

*A report on "1000 peace women across globe, an exhibition in India",
set up by the Kriti team with support from Sangat*

at

Civil Society Summit: State of the Republic

24-26 Jan 2010, Bangalore



Civil society Summit: State of the Republic, an event, aimed at rethinking, reacting, realizing, redefining, restructuring the various void and fills of the current democratic, social and constitutional setup of the existing scenario in India' after its 60 years of a republic nation. The event focused on finding emerging spaces and challenges for the people & groups who believed in alternative approach towards development.

The event was enhanced with some great eminent speakers coming form all over India and setting a panel for discussion.

Peace building measure, vacuum in the constitutional framework' with reviews, child, urban and rural governance, AFSPA, issues of SEZs, J & K and more were the key highlights that the panels and audiences interacted upon. Mostly sessions where held in English and masses language, Kannada.

Kriti team, with a group of 5 volunteers, 2 from Delhi and 3 from Bangalore, set up the 'Kriti team Gestures and Docushop stall' and '1000 Peace Women Across the Globe: an exhibition in India', at the event venue.

The setting up of peace exhibition had all together its own requirements such as setup space, availability of resources like an extra table, enough walls to put up black n white photographic mounts, banners, postcards etc. With limited space available, the Kriti team volunteers successfully installed the peace women exhibition on all three days at different locations of the CSS.

This particular exhibition focused on displaying the South-Asian peace women who were nominated for the Nobel peace prize in 2005. The exhibition had photographs taken my Gauri Gill, which included some of the peace women like Irom Sharmila, Aruna Roy, Medha Patkar, Mallika Sarabhai, Vasant kambhari etc, and many other independent peace women across South Asia were also exhibited on the coloured post cards.



The idea behind exhibiting this peace women photos and cards was for people to know about these brave and courageous women, some of whom have independently done something extraordinary for the development of the society in their own way and have achieved it through patience, perseverance and peace initiatives. For us Kriti team volunteers, young students of college it was a learning experience and we saw it as an

effort for spreading awareness among people about these peace women and make them understand that every individual in some or other way can make a change in the civil, social society India.

The exhibition was a success and was very well received. About 150 people visited the exhibition during the 3 days summit. Some of the reviews of people are given below-

- *Good work in documenting the contribution of extraordinary women in less than ordinary circumstances - Vasanthi Hariprakash, Media, NDTV.*
- *Great work, really nice exhibition...happy to see and know about peace women - Whitey Howarth, Professor of Indian History, USA.*
- *Peace is possible only when you provide justice forever...this I feel is good way to show case, in some way, about successful peace activities in India by women - Bodapati David, Media Advocate.*
- *Worth hearing of women achievements. Thanks for sharing - Anand, SOS.*
- *Trying to establish women position in India...this is a great way of exhibiting that - Madhoob, Social Worker*
- *Superb!!! - Arun, Lawyer.*
- *Thumbs up!! Great presentation would love to know more about it and will definitely visit the website - Anne, UTC student.*
- *Lovely idea and very nicely put together - Shaarad, SSO.*
- *Very good work, love the concept - B.K.Mallik, MSW, Orissa.*
- *Innovative way of exhibiting & great PR skills - Sruthi, architect.*
- *Great people involved in kriti and even nicer exhibition...had a great time knowing these peace women - Piyush k kashyab, artist/designer.*



My own personal experience has been one of the best in these 3 years of working with kriti team. It was a big responsibility on my hand and the fact that somewhere I single handedly had to organize and put up everything we had to. I am very glad that Aanchal trusted me and gave me this responsibility. The kind and level of interaction I had during the three-day summit as far as the outreach for kriti is concerned was great. I happened to interact with many professors from the US, who showed their appreciation and was impressed by our concept and execution. I also met a lot of young artist from Srishti School of art and design who particularly liked the way the whole exhibition was set-up and gave their ideas on improving it. Overall, it was a very tiring yet exciting

and a great learning experience for me as always it has been.



By
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