

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project is the sign of the bedtime stories of my late grandmother, who shared her hardships as a bread earner to the family. The long and persistent struggle she faced for being the only women in the household and taking key decisions for the family. Several years of those stories have in a way generated the sensitivity within me towards women's issues. But this sensitivity grew stronger while being associated with women in sex work for several years.

In fact the path which I have walked all this while, brought an interest to understand women's issues and their sufferings especially within rural areas while working with the District Facilitating Team (DFT) - as part of the Ratnagiri District Jalswarajya Project Unit. My involvement in the community mobilisation process and reviewing the DFT's work in other villages brought the interest in me to understand how such Projects operate to achieve their goals by assuming to change a social order.

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She introduced the most important interdisciplinary approach of women's studies to me. I started understanding the limitations of essentializing women and men and I have started seeing social construction of the gendered existences.

There were moments throughout the course I always wanted to say these few words, but was unable as I always found words were limited to express my feelings and the gratitude. I am beholden. The support she gave and the welcome feeling in this relationship is something, which will always remain special in me.

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