

KAMLA BHASIN AWARD 2023 (SOUTH ASIA)

Driving the World Towards Gender Equality

26 November 2023



**Embracing Kamla Bhasin's Legacy: A Timeless Beacon of
Feminism and Social Justice.**

Organized by

Azad Foundation, i-Partner and National Foundation for India

In

Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Delhi

KAMLA BHASIN AWARD

Kamla Bhasin (24 April 1946-25 September 2021), an eminent Indian feminist, social activist, and author whose life has been dedicated to the pursuit of social justice and gender equality. Her remarkable journey has left an indelible mark on the fields of feminism, peace, and activism. She is remembered as a poet, writer, singer, song writer and composer who acted as a pillar of support to marginalized women. She was the one who added joy and life in rallies with enduring motivation, thoughts and ideas This award is a humble attempt to rejoice her ideologies beyond borders.

The Kamla Bhasin award is dedicated to South Asia, as Kamla believed in one South Asia - a piece of earth with cultural diversity and sharing several commonalities. She was instrumental in strengthening the bond of love and sisterhood across South Asia and the world. Her slogans, poetry, songs, writings and speeches resonated with many and made her stand out uniquely as a leader in the feminist movement all over the region. She believed in a form of advocacy that combines feminist theory and community action. She worked with underprivileged women from tribal and working communities, often using posters, plays and other non-literary methods to get through to communities with low literacy rates. She had always maintained that in order to usher effective change, sloganeering must be accompanied by community mobilization. Her poem "*Kyunki main ladki hoon, mujhe padhna hai*" resonated with many. In 1995, she recited a refurbished, feminist version of the popular poem Azadi (Freedom) in a conference. She was also the South Asia coordinator of One Billion Rising.

She supported Azad's work with her ideas and energetic participation that inspired hundreds of women and men trainees. Kamla was a leading feminist who advocated for engaging with men towards gender equality. She believed that toxic masculinity dehumanizes men, and she came up with the popular slogan "Men of quality are not afraid of equality". Kamla Bhasin's legacy is a beacon of inspiration, a testament to the enduring power of her tireless advocacy towards gender equality and social justice.

In her fond memory, Azad Foundation has constituted **The Kamla Bhasin Award for Driving the World Towards Gender Equality**, aims to advance Kamla's legacy of recognising and supporting grass-roots change- makers who are fighting against the

patriarchal norms and structures in society. Kamla Bhasin's life stands as a testament to the enduring impact that an individual can have on society when driven by a commitment to gender justice, equality and human dignity.

UNVEILING THE TRAPESTRY OF EMPOWERMENT: THE LIFE & WORK OF KAMLA BHASIN

Kamla Bhasin was born in Shaheedanwali village in Gujranwala district in Punjab. One of six siblings, she moved with her family to Bharatpur in Rajasthan, where her father worked as a doctor; her mother was a homemaker. Kamla was educated in Jaipur. Growing up in a society deeply entrenched in patriarchal norms, Kamla Bhasin's early experiences fueled her commitment to challenging gender-based inequalities. Armed with a master's degree in Economics and a passion for social change, she began her career in the 1970s, a period marked by significant socio-political upheavals globally.

Kamla Bhasin's most enduring contributions is her work in promoting women's rights and gender justice. Her advocacy spans a wide range of issues, including violence against women, reproductive rights, and economic empowerment. Bhasin played a pivotal role in the global feminist movement, contributing not only through her writings but also through hands-on engagement with grassroots organizations and international agencies.

In the 1980s, she worked with the South Asian Feminist Network 'SANGAT,' which she co-founded, (April 1998). She was also a co-founder of Jagori, a women's rights NGO in India. Her commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding between diverse communities is evident in her efforts to bridge gaps between South Asian nations through various initiatives.

Kamla Bhasin's influence extends beyond academic and activist circles. She is a prolific writer and has authored several books and articles that delve into the complexities of gender, development, and peace. Her writings, characterized by clarity and depth, have become essential reading in academic curricula and feminist discourse.

Moreover, Bhasin's engagement with the United Nations has been instrumental in shaping global policies related to gender justice. Her involvement in numerous international conferences and forums has allowed her to contribute in shaping the

discourse on women's rights at a global level. In recognition of her tireless efforts, Kamla Bhasin has received numerous accolades, including the Feminist Lifetime Achievement Award by the South Asian Women in the Media (SAWM) in 2019.

Kamla Bhasin began her work in 1970 and when she left us at the age of 75. She was a leading spirit of the women's movement, her lifetime work of feminism, activism, work, poetry, writing, songs and slogans had travelled across India and the South region and continued to inspire more work. She wrote and published books, booklets, songs and stories, many of which have been republished in about 30 languages. An integral part of the global One Billion Rising movement, she was one of the coordinators for the 1000 women for the Nobel Peace Prize' initiative in 2005.

Her life serves as an inspiration for the younger generation of activists, scholars, and change makers, illustrating the transformative power of persistent and principled advocacy.

THE KAMLA BHASIN AWARD: HONOURING CHANGE & CELEBRATING VISIONARIES

In the solemn embrace of eternity, when Kamla physically left us, Azad Foundation had organized a memorial in Delhi and Jaipur, further Azad has dedicated newsletter but we, at Azad wanted her to remain in spirit with us forever. This led to conceptualization of KB Award.

This award intends to honor and celebrate efforts being taken by women, men and trans person to fight patriarchy and work towards a Gender- Just Society where women can acquire livelihoods with dignity and gain control over their lives and bodies. The award will encompass South Asia and will include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SELECTION CRITERION: Selection criterion is divided in two categories

(i) A woman (cis trans) practitioner of Non- Traditional Livelihood (NTL)

Would have been practicing in traditional livelihood for a period of at least of 3 years, would have empowered herself, gain control over her rights, earnings and

their life. Would have been a change agent for themselves family and community at large.

(ii) A male (cis / trans) who has worked towards enabling a gender- just ecosystem that challenges patriarchy, gender inequality and dominant notions of masculinity.

Would have worked towards creating a gender- just ecosystem for at least 3 years, addressing issues of unpaid care work, safe working environment, prevention of violence against women, and encouraging women, contributed to change not just in their families but also community they serve.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS- AZAD FOUNDATION, I-PARTNER AND NATIONAL FOUNDATION OF INDIA

1. Biraj is the Executive Director of NFI:

Prior to joining NFI, Biraj was formerly the Principal Adviser to the Commissioners of the Indian Supreme Court in the Right to food case. He has been part of the right to food campaign in India since its inception. Currently, he is also an Honorary Research Fellow at Coventry University.



2. Sumedha Sharma i-Partner India, UK:

She is a country Director at I partner India. She is an expert at organizational development, Grant management, monitoring and evaluation, Capacity building, she is also a Posh trainer and advisor with over 25 years of experience in Development Sector at National and International level.



3. Meenu Vadera is the founder of Azad Foundation, a social enterprise that supports resource poor women to gain “Livelihoods with dignity”. She is presently the chief Mentor to the National Lead Team of Azad Foundation. She has a work experience of over 20 years as a grassroots worker, trainer, implementer and a leader. She has been involved in development initiatives as the Country Director in ActionAid Uganda (1998-2003).



INTRODUCING ESTEEMED JURY MEMBERS: The members of the jury were chosen from different countries, uniting experts across fields, from Social Justice & Political Advocates to Feminist and Journalist, constituting a dynamic panel ensuring a rigorous selection process.

CHAIRPERSON- ANU AGA: Jury is headed by **Anu Aga, as an Executive Chairperson.** She is an Indian billionaire businesswoman known for her social work. She led Thermax, an energy and environment engineering business from 1996 to 2004 as its chairperson. After retiring, she devoted her time to primary education for the economically underprivileged. She has been on the board of Akansha for over two decades and helped launch Teach for India (TFI). She retired as Chairperson of TFI and is still on their board. According to Forbes magazine, she was among the eight richest Indian women, and in 2007 was part of 40 richest Indians by net worth. After retiring from Thermax, she took to social work, and in 2010 she was awarded the *Padma Shri for Social Work* by the Government of India. She was nominated to Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Indian



Parliament on 26 April 2012, by President Pratibha Patil. She served for 6 years as a member for the Rajya Sabha.

BANGLADESH: Khushi Kabir is a Social Activist, Feminist and Environmentalist. She is currently the coordinator of Nijera Kori. She is also involved in an honorary capacity in various national, regional and global forums such as Member, Board Trustees of the Centre for Policy Dialogue; Regional Advisor for Sangat; and Bangladesh Coordinator for the One Billion Rising global campaign.



INDIA: Namita Bhandare is an Award-winning Journalist with 30 years of reporting experience for various publications including the magazines Sunday, India Today, and the Daily Hindustan Times. In 2013, she was appointed India's first gender editor for Mint newspaper and was there until 2016. She has authored a series of articles on women and work.



NEPAL: Binda Pandey is a Nepalese Political Activist. She was a member of the 1st Nepalese Constituent Assembly (2008-2012) and is currently a member of the Federal Parliament, representing the Communist Party of Nepal. She was Deputy General Secretary of the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions during 2004–2009. She represented the Asia Pacific trade union in the ILO Governing Body for a decade (2011-2021). She has written books on “Women Participation in Nepalese Trade Union Movement” and “Women in Nepali Politics”



PAKISTAN: Munizae Jahangir is the editor in chief of Voicepk.net, Pakistan's first digital media platform focusing on human rights issues. She is an award-winning TV Journalist and Documentary filmmaker, currently anchoring a prime-time current affairs

show called 'Spotlight' on Aaj TV. She is an elected council member of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan; an elected Board member of SAHR (South Asians for Human rights) and the founder of SAWM (South Asian Women in Media) She was honored as Young Global Leader by WEF in 2008



SRILANKA: Radhika Coomaraswamy is a renowned lawyer, diplomat and human rights advocate who served as UN Under Secretary General and as Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict from 2006 until her retirement in 2012. From 1994 to 2003, she was the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. In 2017 she was appointed to the UN Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar and also appointed as a member of The Secretary General's Board of Advisors on Mediation. In June 2022, she was appointed as a Member of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts in Ethiopia.



After a thoughtful deliberation with organizers and jury, it had been unanimously decided to confer the Kamla Bhasin Award on 26 November. Each of the three co-organizers strategically divided their roles for the event, like venue booking, travel arrangements, process execution etc.

THE KAMLA BHASIN AWARD CEREMONY 2023: HARMONY IN ACTION

Amidst the cultural tapestry of India, At Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, Kamla Bhasin Award for the year 2023 was organized. In collaboration with the esteemed organizing partners, award ceremony begins with utmost fervor and zeal. All eyes were sparkling with emotions and liveliness of Kamla, with over and around 500 participants. There were members from organizing teams, guests from National & International agencies, grassroots levels organizations and community members from Azad, interventions sites of North, South and eastern Delhi and Sakha Cab drivers.



The emcee for the Award ceremony was Neharika Mahajan, from Niranter. She started the event with warm welcome to all guests and encouraged the participants for their patience and support.

Niharika reminisced how Kamla Bhasin used to bridge South Asia through her collaborative works, songs, especially Azadi song purely embedded in

peace and harmony. She fondly recalled her efforts for gender justice and promoting equality in society, and urged us all to imbibe those in our behavior. She further remembered her through poem of Baba Nagarjun, which is as follows:

“Naye gagan me naya suraj jo chamak raha hai

Ye vishal bhukhand, jo damak rha hai,

Meri bhi aabha hai isme, meri bhi aabha h isme”

As Niharika recited the poem she beautifully weaved the entire event, with her eloquent words.

INVOKING KAMLA - by BIRAJ, MEENU & SUMEDHA: A small Act of Invoking legendary Kamla Bhasin was done by the representatives of organizing partners. It was to grace the audience with her profound insights and ignite the spark of empowerment within each of us. It instilled in us the inspirational Kamla Bhasin, a trailblazer in gender equality and Social justice with a message of enlightenment and empowerment together.



We lived the colors of momentous journey of **Kamala's Life through a short video**, focusing on gender equality and women empowerment. Film depicted some of her famous songs and slogans viz, *tum baharao ka aana nhi rok skte*, and *Azadi Slogan*. This video also has a byte from all the jury member for Kamla and what she means to them.

In honor of Kamala Bhasin's Legacy and for the profound insights, the event has witnessed the presence of **Rita Thapa, as Chief Guest**. she is friend and co traveler to Kamala Bhasin. She founded and led TEWA, the Nepal Women's fund & Nagrik Awas. the Peace Building Initiatives in Nepal, since 2011. Her training and activities revolves around Women philanthropy, local advancement and peace building. She is an Ashoka fellow and one of the thousand women nominated for Nobel peace prize in 2005.



Rita Thapa was felicitated by Dolon Ganguly, National Leadership Team member, Azad Foundation.

Rita Thapa keynote Address: She addressed the audience in the remembrance of Kamla, Di. She expressed thanks for instituting the award in the name of Kamla. She congratulated all awardees. She recalled her days well spent with kamala focusing on two

things, firstly how she met Kamla di and how she spent the time-span with her, indulging with her in activities. She met Kamla Bhasin in 1991, in thematic workshop from Oxfame. Again she met in world social forum in Nairobi (2007) as one of the peace



women, and then she recalled her invitation being received to be one of the core group member, to begin a workshop for a month long coarse of SANGAT, that began in Nepal, before building the TEWA center at Kathmandu named as Dipyogini. Rita Thapa recalled Kamla Bhasin's efforts in demystifying forbidden words in society, viz feminism, gender,

sexuality patriarchy. She highlighted that how Kamla Di teaches women to feel empowered. She reminisced her efforts in connecting local, regional and internationality. She was fearless to choose the path less taken and she instilled to propose that whenever you see truth, you should jump to bring it to the table without thinking that whether it is feasible to say it or not. She urged us to connect and consolidate on our work, be out as leaders who sits on power, to standup to make our voices and good works shines, so that we can at least challenge the tough forces in the society. we all do work but very often that are not visible and or not counted., as many a times these are not aligned with resources, power & position.

Last thing she discussed was recent earthquakes of Nepal in which two of the district were hit badly and were having huge loses in the term of life and infrastructure. Nagrik awas in collaboration with 13 partner in the field had established peace kitchen to support families who were dying out of hunger and lack of resources. The only currency and only value that we have is “Love” with which we can connect with each other. With this she honors Kamala Di and expresses that she lives in me, through her values. She ended her words for expressing her gratitude for immense honor, to all three organizing partners of the event.

Niharika, the emcee of the event thanked & applauded Rita ji and reiterated the need for collaborating the coordinating among us.

The categories for Kamla Bhasin award was then discussed with audience. She emphasized that particularly for this year, **there are four winners.** (Two under the respective categories and two as special jury award under each category) for a change. She explained that the total entries received for this year from all seven south Asian Countries were 57. There were 40 application received in first category and 17 applications were received in second category.

FELICITATION OF THE JURY MEMBER PRESENT: Nisha from I partner, India, and Rumana from NFI have felicitated Namita Bhandare and Binda Pandey from Jury.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AWARDEES: Namita Bhandare from the Jury, was then asked to announce the awardees, on behalf of Anu Aagha, Executive chairperson of Jury members

CATEGORY 1: PRACTITIONER OF NON TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOOD

1. **Winner; Jaishree PK:** Mason by profession, trained in masonry, carpentry, ferry cement technology and sustainable building
2. **Special Jury award under**



category 1: Parina Subba Limbu: Founder and program director of Drishti Nepal in 2006, working on treatment & support women drug users and survivors of GBV.

CATEGORY 2: ENABLING GENDER JUST ECOSYSTEM

3. **Winner: Mahendra Kumar:** He engaged actively with the work of networks such as - MASVA (Men Against sexual violence) and FEM (Forum to Engage Men).

Working since 19 years on Gender equality, Hegemonic Masculinity in UP, MP Jharkhand and west Bengal

4. **Special Jury Award Under Category 2:** Farhaan Javed Akhter for MARD (Men Against Rape & Discrimination) MARD has a team of 5-6 people who work continuously on social media (Instagram & Meta especially) and continue to put out messages of gender equality, promoting a culture that shuns any form of gender-based violence.



A thunderous applause resonates from the audience, echoing the collective appreciation for their accomplishments, for all winners.

AWARD CEREMONY: KNOWING THE WINNERS

With the lines, " *Dariya ki kasam, maujo ki kasam, ye tana bana badlega*": A short film depicting the work and recognition of Jayshree PK was screened.

1. **JAYSHREE PK:** She learnt masonry in 1995 at a training conducted by Nirmithi Kendra. She went on to build rain water harvesting tanks after the training and became a master trainer in Ettumanoor, Kottayam. Kerela. In 2004 she joined

Archana Women's center, as a Supervisor and learnt more on ferro cement technology. She was the first woman in her village to have been trained in masonry and become a Supervisor.

Since 2004, after joining Archana women's center she worked with a team of 5-6 women to construct 15 big rain water harvesting structures. They constructed 10 houses for the tsunami affected families. In the period 2004 – 2005 they took up projects under the panchayat's Ashraya project and constructed houses. They also constructed the first office of Archana women center which was inaugurated in 2006. She learnt bamboo technology in 2006 and in 2018 during the Kerala flood they constructed a house of 600 sq. ft. using ferrocement and bamboo technology. In 2019 she single-handedly constructed a statue of an empowered woman in front of Archana women's center office which is more than 5 ft. tall. Jayasree continues to work as technical manager at Archana women's center where she supervises construction works at their sites.



Binda Pandey, honorable Jury member have presented Kamla Bhasin Award 2023 to Jayshree PK.

**EXPRESSIONS OF
JAYSHREE PK
AFTER RECEIVING
THE AWARD:**

I express my thanks and happiness for this Kamla Bhasin award. I express my thanks to all the jury members and all the organizations for this



award. I believe that this award in the name of Kamala bhasin, who was a feminist, activist who always fought for equality promotes inclusivity in the society. She is a beacon of motivation and inspires me to become one like her. Also I express my thanks to Archana women's center, its members, partners and founder, is Thressiamma Mathews for giving me such opportunities to rise to this level. I have faced extreme poverty in my childhood days and even in those days, who gave me courage, who held us together as children and led me through very challenging experiences of life is my mother, therefore I offer this award to my mother.

Once again, I express my Great gratitude those who organized and choose me for this award and for all those who gathered here to honor me and all of us.

**2. SPECIAL JURY AWARD UNDER CATEGORY 1: PARINA SUBBA
LIMBU**

She is the founder and currently the Program Director of Dristi Nepal, established in 2006. The organisation was founded to provide treatment and support for female (former) drug users, as Parina herself is a former drug user.

She met Ms. Lilian Fitz Gerald (a volunteer with Recovery Beyond Borders) in 2005 in a workshop for women in substance abuse. She was greatly inspired by what she learnt and expressed her desire to do something for women drug users in Nepal, given that Nepal has little existing support for women in substance abuse. Social stigma, lack of

opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation and a high rate of unemployment further worsen the challenge, making it extremely difficult for women to get back into productive lives. Ms. Lilian Fitz helped Parina with the seed money of NRs. 50,000 for setting up Dristi Nepal.

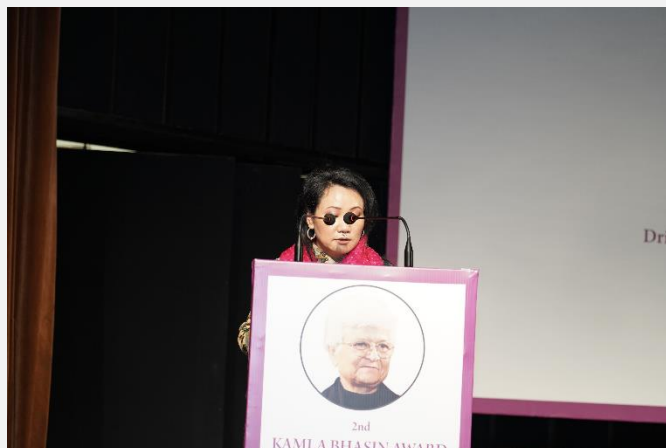
Dristi Nepal has become a passionate advocate for the rights of women, spreading its outreach beyond women drug users, to women living with HIV/AIDs, single mothers, women survivors of violence and other marginalized women. Dristi Nepal won the Red Ribbon Award 2014 from UNAIDS at the 20th International AIDS conference in Melbourne, for its work.



Dr. Sanjay Patra, Chairperson of I partner India, seasoned professional in non-profitable organizational management have presented Kamla Bhasin Award 2023 to Parina Subba Limbu

EXPRESSIONS OF PARINA, AFTER RECEIVING THE AWARD: I never started this journey thinking what I would get in return for any kind of consolation. The

only reason to me to start this journey was that I didn't want to see any more of me in this world, any other Parina. Regardless of all efforts, to create safe spaces for humans today, we may have lot to do. Today I gracefully and respectfully agree that I am worth living and this is my human rights. With each passing day, I promise to embrace more



self-respect and continue to be me and I am loud and proud to be a survivor and a warrior, I fought back. Thank you to the organizing partners for the Kamla Bhasin award and family and friends for this award and support.

3. MAHENDRA KUMAR: Mahendra has been working on the issue of gender equality and challenging hegemonic masculinity for the last 19 years. He started his work early on as a young student. He remembers feeling uncomfortable with the caste based discrimination that he would witness in his own family since he was very young. In 1997 he participated in a 3 months residential training with Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, an NGO based in Lucknow. This course was “Karyakarta Vikas Prashikshan (Activist Development Training) which changed his perspective regarding the larger inequality in the society, the structural causes and its impact on the lives of people. He was able to relate this to his life back home and he got a lot of motivation and energy to do something about it. He joined Centre for Health & Social Justice, an NGO, from 2004 and gained experience by working in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (Bundelkhand region), Jharkhand and West Bengal. He engaged actively with the work of networks such as - MASVA (Men Against sexual violence) and FEM (Forum to Engage Men).

Currently (since 2021) he has been working in the Naraini block of Banda district in Uttar Pradesh with some 860 young boys on issues of gender equality through his organization **Mitra**. Apart from that he continues to go to different organizations as a trainer who are working on the issues of masculinity.



Prof. Rama V. Baru, Board member of NFI, Former Chair and Faculty at Centre for Medicine & Community Health JNU, School of Social Sciences, have presented Kamla Bhasin award 2023 to Mahendra Kumar



EXPRESSIONS OF MAHEDRA KUMAR AFTER RECEIVING THE AWARD:

With homage to Kamla Di and greetings on the constitution day. It is indeed an honor to receive an award for a male in the name of Kamal Bhasin. It is great message to kill toxic and hegemonic masculinity with us. Kamala Bhasin have paved the way for the entire world to belief and change and efforts in promoting gender equality, social justice and bringing peace. She has illuminated a path towards a world where compassion and empathy reign. It is time to take this legacy forward to foster a world every individual is valued empowered and recognized.

4. SPECIAL JURY AWARD UNDER CATEGORY 2: FARHAAN JAVED AKHTER

Farhaan Javed Akhter: In 2013, Farhan co-founded an initiative called Men Against Rape and Discrimination (MARD). Through their outreach work, Farhan and his team have engaged primarily with young boys in schools and colleges. MARD team engages with the young men with positive messages of change, on notions of what it means to be a man, what constitutes healthy romantic relationships, the importance of consent, the ability to take “no” from women with dignity etc. Engagements that begin through music or other creative performances are followed by discussions where young people open up about their concerns and questions. These discussions always focus on questioning “male privilege and entitlement” and young men are motivated to sign a charter of change. Apart from direct sessions, MARD has a team of 5-6 people who work continuously on social media (Instagram & Meta especially) and continue to put out messages of gender equality, promoting a culture that shuns any form of gender-based violence.



Anuvinda Varkey, Chairperson of Azad Foundation, have presented Kamla Bhasin award 2023 to Farhaan Javed Akhter

EXPRESSIONS OF FARHAAN JAVED AKTHER, AFTER RECEIVING THE AWARD:

It is truly an honor to receive Kamla Bhasin Special Jury Award, Driving gender equality. It keeps alive the memory of the great Kamala Bhasin. It's a moment that fuel us, made you recognize and in turn shapes us. After that incident in 2012 (Nirbahaya gang rape in Delhi), that was the watershed moment for the nation, shook out our conscience, made us realize the importance of understanding gender equation in the society. That led to the inception of MARD to understand, change and advocate gender equations and prevailing societal norm, for an equitable world. It had been 10 Years to MARD. It challenges stereotypes encourage more inclusive and empathetic society.

Through various campaigns MARD has been reaching towards creating an empathetic society. MARD had partnered with UN women, Google, Meta, Magic bus to amplify our messages. With Population Foundation of India, we are having incredible synergy and collaboration in terms of reach. Together we have taken an impactful campaign, “*bs ab*



bahut ho gya”, against Gender Based Violence (GBV), I have been privileged to play the role of ‘*Sutradhar*’ in their innovative television series, “*mai kuchj bhi kar skti Hun*”, which over three seasons have powerfully demonstrated the strength and resilience of women.

Being a believer in music, I believe that music has power to influence change, it transcends boundaries, languages, touches hearts & open minds. There is collaboration with Population Foundation of India for **Lalkar concerts** stands as testimony to the power of music, in bringing people together, raising awareness and to foster a message of quality and respect. To conclude, I recite a poem which was written after the incident in 2012. The question that started the whole movement.

What is that country that I live in. with no equality and the quality of life differs from husband wife boy to girl, brother & sister? ...

Keep asking the question, what is that country that I live in

Reboot, reformat and rearrange and just never give up and just keep asking the question, what is the country that I live in.

I always keep ideals of Kamla Bhasin in my Heart and in my action.

Niharika congratulated all winners once again and the crowd jointly applauded all the four winners

MOMENT OF EXCITEMENTS:

Among all the applications received, to amplify diversity of work and experiences, six finalists of the Kamla Bhasin Award were unanimously chosen for fellowship by I partner India and NFI. These SIX FELLOWS are:

1. **Basrat Middhat Kazim**, she is a Pakistani educationist, Author and Social entrepreneur, known for her efforts to promote education and empowering girls and women in remote parts of Pakistan
2. **Sikander Khan**: National coordinator of the global men engaged in alliance in Pakistan. He works with 16 organizations across countries to build their perspective & capacities to work on gender & equality and patriarchy & masculinity
3. **Parina subha limbu**: She is the founder and currently the Program Director of Dristi Nepal, established in 2006.
4. **Dr. Yoga Nambiar**: He is the president of global rights foundation, an organization working for improving the life of trans hopes, people living with HIV, Sex worker, children, migrant worker, who live in Maharashtra India. He is first transgender in India to get Ph.D. in mental health.
5. **Reshma Prasad**: Founder of Dostana Safar organization that work towards generating dignified and NTL for transgender in India
6. **Adreja Chakraborti**: Mental Health practitioner, founder of mental health matters in Chandigarh India, an enterprise that provides affordable mental health

for all, and is informed by the intersections of trauma, lived experiences, power & inequalities

Niharika, the emcee of the event, ended the announcements for fellowship awardee by congratulating all the awardees.

Niharika, the emcee of the event, transformed the house into a symphony of beats and melodies by reciting beautiful lines from the song, **Man ke Manjire**

“badal tk jhuule mere pahuchne lage, Aank hom ke aage gagan mere simatne lage, tal tal pe chuke hawaein, khet khet me ret ret me faila di bahein, aaye ri sinduri subh aayi, khoolti jaye siyahi raton ki”

This song was released in 1999, it reverberated across the feminist gatherings and forums, and had become the feminist anthem of its time and continued to be lived sung. The stage now, was taken by the renowned and famous singer Subha Mudgal

Subha Mudgal: she is musician, composer, singer and multi instrumentalist par excellence. She is known for her work in Hindustani classical music & Indian Pop. Her Rapporteur includes the zonas of Khayaal, Thumri, & Dadra. In the Year 2000, she received the prestigious **Padama Shree Award**. She is recipient for special achievement in Music at 34 film festival at Chicago in 1998. She has been closely involved with several music education across India.

Subha Mudgal’s captivating performance at the Kamala Bhasin Award ceremony echoed with the richness of her soulful voice, enchanting the audience with a musical celebration of empowerment and social justice. Her artistry not only resonated through melodies but also carried the spirit of change towards more empathetic society, aligning perfectly with the ceremony tribute to the transformative work of Kamla Bhasin. Each song echoed the resilience, and trust for equality and transformative power for just and equitable society.



Subha Mudgal elevated the ambiance of the event with a stellar performance, showcasing her vocal prowess through a diverse repertoire that included the following at the event:

1. *Chalo geet gaaye k savera hua h*, written by Bhawani Prasad Gupta.
2. *Ho Gayi h Peer Parvat si*, by Dushyant Kumar
3. A song written on the book, *Ye kottewaliyan*, depicting Tawaif tradition in India,

Chun chun k phool le lun, Armaan rah na jaaye,

Ye hind k bageecha gulzaar rah na jaaye.

4. Folk Song, Awadhi: “*Bajiniya*” This song is unique in itself because of its frightening and terrifying details and Stigma related to infertility
5. Concluding song, sung by Subha mudgal was written by Kamla Bhasin and, Jaya Srivastava on the tune of *bhari dupahri na jaugi*.

Muh si k ab jee na paugi zaraa sb se kh do,

Vish pe k ab jee ba oaugu zara sb se kah do.



Subha Mudgal was felicitated by Ishant from I partner India.

Niharika Thanked to the entire team of Subha mudgal. Kamla Bhasin Award ceremony 2023 concluded with the lines from **Majrooh Sultanpuri**,

“Mai akela ki chala tha janeebe manzil, magar log aate gaye or caravan Banta gaya”

KAMLA BHASIN AWARD DE-BRIEFING MEETING: AZAD INTERNAL

Discussion and Action Points: 28.11.2023

Venue: 93 Office

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dolon Ganguly, Shrinivas Rao, Anita Mathur, Meenu Vadera, Pallavi Chaman, Divya, Ajay and Shikha Dimri.

Notes:

1. Transport

This year, Sakha was much more visible as a transport partner of the award. Following things could have been better:

- Pick-up messaging should be clear and consistent on WhatsApp and email.

- Sakha's standee should be kept safely for future use.

2. Accommodation

Following things could have been better:

- The hotel staff and ushers for each guest should be aware about all details such as- under whose name the booking is done, which gates the driver and guest will arrive (for ushers), etc.
- More attention should be paid to the guests' convenience. For example- book hotel for an extra day if the guests are travelling at night.
- There was discrepancy in accommodation booking for internal Azad staff. The names of those attending and their arrangements should have been planned much more in advance. Next year:
 - i. 1 person among the NLT should hold this planning.
 - ii. Divya should be given responsibility for logistics.

3. Community Participants: Mobilization of community participants was done very smoothly. Following things could be better:

- The participants should have been informed in advance so they could feel a sense of ownership for this event.
- More alumni members should have joined and less of current trainees, as this event is also an alumni meet for Delhi.

4. Social Media- was managed well. Following things could have been better:

- The 2nd Save the date should have gone with time and date of the event.
- Post-event social media calendar should have also been prepared in advance.
- Next year, Shikha's work plan should be prepared incorporating the KB award communications plan.

5. E-Mailer- can be made more engaging next year. For e.g., include videos of past winners, etc.
6. Jury- Dolon Ganguly to send Thank you notes to all jury members.
7. Applications- The NLT should have pursued for applications more rigorously with Meenu.
8. Others- Next year:
 - only emergency leaves of staff will be approved during the KB award planning.
 - Plan Azad internal debriefing meeting with all internal team involved in the KB award in advance.

PHOTO GALLERY:





Youtube link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyCFquF7MSc>