

How to Make Films on Smartphones - Workshop at Jawahar Bhawan 12th - 14th November 2019



WORKSHOP INTENT

Teaching adolescent boys and girls how to make films on smartphones.

Young adults today have a lot to share. Opinions, views and experiences! It is therefore important to channelize their abilities in a useful manner.

More importantly with so much divisiveness that is being spread in mainstream and social media our children need to develop sensitivity on issues of gender, religion, caste and social equality.

Therefore we ensured that, this is exactly what we did over two and a half days at our disposal!



Workshop Design and Content

We had designed the workshop in a manner that would not only allow the children to learn film making skills but also understand larger social constructs.

Our articulated workshop goals were achieved by imparting basic skills required for film making and video documentation through smartphones.

However more importantly the workshop enabled the children to rethink gender, communal and caste divides, understand the importance of peace, justice and equality for sustainable development in the larger context of SDGs.

For this we had specific sessions conducted by

Aaradhana Kohli, filmmaker and developmental communication professional and director for this workshop.



Yousuf Saeed author and film maker.



And

Ridhima Mehra from Public Service Broadcasting Trust, New Delhi.



Workshop Methodology

The sessions were built around initial team building exercises, including an ice breaking session, games and playacting, discussions, film screenings.

Both the mentors and trainer for the group of 13/15 children imparted the skills as part of an Experiential Learning Module.

As hands-on exercises they made the first two videos individually and the final video was made in teams of two. However 4 children made their final films individually.

Some of the focused sessions were on:

- Gender Sensitivity
- Communal Harmony
- Importance and respect for diversity in the Indian context

Learnings:

An important takeaway for the participants from this workshop was skills required to work in teams.

Each child by the end of the workshop learnt how to script, shoot and edit a film on mobile phones.

They also learnt how to use sound effectively in their films. They also became familiar with the use of music on their visuals and also to use texts effectively for communicating their messages.

On Day 1 we accomplished the following:

1. Introduction- why do we need to make films? The children thought this through and articulated the same in their own personal contexts.
2. Scripting - the children learnt to articulate messages in a succinct manner and discussed the value of making films which actually say something in an entertaining manner. It was challenge to put pen on paper though!
3. Introduced and discussed the concept of social media as not just a source of entertainment but also as an agent for change.
4. Introduction to smartphones, their use and technology.
5. Introduction of the concept of framing shots, lighting and camera angles.
6. Different cinema shots by making one minute films without sound.
7. Introduction of Sound, its use and importance.

Homework was to:

8. Finish the one minute film made without sound with sound.

Day 2

We had only from 3.30 till 5.30 as the children had to attend school.

Therefore, a focused session on gender sensitivity was conducted by Ridhima Mehra from Public Broadcasting Trust. Two films were also screened followed by discussions.

Post screening of films an animated discussion followed not just on the content of the films but also on the technique of the films screened as one of them was shot entirely on a mobile phone which the children found very fascinating as it underscored our premise that technology comes second to content.

Day 3

1. Review of films made in teams in a larger group.
2. Reshoot and editing.
3. The films were finished at a frenetic pace as all the children wanted their final films to be screened in the evening!
4. All the films were saved on the laptop and then screened one by one followed by discussions.
5. Critical appreciation of their work by the peer group.
6. Wrap up and discussion on all the films in general.
7. Feedback about workshop content and methodology was shared by the children.
8. Final bye byes!

Participants:

1. Tushar –Grade 11
2. Arayan – Grade 12
3. Aarti - MSW
4. Pawan -. Grade 8 came only on day 1
5. Ranjan – Grade 10
6. Sujit – Grade 9
7. Tanisha – Grade 9
8. Akash – Grade 11
9. Neeru – Grade 9
10. Rani-Grade 9
11. Suraj – Grade 9
12. Pratigya MSW came only on day 1
13. Pooja – came on day 2&3
14. Dapinder – came only on day 3
15. Nitish



Final Films made and screened:

1. Save Nature – Suraj.
2. Stop Begging- Pooja and Dapinder.
3. Mentally Disabled Children are bullied at home and outside- Tushar and Aaryan.
4. Education is the key to Success – Aarti.
5. Child Beggars - Nitish and Aakash.
6. Air Pollution – Nitish and Aakash
7. My Mother, My Inspiration – Rani.
8. A Visit to the Wonder Room – Neeru.
9. The Pickpocket – Sujith and Ranjan.
10. Trees our true wealth – Tanisha.
11. Save water – Pawan.



Conclusion and Learning for the Team

It was reiterated that 3 full days are extremely essential for conducting the workshop and perhaps 4 days would have been ideal.

Also a larger group of children would have allowed more team work.

It would perhaps be interesting to work in a mixed group of children both from elite schools and disadvantaged backgrounds.

It was indeed our pleasure to work with a very interactive and bright group of children

It was proud moment to share their joy on completion of their films.

We wish them all the very best!

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RESUME

Aaradhana Kohli Kapur

Founder

Enable India Foundation - a Communication Praxis.

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RAVISION - Film production house specializing in developmental communication

Aaradhana holds **Post-Graduate** degrees in **International Relations** from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and in **Film Making & Mass Communications** from MCRC, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi.

With over two decades of experience in developmental/social communication; she has produced myriad programmes on various subjects for many organizations both government and non government including television serials; films, public service messages et al`.

Her endeavour has always been to make media products, which help create an environment conducive for change. However, women, children, contemporary history, culture and environment are recurring themes.

She is currently engaged in working with young girls and women in a Delhi slum in the context of the 'Me Too Movement' as she firmly believes that this movement needs to be democratized as these marginalized women too have a right to safe work spaces.

She is also a "**Fellow**" of the **Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD)** - An international network working for sustainable development and has organized and participated in various studies, workshops and seminars on climate change mitigation, gender and forestry and sustainable futures.

She works with school students in outreach programmes to **enhance environmental literacy** amongst them - especially with under privileged children from slums.

'**Paryavaran Parade**' a festival of films made on mobile phones preceded by a workshop on how to make them, by **slum children** was much appreciated.

She is also a Member of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (**IAWRT**), an international NGO in consultative status with **UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)**.

Was Festival Director for the 14th edition of the IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival at IIC, New Delhi March 2018. "Weaving Peace" - a women's perspective, a seminar exploring the role played by women in peace building in strife torn areas and "Voice Studio" – a seminar exploring students initiative to democratize current discourse within the country, apart from film screenings, "Filmi Addas" where young film makers interacted with master craftsmen from different fields and a sound and camera workshop were also organized as part of the festivals.

Co-directed the 12th IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival 2016.

Co-directed the **Men and Boys for Gender Justice Film Festival**.

Conceived, organized and directed the '**Peace Builders International Film Festival**' at India International Centre 10-13th October 2016 celebrating women's role and contribution as keepers and builders of peace within the family, community and at the national and international levels

A special screening of her selected works was also held, as part of the proceedings in Toronto (Canada) at the first ever environmental film and video festival '**Planet In Focus**'.

Her film "**UNPOSH TELI YELI WAN POSH**" (*You will get your Bread only if the forests last*) a film on how violence and militancy has not only affected human lives in Kashmir but also our environment. This film has been screened internationally in major film festivals of UK & USA in 2005-06.

Aaradhana also supports the **Indian Cancer Society** and **Aaddi** and other **NGOs** by contributing towards their communication goals.

Aaradhana Kohli Kapur

Founder

ENABLE INDIA FOUNDATION

RAVISION FILMS

WORK PROFILE

I have made films, serials, fictional pieces, public service messages for many organizations. A detailed company profile with links of films, and a brief personal resume are attached alongwith. However, below in a nutshell are some of the organizations that I have made films and collaborated with.

- ◆ *Doordarshan India*
- ◆ *Ministry of External Affairs*
- ◆ *Ministry of Environment and Forests*
- ◆ *Ministry of Human Resource Development*
(Department of Women and Child)
- ◆ *Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP)*
- ◆ *Central Institute of Educational Technology (NCERT)*
- ◆ *International Labor Organization (ILO), New Delhi*
- ◆ *UNICEF*
- ◆ *AADI- Formerly Spastic Society of Northern India*
- ◆ *Ekta Parishad*
- ◆ *Cancer Society of India*
- ◆ *Indian Army*
- ◆ *British High Commission*
- ◆ *Tata BP Solar*
- ◆ *LEAD India*

INTEGRAL INDIA

“Integral India” is a series of short films, on the myriad facets, little known facts, long forgotten flavours of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh’s Pan Indian identity, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India.

English, BETA-DG, - series of 24 short films 5 to 7 minutes in duration.

Production, Direction, Research and Script.

NATURE PLUS

A 13 episode video magazine in the infotainment genre for Doordarshan about wo/men's symbiotic relationship with nature. Telecast on Prime Time Doordarshan Metro.

English, U-Matic High Band - 25 minutes.

Production, Direction, Research and Script.

THE CARBON MERCHANTS

A film documenting all the low carbon initiatives underway in India across industries and sectors. Produced for the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, it explores the many exciting initiatives unfolding in India by individuals, corporate, government agencies, hotels and even fashion designers to minimize their carbon foot prints.

English HD – 50 minutes, 10 minutes and 3 minutes

Production, Direction and Research & Script.

LESSONS IN FRINDSHIP

A film celebrating Fifty Years of Government of India’s flagship ITEC programme to promote South-South cooperation by training, skill development, building infrastructure and providing assistance during disasters and emergencies to all development countries.

English HD – 50 minutes, 10 minutes and 3 minutes

Production, Direction and Research & Script.

LEADING CHANGE

Film produced for British Council and LEAD India profiling their unique climate change leader's programmes.

English HD – 30 minutes

Production, Direction and Research & Script.

ENLIGHTENING LIVES

A film documenting the great work undertaken at Ladakh for solar electrification. Shot in very difficult terrains in Ladakh the film is a visual essay of energy equity. Produced for TATA BP Solar.

English, HD - 25 minutes in Duration

Production, Direction, Research and Script.

E-CHAUPAL

A filmlette profiling ITC's project of providing IT solutions and making the internet accessible to villagers which is revolutionizing villages in select parts of India and helping villagers walk the path of development.

Produced for International Labor Organization Regional Asia Summit on Innovative Solutions.

UNPOSH TELI YELI WAN POSH

When violence strikes it permeates every layer of life while across the world the many faces of human tragedy and damage to property plaster our collective conscience. Impact of violence on the environment remains largely unreported.

This film is an initial attempt at focusing attention on the scarred environment of Jammu & Kashmir due to fifteen years of terrorism and violence. For the first time on film people speak of how gun battles have destroyed their most precious resource their forests but it is also a film about hope of how centuries old traditions of conservation have inspired people to get together to act and to heal their environment.

English, BETA-DG, 28 minutes in Duration

Production, Direction, Research & Script