Current status of IT in teaching-A Global Scenario' and highlighted the top ten IT challenges of 2000 and beyond.
- Mr. James Wysong, Professor Hillsborough Community College, Florida, USA, spoke on 'Technology Applications in Science Education-Enhancing Course Quality while saving money', and brought out the cost effectiveness and reviewed the steps taken by his college in the Science departments.

In the second session there were product presentations by the following;

- Mr. C.R.N.Vairavelu, GM - Systems, Ford India, Chennai, spoke on 'E-learning through the Corporate Intranet' and highlighted the training programmes offered by them to their employees.
- Dr. Geetha Jayaram, Senior Consultant, Pentamedia Graphics, demonstrated 'Learning through multi-media'
- Dr. Pramila Kudva, Manager Zee Interactive Learning Systems, Mumbai, spoke on 'Learning through Interactive Systems' and shared the initiatives taken by ZILS in implementing IT learning.

The significant feature of the Conference was the Video Conference session,

demonstrating how learning can be accomplished with video based dialogue and sharing, circumventing the limits of time and distance. VSNL provided the infrastructure for the Video Conferencing. Mr. Suresh Chakravarthy, Group Manager, iNautix Technologies Inc. New Jersey, chairing the session, pointed out the role of video-conferencing in teaching-learning. The panellists were Mr. Tony McKenzie, Orange Agricultural College, University of Sydney, Australia, Dr. P.N. Sridharan, Chairman, Cognizant Academy, Chennai, Dr. C. Pandurangan, Head, Department of Computer Science IIT, Chennai and Dr. Chitralkha Ramachandran, Department of Zoology, and Sr. Leony fmm, Department of Mathematics, Stella Maris College.



The fourth session was chaired by Mr. Gnanadesikan, CMD, ELCOT, who stressed of the importance of IT in developing curriculum for school and college education. The following presentations were made:

- Mr. Tony McKenzie, Orange Agricultural College, University of Sydney, Australia and Ms. Lori Petersen, Scot Community College, Devenport, USA, shared their expertise on 'Designing Curriculum for IT based education.

- Mr. Tony McKenzie, Australia, also conducted a workshop on 'Curriculum and Web Page Design'

The fifth session on 'Virtual Learning' was chaired by Dr. Shankaran P. Raghunathan, Chairman, Blueshift Technology Park, Atlanta, USA. The following presentations were made:

- Mr. Lakshmi Narasimhan, President, Ramco Systems spoke on the concept of 'Virtual Colleges' and presented the course overview and focused on the demands of the learners and the teachers.
- Dr. Katherine R. Rowell, Professor, Sinclair Community College, Ohio, USA, focused



on 'Virtual Cultural Learning Centre' with a case study on learning cultural diversity.

The sixth session focused on the use of IT in the teaching of some fields of science.

- Dr. Sally Nyquist, Professor, Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, USA, made a presentation on Cell Biology.
- Dr. Shanmugham, Professor, Anna University, presented 'IT as a tool in teaching Laplace Transformation in Mathematics'.
- Dr. Mangal Sundar Krishnan, Professor, IIT, Chennai, made a presentation on 'Teaching Chemistry through Computers' by explaining the concept of Quantum Mechanics.
- Dr. V. Balakrishnan, Professor, IIT, Chennai presented the different concepts in the teaching of Physics.

In the seventh session, the participants made the following paper presentations:

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, 'UV-Visible Spectroscopy'  
Principal and Head,  
Department of Chemistry,  
Stella Maris College

Dr. Rukmini Sridharan & 'Visualization of some Mathematical Concepts'  
Dr. Felbin Kennedy  
Department of Mathematics,  
Stella Maris College

Dr. Ranjan Ray 'Virtual Campus Courses at Calcutta University'  
Department of Physics,  
St. Xavier's College  
Calcutta

Mr. Jyothi Rajan  
Department of Physics  
Arul Anandar College  
Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

‘Teaching Physics through Computers’

Mr. Jayakumar  
Department of Physics  
RKM Vivekananda College  
Chennai.

‘PC based Physics Teaching’

The eighth session focused on computer based testing methodologies. The following presentations were made:

- Dr. Uma Arora, Country Operations Manager, Prometric-Sylvan learning systems, New Delhi, highlighted ‘Testing Methodologies’
- Dr. Rajeshwari Thiagarajan, Head, Department of Computer Science , Stella Maris College, demonstrated the ‘Online testing module’ developed by the college.

In the ninth session Mr. Edward Crofton Home, Security Manager, IPEM Infotech Division, Allahabad gave a demonstration of ‘Online testing’.

Chairing the tenth session, Dr. P.N. Sridharan, Chairman, Cognizant Academy, stressed that IT should supplement the teaching-learning process. The following presentations were made:

- Prof. R.S. Ganapathy, Corporate Guru, Aptech Ltd. Mumbai, shared his expertise on ‘Challenges of the Internet for the Educational Community’
- Mr. Patricia L. Gillilan, Professor, Sinclair Community College, Ohio, USA, spoke on ‘Preparing teachers to face the IT explosion’

At the Valedictory session the participants gave their feedback on the conference. Delivering the Presidential address, Prof. D. Victor, Director of Collegiate Education, I/C Chennai, appreciated the initiative shown by the college in incorporating IT in education. Dr. V. Chandrasekharan, Chairman and CEO, Pentamedia Graphics Ltd, delivering the valedictory address, stressed on the importance of IT Explosion and the need for industry-institute linkage. He commended the effort of the college and as a gesture of appreciation



and goodwill announced that Pentamedia would donate fifty computers to the college. The proceedings of the conference have been brought out in the form of CD's.

The major sponsors of the conference were Cognizant Technology Solutions India Ltd., Ford India Ltd., and Ramco Systems Ltd. The entire conference was video graphed by Pentamedia Graphics Ltd. The Advisory Committee constituting Mr. N. Lakshminarayanan, President and COO, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Dr. P.N. Sridharan, Chairman, Cognizant Academy Chennai, Dr. L.S.Ganesh, Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Chennai, Mr. B.S. Rathore, Vice President External Affairs, Ford India and Mr. S. Mahalingam, Executive Vice president, Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai, through their technical support and guidance, contributed to the success of the conference.

The conference was an eye opener to all participants. It brought forth the realization that we should not be complacent by merely teaching IT as another subject, but seek methods to derive the maximum benefit from the valuable opportunities offered through Information Technology.

**Dr. Rajeshwari Thiagarajan**  
*Department of Computer Science*

&

**Dr. Geetha Swaminathan**  
*Department of Chemistry*



## **DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF FOOD ADULTERATION**

### **A SOUTHERN REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Food Adulteration has become a social evil in the recent past. The quality of food sold and consumed by the general public is of poor standard, leading to a progressive deterioration in their health conditions. Hence it is necessary to sensitise the consumer to the quality of food, the different food laws and acts, the methods of testing the food adulterants with an understanding of the scientific background of the tests. Awareness being the first step towards action, eradication of food adulteration should start by educating the public on the different types of adulterants, their harmful effects and the simple methods of testing adulteration in essential commodities. With this mission Stella Maris College conducted a three-day Southern Regional Training programme for resource persons, on "Detection and

Prevention of Food Adulteration” from November 30 to December 2, 2000. This programme was catalysed and supported by NCSTC, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi. The programme aimed at training volunteers from NGO's and educational institutions and was attended by 43 participants drawn from Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and different districts of Tamil Nadu.



The programme focused on the message of eradicating food adulterants from society. The volunteers from the NGO's and educational institutions were exposed to the legislative aspects, the role and functions of the implementing agencies in India and the scientific aspects involved in the detection of food adulterants during the practical training.

Dr. G. Santharajan Govt. Analyst, Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Govt. of Tamil Nadu in his keynote address explained the need for sensitising the public to food adulteration and health hazards. He also highlighted the steps that must be taken to eradicate this menace from the national perspective. In his technical session he enlightened the participants on the legislative aspects in prevention of food adulteration. He explained the salient features of the PFA Act with a focus on the role and functions of the various implementing agencies in India. Dr. Saibaba, Deputy Government Analyst, Government of Tamil Nadu, explained the different types of adulterants prevalent in society and their harmful effects. Mr. V.V. Padmanabhan, Chief Chemist, regional Agmark Laboratory, Government of India, Chennai explained the Agmark Grading system and stressed the need for buying Agmark graded goods. He spoke about the importance of quality in shopping and the steps to be taken by an individual to safeguard against food adulteration.

Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, and Ms. Mary George, Department of Chemistry, Stella Maris College gave practical training to the participants on the detection of food adulteration. Dr. Geetha who has devised the Home Kit for the detection of food adulteration, demonstrated the different methods used in detecting adulteration in food items like coffee powder, tea, dhal, oil etc. Samples brought from different localities were analysed by the trainees. The

extensive monitoring and training thus provided the participants with the motivation and the confidence to act as potential trainers for future programmes.

Dr. John Samuel, Joint Commissioner, Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Tamil Nadu highlighted the role of the consumer and their rights and legislations in consumer protection. The technical session by Dr. T.R. Rajagopalan, Director and Head, Southern Regional Laboratory, Bureau of Indian Standards, Chennai, gave an overview of the role and functions of the Bureau of Indian Standards in Food Industry. Mr. Mir Mazher Hussain, Manager, Quality Control, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. Chennai, enlightened the audience on the operation of the Public Distribution system in Tamil Nadu.

As a feedback mechanism, a questionnaire was circulated among the participants to identify potential trainers and the food items predominantly adulterated in various localities. The feedback indicated that the programme was highly appreciated and many participants volunteered to act as trainers in their area and conduct similar programmes to educate the public in their localities.

In her valedictory address, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philp stressed that this training programme was only the beginning in the road to instilling awareness in the individual and the community about the detection and prevention of food adulteration in society.

This was a pilot project and the trainees in their localities have conducted similar programmes. It is hoped that the chain will continue at the National level. This programme was also reported as a case study in the Newsletter, February 2001, NCSTC Communications, published by the Department of Science and Technology. Stella Maris College intends to collaborate with the DST in the mass production of the home kit and the publication of the manual, so as to spread the message of eradicating food adulteration in society.

**Dr. Geetha Swaminathan & Ms. Mary George**  
*Department of Chemistry*



# NEW PERCEPTIONS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDY

## A REFRESHER COURSE

The Department of English in collaboration with the Academic Staff College, University of Madras conducted a Refresher course in English - Batch VI - for faculty from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. This course was co-ordinated by Dr. Margaet Clarence, Head, Department of English. This unique opportunity was the first of its kind for both the English department and the college.

The objective of the course was to promote new insights into areas of academic study and engage the faculty, in concerns related to curriculum and pedagogy. The areas chosen for study were Contemporary Literatures in English, Postmodern Critical Theories and Curriculum Development. The sessions also included exercises in creative writing, writing for the media and theatre skills. The purpose was to balance theoretical input and practical application, in order to evoke active participation and sustain the interest of the participants.

Eminent academicians from the University Departments and affiliated colleges were invited as resource persons. Visiting scholars Dr. Judith Rodriguez from the University of Deakin, Australia and Dr. Christiansen from the University of Regina, Canada, enriched the course by their lectures. Eminent writers Mr. Ashokamitran and Dr. Indira Parthasarathy were invited to share their expertise.

A reading of Mahasweta Devi's "*Hazar Churashir Ma*" and performances of "*Bayen*" and "*Box the Pony*" by the students of Stella Maris College and the Department of English, University of Madras, were interesting supplements to the course. Special emphasis was given to the study of theatre skills in order to explore dramatization of literary texts as a viable teaching/learning strategy.

The expertise of Mr. Praveen Kananur, Director, Magic Lantern and his team greatly enhanced interest and knowledge. Sessions on "Human Rights Issues", "Publication of Text", and "Movements in Art" were some of the allied areas of focus. In an attempt to integrate technology through computer skills to language teaching, a few sessions were devoted to "Internet and Language Learning". An overview of World Literatures and the study of Postmodern Critical theories were of immediate relevance. The ambiance of the campus and infrastructure proved conducive for the smooth functioning of the course.

The comprehensive nature of the course, which catered to the diverse needs and interests of the participants, was greatly lauded. Combined with the meticulous planning and execution of the program by the faculty of the English Department, the course evoked an active response from all its participants during its duration of twenty-one days. The participants evaluated the overall effectiveness of the course, as excellent.

**Dr. Margaret Clarence**  
*Department of English*



## **INAUGURATION OF STELLA MARIS – PENTASOFT COMPUTER CENTRE**

Stella Maris College has joined hands with Pentasoft Technologies in yet another attempt to help students keep pace with the growing need for Computer Education. Certificate courses in Office Automation, C++, Oracle 8.0, Web Page Designing, Internet Concepts & HTML and Java are offered jointly by Stella Maris and Pentasoft. Our students as well as the people of the neighbourhood can avail of these courses if they wish to widen the sphere of their IT Education.

The Inauguration of the newly constructed centre with a well-equipped state-of-the-art computer lab and class room, was held on 8 May 2001, with Prof. Ananthanarayanan, Director of Collegiate Education as chief guest.

After the Invocation, Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Secretary of the college welcomed the gathering and Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry introduced the chief guest. Dr. Rajeswari Thiagarajan, Head of the Department of Computer Science highlighted the significant features of the venture, namely, computer education for all at affordable rates with the latest infrastructure available in the market, so as to enable the students to update their knowledge of computer based courses.



**Chief Guest Dr. Ananthanarayanan, Director of Collegiate Education inaugurating the Computer Centre**

Prof. Ananthanarayanan applauded the venture and eulogized the college for such an innovative academic attempt, and for having distinguished itself by its academic excellence and discipline.

The brief inaugural function was complete when Prof. Ananthanarayanan formally opened the New Computer Centre, to begin a new era of 'IT for all' in Stella Maris.

**Ms. Thilagavathy G. Joseph**  
*Department of English*



## **WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

### **A STATE LEVEL SEMINAR**

The commercial scenario in India no longer sees just men in the highest echelons, but also women, who have looked at hindrances as challenges and have been architects of their success stories. In tune with this current scenario on the business front, the Commerce Department conducted a two-day state level seminar entitled, 'Women in Business', on the February 5 and 6, 2001. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, the Principal and Ms. Jayanthi Natrajan M.P inaugurated the seminar.

Eminent speakers from all walks of life including Dr. Sheela Rani Chunkath IAS, Dr. Anuradha Khati Rajivan IAS, Dr. R. Natrajan, Dr. Harish C. Dhingra, Ms. S. Jayanthi, Mr. B.S. Raghavan and Dr. Revathy Shriram spoke at the seminar. They addressed issues of importance such as financial assistance for small-scale business, development of women entrepreneurs, governmental role in women entrepreneurial development and franchising among others.

A two-day cultural festival called "Combat" 2001, which received an enthusiastic response from city colleges, followed the seminar.

**Ms. Grace Paul**  
*Department of Commerce*



## **WORLD MATH YEAR**

It was with great foresight that on May 6, 1992, the International Mathematical Union in Rio de Janeiro, declared that the year 2000 would be the World Math Year. The declaration set forth three aims: to consider the challenges faced by mathematicians in the 21<sup>st</sup>

century, to focus on mathematics as a key to development, and to raise the status of Mathematics.

At Stella Maris College, the department of Mathematics, celebrated the World Math Year by holding a one-day symposium for the faculty entitled *NEW TRENDS IN MATHEMATICS* on October 17, 2000, in which faculty from about 15 colleges participated.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Director, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, who delivered the keynote address emphasized the importance of Mathematics in the present scenario, in which computers and other advances in technology have aided the developments in Mathematics and in the application of Mathematics to other subjects. He drew attention to the significance of Number Theory to the recent developments in Cryptology and Network Security and enumerated on the job opportunities for mathematicians in various fields.

It was a proud moment for the Department to have our alumnae, who are now placed in high academic positions, as resource persons for the symposium. Dr.R.Usha, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, I.I.T, Chennai, highlighted the role of Mathematical Modeling in industry and how it plays an important role in solving complex problems in Physics and Engineering systems. She presented two models with applications in Lubrication Technology and Coating Industry. Dr. Premalatha Kumaresan, Professor, Ramanujan Institute of Advanced Study in Mathematics, Chennai gave an insight into Potential Theory and illustrated Boucher's Theorem in  $R^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$  and its analogue in the axiomatic cases. Dr. R. Parvatham, Professor, Ramanujan Institute of Advanced Study in Mathematics, Chennai, gave an interesting talk on a subclass of strongly star like functions and brought out the geometrical importance of well-known subclasses of univalent functions. She defined two new subclasses and discussed their properties. Dr. Rajeshwari Thiagarajan enthralled the audience with her talk on The Stable Marriage Problem using techniques of Operations Research with an interesting power-point presentation.

Dr. Evelyn Chandrasekharan, Vice-Principal, Stella Maris College summed up the proceedings of the symposium. During the feedback session, the response from the participants was very encouraging. The symposium was very informative as it highlighted a wide range of subjects that the students of Mathematics could explore.

**Neraja N. & Lavanya Chandrasekaran**  
*Department of Mathematics*



# MATHZOOM

As a part of the celebrations of the WORLD MATH YEAR 2000, the Department of Mathematics hosted an inter-collegiate Math Festival MATH ZOOM on December 14 and 15, 2000. It was an opportunity for students to bring out their talents and creative skills in Mathematics.

In her keynote address Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, emphasized the important role that Mathematics played in all fields and encouraged the students in their endeavours. The first event of the day was Quiz, which was conducted by Dr. Ms. Revathy Sunderajan, a former student of our college and presently a Research Assistant at the Ramanujan Institute of Advanced Study in Mathematics, University of Madras. About 35 teams had registered for the event out of which 6 were selected for the finals. The next event was an exhibition of Mathematical models. The final event of the day was a Mathematical Skit, which delighted the audience.

The second day of the fest began with Paper Presentations in which four teams participated and presented highly informative papers on various ideas in Mathematics. The next event was the Olympiad, which had as many as 90 participants. A Mathematical Crossword Puzzle in which six teams made it to the finals, followed this. In the afternoon, there was Dumb Charades followed by variety entertainment.

There was an overwhelming response from various Arts and Science as well as Engineering Colleges, and their enthusiastic participation made the two-day fest a grand success. This is definitely a great source of motivation for the Department of Mathematics to hold more of such events in the years to come.

**N. Vandana**

*II MSc Mathematics*



## REACTIONS 2001

This year, the annual intercollegiate festival hosted by the Department of Chemistry was on February 23 and 24, 2001. After a week of hectic planning, organising and sponsor hunting, the show was finally ready to hit the road! It began with an inaugural function, where Dr. Sunderajan from IIT Madras delivered the keynote address with an interesting



multimedia presentation. Ethiraj College, New College, Meenakshi College, JBAS, Loyola College and Vivekananda College attended the festival.

The first event held was Dumb Charades, which provided an interesting contrast between the silent participants involved in desperate hand-twiddling and facial contortions and the cheering audience. The offstage events for the day were Collage and Crossword. The final event of the day was a debate on 'Can India afford to spend so much money on scientific research?' – the debaters spoke well and had the audience see-sawing between agreeing and disagreeing!

The second day saw participants vying with each other for prizes in Adzap, Creative Writing (Tamil and English) and Face Painting. The latter event provoked much merriment among the participants, many of whom insisted on being photographed with the theme 'Energy' splashed in bright colours over their faces! The Final event of the festival was the Quiz, in which Ethiraj College emerged triumphant, winning the Dr. Sr. Irene Matthias rolling cup. The Principal distributed certificates for winners and participants as well as cash prizes at the Valedictory function. The overall winners were Loyola College, who were presented the Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip rolling shield.

Bending the law a little, we could say that every Reaction leads to some action – well, this one was no exception!

**Nandini Ananth**  
*III BSc Chemistry*



## INTERACTIONS 2001

Interactions 2001, an intercollegiate Botany festival was conducted on February 27, 2001. There was an enthusiastic response from students of several city colleges. The competitions, that included quiz, debate, ad-zap, landscape, textile designing and mehendi, covered different areas of Botanical Science.

Contestants came up with several creative and innovative vegetable prints in the textile designing competition, while the ad-zap theme – “Use of Recycled Material” – required participants to don their thinking caps! Landscaping provided a platform for students to display their horticultural skills and the quiz had a high turn out. The mehendi

competition had several girls vying for the top spot with their intricate designs and patterns. The debate saw heated discussion as debaters put forth the pros and cons of marketing transgenic food, Food for thought, literally!

After keen competition, Loyola College emerged the overall winners. Certificates and prizes were distributed at the Valedictory function. On the whole, it was a good learning experience for all concerned!

**S. Madhumitha**  
*II BSc Botany*



## **SAMAGAMA 2001**

'Samagama' the annual cultural festival of the Department of Sociology was the culmination of yearlong activities. It was a day of fun, excitement and learning. A number of colleges, BR Ambedkar Law College, WCC, MOP Vaishnav and Loyola, to name a few, participated in the festival.

The first event of the day was 'Heads or Tails', a novel debate. This was followed by 'Dumb and Dumber' popularly known as Dumb Charades. Next was the collage event, called Kaleidoscope. Another major attraction was 'Mind sweeper' a street play performance.

'Samagama 2001' concluded with the reading of the annual report, followed by the prize distribution ceremony. The Intra Departmental Dance competition on the theme "The perception of modern women" was won by the second years. MOP Vaishnav walked away with the overall winners' shield. Samagama 2001 certainly generated a lot of participation both within the department and outside and we hope the trend continues in the years to come.

**Debodayita Raha**  
*II BA Sociology*  
&  
**Divya Nambiar**  
*I BA Sociology*



## IMPULSE 2001

On February 9, 2001 all students of Physics from various colleges in Chennai were milling towards Stella Maris College with a 'feel of the force' –“Impulse 2001”. Dr. T. R Govindarajan from the Institute Of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai gave the keynote address.

The programmes of Impulse 2001 were scheduled for two days and rocketed off with great enthusiasm from staff and students alike. The major events were the Quiz followed by ' *Spectra*' a pot pourri of Dumb Charades , Pictionary and What's dat dumb word. Spectra was followed by '*Superposition*', a collage competition with the topic 'Spaced Out'. With scissors snipping and imagination running wild, the participants created some amazing works. The Photography Contest attracted many participants each of whom tried to capture their idea of 'Campus Life ' in celluloid. The next event '*Anachronism*' had the participants at their humorous best. when they were made to use great discoveries in Physics in their own funny ways.

Day Two began with "*Quest*", a symposium in which eminent Physicists from prestigious institutes led the students to the frontiers of physics. Dr.C Vijayan from IIT Chennai spoke on ' The Forces of Nature and the Nature of Forces'. Dr. P B Sunil Kumar also from IIT Chennai spoke on 'Physics in Biology'. Dr. Ramesh Anishetty from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences spoke on the subject 'Quark Gluon Plasma'. The next programme on the agenda was '*Perceptions*', a debate to analyse and criticise the existing system of education in India.

At the Valedictory function, the shield was presented to the overall winners - 'D G Vaishnav College' thus culminating a hectic Impulse 2001.

Nisha, Poornima & Sonia  
*III B.Sc Physics*



## VALEDICTORY 2001

Shall the day of parting be the day of gathering?  
And shall it be said that my eve was in truth my dawn?

-Khalil Gibran

There was an aura of solemnity in the campus, as the Alma Mater was getting ready to send off the final year under-graduate and post-graduate students after nurturing them

in an educational environment infused with 'Goodness and truth, great ideals of virtue'. The students who had gathered in the auditorium for the Valedictory function wore a look of excitement and anxiety, combined together. The programme began with Prayer Song and Lighting of the Lamp.

The Prayer Service followed, in which the students entrusted their future to the care of the Almighty:

Lord my life to You I bring

*May each song I have to sing, be to You a lovely thing, In Your time.*

Four students representing the Arts, the Sciences, Computer Science and the Post Graduate departments shared their experiences in college. Though they recounted their personal experiences each in her unique way, unanimously they all expressed their gratitude to the Alma Mater for the excellent training they received for their overall mental and spiritual growth.

The chief guest Dr. Deborah Thiagarajan, Founder-Director, Madras Crafts Foundation, in her Valedictory address remarked that the education they received must have sensitised them to various social issues and this should lead them to act, when they encounter injustice in any form.

The Principal Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, had a few words of empowerment for the students on this occasion, when they were leaving the portals of their Alma Mater. She reiterated that it is courage, optimism and determination, which will bring them success in future.

The students then took the pledge to seek "the highest good, in all things worthy of my model, the Star of the Sea". Dr. Sr. Colleen North, the Secretary of the college, prayed for God's choicest blessings upon the outgoing students. Then the students sang the College Song with such pride and loyalty that it reverberated loud and clear in the auditorium.

The students then moved to the ground for the Tree Planting Ceremony, to plant two saplings, one by the Arts students and one by the Science students, forever to have their memory, fresh and green on the campus, in the years to come.

**Ms. Thilagavathi G. Joseph**  
*Department of English*



## COLLEGE DAY



Chief Guest Dr. S. Sadagopan with (L to R) Dr. Sr. Rita, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Sr. Mary Rose, Dr. Sr. Colleen North and Dr. Evelyn Chandrasekharan



"Pancha Pranaha"- a classical dance recital by our students.





Melodious classical tunes...



A fusion dance



## STELLA-ON STAGE



Director Sushma Ahuja with the cast of 'Hazar Churashir Ma' performed at the Museum Theatre.



'Bāyen', performed for SCARF at Narada Gana Sabha.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail,  
Vice-Principal, New College,  
releases the  
college magazine.



The Chief Guest hoists the  
National Flag



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip  
cuts the Stella Birthday  
cake on August 15.  
Looking on with radiant smiles  
are members  
of the college union.





## SPORTS DAY



Chief Guest Ms. Letika Saran, IPS is honoured by Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip as Dr. Evelyn Chandrasekharan looks on.



The lithe aerobics performers...



## NCC DAY 2000



Commodore P.R. Franklin AVSM. VSM.  
takes the salute



The NCC Drill

## THE NSS UNIT



AIDS Awareness-Dr. Bimal Charles  
inaugurates the Red Ribbon Club



Mr. Kalimuthu, IPS with  
Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip  
- HORIZONS 2001



## CONVOCAATION DAY



Mr. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, I.A.S., Secretary, Chief Minister's Secretariat, with Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal and the Heads of Departments



The Proud Graduates of Stella Maris College

## STELLA MARIAN WOMEN IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

In a harsh and cruel world of crass commercialism, they strike you as a spectroscopic ray of hope. They provide people with the much-needed respite from the cut throat competition and mundane chores of the everyday world. Pioneers in the field of the performing arts, they are artistes who blend creativity, talent and all that is spiritual.

As a continuation of last year's series on successful Stella Marians, the focus this year is on talented and eminent artistes who have made the best use of their latent talent. Singers, instrumentalists, and anchorwomen – they have all made their talent a platform for self-expression. It's time to meet Uma Muralikrishna, Sr. Esther Rani, Anuradha Ananth, Mala Chandrasekhar, and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, our own Stella Marian Performing artistes...

### UMA MURALI KRISHNA: EXPONENT OF BHARATHANATYAM AND KUCHIPUDI

*"...It's a near divine experience."*

Recipient of titles like "Natya Kala Ratna" and "Singar Mani" for Bharathanatyam and "Yuva Kala Bharathi" and "Kalaimamani" for Kuchipudi, Uma Murali Krishna is an "A" grade artiste in Doordarshan in both Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi. She is a student of Padmashri K.N. Dandayudhapani Pillai. She has also been trained under the guidance of Padmashri Adyar K Lakshman.

Uma Muralikrishna commenced her training in Bharathanatyam at the age of five. Uma has performed in several major Sabhas and dance festivals in the city and all over the country; to name a few, Music Academy, Krishna Gana Sabha, Bharath Kalachar, Kartik Fine Arts, the Surya festival in Trivandrum, the Khajuraho festival, the Bharath Cultural Integration festival in Delhi and Mumbai, the Mahabalipuram festival in Madras and for the International Dance Alliance. She has performed at several cultural centres abroad as well.



Uma Murali Krishna is also a familiar face in the ad-world. She has featured in several ad films like Co-optex, Radha Silks, Horlicks, Aavin, and Rexona (along with her



husband Mr. Murali Krishna). She has also worked on a few documentary films on dance. Uma Muralikrishna is also the daughter-in-law of the reputed play back singer, Smt. S Janaki.

Uma graduated from Stella Maris in the year 1986. (BA Sociology, 1982-86) She took an active part in the extra curricular activities in college, like the Inter years, and other inter collegiate competitions. "I got married in the second year and had my first child a year later. College provided me with a lot of exposure; I had a very nice HOD. Right from the beginning whenever there was a show, I was involved in it. My mother in law, being an artiste herself, understood the feelings of an artiste. This definitely helped me a lot in balancing college and home." Uma has two daughters aged 15 and 8.

"Dance is an expensive hobby" she accedes. "I did have ample support from my parents and later from my husband. And it is not easy being an artiste, after all these years we still have to negotiate for shows, and travel around quite a bit."

The secret of her success, she says, lies in devotion and perseverance. "We have to practise everyday to sustain the stamina, the rhythm, and the energy level of our performance. We also have to devote ample time to do well in this field. When I feel I don't have the stamina and cannot do justice to the performance then I will have to stop performing on stage". When she is not dancing, exercise and yoga are part of her daily routine. It helps her stay "mentally and physically fit."

Apart from her abiding interest in Bharathanatyam, she is also intensely devoted to Kuchipudi. Her guru is Padma Bhushan Dr. Vempatti Chinna Satyam. "I like the South Indian dance forms like Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi; we have so many facial expressions which are unique to South Indian dance forms. The depth, the involvement that a performer has in traditional dance forms is incredible." Uma feels that "Kuchipudi should get more attention. Out of hundreds of performers in the dance festivals here, there are very few Kuchipudi artistes. It's a very aesthetic dance form." Her favourite artistes include eminent dancers like Alarmel Valli, her guru Dr. Vempatti Chinna Satyam, and Shri. Ravishankar. Among other dance forms Uma likes Kathak.

Uma has been performing in the prestigious December festival in Chennai for several years now. She recalls with fond memory a performance at the Navarathri Mandapam, a small temple in Kerala, with only the members of the royal family as audience.. "There was no lighting except for a multitude of *kuthuvilakus*. It's a near divine experience."

Uma is grateful to her family for their support and encouragement. “My mother has been a motivating factor and my father provided me with the financial backing I needed. In fact, I took up Kuchipudi because of my husband. He suggested I learnt Kuchipudi; I started only when I was 24.” Her husband, Mr. Murali Krishna is an audio producer.

Dance critics have acclaimed her performances as “Poetry in Trance”. Certainly high praise to live up to!

### **SR. ESTHER RANI: SOULFUL SINGER AND ARDENT MUSIC TEACHER**

*“Through music I pray, music takes me very close to God”*

Meet Sr. Esther Rani, an alumna of Stella Maris College. She’s a Sangeetha Sironmani from Tiruvayar College, a Sangeetha Vidvan from TN Music College, a B High Grade artiste in All India Radio, member of the faculty at the Tamil Isai Sangam and she also has about 20 cassettes of devotional songs to her credit. She’s deeply committed to spirituality and has devoted her life to prayer and worship.

Sr. Esther Rani did her schooling at St. Raphael’s in Madras and joined Stella Maris for her PUC in Economics (1964-65). The teachers that she remembers from her PU days are Sr. Flavia who taught English, Sr. Jayam Subramaniam who taught Economics and Mrs. Jayalakshmi, the Tamil teacher. She recalls her practical classes where during dissection, many of her classmates were nervous but, “our teacher allayed our fears by asking us to pretend that we were all doctors in surgery, attempting to save lives!” She fondly remembers those encouraging words. The Principal and Superior back then was Mother Carla Rosa, whom she greatly admires. Says Sr. Esther Rani “College helped me face crowds. I was really scared initially but I started performing in front of crowds and I overcame my fear.”



A year later, she became interested in spirituality. “At that point”, she says, “I was not worried about my studies. I was interested in knowing God, serving God and giving what’s best in me, as an offering to God.”

While studying, she developed an increasing interest in music. “I started out with Western Music. One of my superiors, a sister from Austria asked me to focus on Indian

music. I was interested in knowing our own culture, our own people, our own rishis – Appar, Sundarar and Manikavasagar of the Bhakti movement, for example.” At the same time, she became part of an inter-religious dialogue center on Santhome High Road, ‘*Aikia Alayam*’ where “I got to know more about many other religions.” She was engaged in active work, encouraged by the congregation.

Soon after, for at least seven years Sr. Esther Rani lived in Mysore, in an ashram, where she learnt a little bit of Upanishads, Bhagwad Gita, and the ashramic way of life. “Music was my *sadhana* everywhere” quips Sr. Esther Rani. She studied in Thiruvayar College and obtained her Sangeeta Sironmani diploma between 1970 and 1974. Then she came to Adayar Music College, in Madras and studied there for two years. Meanwhile she also completed her BA and B.Ed. She also learnt Carnatic vocal music and took Veena lessons from private teachers. She has since released at least twenty cassettes of Bhajans for different religious purposes.

Sr. Esther Rani faced several hurdles initially. “When I started in 1970, I worked very hard. Getting a cassette or a recording was very difficult. Today, a lot of facilities are available. If I had all these facilities I may have achieved more. Also, I did not have the fundamentals of music when I was in college. Which is why I went back to the basics, in Tiruvayar College. And I worked my way from there. I owe my teachers quite a bit”.

Sister Esther also taught in the Adayar Music College for one year, training future music teachers. At present she teaches at the Tamil Isai Sangam. She teaches Tamil Isai (Tamil music) at this institution which concentrates on the study of music in local languages.

Currently, she is occupied in learning more about Tamil culture and Tamil compositions of Thevaram, Thiruvagasam, Nalayiradivya prbandam, and Ramalingaswamigal Arutpar. “I teach and I learn as well. My music teacher is Shri. B. Krishnamurthi.”

Music, she says has helped her get closer to God. “I sing classical type of songs. I sing Bhajans or Kirtans. I really want to live the music I sing. I do my *sadhana* depending upon the time; music is my way of praying. Through music I pray, music takes me very close to God, in times of difficulty and joy.”

Her favourite singers include M.S. Subbulakshmi, M.L. Vasanthakumari, and Dandapani Desigar. Among the modern singers she likes Sudha Raghunathan. She also likes the songs of Devanayagam Pillai and Bharathiar.

She does not perform very often due to her religious commitments. "I have to restrict myself to some discipline. So I restrict myself to a few programmes." In the near future, she plans to record a few cassettes of devotional songs.

She stresses the need for music as a compulsory part of school curriculum. She says, "Children nowadays have so much to study. I teach them how music can be relaxing and can help form their character. I tell my music students that as music teachers they have an important role to play. All children may not be academically inclined. The music teacher should act as a guide and as a helper; she can help the child excel in music, if the child has talent. To find happiness and peace, children should learn to sing religious as well as songs for entertainment."

We look forward to seeing a new generation of music teachers under the able guidance of Sr. Esther Rani, a person who has dedicated her life to music, and to God.

## ANURADHA ANANTH: THEATRE ARTIST, POPULAR MODEL AND NEWSCASTER

*"...history, Literature and performing Arts are all interrelated"*

Anuradha Ananth made her theatre debut with Mahesh Dattani's "*Dance like a Man*". Directed by Mithran Devanesan (of 'Madras Players' fame) it was a play based on the life of dancers, and the difficulties faced by them, especially male performers.

Since then, it was no looking back, for Anuradha. "A whole new world opened up for me. I started doing more plays." In all, Anuradha has performed in about twenty plays directed by theatre stalwarts like Mithran Devanesan and Krishna Kumar (of 'Masquerade'). She's also a part of Chennai's oldest and most renowned theatre group, the Madras Players. Her self-confessed "typically average Indian middle class woman" look has earned her roles in several Dattani plays like '*Dance like a Man*' and '*Seven Steps around the Fire*'. She has the unique distinction of having performed in every one of Dattani's plays to be staged in Chennai.

She has featured in an American black comedy called '*Love*' directed by Michael Muthu (of '*Boardwalkers*'), Vijay Tendulkar's '*Kanyadaan*', and several rehearsed play readings at the British Council and other venues. She also did '*Closer Apart*' a play for her friend Anupama Chandrasekhar. In fact





*'Closer Apart'* was staged at Stella Maris College a year ago. "I had to work quite a bit at training my voice. The theatre fraternity has been very helpful, they've been very good friends. It's a nice family that one belongs to. They're also very talented and creative people. I am in awe of them," quips Anuradha.

Anuradha is also a part-time model. She has featured in several ad-films like Horlicks, Lime Shot, Kannan Devan Tea (with Malayalam filmstar, Mohanlal), Venus water heater and Kissan ketchup. Currently, she is also an employee of the Sun News Network – she reads the English News for the channel.

A former student of the Kalakshetra, Anuradha is a professional dancer as well. She studied Bharathanatyam for twelve years until an unfortunate knee injury curtailed her career as a dancer.

Anuradha graduated from Stella Maris College (English Literature, 1994-97). After a break of two years, she joined the MA course (in Literature) in 1999.

A few months prior to her joining MA, she was selected to be part of a team that traveled to California, USA for an exchange programme. Says Anu, "When I was in California, I happened to deliver a couple of lectures on Indian education at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, a premier educational institution offering highly specialized areas of study. They invited me to study there". Towards the end of that year, she gained admission to a course in Applied Linguistics at the Monterey Institute. She discontinued her MA and went to California. But once there, Anu realized that she had a stable base in Chennai, and was homesick. She returned to India a few months later, and began working with Sun TV as a newsreader.

A loyal student of Stella Maris, Anu confirms, "I have great regard for the English department. I had very good teachers. Stella was very good for me. I never thought I would get into academics. I was more interested in the performing arts. But I did work hard, and I even got an academic proficiency prize in the third year."

Anuradha was married when she was still in college. So, she had to juggle both family and college life. "But that didn't act as a deterrent in any way", she says.

Speaking of her interest in the Performing Arts she added, "I think History, Literature, Performing Arts, are all related areas of study. In the performing arts, it's wonderful to have a foundation in Literature."

Exuding immense confidence, Anu believes that a positive attitude definitely helps one overcome any number of hurdles. “The disaster with my knee opened my eyes to so many other areas of literature; it did me a world of good. I started reading more.”

Anu is also a teacher. She takes English lessons for Korean and other foreign students, mostly employees of companies like Hyundai, Alcatel, and Saint Gobain. “I started teaching and I liked what I was doing. I teach for about three to four hours a day. I not only teach them English, but I also talk to them about Indian culture, politics and the like.”

Any unfulfilled ambition? we quiz her. “I’d love to teach at Stella perhaps. I’m not qualified for that now, but I’d definitely love to, someday.” For this multi-talented lady, nothing is impossible!

### **MALA CHANDRASEKHAR: EMINENT FLUTIST AND MUSICIAN**

*“The true value of music never dies...”*

The accolades that have come her way have been many – she has “purity of pitch and fidelity to tradition”, “she has a fine grace oriented style of artistry”, “she has the breath of the bamboo in her heart” and so on...

Indeed, music is in her heart and her blood. For Kalaimamani Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar, music was never an option...it was always inevitable. Hailing from a family of musicians, Mala was inducted into flute-playing lessons at an early age. Ironically, she was not interested in the art and tried to find ways to avoid her classes. She dreamt of becoming a doctor and then chose to do her Bachelors degree in Botany at Stella (1981-84).

It was at Stella that the very course of her life changed. Coaxed and guided into participating in innumerable competitions, her success propelled her to take her musical abilities seriously for the first time. As she says, “the spirit of competition and my urge to win motivated me to work harder at playing my flute.” Her talent had never been in doubt, only her interest. Now even that was banished.

She attributes her change of mind to the fact that she was “never forced to practice every day. My mother allowed me to progress at my own



pace.” This freedom of choice is absolutely necessary, she feels and especially so in the case of youngsters from musical families.

Mala speaks fondly of the “special treatment I received whenever I won competitions for Stella. It was always at the back of my mind that I was enhancing the reputation of the college and this was a strong motivational factor, probably the strongest.”

I asked her whether she felt that music was taking a back seat in the lives of today’s youngsters. While admitting that this was the case, she also feels that music remains a top priority for those who have an aptitude for it. She is all for the encouragement of music in colleges and schools, this being the only way to unearth new and exciting talent. As she points out illustratively, “a diamond could be hidden in the mud and we might never know. Only when it glitters do we become aware of its presence.”

She does not believe that one has to be born a musical genius. Talent can be cultivated if the gene provides the basic base! “I am a standing example of that”, she says. Music cannot be entirely taught; certain elements have to be in-born. However a strong interest will go a long way in balancing out the lack of a natural ability.

In Mala’s opinion, the music industry, like all others, is a case of “survival of the fittest.” Luck is a major factor. Mere talent and hard work are insufficient. “One has to be at the right place at the right time, know the right people, make the right connections.” Mala is a strong believer in fate and destiny. “What is meant to be will be. Our lives are mapped out for us at the time of our birth and we have no choice but to follow the map.” In her opinion, music has, over the ages, remained a pure form. She believes that “it enhances the mind and leads its followers along a good path. When you are angry, music goes a long way in controlling the anger and in soothing the mind.”

We discussed the position of instrumentalists in the music industry. “It is a fact that vocalists are given more prominence in the industry. In a ten-day festival, instrumentalists will be allotted only two or three days. The audience also is more willing to listen to vocalists rather than instrumentalists. While they will listen to a vocalist for two hours, they lack the patience to listen to an instrumentalist for the same period of time. The audience increasingly wants “new” music like fusion music for example. They like innovative techniques. They like their music to sound different from what they normally hear. Musicians are hard-pressed to do something radical with their style, something that will startle the audience and hold their attention.”

However, Mala also feels that it is the responsibility of the artist to ensure that he or she holds the attention of the audience. “The artist should perform in such a manner that the audience does not feel fidgety or restless. “

The flute, she feels, continues to have its own charm. “It is a light instrument, has an inherent melody and is an integral part of Indian culture. Unlike the Veena which is becoming increasingly westernized with amplifiers, the flute has retained its purity.”

I asked her about the audience response at international concerts and seminars. Ironically enough, “the western audience is more receptive to Carnatic music these days. There is an incredible level of curiosity among them and they are full of praise for South Indian classical music. They ask detailed questions on tone, style and other factors at international seminars. “

In the short span of her career, Mala has been honoured with several titles and awards including the Nyapathi Ranganayakamma Ammal Award in 1990, the Flute Mali Award in 1993, Kalaimamani in 1995, Yuva Kala Bharathi in 1996, Isai Peroli in 2000 and the M.D. Ramanathan Award in 2001. She holds the distinction of being the first to represent India at the National Flute Convention at Atlanta in 1999. In 2000, she presented a paper called “The Magic Flute” at the All India Wind Instrument Conference held at Mumbai.

She continues to work at her art and indeed, to pass on her abilities to others. She is an enthusiastic teacher and instructs her pupils in the art that she has perfected. Hers is a story of talent, hard work, dedication and above all, perseverance.

## **LALGUDI VIJAYALAKSHMI: LEADING VIOLINIST AND MUSICIAN**

*“Precision and Perfection are the key words”*

From the time she was born, she has been exposed to a household reverberating with music. Her father is considered one of the icons of the field of Carnatic Instrumental Music. Now, she has established herself as an individual artist, and a reputed one at that.

Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, violinist and daughter of Shri Lalgudi Jayaraman, got her BA Literature degree from Stella Maris in the year 1986. She



then went on to obtain a Diploma in Music and completed her Masters degree in Literature through correspondence. What she remembers most fondly of Stella Maris is its beautiful campus, its ambience, and the way it brought out the personality of its students and made them flourish. Nostalgia sets in as she goes back to the time when she sat with her musically inclined friends under the trees and hummed her favourite tunes. She calls her time at Stella 'inspiring' days.

Why Literature? She says that she found a strong connecting link between Literature and Music. 'Both have something to do with feelings, emotions, and passions.' Even in her music, she strives to capture the mood and essence of her composition. Her love of Literature made her complete her Masters degree in spite of the fact that she was at that time fully absorbed in her career as a musician. Her frequent tours and concerts made it impossible for her to concentrate on academics in her final year. At present, with her busy schedule of violin concerts, and her responsibility as a mother of a two-year old child, she is unable to devote much time to reading and literature.

Vijayalakshmi's career on stage began during her teen years. Of course, her ability to identify musical syllables and ragas revealed itself when she was just about two years old. Her modesty attributes this entirely to the exposure she received at her father's house, where she was forever surrounded by music. As she grew, so grew her love for the violin and other instruments. At the age of thirteen, she went on stage with her first solo performance. When asked about how she felt at that point, she says, 'Naturally, I was nervous. My father was a very demanding man and I wanted to give my best. It was challenging.' Since then, she has given many concerts both as part of a duo or trio, and as a solo artist; both as a violinist and as a vocalist.

Music critics call her a 'leading exponent of the Lalgudi style'. Now, this style is characterized by innovative new elements introduced into the framework of tradition. Her father has composed many *thillanas*, which are the traditional pieces used for dance. New ragas, new expressions through the violin, experimentation with curves and the bow-cut – all these are the results of the Lalgudi innovation. 'Precision and perfection', she says, are the key words when composing and rendering her music. Vijayalakshmi has also done a little experimentation of her own – when she was in college, she led a musical ensemble of the Violin, the Flute and the Veena, with Mala Chandrashekar and another student.

Since the time she began her career, her horizons have widened and she has performed in countries like Russia, U.S.A., U.K., Canada, Malaysia and many other places. What she finds surprising is that the response she gets from these countries equals, and sometimes

is more than the response in India. 'Foreigners are particularly fond of Instrumental music,' she says. Once, when she gave a performance in Russia, it amazed her to see that the audience was made up entirely of Russians. She was touched, when, at the end of each piece, the audience gave her a standing ovation! She says this interest in Carnatic Instrumental music, especially the violin, comes basically from curiosity - they want to compare sitting postures, tuning, glides, oscillation and so on, with their own way of handling instruments.

Apart from her concerts, Vijayalakshmi also teaches foreign students. In the U.S.A., she gives lectures at the Ethno-Music College, where she not only gets to interact with her students, but also with western musicians. 'We sometimes get together for a little fusion music,' she says. It is a useful exchange of cultural ideas. She applauds the youngsters there for their interest in Classical Music. 'In India, we are now witnessing an invasion of film music. The young people should not see classical music as orthodox, old-fashioned, and always connected only with God and religion. It's like any other kind of music, just a little more disciplined. It has a lot of purity, serenity and melody.'

Vijayalakshmi is now a well-known name among violinists that India has seen over the past few decades. According to her, it has not been an easy journey, because the expectations have been high. Her father's reputation and his image as an artist have put a lot of pressure on her through the years. This is why she says, 'I have always valued an appreciation from my father more than the awards I have received. The awards do encourage me, but my father's approval is on a different plane altogether.'

Her identity as a violinist now stands independent of her father's and her brother's. The nervous young girl who took the stage at the age of thirteen for her debut performance has blossomed into a mature artist, whose style is complementary to her father's and is yet distinct, in that it is her own.

*...to be continued.*

#### **Credits:**

**Anupama S. (II BA English)** on Mala Chandrasekhar

**Meera V. (II BA English)** on Sr. Esther Rani, Anuradha Ananth & Uma Muralikrishna

**Nitya Vasudevan (II BA English)** on Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi



## JINGOISM- A CRISIS OF CIVILIZATION

There has been a great deal of debate and many a proclamation on 'Nationalism' and 'Patriotism'. More often than not, Nationalism becomes a tool of political mobilization. It is the easiest thing to resort to, as well as the most dangerous thing to let loose. At this point then, nationalism degenerates to Jingoism. Jingoism is defined as an extreme form of patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive antipathy towards foreign nations and powers.

Jingoism has thus been employed by nations from time immemorial as is evident in all recorded history, the most classic example being, Nazism as unleashed by Hitler. He whipped up Nationalist sentiment to the point of frenzied jingoism, directed against the Jews. Jingoism became the raw material for Hitler's designs and ambitions. He could sustain political power and consolidate his mandate purely on the slogan of German Nationalism. People are often carried away by such slogans and the rhetoric of hatred. In fact it is in times of economic crisis and impoverishment that it is easy to raise the bogey of aliens and channelise this discontent into hatred for aliens, or a particular clan or creed, thus gaining political capital of the issue. Hitler perfected this as an art and deployed it with ruthlessness...the rest is History.

Back home, we witness this jingoism in action in the current epoch. The Bombay riots, the Coimbatore riots, Babri Masjid...just refuse to fade out from human memory. Volcanic eruptions of emotions triggered by 'nationalistic' rhetoric and counter rhetoric has left behind a trail of death and destruction. The embers of this inflammation are regularly fanned and kept glowing, to be invoked for political handle as and when expedient.

The worst casualty of Jingoism is surely, human bonding and the spirit of accommodation between people and communities. Firewalls get erected and societies are torn asunder. Children too get drawn into this whirlpool of hatred. Art and Literature, evolved as a synergy of communities suffer a setback as artists are attacked and artworks vandalized.

Sports...that great median of friendship gets vitiated. We see crude Nationalism being injected into cricket matches between India and Pakistan. The elementary appreciation of the performance of the other team or player is taboo...antinational even. Patriotism will not permit an Indian fan to applaud the spin of Saqlain Mushtaq, nor can a Pakistani cheer the dexterity of Tendulkar. Results generate bitterness and rage, sportsmanship is forgotten, and players become gladiators. It is a crisis of civilization.

The youth alone can take up this task and imbibe a spirit of Nationalism, devoid of sectarianism and hatred. Such a day will indeed be a great moment for humanity, indeed for civilization itself!

**V. Anupama**  
*II BA Sociology*



## CLONING ETHICS

Biologically speaking, a clone is said to be the descendant, derived “asexually” from a single individual, as by cuttings in plants, by bulb divisions (like in tulips & daffodils), by fission or by parthenogenetic reproduction. Having the same genetic information, they share the same physical characteristics. In simple words cloning is considered the production of a genetically identical duplicate of an organism. Cloning has been specifically recommended for the endangered species in order to multiply their numbers. On the contrary, let’s assume an instance, when a particular species reaches the point of containing the same genetic material, it certainly calls in for “inbreeding” and thereby yet another danger to the endangered species!

For over 40 years, scientists were baffled at the very thought of cloning. Here I’d like to include an example of cloned lambs, which were finally produced after a trial of 277 times and with umpteen abnormalities! On cloning mice, it was found that it appeared outwardly normal, but on a closer inspection, it seemed to have problems relating to its overall growth. If an organism is genetically afflicted, it means that the diseases will wipe out the entire population of the cloned organism. More experiments have to be conducted in order to make cloning perfect, and this simply means that a lot of losses in terms of organisms will occur in the long run, and those who benefit from it will only be the minority sector. A legal scholar once said, “human cloning would alter the very meaning of humanity”. Cloning amongst human beings only implies drastic results.

Scientists consider cloning to be a challenge placed in front of them, which adds a dab of excitement to their career; in fact, prohibiting cloning simply means violating the fundamental right into scientific enquiry. Cloning seems an ersatz process where man takes the laws of nature into his own hands and at the cost of another organism. Our planet constitutes a couple of billion people, surely that’s enough reason to eradicate the



very notion of cloning humans. Can we afford to be actually oblivious to the issues of population explosion?

At this point of time cloning a human is due to personal and selfish interests. In fact, this results in depriving a cloned human of his/her individual uniqueness. Hypothetically speaking one could say that the cloned human could be even psychologically harmed. It also means that now humans are reproductively obsolete! Cloning is just not a scientific advancement but a method, which might bring about a horrendous change in our environment. Quoting Winston Churchill, it is the "Sunlight of Technology But Sunset of Mankind".

Very soon it may be possible for a high schooler to be able to make a clone, even though the techniques are as yet crude. When that happens, science will be beyond the hands of the scientists, and beyond all legal bounds. Can we be sure that the practitioners of human cloning will practice it with caution? Do we need to experiment with something that threatens to go beyond our control? Can we not find contentment in the laws of nature and the beauty of Creation? Perhaps, its time to sit back, contemplate in depth on the raging issues of science, and seek answers to their genuine worthiness for mankind. Science, without ethics can after all destroy mankind as we know it!

J. K. Niveditha  
*II BA History*



## AN END BEFORE A BEGINNING

I stared at the poster for some time. It said, 'Ma, don't kill me!. Just those four words brought tears to my eyes. The picture that the poster carried was that of baby in the womb, sucking its thumb. Alongside this poster were many others, all of which were put up in a row near the students' union room in our college. The week had been dedicated to a fight against abortion.

The world calls abortion a 'debatable issue'? I always thought a debate concerned something that could be seen from both the negative and the positive points of view. Take cloning, for instance. I know that this is a cliched example, but it provides clarity. Cloning can lead to the revival of some of the world's greatest people, if done the right way. Then again, it is unethical as it goes

against nature's plan for man. But I would like to see some strong defending points for abortion! People say that there are a lot of 'factors' to be considered before classifying it as right or wrong. Well, if these people could only see what was actually happening in the name of a 'medical procedure', they would have no doubt in their minds. I am no expert on the matter, but the college invited a doctor to give us a talk on abortion and its methods, and what she said moved us all, immensely.

How could they call it debatable, when there seems only one side to the argument? According to some accounts, baby foetuses are actually sold to manufacturers of certain cosmetics because they contain collagen and do not cause allergies, the way animal collagen does. People who can look at this as a 'positive transaction' may perhaps be able to debate the acceptability of abortion. People who can, without any discomfort, digest the sight of two dogs fighting over an abandoned baby foetus, can look at it as debatable. People who consider the fact that a baby dies every 20 seconds due to abortion a mere statistic are perhaps the people, who may find it a debatable issue. All these people condemn millions of children to death each minute, just by thinking so.

Maybe I am being melodramatic and am overreacting to some information thrown at me during one of the many seminars the college holds. You may even agree with me yet think that it is a choice made by the parents of the child. To be frank, I would have been in complete favour of your opinion two minutes before my seminar started. I thought '... it's okay – it's better that the baby dies before it is born. At least they're not having it put to death after it comes out of the womb. It's better than infanticide.' I then learnt that death makes no difference whether the child is within the womb or without – no difference.

The most important thing we were told about the baby's growth pattern is that it starts to live and breathe after spending less than 30 days in the womb! It becomes an individual human being, then itself! It has the right to live! When you abort it at the 3 month-stage, it is not like you are removing tonsils or something; you are aborting something which has life and has grown legs and arms and has a little heart beating like your own! The baby can hear and see; some babies respond to songs their mothers used to sing to them when they were in the womb. Shockingly, the baby can also feel pain! In the method of abortion where a scissors is inserted into the baby's skull and the brain is sucked

out so that the head collapses and the baby is removed, the baby can feel everything that is happening to it. I know it sounds like a gory sci-fi thriller, but it is happening. I am sure that if the mothers knew about the methods being carried out, they would think twice before going ahead. When 200 students who have never experienced the miracle of motherhood were actually brought to tears, imagine what the mothers would feel, if they saw what we saw that day, if they knew what abortion really meant.

The doctor called the baby 'our hero'. She said, 'our hero will probably be imagining his mummy's face right now ...', and, 'our hero is sucking his thumb' and so on. When we saw 'our hero' reduced to a lifeless state after abortion, it was too much to bear. All his dreams and thoughts destroyed, and why? – either because the mother did not know how the baby was going to suffer or because some doctor had actually recommended the 'procedure'.

Well, it does'nt feel right.

Right now, I don't see the difference between a terrorist killing his cornered hostage and a baby being aborted in the womb, where it has no place to run for protection, because it is already in the 'safest' place in the world.

**Nitya Vasudevan**  
*II BA English*



## **SAY NO TO DRUGS!**

**“Drugs make the sick healthy and the healthy sick” - Professor Camps**

Drug Abuse is elephantine in nature – vast and varied; so too its treatment, correspondingly occurring in a multitude of forms all over the world. At the outset, a clear distinction has to be made in the definitions of Drug Use, Drug Abuse, Drug Habituation, Drug Addiction and Drug Dependence.

Earlier, the word “drug” was defined by the Webster’s dictionary, in general, as “a substance used by itself or in a mixture in the treatment and diagnosis of a disease. This definition excludes the consideration of the recreational category of drugs. Even today, in

common usage, a drug store means a chemist's shop or pharmacy or a medical shop. It is clear that medicinal use is prescribed, whereas when the word drug is used in relation to a habit, it is forbidden in society. Later, Oxford dictionary defined "drug" as a "medicinal substance", "narcotic", "hallucinogen", or "stimulant" causing addiction. Recently, Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (1991) does mention drug as something that causes addiction or habituation.

In our lives, drugs seem to have a special place. It has become a part of our daily lives. We use drugs to ease our pain, to increase our pleasure, to keep us awake and to help us sleep. We start with our coffee in the morning (caffeine), cigarette at work or on the way to work (nicotine), a casual drink in the evening (alcohol). We are only deceiving ourselves that there is not much harm done as we take tea, coffee, cocoa, (contains theobromine) everyday. Drug use is not confined only to a few ragged deviants. Drugs are big business – quite a network.

Drug use takes a number of different forms. There are those who take a given drug just a few times or only once, and for whatever reason will not take it again (prescribed as medication). Others take drugs (not for its intended medical purpose) occasionally, but can and do stop voluntarily or even under some compulsion. There may be a small number of people who use drugs (abuse – not for its intended medical purpose) regularly, even frequently, whose lives forever get affected. But there remains a large number of people whose involvement with drugs develops into a full fledged addiction – a craving so intense that life becomes reduced to a sadly repetitive cycle of searching for more to avoid withdrawal symptoms; this is "getting hooked" or getting addicted.

In 1964, a WHO expert committee recommended that the term 'drug dependence' replace the previous terms "addiction" and "habituation". Drug dependence is a chronic disorder. It was defined as a state ensuing from repeated administration of a drug on a periodic or continuous basis, with characteristics that vary according to the agent involved and the particular type of drug dependence.

Its is interesting to note that although the WHO had replaced the term "drug dependence" for "drug addiction" as early as 1964, the latter term is still used today, virtually to mean anything that people do with regularity, under some kind of compulsion. Individuals are said to be addicted to television, chocolates, soft drinks, computers, sexual pleasures, sports and a seemingly endless list of other consumer products and activities. The analogy is drawn from alcoholism and people are branded 'workaholics', 'chocoholics', etc.

Habituation on the other hand with reference to tobacco smoking or a peg of whisky a day is bad enough, but it is even worse when one thinks of it as an addiction. Addiction is a “troublesome concept” (Akers 1991) not only in the public arena but also in research and theoretical literature in drug studies. Even when one would expect conceptual precision, so many different definitions have become attached to it that ‘addiction’ is a “muddy term, which has passed into that group of terms that elude precise definition”.

Of late, ‘substance abuse’ has replaced ‘drug abuse’. It includes all disorders caused by various substances like alcohol, tobacco, opioids, cannabinoids, sedatives or hypnotics, cocaine, other stimulants like caffeine, hallucinogens, including volatile solutions and other unidentified substances.

Reports in the *Indian Express* (1994) by Sanjiv Sinha and Ajay Suri highlight the latest problems of drug abuse in Indian states. Sinha also points out that synthetics (volatile solvents) that were not covered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act are very popular, viz. varnish, paint and glue. Of late, reports have emerged about sniffing of petrol or Xerox liquid as a habit in some metropolitan cities and even eating powdered lizard skins in Mumbai.

Drug abuse is so widespread that it affects many people. The abuser is termed a “patient” and the general public is probing into ways to tackle the drug menace. The solution to the drug problem from the point of view of treatment lies in people understanding the problem in general and the patient, in particular.

A substance abuser, in other words, a drug dependant person or an addict is not only a threat to himself but also to society. His values get distorted and he resorts to lying and stealing from friends and family. There is a total change in his life-style and he very often takes advantage of those who attempt to help him. Sometimes he gets involved in criminal acts such as petty thefts, robbery, assault and murder, to support his habit. Drug addicts reflect many aspects of socially unacceptable behaviour – violence, aggression, dishonesty, irresponsibility, selfishness, gambling – all these reflect chemical dependence as well.

He not only falls a victim to drug abuse but also threatens the well being of those who become victims of drug crimes, communicable diseases such as AIDS, Hepatitis B and other drug related problems. As with commercial sex workers, once individuals are identified as addicts it is assumed that all aspects of their character are fixed in a predetermined pattern. Duster (1970) calls these the “moral categories”. A moral category permeates the whole character of an individual and becomes his or her total identity.

Addicts are not nameless and faceless people on earth. They are individuals with a voice. Although they existed earlier, today their numbers have risen. Many are among us, as our brothers, sisters, friends who are “intravenous drug users” or “chasers” and many as fathers and mothers who are alcoholics. We see nicotine addicts everywhere – plain *beedi* or cigarette smokers. The one and only thing common to them is that they are unable to give up their habit.

Saying No! to drugs is not as simple as it sounds.

Mother Teresa said, “Addicts should not be ostracized from society. Why they smoke is not known. So they should not be condemned. They should be made to feel that they are wanted. They should feel they are cared for.”

*(Acknowledgements are due to many authors of books, periodicals and research articles and of course, the addicts themselves who allowed the researcher to gain an insight into their lives.)*

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## **PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

You are late to college and see a stranger lying hurt on the ground . Would you stop to help that person, stand in the crowd and watch, or go your way? From time to time we come across similar situations, where we have to decide whether to help the person or just ignore the person in need. It's a choice that we make, and if we do choose to help the person in need , then we are out of the league of ordinary people.

The act of helping others is called ‘PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR’ or ‘ALTRUISM’. According to Wispe(1972) “it produces or maintains the physical and psychological well being and integrity of other persons”. It can range from a soldier throwing himself on a grenade to save his buddies or something less dangerous like helping a blind person cross the road.

In order to study prosocial behaviour, a multiple choice questionnaire was employed. The basic aim of this survey was to identify the conditions under which altruistic behaviour occurs. Internal mechanisms such as conscience, external stimulus conditions which influence

the individual, the effect of the bystanders, the mood of the person and perceived costs of helping and finally some characteristics of the helper, and the one who is helped including his/her personality, circumstances and sex - all these factors identify the conditions under which altruistic behaviour occurs.

An experiment was also conducted to support the study i.e., to find out how inclined people are towards helping others. The experiment was to determine how many return a lost purse to its owner. A purse was thrown on the ground near the canteen area and the scene was observed from a distance. Thirteen students passed it before one took the initiative of finding its owner. Out of the thirteen who passed by, eleven saw but ignored it, only two didn't seem to notice it. The girls who passed that way were given a questionnaire to answer. After analysing the respondents' answers to the questions, it is understood that everyone likes to help others; but all this is in theory, in practical circumstances they just bailed out.

Finally here are some observations made from the survey on prosocial behaviour:

- ❖ Women are more likely to receive help than men are, since women are perceived to be more dependent.
- ❖ Similarity between the helper and the one in need of help, seems to increase helping because it increases a person's ability to empathise with the persons in need of help.
- ❖ The helper's background and present situations directly influence his or her helping tendency.
- ❖ Helping tendency of a person is less when the person in need is unknown.
- ❖ The likelihood of a stranger receiving help depends on the number of bystanders. As the number increases fewer individuals respond in a helpful manner.
- ❖ Most individuals help expecting nothing in return except perhaps a 'thank you'.

A famous French writer called La Bruyere once said "The best way to get help in the world is to make people believe that it's to their advantage to help you." Everyone needs help once in a while and even if we are able to help only in the smallest measure, it's good enough, not to forget the warm feeling we get inside and a deep sense of accomplishment

**Shruti Vijaykumar**  
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## WINDOWS SHOPPING

The twentieth century marked among other things, the liberation of women. Women began to take up jobs which had till then just been 'male' territory. But prior to this, women did have one territory that was completely their own – shopping!

You know how the old joke goes: A man's credit card was stolen. When his friend told him to report it, he said, "Why should I? The thief spends less money than my wife does". Shopping has thus always seemed like a nightmare to men, who haven't been able to fathom how women could walk for miles on in the hot sun, from shop to shop, haggling over prices – in heels no less!

We women, for a number of reasons, find this fun! I, for one, have horrible memories of walking in Pondy Bazaar with my mother buying blouse pieces for sarees (groan!). But men have, to a large extent, steered clear of the shopping madness and left it completely to women – until now. Because now, we have the Internet!

The Internet is God's gift to the anti-shopping race. Its significance is not completely realised in India. However in countries like the United States, the World Wide Web is a boon. Right from Summer Garage Sales to travel to entertainment, the Internet shopping sites have a lot to offer. Sites like AMAZON.COM, which have a huge library of books, display their lists of best-sellers and the price they are available at, in US dollars. CDs and cassettes of music hits, both old and new, can be ordered on the net. "Best Buy", America's leading retail outlet for electronic items, has reached out to the net savvy, offering rates they cannot refuse, given the convenience of doorstep delivery. All that the consumer has to do is enter the product he is looking for as well as his price range; at once a list of items with their detailed descriptions are displayed. He can even give further specifications as to what exactly he requires and voila – he finds the product that he wants and the price at which he wants it. All this is barely half an hour's work.

The travel industry has also made leaps and bounds with the Internet. A traveler has to only, give a few details such as his name, age, destination and the dates on which he wishes to travel, and he is given a list of flights that take him to his destination, the routes they take, transit houses as well as the listed fares of all the flights. Priceline.com is a site with an interesting concept. It is for those consumers who have a low budget, such as students. The consumer states what he wants and the maximum amount he is willing to spend. The site comes up with a list of his options. The consumer has to just click on the option suitable to him.



The Internet has managed to reach out to almost every kind of consumer, including those lazy shoppers. The convenience of shopping on the Internet is definitely a plus point in its favour. However, some shoppers may argue that there is nothing like the traditional way of shopping on the streets. I guess that it has its own charm too. And there is no greater “time pass” as we like to put it, than window-shopping. Still, it’s a new era, a new world where quite a few consumers have slowly moved on to “Windows” shopping – SHOPPING ON THE INTERNET.

**Shanthi.V.**

*II B.Com.*



## **GUJARAT IN SHAMBLES**

### **THE STELLA TEAM’S EXPERIENCE**

The morning of January 26, 2001, Valli Bhen from the village of Dhathrana in the district of Bhanaskantha was relaxing outside her house with her two grandchildren. She felt the ground beneath her feet tremble and superstitiously believed it to be the chariot of *Joganniyamma* whose shadow is said to cripple the children on whom it falls. She warned her grandchildren to run into the house. When she realised that the walls were crumbling, it was too late to prevent the youngsters from being injured. Luckily enough, both the children suffered only minor injuries. But unfortunately the memory of the morning when the earth trembled is one that will haunt all those who experienced it, to their graves. One month later, Valli Bhen’s grandchildren still run and hide when they hear the rumble of bricks at a distance.

The earthquake that shook the state of Gujarat, killing thousands, injuring many more, and leaving innumerable people destitute and homeless, was one of the greatest ever recorded. It crippled, physically, mentally and financially every single person in Gujarat, and those outside too.



Banaskantha district – Life amidst the crumbling rumbles

This was the time when the students and the staff of Stella Maris College rose to the occasion and were eager to lend a helping hand in any sphere of relief. A large number of students volunteered to do selfless service at the hour of distress, to the people who needed it the most. Three members of the faculty, Sr.Rosy of the Mathematics Department, Ms.Priya of the Social Work Department, and Ms.V.S.Anita of the Psychology Department, led a team of 13 students to Gujarat.

In order to carry out our goal, we contacted "SEWA" (Self-Employed Women's Association). This organization has been involved in relief work at the grass-root level. Therefore, we approached this group to direct us in our work. "SEWA" is an organization, which has helped several villages, which would have undoubtedly suffered more after the earthquake, waiting for governmental aid. "SEWA" was formed in 1972 as a trade union to mobilize women in the unorganized section of the Indian Economy. Twenty-five years later "SEWA" is both an organization and a movement, working towards the full employment, self-reliance and empowerment of women.

When contacted, Mrs. Reema Nanavathy, the chief of "SEWA" informed us that they required a small group of students, to document certain details concerning the people of Gujarat after the earthquake. It was "SEWA" that took care of our needs such as 'tents' for our stay and also planned our course of action. Hoping to be of some help to the people in crisis, our team left for Gujarat.



The train journey to Gujarat was tiresome and hot, but the anticipation and enthusiasm was contagious and we found ourselves eager to get to work. Upon our arrival at Ahmedabad we were given an orientation by the staff of "SEWA" about the work being done by them, and about the relief work carried out by them at different districts in Gujarat. We were given details about the effects of the earthquake and the devastation it has caused. Our main job there was to collect information which would help "SEWA" in the rehabilitation and the re-development of a few villages in several districts in Gujarat. The data collected by us had to be documented in the form of reports. These reports would help "SEWA" in holding discussions with the Government for rehabilitation programmes.

The fifteen students were divided into three groups, with one faculty member for each group. These groups were sent to three different districts ie. Bhuj/Kutch, Bhanaskantha and Surendranagar respectively. Before we left for the districts, we were given an orientation about the district, nature of the people and the problems they faced before the earthquake. This orientation gave us an idea about the people we were going to meet. We were introduced to the leaders of the women workers of the respective districts. They guided us and gave us our daily schedule. The objective of the study was threefold –

- 1) To study the livelihood of the people.
- 2) To assess the mental status of the people after the earthquake.
- 3) To find out the kind of rehabilitation they need.

Each group visited several villages. We were transported from one village to another in jeeps, trucks and lorries, which were distributing relief material and at times, even bullock carts. Our day started at around 8.00 a.m. The interview method was adopted and we held discussions with men and women separately. An interpreter accompanied us since the inhabitants spoke only Gujarati. Interviews conducted were very useful in giving us an in-depth picture of the mental status of people after the earthquake. Our day ended at 1.00 a.m. after preparing the reports.

All these groups set out expecting to see devastation and poverty; but nothing prepared us for the destruction that we encountered. In Bhuj, the entire market place was reduced to mounds of debris. Not one shop was left standing; six storey apartment buildings had crumbled as if they had been made of paper. A majority of villages we visited had upto 100% destruction.

The poor villagers had lost even the minimum that they had owned. While assessing their livelihood, we found that most of the villagers were involved in dry farming, which is very productive. Salt harvesting was also their chief occupation. Women were gum collectors. Most of the women were involved in gum collection and Kutch embroidery work and acrylic work. This has become their chief occupation after the earthquake. Even before the earthquake the district of Bhanaskantha was experiencing severe drought. After the earthquake there are salt deposits everywhere. Agriculture is hence, not possible. People of these villages want to relocate themselves, though some are adamant and want to be in their own villages. Most of the men are sitting idle without any livelihood, whereas women continue to do their handicraft work.

Despite all these hardships, people are very warm and hospitable. One thing that surprised us was their attitude to life. They are very optimistic that the Government would definitely help them rehabilitate themselves. They are hopeful and very courageous, barring a few old people who are depressed and scared at the thought of another earthquake attacking them. Youngsters are very courageous and hopeful. They are willing to put in hard work. Their immediate need is shelter as they are housed in tarpaulin tents which are very hot during summer.

Many issues like these were documented and were given to the “SEWA” organization in the form of reports. Nothing was new to the workers of SEWA, but for us it was a new experience. We only hope it is useful in planning the rehabilitation of people as this is their main concern.

It was a daunting experience for each one of us. We learnt a lot, especially to appreciate many things that life offers us, which we usually take for granted and which go unnoticed. “SEWA” was happy with the work we did, and the whole team was satisfied that some kind of service was rendered to the people of Gujarat – not only by way of documentation of the issues of immediate concern but also by lending a patient ear to their problems.

We are happy to have been able to reach out to the victims of such a fateful calamity, to help them in the smallest way we could.

**Ms. Anita V.S.**  
*Department of Psychology*  
&

**Thushanthi and Shanthi V.**  
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## **BELIEVE BEGIN AND BLAZE ON- THE NCC EXPERIENCE**

The day dawned bright and beautiful and it was with a great amount of anticipation that I entered Stella Maris College to attend my first parade in the N.C.C. A long time has passed since then, two years to be precise. The changes wrought within myself have been absolutely phenomenal. N.C.C has a way of doing that to people. The transition which one goes through from the first year till the third year is sensational.

I wouldn't be remiss if I say that N.C.C is an enriching experience. It is a prolonged learning process in which we learn not only to coexist harmoniously but also to work together as a team. Team spirit is very important as far as N.C.C is concerned. The kind of exposure that the cadet gets, shapes her personality. It is a positive experience, which makes the cadet a better person. To the outside world, N.C.C is all about discipline and roughing out lives in camps. But for those of us who are in the organization it's all about getting to know people and understanding them. It involves interpersonal interaction between the cadets and the officers.

Camps play a vital role in experiencing and realizing life and surviving without luxuries and comforts. It goes a long way in teaching us to be independent and also makes us understand what people expect from us. Expectations are very high from a N.C.C cadet and living up to expectations is a daunting task. There are very good opportunities for talented cadets to express themselves. There are competitions at the all India level, which capture the essence of each and every cadet. We get to meet the top brass including the President and the Prime Minister and all top leaders who are responsible for running our country.

Self-confidence is yet another characteristic which is imperative in the N.C.C. For those who possess it, it is the perfect arena to express themselves and for those who are not very confident there are equal opportunities for developing confidence. It does involve a lot of hard work but hard work combined with a lot of fun. Apart from making ourselves proficient and developing our individual selves, we are also given the chance to help train our junior cadets. There is no greater feeling than training and teaching our juniors and watching them excel in all fields. We look forward to all the yearly activities, like Inaugural Camp, N.C.C Day when we perform in front of the whole student forum of Stella Maris College.

It is a great experience to belong to the N.C.C. In fact it is an organization which helps us make a difference, and makes an achiever out of each and everyone of us. It helps us to **'believe, begin and blaze on'**.

**Srividya Parthasarathy**

*II B.Com.*



## TELL ME YOUR DREAMS

**dream** *n.* a hallucinatory experience that occurs during sleep.

**Dream** *v.* (~t pr. -emt, or ~ed pr., -emd or emt).

*1. v.i.* have visions etc. (as in sleep; think of even in a dream, so much as contemplate possibility of... **(Dictionary definition)**)

According to the Freudian school, dreams are the result of subconscious thoughts and desires. The other explanation attributes dreams to random “noise” in the neurons, without special meaning. Dreams are made out of many small parts of memory and imagination that get combined to form dream imagery takes subconsciously.

REM sleep periods, and therefore dreams, last typically in the range of 5 to 45 minutes. Often, the subjective time spent in a dream is much longer. One possible explanation for this time-stretch effect is that dreams are combined from pieces that have their own different setting in time. Experiments suggest that dreamed actions run in “real time” – what you do in your dream takes exactly this period of time to dream. With external influences like the radio playing at the background in the morning, you have both the real time in which you hear something, and sometimes you feel the dream - action lasted considerably longer. Anyway, time is one of the perceptions that is heavily distorted in dreams.

To interpret your dreams, you need to determine what type of dream you are dealing with. There are two categories that they fit into, those that are generated from within your physical body and mind and those that come from your spirit. They have different purposes and it's necessary to recognize what these differences mean to you and how they interact in your waking and dreaming state.

The dreams that originate within the physical body are for your survival in the world of physical nature. They deal with your physical and psychological well being. These dreams are like your manager and janitor who try to keep your body and mind tidy for your general well being. Then, there are those dreams that have a mystical and special characteristic to them, which are for you spiritual development and progress. They produce instant knowledge and information that is beyond your ability to garner through intellectual or logical means.

When you are asleep, so is the physical component of your self. The five senses are all temporarily suspended from activity. Sleeping allows the sixth sense to take over for awhile without much interference. This is when both the physical body and your spiritual essence can perform maintenance simultaneously, to help unwrinkle parts of your life. It's ironic that this is the state of being to attain which psychics and mediums practise for years. However everyone enters it every time one falls asleep.

By far, Freud has made the largest contribution to the subject of dreams and their study from the psychoanalytical point of view. His volumes form the hallmark for psychologists to this day. Stressing the importance of dreams and their right interpretation, Freud in his book states that 'the dream', as we shall see, has no title to such practical importance, but for that very reason its theoretical value as a typical formation is all the greater, and the physician who cannot explain the origin of dream-images will strive in vain to understand the phobias and the obsessive and delusional ideas, or to influence them by therapeutic methods.

Prophetic divination from dreams is considered a divine act in most ancient cultures and has survived upto modern times in certain folk traditions. One explanation is based on the belief that dreams are messages sent to the soul by the Gods or the dead, most often as warnings. In the highly developed civilizations of ancient Greece, Egypt, and Babylonia, this class of diviners or seers responsible for dream interpretation, often had great political and social influence. The best-known instance as preserved in ancient literature is the Biblical account of Pharaoh's dream of seven fat and seven lean cows, explained by Joseph as foretelling years of plenty to be followed by years of famine.

In the two works of Aristotle in which there is a mention of dreams, as constituting a problem of psychology. We are told that the dream is not god-sent, that it is not of divine but of demonic origin. For nature is really demonic, not divine; that is to say, the dream is not a supernatural revelation, but is subject to the laws of the human spirit, which has, of course, a kinship with the divine. The dream is defined as the psychic activity of the sleeper, inasmuch as he is asleep. Aristotle was acquainted with some of the characteristics of the dream-life; for example, he knew that a dream converts the slight sensations perceived in sleep into intense sensations ("one imagines that one is walking through fire, and feels hot, if this or that part of the body becomes only quite slightly warm"), which led him to conclude that dreams might easily betray to the physician the first indications of an incipient physical change which escaped observation during the day.

Freud strongly believes that all dreams are primarily manifestations of wish fulfillment. It is most obvious and simple in infancy and childhood but becomes complex and latent as we progress into adulthood, bringing in its wake more guilt trips and repression. Painful dreams are general distortions of dreams – dreams wherein our sub-conscious wants to harm someone, which is countered by an act of masochism or an absurd sacrifice or maybe a totally uncharacteristic gesture towards the person who is thought ill of, in the dream.

Judging from the above analyses, dreams cannot be dismissed that easily as the unreal and insignificant aspects of men's minds; nor can they be seen as completely separate from the world of the wide-awake. The events and emotions of our everyday lives are intimately connected to what we dream of at night – sometimes scarily so.

**Shalini**  
*II BA English*



## **SOCIAL WAKE-UP CALL FOR INDIAN BUSINESS**

Cutting prices to counter competition, value engineering, discount sales, free offers, creative advertisements, flashy promotions, brand development...the list is endless. Companies are in a rush to capture new markets, woo target consumers and charm them away from conniving competitors.

In this mad rush of blatant commercialism, how many members of the corporate sector stop to think of the contribution they are making to the very society they feed on? Not many. However, in this age of heightened social awareness, corporate giants (or for that matter, corporate dwarfs) can no longer ignore the social variable in their business equation.

A lack of social responsibility has led to a wide range of problems like industrial pollution, child labour, exploitation of illiterate and uninformed labour force and so on. This plethora of vices is steadily on the increase – largely aided by the apathy and callousness of successive governments in India, whether they belong to Party A, B or C. Governments also look at these corporate houses as cash cows to be milked for their electoral dalliances.

The question remains – what can a corporate house do to repay society? The answer is simple “Community Investment” –



- a) Seeking alternatives for disposal of industrial effluents.
- b) Industrial scholarships.
- c) Adopting villages and taking care of their educational, medical and other social needs.
- d) Taking up environmental projects – maintaining parks, traffic islands etc.
- e) Setting up of specialized educational institutes – both related to their industry and otherwise.
- f) Introducing and carrying out a series of programmes for staff welfare.

I am not trying to paint all business organizations with the same black pen. There are some organizations that pay back to society in a variety of ways. However, companies who indulge in such socially responsible measures are still in a minority, with the vast majority engaging themselves in the “business” of amassing wealth at any cost.

Companies are duty bound to give back to society at least a fraction of what they have earned from it. Total failure on this front will be to their detriment in the long run, since they are an integral part of society and any deterioration of the latter will affect the former.

**Deepa Palanivel**

*II B.Com*



## SECOND BEST

"All my life I've been second best", she said, and thought back carefully to where she could begin her story. "All my life," she repeated, "I have *always* been second best". And she paused, once more, for a sip of lemonade. At least that's what she thought it was. Wondering whether she tasted lemon or orange she lost her drift, until she was reminded, "You were saying...?" "Ah yes! All my life, I've been second best."

"I understood that much, my dear. But do you have anything further to say? If not..." "I was born second. I had, or perhaps still have, an elder brother. He went to war." She lapsed into a silence... a young blonde boy dressed in uniform saluted her as she stood by her parents' side, her mother weeping, her father choked with emotion.

"He was a good boy."

"Yes, but you were second best...?"

Woken out of her trance, she remembered bitterly that spiteful boy, and how he took every opportunity to bully her. "It was bad enough that I was born second, but it was worse because they treated him better. He always got new toys, clothes...anything he ever wanted."

"So...?"

"And then in school. In class. I got 95% in my math paper. But some big shot who called himself the Singapore King got 96%. I was only second best in class..." "What about your brother... he always got what..." "I'm talking about the Singapore King." "Oh."

"And then in college, this guy..."

"The Singapore King?"

"No!"

"Your brother?"

"NO! This guy, he was in love with this other female. She wouldn't go out with him, so he asked me out..."

I was second best to him too.

It was a pity though, I might've gone out with him if he had asked me first... he was a handsome boy... dark hair, dark eyes..."

Here our orator stopped decidedly and looked around for her lemonade, and finding it missing, she settled for water.

“And at work, I must’ve worked harder than anyone else... definitely harder than that weasel. But he got that promotion first...”

“I was the one who deserved it.”

“Hmm.”

“I met the guy I decided to marry.”

“The Singapore King or the weasel?”

“Huh? I was saying something, if only you would care to listen carefully!”

“Sorry.”

“Well, I was saying, I met the guy, I decided I want to marry. He was a widower, and still in love with his dead wife. I was second again.”

“So you married him? I shouldn’t have if I were you!”

“Oh for heavens sake! You know you shouldn’t have had it any other way!”

“I suppose so... do continue though. The story is getting familiar.”

“My mother-in-law preferred her other daughter-in-law to me.”

“She did? I never knew that!”

“Our own children...(sob)... prefer their father to me.”

“Oh nonsense! That can’t possibly be true!”

“Really? Well, take a good look at this – it’s a card they sent us on our anniversary.”

It read –

Dear Mom and Dad,

We love you and love you better – day-by-day,

That’s all we have to say.

For parents like you both, to God, we pray gratefully,

And line one was meant respectfully.

Love,

Q and W.

“Oh, they must’ve meant ‘respectfully!’”

“At 45 and 42, they don’t make spelling mistakes like that.”

“Oh! Carry on then. How much longer is this going to take?”

“There isn’t much else. Except that the nurse here likes you better than me. She asked me why I didn’t sleep all day the way you do!”

“Oh my God! I apologize profusely!”

“Well, I forgive you. At 82, it is the least I can do. Only...”

“Only what?”

“Only, well, It’s about time I was FIRST at something. I’m tired of always being second...best...”

<Beep> <Beep> <Beep>

The doctor and nurse rushed in and after a few minutes turned to the man in the bed next to hers. Said the doctor apologetically, “We’re sorry. We couldn’t save your wife.”

Said the chuckling old man, “She never won any of the battles. But she got what she wanted... she won the war!” And he died, laughing.

**Deepti Ramadoss**

*I BA English*



## EXCLUSIVITY

As Mrs. Dahiwala was following her everyday routine of checking the mail she suddenly exclaimed “Ah! What a lovely idea. A charity picnic in Kailash gardens.”

“What, in the monsoon?” her husband retorted. “Yes, it’s a rather different idea, isn’t it? And it’s my one chance to upstage that snooty Mrs Chatterji. I’ll make sure no one has as splendid an umbrella as mine!”

By the next afternoon, Mrs. Dahiwala had seen the inside of every umbrella store in town, and was dejected by the monotonously stereotyped umbrellas. With only 24 hours left she entered ‘Arterian Emporium’, as renowned for its exorbitant prices as for its exclusivity, and then she saw it! There it lay – all fluorescent yellow in its splendiddness, with silver, navy blue and orange polka dots, screaming, “buy me! buy me!”

Sternly, she quizzed the shopkeeper on its antecedence and the reassurance that there was none other like it in town. Triumphantly, she bore her trophy home.

The hours to the picnic seemed like an eternity to her. Carefully, she made her way though the delicate task of picking out her sari and the lipstick and nail polish that would go with it. Mascara, rouge and eye shadow all followed in succession.

At the picnic, she eagerly awaited the moment when the rain will fall. She purposefully stationed herself in Mrs. Chatterji's proximity. The clouds darkened. Everybody held their breath and looked up. At that moment, a familiar cry was heard. "Umbrellas! Exclusive umbrellas! New pattern, never before seen colours!"

Turning around, Mrs Dahiwala felt the world crashing down before her. In the vendor's hand were two dozen umbrellas. They were all fluorescent yellow with silver, navy blue and orange polka dots!

**Deepika** (*II BSc Zoology*)  
&  
**Sushma** (*I BSc Zoology*)



## ONE MOMENT IN TIME...

The tumultuous, frothy, white waves seemed to beckon to her from far, far below. She stood poised at the edge of the cliff, staring down at the mesmerizing sea...the waves crashing against the rocks, against the foot of the cliff. Drops of salty water sprayed across her pale features.

It had to be done. She couldn't give in to second thoughts and stupid doubts. Not now. She had weighed all her options carefully before taking this decision. It was too late to back off anyway. She steeled herself, trying to remember all those months of frustration, anger, despair...

Suddenly, her sister's face loomed in front of her. It had been this very place where she had taken her final, deathly plunge. Yes, she remembered her family doctor saying that, that stupid urge ran in their genes. But that had been so long ago.

This was now. And now, things were different; had always been since that day her sister...No! She wouldn't think of it! Never! She wouldn't think of the screams, the bruised battered body, the blood... No! No! She shuddered and closed her eyes.

Her sister – smart, beautiful, intelligent, confident – everything that she herself wasn't, would never be. Her sister had been the achiever, the golden-girl of the family, the apple of every eye...until the light seemed to have left her eyes forever. When was it? Not that long ago, after all. Hardly a year back. Things had changed since then. Yes, she too had changed. She was no longer the painfully shy, timid, scared little introvert that she had always been. Whether the metamorphosis was for the better or for worse, she did not know. Would probably never know.

She took a deep breath. Courage, courage. That was what she needed. That was what she needed. It had to be done now. She knew she couldn't continue to live like before anymore. Life had become monotonous, too stifling and constricting. This was the only way out. She hastily took a step forward and jumped off the cliff before her courage failed her! Suddenly she was hurtling down like a stone – faster! Faster! Faster! She could feel the wind on her face, the water spraying on her skin. The sea loomed nearer and nearer! She closed her eyes; and in that one instant, all her fears, all her worries seemed to vanish. All she could feel was a sense of peace and intense exhilaration. She felt as if she were suspended in space. Life seemed to have come to a stand still.

She felt herself being pulled – against all gravity, against her free will – being pulled up and up by the rope around her waist. Her eyes flew open and she shut them again with a sigh. It was over. The ordeal.

As she landed back on the cliff, cameras zoomed, reporters screamed and applause broke out from all around. But she saw no one. Tears streaming down her face, she turned towards her sister in the wheel chair. The two girls' eyes met and as her sister hugged her, she whispered, "I did it Preeti, I did it!"

Above the din could be heard the voice of an over-enthusiastic reporter screaming into his microphone, "And that is the brave, confident, young girl who has just broken the world record..."

**Swati Sapna**  
*II BA English*





## RED

Today is, supposedly, the most memorable day in my young uneventful life. I woke up in the morning, early, mind you, and had a nice long bath, (I love the bathroom).

Though it was quite early in the morning, the whole house was a bustle – aunts and cousins dressing up in every room; my mother bustling around, taking out the bridal sari, the jewelry. They crowded around me. I was the princess and they, my maids. Before I could say a word I was stripped and clothed again. The jewels and gold put on. This chain was my mother's; this earring my grandmother's gift; this necklace custom made for me. They put on the scarlet sari, the necklaces, the earrings, the diamonds...

My toilette was complete. But wait, something is missing. Where were the red glass bangles - the red of the silk sari? The sign of a bride; a *suhagan*? On the bureau they sat, poised on the edge, ready for suicide. Amma reached out and redeemed them before they plunged down onto the mosaic depths. Bright red, the colour of my blood, his blood; the colour of *sindoor* that would soon adorn my forehead. They were translucent, smooth and dangerous. "Do not cut your wrists", they cautioned.

The throng parted to reveal a stranger – clad in blood with bangles of the same colour on her hands. Was it really I or has someone else usurped my place on this momentous day? The day of new beginnings; new life. Like all births, this too will begin with tears, pain, parting and the ever-present red.

Red, the ever-important lovely red. While other brides walked up the aisle in virginal white, we wore red – the colour of joy, love and festivity. Will my marriage be smooth and red like the bangles or sharp and cutting like the glass pieces in the waste bin? I wonder.



Everything is over. The ceremonies, the concluding rites, the parting feast, everything. There is only the emptiness left within me. The emptiness caused by hours of pain; the result of hours of tears. "What is the use of crying?", they said, "What has happened cannot be rectified. Life has to go on; you have to live for the child's sake." How easy for them to say, they who still have the *sindoor* on their foreheads; they who still wear red, the colour of joy.

Everyone has left. I'm alone – just my child and me back in my childhood home. "A change of place will do her good", I heard my father whisper to his father sitting by the window. Nothing has changed in the room - the books, the posters of Tom Cruise, the

bureau, the mirror are all still there, intact, like on the day I went down the stairs, dressed in red.

But the red-stranger is not there. A ghost has replaced her – dressed in white with untidy hair and crumpled clothes. A stranger with shadows under her eyes that resemble the red-stranger's *kohl* lined ones. A ghost with lines of sorrow on her face and eyes, swollen and red. The red, not of joy, but of tears and pain.

The bangles were there in the drawer, winking and jingling. The treacherous red bangles that promised me everlasting love and joy. The hateful red; the colour of death, blood and tear-stained eyes. Red bangles that promised to make and keep me a *suhagan*; red the colour of fire and the funeral pyre; the colour of rage.

Shattered into a thousand glass pieces they lay on the floor; a thousand twinkling stars, crumbling and crackling under my sandal – a million red barbs in my heart.

Roopa Philip  
*III BA English*



## HOME SWEET HOME

I stood at the door of my cell and looked out. The world outside seemed like paradise to me. Unlike the sticky hive into which I was confined for the past four weeks now, the garden in which our home stood, was full of variety and colour. Everything outside tickled my curiosity and I longed to go and explore this new world, like a conqueror setting out on an expedition to gain knowledge about the scheme of God's creation.

The colony in which I was born consisted of fifty thousand honey-bees. The first few days were spent studying, for a rigorous examination in which we had to memorize the names of all the bees in our swarm. The endeavor was agonising and to be honest I did not fare well, for I secured only three thousand names right, out of the fifty thousand that I was required to remember. As the Queen bee gave away the prizes, she gave me a cold stare, for I had created history that day, by forgetting to mention her name.

From that day onwards, I became more and more convinced that I was not made for the hive. I had been created to roam the big wide world, to explore, to investigate. So I longed for the day I would be let out for the first time, to gather nectar from the flowers.

But for the opportunity of honey gathering to knock on my door, I needed to pass yet another exam, this time a practical examination, in which I had to perform the food dance. The bees performed this unique dance, when they located a new source of honey. The dance told the other bees in the hive the location of the food source and the distance that had to be covered to reach the appointed area.

As the day of the exam drew near, I began to extend my practice hours in the hope of getting the steps perfect. But at the moment I was called upon to do the dance, I was so nervous that I made a few mistakes. The queen mother nevertheless decided to let me pass and so I gained permission to move out of the hive the following day.

That evening, I went about telling everyone about the special privilege that had been granted to me. I found it difficult to sleep at night, thinking of all the mysteries that would be revealed to me the next day. Early next morning when the bell rang to signify the moment of departure, I was already ready and waiting. Since it was our first day out, we were requested to move in groups of three or four so that we would not get lost. "What is the need of all this fuss? After all we are old enough to find our way back home," I thought to myself. But yet, I decided to follow instructions because I did not wish to be punished by the queen bee.

The trip was even more exciting than I had imagined it to be. We first set out in the direction of the sun towards the park, where a flower show was being organized. Here, we were allowed to select the flowers of our choice. I first sat on the rose, then on the chrysanthemum and finally on the lily tasting the nectar of the different flowers. They had varying degrees of sweetness, the sweetest being the rose.

I was so happy with this unique experience that, desiring to consume a little more of that rose flavoured nectar, I pushed my way through the crowds, to the pink rose that had won the first prize for the day. I lay down comfortably on its soft petals and stretched out my tired legs. Then I picked up the straw from my pocket and stuck it into the centre of the flower, intending to relish the taste. But destiny had other plans, for just then a fat man stuck his hairy nostrils close to the rose and I fell off the flower. I was not hurt by the fall but was definitely embarrassed by the event. Around me my friends were singing the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall" stressing on the word 'fall' and repeating it so many times that my cheeks began to turn pink with embarrassment. But I tried to put on a brave front and so climbed my way back to the flower. After all, the flower was mine. I had arrived there first and there was no way I would be giving up what was rightfully mine.

Seating myself once again on the pink petals, I stared at the man in the hope that he would leave. But he refused to budge and continued inhaling the sweet smell of the flower pushing his nose closer every moment to where I stood. "Oh! What huge dark tunnels," I said, trying to peep into his nose. "Do these two passages run parallel to one another or do they meet at the centre of man's head?" I asked myself, wanting to know about this unique creature called man. By then the fat intruder, sensing my presence, had withdrawn his nose. But the incident had so infuriated and embarrassed me that I wanted my revenge.

I was young and inexperienced and so I believed that the best way to assert my individuality would be to sting the man's nose. And this was precisely what I did, but the reaction that followed was quite contrary to what I had expected. The man began to scream so loudly that I was almost deafened by his heavy voice. He then began to wave his hands frantically in the air, with the intention of driving me away, but his action threatening my existence, I stung him even harder.

"Get the pesticide," shouted a woman standing close to the fat man. "Kill that wretched bee," added another. I began to panic. With the mention of the word pesticide, I knew my end was near. I said my final prayers and wished that I had not stung the man. But it was too late. The only chance I now had, was to flee the place before the pesticide was sprayed on me and so standing up, I flapped my wings and flew away as fast as my wings could carry me.

While coming to the park, we had flown in the direction of the sun. Now by flying away from it, I figured out that I would reach home. But what I had forgotten at that moment was that it was already evening, that the sun had moved all the way from the east to the west and so by flying away from the sun I was in fact, flying further away from home.

After almost an hour I stopped. My wings had begun to hurt and tears gather in my eyes, for I knew that I was lost. I rested for a while on the branch of the tree and tried to figure out what to do next. It was impossible to continue flying, for the sun had disappeared and it was dark all around. I began to feel lonely and cold.

Below me there lay a cluster of wild flowers and finding the bark of the tree hard and inconvenient, I decided to settle down on its soft petals where my weary legs would receive more comfort. But as I approached the flower I found to my horror its door locked, with a 'don't disturb' tag hanging from the knob. I sat near the roots of the bush hoping that someone would see me and invite me in. I began to think now of my soft bed, the candles made of bee wax, lighting up my cell and longed to be back home.

Suddenly a small light in the far distance caught my eye and I decided to go and investigate. But I was scared. What if the light was a fire breathing dragon waiting for its next victim? The thought frightened me even more and I moved back closer to the stem of the bush shutting my eyes tightly trying to forget all about it.

“Are you lost?” came a soft voice. I opened my eyes to see the light of the fire-breathing dragon right in front of me. My heart skipped a beat and I quickly shut my eyes once again, thinking my death was near.

“Don’t eat me,” I implored. “I am so small that eating me won’t satisfy your hunger.”

“Eat you? I don’t intend to eat you. I just came to check if everything was all right,” came the reassuring voice.

I opened my eyes slowly, to spot in front of my eyes a small fire fly, no bigger than myself. I smiled at him, glad to have company at that time of the night.

“I am lost,” I said, tears gathering in my eyes.

The fire fly looked with concern and then sat down beside me. At once the entire place lit up with the flame of hope and I felt reassured.

“Where do you stay? Perhaps I shall be able to take you back home,” he said with a sudden outburst of love in his voice.

“I don’t know,” I replied. “ We came to the park to gather nectar and there I got separated from my friends. Now I am cold and I don’t even know the way back home.”

“Did you travel for a long time before you reached the park?” he enquired.

“No,” I answered, thinking for a while. “It would not have taken more than ten minutes.”

“I think I know the place where you stay. You can come along with me. I am going that way.”

I was so relieved by the offer made, that I opened at once my honey bag and offered some of its contents to my new friend. Licking the honey, we then traveled together chatting as though we were friends for years.

My return back home, I felt, did not take long, for I was too busy talking to notice the length of the journey. After a while the shapes of the trees and the shrubs began to

look familiar and I knew that I would soon be home. I clutched the hand of my friend and then gave him a hug. "Thank you," I said, "I could not have got back home without you." But the fire-fly merely smiled. He was feeling sad about leaving me. He did not have many friends because he traveled mainly in the night. "Don't worry. I'll be your friend for life," I assured him, scooping out a huge helping of honey out of my bag and transferring it to a leaf that I had folded in the shape of a cone.

By the time I reached the door of the hive, the guard bees had already informed the others of my arrival and all the inhabitants of the hive were standing in front of the entrance. The queen bee was the first to receive me. She put her arms around me and gave me a kiss. "I hope you have learnt your lesson," she said as she held my hand and walked me back into the hive. I turned back to introduce my friend, but he was gone.

That day as I entered my cell, I thanked God for the experience that had taught me the importance of the family, a lesson that I would not forget for the rest of my life. Even today, after a fight with my brother or sister in the hive, as I look up into the night sky and see the stars above, I am reminded of the lesson that I had learnt during my adventure with the fire-fly.

**Josine Antony**  
*II MA English*





## THE ROOTS OF CONFIDENCE

I stood and gazed at a coconut tree in our yard  
And stood awestruck,  
Relishing its height and its grace.

It would presumably have been  
Customary for any other chemotroph  
To sit and advocate its insignificance,  
His diminutive significance, in comparison.

But it churned within me,  
An alchemy of inexplicable joy;  
For was I not an instrument in its upbringing;  
A chapter in its biography.

Feelings all along benign,  
Rose from their graves.  
A new feeling of self confidence  
Germinated from the seed of attitude.

I may be one of uncountable millions,  
I mused,  
A unit of these capricious populations,  
A speck in this hoi-polloi  
But I counted for myself  
And for so much and so many...  
Maybe this world too.  
I felt like a queen- the queen of this epoch.

Within me arose a new vivacity, a new fervour  
And I found it a pleasure to analyse.  
I suddenly felt so wise  
And I thought the only sensible thing was to empathise.

I sensed the wind caress me  
And adjourned my thoughts...  
And jumped back to reality.  
I wondered again...  
If a coconut tree could induce,  
Such vibes in me  
How about a banyan tree?

G. Janani  
*II BCA*

## A QUEST FOR ECSTASY

I want to fly,  
Till the end of my life,  
Soar the heights,  
Dance with the clouds,  
Rest on a rugged mountain wild,  
Quench my thirst in the cool waters of the melting snow,  
Share the stories of the wandering birds,  
Find the mystery of the dark night,  
Learn wisdom from the wise old owl,  
Know passion from the lovebirds,  
Fight the power of the cold North winds,  
Forgive the treachery of the Sahara sun,  
Steal the secret of eternal youth from nature herself,  
And attain ultimate peace when I drop into the depths of the deep blue sea.

## A GLIMPSE OF RAIN

The Lord ordained,  
Let the sky breakdown with rain,  
Wind and water lashed across,  
The dry earth sighed at last.  
The trees whispered a prayer of thanks,

The birds whistled a song they never sang.  
The city slowed down awhile,  
To stand and stare at the miracle of life.  
Overflowing drains and muddy lanes,  
Are hardly a hindrance.  
My prayer has been answered,  
I am thankful for the deliverance.  
Heat and humidity has at last taken a vacation,  
Its OK even if it's for a short duration.  
I only wish I could take leave again,  
But life never stops, come sunshine, come rain.  
I am grateful in my heart today,  
I'll wait for a gift of such another day.

**Kasturi Dasgupta**  
*III BSc Zoology*

## ILLUSIONS

When your child tells you there are  
monsters lurking in the closet  
dribbling blood and lolling-tongued  
spotted like week-old mossy cheese  
and you  
know  
about the lurking-dark world outside,  
will you say it's all an  
illusion?

When your child tells you that a big truck  
With nightmare slow wheeling wheels  
Flies over rag-doll pedestrian – now  
askewed limbs and blood like wet  
surprise  
is all just some  
illusion?

I won't because I  
remember the inevitable betrayal  
when the misty haze veered back sickening-swift so that I saw it was all  
illusion;  
and Santa from the North Pole was panstick-plastered Papa;  
and puppies never *ran away*, they just rolled over and  
died.

**Shruthi Ravindran**  
*III BA English*

## LET ME LIVE

With a happy turn from left to right,  
I leaped cheerfully in her womb,  
No sooner had I sensed fear,  
I heard the loud screech of my mother,  
My fears changed to sheer delight  
I could breathe the freshness of the air,  
I was born.

I heard sounds of laughter and joy,  
As I felt the warmth of my hands,  
People were talking words, I never knew,  
But they were talking about me,  
Planning to put me to my doom.

'Please don't kill me, oh! Please let me live'  
My eyes will be open in but a few days,  
I can breathe well; I am not deaf or dumb,  
Most important, I am not female'  
Then why? I wondered  
Soon I knew the cause,  
I was paralysed in both hands and legs.

My cries reached their highest pitch,  
But no one understood the language of the 30 minute lad  
Give me a chance, please let me live, perhaps I might be another Stephen Hawkins.  
But my cries went unheard,  
I could feel the colourless liquid injected into my veins,  
And I was soon fast asleep...sleep deep and eternal.

Cigi Cyriac  
*III BCA*

## THE FLAME

Sparks flutter,  
As two pieces of stone,  
Are rubbed together,  
To produce- the flame  
The flame of hopes, desires,  
Ambitions and aspirations,  
Which are all part of life's game.

The Flame-  
Creates a golden glow on my face,  
Leaving it a burnt orange,  
As I look into the fire,  
The wood crackles as it burns,  
Leaving behind ashes,  
Dark and gray.

As life goes on-  
The flame grows bright,  
Leading us from darkness,  
Into light,  
It still flickers,  
At the end of life's game,  
Until it starts to rain...  
The Flame-  
Takes away the pain,

And as we are led into darkness,  
The Flame feeds on us,  
Leaving ashes to ashes  
And Dust to Dust.

**Divya Nambiar**  
*I BA Sociology*

## **FALLEN**

Whispers in the woods I hear  
The softest sound of ghostly fear  
As sylvan soldiers bow to me  
Their sign of formal felicity  
They join their heads, start to sing  
A melody to suit a king  
Verdant giants begin their dance  
Swaying slightly like a trance  
And they open their arms to me  
To join in all the festivity  
So I rejoice and I cheer  
With all that nature holds so dear  
The silver track and stars are bright,  
But velvet green is my only sight.  
For as I leave, they bow down once more,  
Leafy shadows fall upon the floor.  
For each step I take, they bid farewell  
And breathe secrets I cannot tell  
But I shall come again one day  
To hear the stories you have to say.  
But when I return, will you stand?  
Or fall a victim to destructive hand?  
Brave warriors of the wild stand tall,  
Don't bow your heads and take the fall.

**Roopa Palanivel**  
*I B.Com*

## TRODDEN PATHS

Lost are we in our emotions  
Pained are we by our expectations  
Controlled are we by our thoughts  
Chased are we by our regrets  
Love do we with our senses  
Believe do we in our mind  
Torn are we by silence  
Rushed are we by the inevitable  
Yearning to detach  
Yet never ceasing to love  
Troubled by our wants  
Shaken by our needs.  
Hopes crashing in earnest  
Illusions shattered by reality  
Crazed are we by our misery  
Longing for reassurance  
Continued expectations do we have,  
Though rusted by experience  
Thoughts continue to linger  
Never really giving up on life  
Giving new meaning  
To all that's worth  
Succumbing never,  
To our endless strife

**Ramya Gopalan**  
*II BA Economics*

## INNER PRISON

I live in a dark and dreary prison.  
The gaoler is inhibition,  
My sole companion-loneliness.  
So long have I lived entrapped



Within these high walls...  
Now I do not ask for more  
Crave no more for freedom.  
Sometimes, I raise my head  
And through the parallel bars  
Above my head...see light.  
Around me is lush verdure  
But it no more does allure  
As it once used to...

And yet within this gloom  
Did flowers dare to bloom!  
'T'was the dare-devilry of youth.  
And yet, I had not that root...  
Flowers did raise their heads  
But to die a slow and painful death.  
Rosy dreams did flitter by  
But to bid a quick good-bye.

## GRASPING LIFE

You never need to move to get it.  
It will come to you all the same.  
Whether you want it or not  
it will tie itself to you,  
a noose on your neck.

Tomorrow comes, tomorrow goes.  
You never asked it to come.  
Neither, did you ask it to go  
but it just happened.  
It came and went

You have only two choices-  
to stand by and watch it go

or, to go along with it.  
It will make no difference really,  
but if you walk along  
you might not be so bored.

## HAPPY, CONTENTED

Everyday she sits  
by her window and stares  
at the crowds passing by,  
a smile overspreading her  
dimmed features.  
Happy, contented.

Her life is a flow  
of placid waters.  
The crinkling eyes  
as they smile, perhaps  
with memory...  
reminds me of old torn leaves  
lying on a deserted ground  
Decayed, unworthy even  
To be swept away  
Forgotten...

She smiles....  
her soft toothless smile  
and I want to ask her why  
but I can only stare  
at her placid, limpid eyes  
and her shaking hands  
as she drinks tea  
from an old chipped mug.

How? How can life pass one by?  
Or perhaps the question had

rather be -how can one pass life by?  
Maybe, we ought to transmigrate...  
you in me and I in you.  
May I too then know the joy  
of staring through a window  
as the world passes me ....  
Happy, contented.

**Remya Abraham**  
*II BA English*

## CINQUAIN

*The Cinquain is a poem of five lines following the syllabic pattern 2-4-6-8-2.*

### **The Love Darts**

She came,  
She smiled, aimed darts  
Of love at the heart, they  
Missed. Never mind, she'll find other  
Nice kinds.

**Shobana Paul**  
*II MA English*

### **Sorrow**

Teary,  
Smile, oceans of  
unshed tears of blood, sweat  
quivering lips braving the big  
bad world.

### **Sweet Sunshine**

Sugar  
tossed through the air  
diamonds come down sparkling  
gems whirling, twirling around down  
to earth.

**Bindya A. Keswani**  
*II MA English*

### **Marriage Prospect**

Draped in  
Silk, richly decked  
Picture perfect she smiles  
And baits men, not the bride but the  
Bridesmaid

**Lavanya P**  
*II MA English*

### **Woman**

She is  
patient mother  
understanding wife, good friend  
never an individual she's  
woman

**Sharon Grace Jennifer P.**  
*II MA English*

## **HAIKU**

*Haiku is a short poem of three lines following the syllabic pattern 5-7-5*

### **Rainy Day**

Umbrellas held high  
Trudging through muddy puddles  
Under weeping skies.

**Shobana Paul**  
*II MA English*

### **Poverty**

Little hands begging  
Sugar and cream drip off cakes  
Home for flies and ants.

**Stars**

Little lights arouse  
Arabian fantasies  
In dark mystic skies

**Tanya C. Lawrence**  
*II MA English*

**Watch**

The chasing lovers  
Are at my back endlessly  
Saying "Hurry up"!

**J.P. Manjula Devi**  
*II MA English*

**Mosquito's Death**

Miniscule fighter  
Swiftly mounts, struck suddenly  
Crashes, caught between palms

**Dew Drops**

A small world of glass  
Jolted, slides from its green bed  
Awakens in tears.

**Lavanya P**  
*II MA English*

**FEAR OF THE UNBORN**

Security shattered into fragmented terrors,  
Fear seized the tranquility and froze the enriching fluid  
Left in a quagmire of breathless depths  
I gasped and tried to grasp meaning  
Hitherto remained a peaceful secret.  
I heard her sigh with undelivered grief,  
In the whitewashed sterile room, a machine,  
Epitome of man's superior knowledge,  
Catalogued the dream of her womanhood,  
A liability she could not let grow.

I heard her scream "Oh no!"  
To a silent, uncaring crowd,  
There came with every puff of breath  
A wave of terror enveloped me  
Thick with poisoned hostility.

Now the life-blood flowing to me,  
Rushed in a wave that wrenched my soul.  
A silent scream choked my being.  
Panic and terror looked large over me,  
Will I loose my race before it began?

I heard her scream "Oh no!"  
My soul stood still choked in a scream.  
And she said, "No, I will not mute a life so precious,  
I defy a world that exults in extinction.  
Let life flow and love grow."

**Jelthrutha Alice K.S**  
*II MA English*

## FUTILITY

Nobody wants to see you frown.  
Nobody wants to see you drown.  
They criticise those who tell it like it is;  
Those who see life without the fizz.  
Doesn't all this hate catch up with you?  
Doesn't all this injustice get to you?  
Your disdain for reality proves  
Escapism is the only game you choose.

All these tears prove hard to fight.  
Slow torrents melting down resolve.  
The opium of religion,  
The clarity of vision  
Give way to the obstacles and we fall.

There is always a limit for the warrior.  
There is always bare truth in the mirror.  
The world keeps revolving, on and on;  
Face up to the test before you're gone  
Pass or fail, constants always hold:  
Whether you're beautiful, wise or bold,  
Life is demanding and unfair  
Mankind is only a puff of air.

Can you be blamed for questioning  
Your purpose in this blatant war?  
Upbringing, education,  
Belief and situation  
Fade away – does life mean any more?

Adolescence they say it is,  
And later frustrating phases.  
An irony in a cookie-cutter world;  
A truth that leaves you cold:  
In history, men are only phases,  
Pawns, toys, insignificant pages,  
In a novel without an end,  
In a journey without a bend.

What for these arts, these sciences?  
What for the luxury, the vogue?  
Futile throughout the ages,  
Reducing man in stages,  
Impotent to arrest this consuming fog.

**Susan George**  
*I BA English*

## AT RANDOM

1. Myriad shapes. Sizes.  
Masterpieces in design  
Raptly watched.  
Snowflakes.



2. Ultra-light. Ultra soft.  
An avian's pride.  
Often treasured.  
A feather.
3. A circle. Metallic.  
Symbol of love.  
On finger worn.  
A ring.
4. Facial facsimile. Reflective.  
Narcissistic.  
By vanity wielded.  
A mirror.

**Meera Amaldev**  
*II BCA*



## மாது இவள் ஒரு --- மாதிரி

கள்ளுலவும் கருங்கூந்தல்  
காதளவோடிடும் கருங்கயல்கள்  
முகமலர்ந்திடு தோரணை  
முழுமுதற் கடவுளுக்கு  
முழுமை ஈந்த மாதொரு பாகத்தாள்  
பார்வைப் பரிமாற்றத்தில் நழுவிடும்  
பாதரசமிவள்  
பார்வைக் கொஞ்சல்கள் - இவள்  
பார்க்கும் பார்வையில்  
பறந்தோடும் சருகுகள்  
கன்னியரைவிட  
காளையர் மதிப்பிலா  
மரியாதையிலா  
உயர்விலா  
அந்தஸ்திலா  
அகராதியிலா  
தராசுத்தட்டில்  
நிகராக ஏற்றித்  
தராதரம் கேட்டிடுவாள்  
மாது இவள் ஒரு மாதிரி  
மாது இவள் --- ஒரு ---- ஒரு ---- மாதிரி  
பண்பென்றால்  
பண்பு, பள்ளி கொள்ளும்  
ஆக்கமிகு, தேக்கமிவள்  
படிப்பிலா  
அகராதியும் பொருள் தேடும்  
அறிவுநிறை சொற் செட்டு அவள்  
துயர் கண்டு துடிப்பதில்  
இரு இமை படபடக்கும்  
இருவிழி இவள்  
கனிவோடு நடப்பதில்  
இருவிழி மேடையில்

அமர்ந்திடும்  
இருகண்மனி  
குமுறிடும் எரிமலை  
... கடித்துக்  
குதறிடும் கராடி  
நலம் பயப்பதில்  
நானிலத்தில்  
பாய்ந்தோடும்  
பாகாக்கிடும் ஓயாசீஸ்  
மாது இவள் ஒரு மாதிரி  
மாது இவள் ஒரு ---- ஒரு -- மாதிரி

டாக்டர். விஜயா ஆசிரி  
தமிழ்த்துறை

## இளைஞனே எழுந்து நில்

இள இரத்தம் துடிக்கும் இளைஞனே  
இந்தியத் தாயின் குல விளக்கே!  
நாளைய விடியலின் விடிவெள்ளியே !  
இமயமேறு உயர உறுதி கொள் ! உறுதி கொள்!  
இளைஞனே! கண்டாயா? உன் பாரதத்தை  
மதமென்ற முள்வேலி மானுடப் பயிரை நெறிப்பதைப் பாராய்  
ஜாதி என்பதற்காக வாழ்வில்  
பாதியைத் தந்தவர் உன் முன்னோர்  
ஜாதிச் சாக்கடையைச் சாகடிக்க  
சடுதியில் புறப்படு இளைஞனே!  
படைத்தவன் ஒன்றாய்ப் படைத்தான், பிரித்தவன் யார் இங்கு நம்மை  
பிரித்தவன் பிரிஞ்சு நாளாச்சு அவன்  
பிரிச்சது எப்ப ஒண்ணாச்சு?  
மதம் என்னும் பெயரால் - நித்தம்  
மனித நேயம் மடிவதைப் பாராய்  
மானிட ஜாதியைக் காக்க  
இளைஞனே எழுந்து நில் இன்றே!

இமைய முதல் குமரி வரை ஒன்றென்போம்  
 எல்லோரும் இணைந்திருந்தல் நன்றென்போம்  
 மானிட ஜாதியைக் காக்க  
 மறத்தமிழ் வீரனே எழுந்து நில் !  
 வாக்குப் புணர்ச்சியால் வசமிழந்து  
 வைகறை காணா அகலிகைகளாய்  
 ஐந்தாண்டு கல்லாகும் மானிடரே  
 ஐந்தாண்டிற்கு ஒரு முறைமட்டும்  
 அவதாரப் புருடராய் வலம் வரும் அரசியல் வாதிகளின்  
 வாக்குறுதியை நம்பி நீ நாளும்  
 உணவுக்கும் தண்ணீருக்கும்  
 பரிதவிக்கும் பாமரமக்களின்  
 பார்ச் சுமையை இறக்கும் சுமை தாங்கியே  
 சோர்ந்து விடாது எழுந்து நில்  
 கலப்பையில் சேறு படிந்தும்  
 இல்லையே அகப்பையில் சோறு!  
 இவ் அவல நிலை மாற்ற  
 இளைஞனே எழுந்து நில் ! எழுந்து நில்  
 தோளின் கண்ணீராய்ச் சிந்தும் வியர்வை!  
 ஊருக்கு உணவு கொடுப்பார். ஆனால்  
 பசியையே தம் உணர்வாய்க் கொள்வர்  
 மெளனமே அவர்தம் ஆயுதம்  
 இதுதான் இன்றைய ஏழையர் வாழ்வு!  
 என்னறக்குச் சோற்றுக்கு வழியைக் காண்போம்  
 இல்லாதார் குடிசைக்கு ஓர் ஒளியைக் காண்போம்  
 எரியாத தீபங்கள் எரியக் காண்போம்  
 எதிர்கால சீர்திருத்தத்திற்குச் சீர் கொண்டு  
 எழுந்து வா இளைஞனே! எழுந்து வா!  
 இளம் கொடியாகி வசந்தம் காண  
 ஏங்குகின்ற பெண்களின் கண்ணீரில்  
 பாரதத் தாய் நனைவதை உணர்ந்தாயா?  
 வரதுட்சணை என்ற வரி கட்டிதான்  
 வாழ்வில் வசந்தத்தைக் காண முடியுமா?

கவிபாடும் கவிஞனின்  
 கற்பனை ஊற்று இன்று  
 மங்கல வேளைக்குப் பின் மண்ணெண்ணெய்க்கு  
 இரையாகும் இந்தப் பெண்களின்  
 அவல நிலையை மாற்ற எழுந்து நில் ! இளைஞனே !  
 சமுதாயம் உன் முன்னேற்றத்திற்குத்  
 தடுப்புச் சுவாராய் இருந்தாலும்  
 உடைத்து எழும்பிடும் வீரனே !  
 உன்னைப் போதை என்ற குழியில் தள்ளி  
 மீளா இருளாய் வாழ்வை ஆக்கும் சிறுமை  
 எத்தனை நாள் இளைஞனே ! எத்தனைநாள்?  
 நாட்டைத் தாங்கும் நாற்புறத்தூணே !  
 உங்களின் ஒட்டுமொத்தக் குரலுக்கு  
 உலகமே பதில் சொல்ல வேண்டும்  
 புரட்சி புரட்சி என்னும் பூசும்பம் வெடிக்க வேண்டும்  
 ஆதரவற்றவர் இல்லா நிலை வேண்டும்  
 ஒற்றுமை உணர்வு ஓங்கிட வேண்டும்  
 பொருளாதாரத்தில் பொதுவுடைமை வேண்டும்  
 விஞ்ஞான வளர்ச்சியில் வேகம் வேண்டும்  
 உலக அராங்கில் பாரதம் முதன்மையாக உயர வேண்டும்  
 வானும் கோளும் எட்டிப்பிடிக்கும் - உன்  
 கைகளைக் கட்டியிருக்கும் எதிர்ப்புகளை  
 தடுப்புகளைத் தவிடு பொடியாக்கி  
 இந்தியாவின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்குப்  
 புது முளை வித்தாக இளைஞனே நீ  
 எழுந்து நில் !

**எஸ். கோமதி பிரியா**  
 முதலாம் ஆண்டு, பி.எஸ்சி., விலங்கியல்

## திறமை

திறமை வெற்றியின் திறவுகோல்  
திறமை சொல்லளவில் நிற்பதில்லை  
செயல்களின் வெளிப்பாடு  
எல்லோருக்கும்  
எல்லாத்துறையிலும்  
வருவதில்லை திறமை  
தனித்த நபரின்  
தனித்த ஆற்றலே திறமை  
சிறுவயதிலேயே உருவாவது திறமை  
சிறுவயதின் பாராட்டு  
திறமைக்கோர் நீராட்டு  
திறமை ஆசையால் வளர்வது  
ஆசையாய்ப் பிறர் பாராட்ட  
வருவதே ஆற்றல்  
திறமையேயில்லாதவர்  
நீரில்லா மேகம்  
நாற்றமில்லா மலர்  
தோற்றமில்லா ஆள்  
திறமை அல்லது ஆற்றல்  
மேதைகளுக்குப்  
பிறப்பில்  
பிறருக்கு  
உருவாக்கத்தில்  
திறமைக்கு இணை திறமையே  
திறமையைக் கண்டு  
வியப்பர் சிலர்  
புகழ்வர் சிலர்  
முனைவர் பலர்  
பலரில் சிலராகத்திறமையோடு  
செயல்படத்திறமையே  
திறவுகோல்.

ஜெபா. பி.  
அ. ஹீபா. எ.  
முதலாம் ஆண்டு பி.ஏ. ஆங்கிலம்

## விழித்தெழு தமிழா!

யாமறிந்த புலவரிலே கம்பனைப் போல்  
வள்ளுவன் போல் இளங்கோவைப் போல்  
பூமிதனில் யாங்கணுமே பிறந்ததில்லை  
உண்மை வெறும் புகழ்ச்சியில்லை

- மகாகவி பாரதியார்

கம்பனையும் வள்ளுவனையும், இளங்கோவையும் புகழ்ந்த பாரதி, இது 'உண்மை வெறும் புகழ்ச்சியில்லை' என்று அடித்துக் கூறுவதன் காரணமென்ன? சற்றே சிந்திப்போம். ஓளவை பாடிய பாரி மன்னன் வாழ்ந்த நாடு, இன்று வெறும் புகழ்ச்சிக்காகவே ஏங்கி நிற்கும் முடி சூடா மன்னர்களைக் கண்டு வெட்கி நிற்கும் நிலை, பாரதியின் சிந்தனைக்கு அன்றே எட்டியதோ!

ஷேக்ஸ்பியர் ஒரு புகழ் வாய்ந்த ஆங்கில நாடகாசிரியர் என்று அனைவரும் அறிவர். ஆங்கில இலக்கியச் சரித்திரத்தில் இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் இந்தப் பக்கமாக நகர்ந்தோமானால், ஆர்.கே. நாராயண் ஒரு உலகப் புகழ் வாய்ந்த இந்திய ஆங்கில நாவலாசிரியர் என்று இந்தியர் அனைவரும் பெருமை கொள்வர். அருந்ததி ராய் என்ற இந்தியப் பெண் எழுத்தாளருக்கு உலக அளவில் பரிசு கிடைத்ததைப் பலரும் அறிவர். ஷேக்ஸ்பியரும், ஆர்.கே. நாராயணும், அருந்ததி ராயும் புகழ் மிக்க எழுத்தாளர்கள் என்று மீண்டும் மீண்டும் அடித்துக் கூறத் தேவையில்லை.

ஆனால், 'வள்ளுவன் தன்னை உலகினுக்கே தந்து வான்புகழ் கொண்ட தமிழ்நாடு,' 'அரசியல் பிழைத்தார்க்கு அறம் கூற்றாகும்' என்ற பொருளில் சிலப்பதிகாரம் இயற்றிச் சிறப்பித்த இளங்கோவடிகள் வாழ்ந்த தமிழ்நாடு, மகா, 'மெகா' காவியம், கம்பராமாயணம் படைத்து, தமிழின் இனிமைக்குச் செழுமை ஊட்டிய கம்பர் வாழ்ந்த தமிழ் நாடு, இன்று தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தின் பெருமையை நம்ப இயலாது திகைக்கிறது. அயல் நாட்டுப் புலமையையும் திறனையுமே வியந்து நோக்கும் தமிழகம், தன் மொழி இலக்கிய வளன் அறியாது நிற்கிறது. இதை உணர்ந்த பாரதியார், இந்த உண்மையை ஒரு முறைக்கு இரு முறை அடித்துக் கூறினால்தான் தமிழர் நம்புவர் என்று அன்றே அறிந்து, உண்மை வெறும் புகழ்ச்சியில்லை என்று மீண்டும் கூறுவார்.

தமிழா! தமிழ் வெறி தேவையில்லை. ஆனால் தமிழ் மொழிப் பற்று தேவை. பொருள் செறிந்த, கற்பனைத் திறனும் இனிய இசை வளமும் நிறைந்த, தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தைப் படிக்கும் ரசனை தேவை. ஒளி முத்துக்களாய், இன்பப் புதையலாய், நம் கண் முன் கொட்டிக் கிடக்கும் நமது மொழி இலக்கியத்தை அனுபவிக்க வேண்டியது நமது 'கடமை' அல்ல. ஆனால், அனுபவிக்காவிடில் அது 'மடமை'. விழித்தெழு தமிழா!

திருமதி திலகவதி ஜோசப்

ஆங்கிலத் துறை

# यह दुनिया गोल है।

यह दुनिया कितनी छोटी है ऐसा अधिकतर लोगों का मानना है। वास्तव में यह कितना सच है आपबीती पर निर्भर है। दुनिया के हर कोने को देखने की चाहत आज भी हमारे मन में है। अब देखिए साल भर पहले एक सुन्दरी से "बसस्टॉप" पर मुलाकात होगई। अपने परिचय में महोदया ने अपने आपको किसी ट्रेवेल ऐजंसी का ऐजंट बतलाया। वह हमें वर्ल्ड टूर का खर्चा सिर्फ कुछ "हजार ही है" बताने लगी। यात्रा की सब प्रक्रियाएँ हमें समझाने में तल्लीन थीं। हमने भी मन ही मन सोच लिया कि बेकार ही समय नष्ट कर रहे हैं। बस मन के उत्साह को रोक न पाए और सुंदरी को अपनी जेब की हालत सुना डाली। यूँ तो महोदया ने तकरीबन, टूर के लुभावने लुक्कों से हमें पटा ही लिया था, परन्तु अपनी कड़की ने सारी इच्छाओं को लात मार दी।

आधे घण्टे के वार्तालाप के पश्चात हमारे मुँह से ना सुनने पर महोदया के चेहरे का नक्शा ही बदल गया। अपनी जान को बचाए, हमने अपना पिण्ड छुड़ाया। फिर न हुई उनसे कभी मुलाकात। कड़की ने हमारे जीने की व्यवस्था को इतना दबोच रखा था कि चीनी भी उधार लेने में न मिलती थी। चल रही नौकरी से अकेले इन्सान का भी खर्चा न उठ रहा था। सरकार ने सभी पदार्थों के दाम क्या बढ़ाए कि हम तो आसमान से गिरे और खजूर में अटके और इस पर दुबारा महोदया से मुलाकात क्या होती मानो खजूर से गिरे तो धरती पर पटके जाते। इस बार हमें उम्मीद न थी कि तीन हफ्तों में ही उनसे फिर मुलाकात हो जाएगी। इस बार मुलाकात सब्जी मण्डी में हुई। हमें उन पर कुछ क्रोध था कि उन्होंने हमारी दबी चाह को फिर किसी Holiday Package के बारे में बताकर जगा दिया। दिल की धड़कन उनकी हर Offer सुनकर उत्साहित हो उठती परन्तु इस बार जेब की हालत कड़की से भी बुरी थी। महोदया से क्षमा माँग हम वहाँ से चलते बने, वह खड़ी की खड़ी रह गयी, परन्तु हमारे मन का उत्साह भी कुछ कम नहीं था।

छः माह का समय बीत चुका था इस दौरान लोगों ने हड़ताल कर, सरकार के नाक में दम कर दिया कि थक हार कर सरकार को भी पगार में बढ़ोतरी करनी हो पडी, और अब हमारी और हमारी जेब दोनों की किरमत् खुलगई। इस खुशी में अपने आप जश्न मनाने हम चौपाटी चल पड़े। कुर्सी पर बैठे



अपने पाव भाजी का लुत्फ उठाने ही लगे थे कि बगल की कुर्सी पर कोई महोदया आ बैठी और मान न मान मैं तेरा मेहमान के समान लगी हमसे बतियाने मानो हम उनके कोई सगे सम्बन्धी या रिश्तेदार हो। महोदया अपना परिचय देती है और तब हमें पता चलता है कि ये वही ट्रेवल ऐजेंसी की ऐजेंट हैं जो अब खुद किसी ऐजेंसी की मालकिन बन गई थीं।

इस बार मन बड़ा मचल रहा था कि वह मुझसे टूर के बारे में फिर बात करें। परन्तु वह तो टूर की चर्चा छोड़ बाकी सब बातें करती रही। हमारी बढ़ती बैचनी की कोई सीमा न थी। हमने खुद ही टूर के बारे में पूछ डाला, तो महोदया एक कहकहे के साथ हँस पड़ी और कहने लगी कि उनकी कम्पनी “वर्ल्ड टूर” नहीं बल्कि “इंडिया टूर” का कार्य चलाती है। इसका खर्चा “वर्ल्ड टूर” के खर्च से आधा था।

हमारा मन तो बड़ा दुःखी हुआ फिर ख्याल आया वर्ल्ड टूर ना सही, इंडिया टूर ही सही। हमने अपना प्रस्ताव रखा और महोदया ने कार्यालय में आकर सारी प्रक्रिया को जान लेने का आश्वासन दिया। दो दिन बाद हम उनके कार्यालय पधारे, महोदया ने बतलाया कि अगला दौरा चार हफ्ते बाद है। धूमने की जगहों में मुख्यतर जगह ताजमहल, कुतुबमिनार और कुलु मनाली के पहाड़ी इलाके भी शामिल हैं। महोदया ने सबका कुल खर्च कुछ 45,500 रु बताया जिसमें 10,000 रु एडवान्स में देने होंगे। हमें प्रस्ताव कुछ ठीक न लगा। महोदया ने हमारी स्थिति समझ ली। उन्होंने सेकन्ड क्लास का ऑफर भी दिया जिसका कुल खर्चा केवल रु 6,890 था और एडवांस सिर्फ 5,000 था। हमें अपनी सहमती देनी ही पड़ी। शायद उससे ज्यादा अपने चेहरे का नक्शा बदलते तो पिटकर भगा दिए जाते। रात को चैन की नींद सोते हुए हमें सपने भी आए। देखा कि हम स्वयं मुमताज़ जी के साथ ताजमहल के सामने खड़े होकर अपनी तरखीर महोदया से खिंचवा रहे थे और इलततमिश से कुतुब मिनार के बारे में चर्चा कर रहे थे। सबेरे तक सपने का भी कबाड़ा हो गया जब हमें लगा कि इलततमिश और कुतुबुदिनऐबक के बीच गहरी बहस छिड़ गई है। ऐबक जी क्रोधित थे कि उनके जीते जो इलततमिश, हमें मिनार के बारे में कैसे सब कुछ बता रहे थे। दोनों ने इस झगड़े का कसूरवार हमें माना और क्रोधित होकर हमें मिनार से नीचे फेंक दिया। इसी गिरते हुए झटके से हम उठ बैठे और ठान लिया कि इतिहास के बारे में नहीं सोचेंगे। बस अब तो द्वीप पर जाने का इंतज़ार था।

वह सुनहरा दिन आ ही गया था, हमारे मन की आधी इच्छा पूरी होने की घड़ी थी, हम अपना सामान लेकर एजंसी पहुँचे, परन्तु दिल को इतना बड़ा झटका लगेगा सोचा भी न था। हम खुशी खुशी बस अड़डे पहुँचे, और क्या देखते हैं, न तो वहाँ कोई बस थी और न ही एजंसी का कोई व्यक्ति, वहाँ तो हमारी बस छोड़ बाकी सारी बसें खड़ी थीं। हमें लगा शायद हम गलत मंजिल पर पहुँच गए थे, फिर लगा शायद हमारी तारीख गलत थी, या शायद हम जलदी आ गए थे। मन में बड़े बेतुके सवाल उठ रहे थे, इन्हीं ख्यालों में 2 घण्टे बीत चुके थे। निराश होकर जब हम लौट रहे थे कि एक साहब से मुलाकात हुई, विचार विमर्श पर पता चला कि महोदया को खुद की कोई एजंसी कभी थी ही नहीं, वह हमें चूना लगा गई थी।

हम दिल से टूटे, इस हादसे को बुरे सपने के समान भूल जाना चाहते थे। परन्तु महोदया की शक्ल भूलाए नहीं भूलती थी। दिन बीत गए, महीने बीत गए, साल बीत गए हम कहीं से कहीं पहुँच गए। अब हमने अपनी दुनिया भी बसा ली थी। कम्पनी की तरफ से हमें हमारे काम से खुश होकर "वर्ल्ड टूर" का टिकट दिया गया। हम पत्नी के साथ के इस छल के बारे में सोच मन ही मन हँसते टूर के लिए निकल पड़े।

पोर्ट पर खड़ी विशालकाय जहाज को देखकर हम फूले न समाए। जहाज में चढ़े और पत्नीजी को कमरे में छोड़ हम "Dining Room" की तरफ चल पड़े। अकस्मात हमारी नज़र बैरे पर पड़ती है, वह एक लडका है, बिल्कुल वही, वही महोदया। वह हमारी तरफ चली आ रही थी, कि उनके बढ़ते कदम हमें देखते ही रूक गए। हम दोनों एक दूसरे को देखते ही रूक गए। हम एक दूसरे को देखते ही रह गए कि पत्नीजी ने प्रवेश किया। उन्हें लगा कि कुछ गड़बड़ है, पर हम अपनी नज़र महोदया पर से हटा नहीं पाए।

अब महोदया भी रूकने के बजाय हमारी तरफ चली आई और अपनी हरकत के पीछे छिपे राज को बताने लगीं। किन्तु हम सोचने लगे दुनिया कितनी गोल है। हर बार मेरी मुलाकात महोदया से किसी न किसी टूर के बहाने ही हुई है। महोदया अपनी कहानी सुनाती गई, पर हम कुछ भी न सुन रहे थे बस सोच रहे थे, हमें अब किसी बात का क्रोध न था। महोदया कहानी सुनाकर जा चुकी थी। पत्नीजी हमसे बात करने की कोशिश कर रही थी पर हम खोए हुए से, अपनी ही दुनिया में गुम थे। बस सोच रहे थे, जिंदगी कितनी विचित्र है .....

## विस्मृत होती भारतीय संस्कृति

“नव” “नवीन” “नवीनतम”  
है सदा यह जमीन और आकाश।  
कितना खलता है यह सब  
जब होता है “विस्मृत”—  
“प्राचीनकाल” विकास।

कभी था यहाँ “प्रेमभाव”  
“कभी” था यहाँ “सदभाव”  
पर क्यों हैं आज यह “वैर भाव”?  
नहीं वाणी में भी “मधुर भाव”।

जहाँ देखो है हाहाकार।  
क्यों मानव है आज लाचार?  
क्यों करता है गलत प्रचार?  
क्यों विस्मृत हो रहें हैं उसके आचार?

कहाँ गए वे दिन, जब मिलते थे दो यार?  
कहाँ गए वो दिन, जब अपनों में था प्यार?  
आखिर क्यों आ गए हैं वे दिन—  
कर रहे दुश्मन हम पर प्रहार।

दिवाली, बड़ा दिन, दशहरा, सब हैं सांस्कृतिक त्योहार  
पर कौन आता है आजकल आपस में मिलने या  
लेकर उपहार?  
आँखे थक जाती हैं करते अपनों का इंतज़ार,  
पर सब भूल चुके हैं, पुराने संस्कार।

विस्मृत हो चुकी है हमारी संस्कृति—  
आज मानव ने बना ली है, अपनी ही नीति।  
आज न है बड़े के लिए आदर, न छोटों  
के लिए प्यार  
आज हैं सबके बदले हुए व्यवहार।

आज सही गलत है, और गलत सही।  
अंधा हो चुका है, कानून—  
पैसो के बलबूते पर, हो रहा है सच्चाई का खून  
“परोपकार हो परम धर्म” नहीं अब उसका जुनून।  
बस “विस्मृतता” में ही है उसे सूकून।

पर मन भी सही पूछता है, आखिर क्यों?  
क्या उन्नति कारण है— कि हम गए हैं भूल  
अपने कर्तव्य, अपने संस्कार।  
या हमही भूल गए हैं, अपने कर्तव्यों का आसार  
कर चलें हैं अपने आपको निर्भार।

चाहूँगी न भटके मानव अपनी डगर से।  
न भूले अपने पुरातन को।  
क्या नहीं हो सकता पुराने और नवीन का मिलाप ?  
क्यों विस्मृत हो रही है यह प्राचीन रीति।  
काश हो जाए विहनों का पतन,  
और हो जाए “नव” और “पुरा” का मिलन  
यही है मेरा असीम निवेदन।

शोर्लि पोथन  
II B.A., English

## बार्डर क्यों....?

बार्डर के इस तरफ खड़े होकर  
मैंने उस तरफ देखा,  
है मेरे जैसा कोई  
लिए बंदूक ताने,  
कर रहा अपनी देश की रक्षा  
वह भी है मेरे जैसा  
जो खून मुझमें है,  
वही उसमें भी  
जब बनाने वाले ने कोई अन्तर न किया  
तब यह बार्डर कहाँ से आया  
बार्डर के इस पार, उस पार  
है वही धरती  
सोचो अगर बार्डर न होता तो क्या होता ?  
सम्पूर्ण धरती का नज़ारा कुछ और होता।  
प्रश्न न उठेगा कभी युद्ध का  
न फिर होगा कभी मानव संहार  
बार्डर ही देता है.....  
युद्ध का ख्याल.....

**प्रतिभा**

III B.Sc., Chemistry

## क्षणिकाएँ

### कृतज्ञता

हे वीर होगा शिखर पर तेरा नाम,  
जिसने न होने दिया माँ को बदनाम,  
तू धन्य प्रभु से भी ऊँचा,  
न होने दिया हमारा सिर नीचा।

**भी.जिता**

II B.Sc., Maths

### बदलाव

भारत के सर पर है हिमालय  
कहलता है यह शिव का आलय  
लेकिन अब आतंकवादियों का बसेरा  
कहलता है यह आतंक का डेरा।

**एम.अंजना**

II B.Sc., Maths

### प्रश्नचिन्ह

भला इस शिक्षा ने दिया क्या हमें,  
रोजगार के लिये फिरते रहें  
न जाने कब खत्म होगी यह तलाश  
कब पाऊँगी रोजगार और भर पाऊँगी आत्मविश्वास।

**रोस अण्टोणी**

II B.A., History

## बेरुखी

सोचा कभी किसान न होते  
तो खाने के लिये हम रोंते  
हमें करना है उनका सम्मान  
क्योंकि उनके बिना हम हैं नाकाम।

नित्या नारायण  
II B.C.A.,

## रुख

कौन बनेगा करोड़पती, चल रहा है सवाल  
क्यों हो रहा है, भारत वर्ष का हाल  
पैसे के पीछे भाग रहा है इन्सान  
न जाने कहाँ खो चुका है उसका ईमान  
आन्तरिक सुन्दरता को खो बन गया  
धर्मलोलुपता का कठपुतला इन्सान।

सुमन यादव  
III B.A., History

## रहसास

यह अचानक क्या हुआ  
दिल मेरा शायर हुआ है  
खुशबु-सा धुला हुआ मैं  
हर पल लगता नया है।

रमोना राजन  
III B.A.,  
Sociology

## बिदाई

डोली सज रही है  
बारात आ गयी है  
सब के चेहरों पर उदासी छा गयी है  
बेटी को विदा करने की  
घड़ी आ गयी है।

पायल शाह  
II B.A., Fine Arts

## बढ़ते कदम

तुम भारत को छोड़, ओ युवाओ  
कहीं जाना मत,  
जो इसे छोड़कर जाता है,  
बाद में बहुत पछताता है।  
तुम तो ऐसे दौड़ पड़े हो,  
जैसे, हिरन दौड़ता मरुभूमि में जल के लिए  
पर न भूलो तुम,  
वह पानी नहीं मृगतृष्णा है।

आजकल विदेशों में भारत की संस्कृति की नकल की जा रही है। संसार के कोने-कोने से लोग भारत भ्रमण के लिए आते हैं। यहाँ की सुंदर गरिमामय संस्कृति को देखकर वे यहीं बस जाते हैं। सचमुच, हमारे देश की संस्कृति में एक उमंग एवं उत्साह का भाव समाया हुआ है।

पर यह क्या? हमारे देश की संस्कृति दिन-प्रतिदिन विस्मृत होती जा रही है। जिस संस्कृति की मधुर स्मृति को देखकर कभी लोग मर-मिटा करते थे, आज वही लोग इसे मिटा देना चाहते हैं।

हमारी संस्कृति के इस प्रकार लुप्त होने का प्रमुख कारण—हमारा बदलता विचार, आकर्षण तथा समय के अनुसार ढलने की लालसा है। आज की पीढ़ी नहीं चाहती कि हम वही पुरानी संस्कृति को लेकर चले, उसी में जी कर मर जाएँ। आज की पीढ़ी नहीं चाहती कि वह पुरानी जंजीरों में जकड़ कर जिए। बल्कि उसे तोड़कर आज़ाद पंक्षी की भाँति अनन्त आकाश में अपनी मन मर्जी से उड़ना तथा जीना चाहती है। वह पूर्व से उड़कर पश्चिम की ओर जाना चाहती है।

नई पीढ़ी आज के टेकनालोजी तथा कंप्यूटर की दुनिया तथा रंगीले पश्चिमी पॉप संगीत में खो गई है। अब वह ऋषि-मुनियों की बात तथा ग्रंथ सुनने वाली नहीं हैं। आज की पीढ़ी पश्चिमी दुनिया में जीवन का आनन्द पा रही है। वह आज पश्चिमी दुनिया के रंग में इतनी डूब गई है कि उसे कुछ नज़र नहीं आता।

अगर आज हमारे देश में थोड़ी बहुत संस्कृति जो बची हुई है वह गाँव या दूर-दराज के क्षेत्रों में ही नज़र आती है। आज वहाँ पर भी नए फैशनों का बोलवाला है। अब ग्रामीण जनता भी अपनी बची-खुची संस्कृति बदल डालना चाहती है।

यदि हम अपनी संस्कृति के अच्छे पहलु को बनाए रखना चाहते हैं, तो हमें आज के युव वर्ग को जागरूक करना चाहिए।

**इसबेला करकेटा**  
I B.A., History

## भूकंप

हाय ये कैसा दिन है आया  
हर तरफ बरबादी और दुख है छाया  
26 जनवरी का दिन बुरा था  
ये दिन सबके आँखों में आँसू लाया।  
मरे न जाने कितने लोग  
मिट्टी में मिली न जाने कितनों की आशा  
इस भूकंप ने आकर दिया है हमको  
पल भर की नहीं, जिन्दगी भर की निराशा।  
बच्चे, बटे, नौजवान सारे  
एक ही पल में मिट गए सारे  
ये दुआ है उस खुदा से  
न आए ऐसा भूकंप धरा पर।

**रमोना रफेल राजन**  
II B.A., Sociology

## कौन जिम्मेदार.....?

किसी जमाने में बचपन से हो बच्चों को दूध में संस्कारों को घोलकर घुट्टी पिलायी जाती थी। भजन कीर्तन जीवन का एक अहम् हिस्सा हुआ करता था तथा तड़के सुप्रभात या आरती की आवाज़ घर-घर से आया करती थी।

पर आज यह हाल है कि युवाओं को राष्ट्रगीत भी नहीं आता। वे माइकल जेकसन के संगीत पर उठते हैं और वह भी दोपहर को। कारण पूछिये तो कहेंगे कि रात को डिस्क में देर हो गई थी।

यह हाल है हमारी भारतीय संस्कृति का और इसको मटियामेट करने में युवा पीढ़ी तुली हुई है। इक्कसवीं शताब्दी में पाँव रखते ही यह आभास होने लगा है कि चाहे हम चाँद पर क्यों न पहुँच गए हों पर संस्कृति और सभ्यता के विषय में हम पिछड़ते जा रहे हैं। आज हाल है कि नवयुवक देशप्रेम की भावना को भुला कर विदेशों की ओर आकर्षित हो रहे हैं।

इसका कारण क्या है? क्या केवल युवा वर्ग को दोषी ठहराना सही होगा? आखिर बच्चा तो चाक पर रखी कच्ची मिट्टी के समान होता है – हम उसे जिस साँचे में ढालेंगे वह वहीं आकार ले लेगा। आज के युवा वर्ग का अपने देश के प्रति अलगाव शायद उनके बचपन में ही शुरू हो गया था। आजकल पहले जैसे संयुक्त परिवार की प्रथा तो रही नहीं। इस कारण वह अनमोल शिक्षा जो हमें दादा-दादी, नाना-नानी की कथाओं में मिला करती थी उससे हम वंचित रह गए। कुछ हद तक माता-पिता ही इस आकर्षण का बीजारोपण करते हैं। आजकल कितने घरों में माता को माँ और पिता को पिताजी पुकारा जाता है ? इसका भी अंग्रेजी रूपांतरण हो चला है। अंग्रेजी का ज्ञान एक शिक्षित व्यक्ति की पहचान माना जाता है। हम अपने विभिन्न भाषाओं की भूल एक विदेशी भाषा को सम्मान देने में लगे हैं जो वास्तव में हमारी है ही नहीं। और फिर दूरदर्शन और केबल टी.वी. ने जब से भारत में कदम रखा है तब से पाश्चात्य संस्कृति मानो हमारे लिए पूज्य हो गई हो। बच्चा आजकल सबसे ज्यादा वक्त दूरदर्शन के साथ बिताता है जहाँ-एम टी.वी., स्टार प्लस जैसे चैनल उसके मस्तिष्क में इस बात की



छाप छोड़ देते हैं कि भारत शायद किसी तरह विदेशी देशों से निम्न है। यदि हम हर वक्त भारतीयों को विदेशी कपड़े पहन अंग्रेजी बोलते हुए देखें तो हमारे ख्यालात बदलते कितनी देर लगेगी?

आजकल विदेशी शिक्षा का भी कुछ ज़्यादा ही गुणगान हो रहा है। जिसे देखों, टिकट कटाकर अमरीका, लंदन, जर्मनी जाने की बात कर रहा है। युवा वर्ग विदेशी डॉलरों के मोह में आकर अपने देश के प्रति अपने फर्ज को भुला बैठे हैं। माता-पिता और समाज भी उन्हें यह सोचने से रोकता नहीं। यदि संतान विदेश में पल रही हो तो माता-पिता का सर गर्व से ऊँचा हो जाता है। पर जब वही संतान किसी विदेशी से विवाह कर वही बस जाने की बात करती है तब माता-पिता अपनी किस्मत को रोते हैं और अपने बच्चे को नालायक करार दे देते हैं।

पर क्या यह वास्तव में युवा वर्ग का कसूर है? क्या हमारी सामाजिक परिस्थिति ही ऐसे आकर्षणों को प्रोत्साहित नहीं करती? यह तो वही बात हुई कि जैसे कोयल अपने बच्चे को कौओं के बीच छोड़ दे और जब बच्चा भी कौ की बोली बोले तो कोयल को गुस्सा आ जाए।

आखिर इस मसले का हल क्या है? क्या हम बच्चों को यह शिक्षा दें कि अपनी संस्कृति को छोड़ दें? बिल्कुल नहीं। यह सही भी नहीं है। हर संस्कृति की अपनी विशेषता है, अपनी खूबी है। जरूरत है तो अपने अंदर अपनी संस्कृति के प्रति अभिमान पैदा करते की।

पंडित जाकिर हुसैन ने कहा था— “मैं भी कभी अमरीकी संस्कृति एवं संगीत का कायल था। पर जब अमरीका जाकर, वहाँ रहकर फिर अपने भारत को परखा तब जाना कि हमारी संस्कृति कितनी विशाल और सुन्दर है। जैसे आदमी चंद्रमा पर पहुँच धरती की ओर देखने पर एहसास करता है कि धरती कितनी खूबसूरत है, कुछ उसी तरह मैंने पहली बार अपनी संस्कृति पर गर्व किया।”

यदि आज की “कोक” एवं “कन्द्री चिकन” की दीवानी युवा पीढ़ी को भारतीय संस्कृति पर अभिमान करना सिखाया जाए, तब शायद उनका विदेशी आकर्षण भी कम हो जाए।

इस मक्सद को हासिल करने के लिए हर माता-पिता को अपनी संतान को सही शिक्षा देनी होगी। रात-दिन की दौड़-भाग और पैसे कमाने की लत में हम कई बार जीवन की इन महत्वपूर्ण बातों को नज़रअंदाज़ कर देते हैं। रामायण, गीता इत्यादि के उपदेश हमें भले ही प्राचीन लगे पर आज भी उनके आदर्श एवं शिक्षा यदि बच्चों को दिए जाए तो जीवन में आगे चलकर उन्हें सही और गलत का हो ज्ञान नहीं होगा अपितु उनमें देशप्रेम की भावना भी बढ़ेगी।

यदि युवा वर्ग में वह देशप्रेम भरना है जो कभी भगतसिंह, सुखदेव इत्यादि में हुआ करती थी तब शुरुआत अभी से करनी होगी। यदि हम बच्चों को भारत की विविधता और अनेकता में एकता की बात अभी नहीं बताएंगे जो अवश्य ही आगे चलकर उन्हें ऐसा देश ज्यादा पसंद आयेगा जहाँ हर पच्चीस किलोमीटर की दूरी पर भाषा नहीं बदलती है।

अतः निष्कर्ष यह है कि युवा वर्ग के आकर्षण और उनके विचारों को बदलने के लिए हमें पहले से ही ध्यान रखना होगा। हर कदम पर भारत की विशेषताओं का बखान करना होगा। यदि खुद की संस्कृति पर खुद को गर्व हो तो हम भला परायी संस्कृति की ओर आकर्षित क्यों होंगे ?

के. प्रीता

III B.Sc., Physics

## त्रासदी का शिकार

दीये की बुझती लौ की तरह, मंद्धिम होता वह आर्तनाद, बचावकर्मी शायद ही कभी भूला पाये। सैंकेडों में मालवा बन चुकी उस इमारत के विशाल ढेर से उठते "अपने बचाओ..... अपने बचावो" के करुण क्रन्दन ने उन्हें बेसब्र कर दिया था। एक दिन पहले हुई कोई तीन मिनट की उस विनाशलीला के करीब 28 घंटे बाद भी अपराहन तक बचाव कर्मी, अहमदाबाद के इशानपुर इलाके की कैंडिला स्कूल की इमारत के ढेर से, मासूम बच्चों के महज़ दो ही शरीर निकाल पाये। 34 नौनिहाल अपनी गर्भवती शिक्षिका के साथ, उस मलबे में दफन थे। उस कर्तव्यपरायण अध्यापिका ने घाट्यक्रम के भारी बोझ के

मददेनजर अपने विद्यार्थियों को गणतंत्र दिवस के राष्ट्रीय अवकाश पर भी विज्ञान की अतिविक्र क्लास के लिए स्कूल बुलाया था। भूकंप का जबरदस्त धक्का लगा तो वे शिक्षिका के साथ चौथे माले की सीढ़ियों से नीचे भागे कि तभी वह इमारत ताश के पत्तों के मानिंद गिर गई।

ऐसी कितनी ही दर्दनाक कहानियाँ छिपी हुई हैं, इन मलवों के ढेर में। किन्तु इन सबको हम सिर्फ दैवी त्रासदी नहीं कह सकते। इन सबके भूल में क्या हम मानव जिम्मेदार नहीं हैं? वास्तव में वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि ऐसी ज्यादातर त्रासदियों के पीछे, “मानव का प्रकृति के साथ छेड़छाड़” जिम्मेदार है। प्रकृति से खेलना एक भयंकर भूल है, इसे मानव क्यों नहीं अब तक समझ पाया। अब गुजरात में आये इस भूकंप को ही ली लिया जाए गुजरात नर्मदा बांध की धरती है और वैज्ञानिक भूकंपों का बांध से करीबी संबंध को नकार नहीं रहे हैं। भूकंप विज्ञानी, राष्ट्रीय भूगर्भ शोध संस्थान के निदेशक डा.एच.के गुप्ता बताते हैं— “लातूर में जो भयानक भूकंप आया था, उसके पीछे भी भूस्खलन जिम्मेदार है। लातूर में भूस्खलन की वजह से धरती पर दबाव पैदा हुआ और उन इलाकों पर कहर बनकर टूटा जो 2000 साल पहले भूकंप से कमजोर हो गये थे। भूस्खलन का मुख्य कारण पेड़ काटना और बेतहाशा कांकरीट के इमारतों का बनना है। इस कारण धरती खोखली होती जा रही है। भुज में भी ऐसी संभावना को खारिज नहीं किया जा सकता।

“विशाल जलाशयों से प्रेरित भूकंप” का भारत में सबसे प्रसिद्ध उदाहरण महाराष्ट्र का कोयना बाँध है। वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार “बांध बनने से पहले कोयना इलाके में भूकंप नहीं आते थे। लेकिन बांध बनने के बाद 1967 में वह भारी भूकंप आया और अब भी छोटे मोटे भूकंप आते रहते हैं।”

इन सब उदाहरणों से यही साबित होता है कि ये सारी प्राकृतिक विपदायें मानव द्वारा प्रकृति से खिलवाड़ का फल है। अगर हमें भविष्य की पीढ़ी को सुरक्षित रखना है, तो प्रकृति के साथ इस खिलवाड़ को बन्द करना होगा।

**श्रावणी भट्टाचार्य**  
हिन्दी विभाग

## दूर के ढोल

वह पहने दुप्पटा बान्दनी  
पर देखे विदेशी चाँदनी,  
देखना चाहे उन्ही सितारों को  
सुनना चाहे उन्हीं आवाजों को  
जो बाज़ारों में बिकती विदेशी।  
तोबा।तोबा। उफ..... यह युग।  
इसका विदेशी आकर्षण।  
तोबा..... भारत में क्या है भारतीय आज?  
बोल हिन्दी और स्वर अग्रेजी,  
पहने साड़ी और नाचे रेप डान्स  
खाते पीज्जा-बरगर  
“वाह, क्या बात है।”  
कहती है हमारी युवा पीढ़ी  
क्या रखा है भारत में?  
चलो चले विदेश में  
क्या रखा है भारत... महान देश में?  
भूल जाते है वह माँ की ममता भरे  
खाने के स्वाद को  
पीछे कब तक भागेगा कोई कितना  
आखिर आकर्षण होता है इतना  
पहुँच जाते विदेश में।

वहाँ खाना, पीना कपड़े धोना खुद।  
बर्तन धोते – धोते सारी अग्रेजी जाती है भूल।  
अपने वतन का शुद्ध जामा  
भारतीय लोगो को देखने का जी मचलना  
भारतीय भाषा बोलने को मन चाहता है।  
जागो युवक-युवतियों !  
दूर के ढोल  
होते है सुहावने।

रोबिन बेला  
III B.A., History

## आज

आज  
खिड़की से झाँकती रही  
तुम्हारे इंतज़ार में।  
बस चल पड़ी,  
पर तुम नहीं आये  
फिर हुआ महसूस  
कि तुम अब कभी नहीं आओगे।  
मेरी एक नन्हीं-सी भूल, ले गई तुमको  
मुझसे कोसों दूर।

एस. मधुमिता  
II B.Sc., Botany

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**  
**CHENNAI – 600 086.**

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