

GRASS ROOTS MEDIA

Livelihoods and sustainability are the primary focus and concern of our films that is reflected in the many context of developmental impacts, dissemination of eco friendly technologies, conservation values, indigenous cultures... We strive to evolve a very creative and organic form to our work that is all encompassing and seek to tell our stories using the simplest of visual idioms and believe that the content in many ways dictates the form, what really drives us is our passion for Cinema...

Grassroots took shape when a theatre activist, a film maker, a cinematographer and a journalist came together to take the Camera to the grass roots and make people's voices heard. The voices become very important, for they come from people, who do not read or write. In spite of having many a rich oral tradition, they are considered illiterates! Reaching a camera to them thus acquires significance!

We have worked with a wide variety of agencies such as The Swiss Development Corporation-SDC, HIVOS, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), PLAN International, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Indo-Norwegian Environment Program, Department of Urban Development-Gol, Children's Christian Fund, Myrada., Technology Informatics Development Endeavour-TIDE etc.

LONG FORM DOCUMENTARIES-

***The bee the bear and the Kuruba* – Format : 16mm, 63 minutes**

A film on the conservation values of the kurubas, an indigenous tribe living in the forests of Nagarahole-South India

Sharing the honey with the bear they lived in the forests for ages today they are being driven out from their ancestral lands as an eco development project of the state and the world bank gets underway and a luxury tourist resort comes up in the core area of the park!

Festival Selections-

- # 32nd International Film Festival of India-IFFI 2001,
- # United Nations Association Film Festival- Stanford-2001
- # Planet in Focus, Toronto, 2001
- #Film South Asia, Nepal, 2001
- # The Pennsylvania Film Festival- 2001- Social Documentaries
- # 21st Bilan du film ethnographique, 2002, Musee del Homme Paris
- #10th Environment Film Festival 2002, Washington DC
- # 7th Mumbai International Film Festival-MIFF 2002
- # River to River film festival- 2002-Florence
- # 6th environmental Film Festival 2002, Istanbul, Turkey
- # Cine Eco 2002, Portugal
- #Open Frame PSBT & UNESCO -2003

***Mahua memoirs*- Format: Mini DV, 82 minutes**

Saloo, the bard and Thirku Baiga take us on a journey through the lives of the many tribal communities who live in the mountain tracts and forests of the Eastern Ghats across the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand. As in most indigenous homelands the world over, these regions too are rich in natural resources including minerals; resources that have become the source of their greatest insecurities.

Through their stories and songs of the indigenous people, the film unravels and unfolds both their life visions and their struggles against the merciless mining, particularly over the past two decades, that is consuming their lands and their lives.

Awards, Citations-

#Award for the best Cinema of resistance at the 3rd SIGNS film festival –Thiruvananthapuram,
awarded the silver conch as the Second best documentary at the 10th Mumbai international film festival of shorts, documentaries and animation films.

The Indian critics award at the 10th Mumbai International film festival for documentaries, shorts and animation films.

Best long documentary at the 1st international Video festival of Kerala

South to South Film Festival- Jakarta,

The film is now shown across France, Germany as part of the commemoration –60 years of Gandhi. Will be screened in Norway this September

Produced by- EQUATIONS and Grass roots media, supported by HIVOS –India regional office.

WORK IN PROGRESS-

The Vanishing Trails, tales of the nomads- Format: XDCAM, Connecting disparate communities, diverse faiths, multiple languages and distanced lands through their uncommon ways of life and livelihoods, the nomadic communities, whatever names they may be known by, have always shared a symbiotic relationship with the more sedentary societies they have survived with for centuries.

Their creative wanderlust was an essential part of the economic and cultural landscape they traveled through. The processes of colonisation and industrialisation indelibly altered this landscape.

Leading us through little glimpses into the ravaged lives of the Raj Nats, the Denotified Tribes, the Bahuroopis, the Bhudagajangamas and the Kadak Lakshmis, *Vanishing Trails* attempts to track their disappearing footprints.

And question the implications of this loss for our collective futures.

Script and research compilation supported by HIVOS and Bread for the world-BFW

Short Films

Tholi Chinuka / Fragrance of the First Rain (1990)

The film centres around the story of Gangamma, the water deity, who was worshipped on tank bunds. These water bodies were critical to communities in terms of social, ritual and practical needs.

. *To Spin a Yarn* (1999): The three parts of this film trace the silk route within India from the silkworm rearers in Karnataka, to the hand spinners of *matka* silk in West Bengal and the silk weavers in Bihar. The film led to a ban on the export of pierced cocoons.

Sericulture in Tamil Nadu (2000)

An evaluation of the project where the issues from the pre-cocoon to the post-cocoon stage. It is more like a file which you just add pages to.

A Dance with the Rain – Gullava's Story (2001):

Gullava's story is a children's play enacted in Koppal, where the earth falls in love with the Sun and there is no rain in the kingdom after that. Five interventions by five different NGOs in Hosur, H.D.

Kote, Sira, Koppal and Chennai were documented at the end of a phase of the project to record the impact and the reactions of the beneficiaries. The children's play was used effectively as a metaphor.

Quick Sand (2002)

Sand mining in riverbeds affects people's lives in long-term and profound ways. This 10-minute film addresses people's concerns over this issue.

Jatha to Development (2002)

It is a record of a project that focuses on children through an attempt at empowering communities.

Practicing Development (2002)

The film records an initiative to help a community take control of their resources, leading to empowerment.

Taming the Flame (2002)

This film records local efforts at forest conservation through the use of biomass fuels.

The Barefoot Engineering (2003)

Combining the best of the old and the new, villagers planned a water conservation project combining indigenous knowledge and modern technology.

Nagara Nyrmalaya (2003)

The community's role in solid waste management and the complex issues surrounding it form the crux of this entertaining short film.

Nelavoli Palligal / Moonlight Schools Part I and II (2003, 2005):

This film on child labour in Kanchipuram documents an innovative intervention where officials started a bridge school for working children in the evenings. They were closely monitored and mentored to move on to a regular school in the following year.

Sangarsha (2004)

The film documents the struggles of slum dwellers against policies affecting their rights.

Sun Beams in Smoke (2004)

This film on smokeless cook stoves revolves around a village woman who is trained to make stoves for all. She not only makes them, but also innovates constantly to suit the needs of the people.

The Nutcrackers (2006)

A short film on the entrepreneurial efforts of a group of women from a remote village who have set up their own cashew nut processing plant in Kerala.

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