



voices of women media

Annual Report 2015





Vision and Mission

Through the lens of a video camera, the stillness of a photo, the strength in a single voice - women from peripheral communities create, in cooperation with Voices of Women (VOW) Media, multimedia self-portraits, offering a glimpse into their personal life experiences. VOW Media encourages women and girls to take control of their own image by teaching them how to use different forms of media as a means of expression.

VOW Media is an organization for women by women. We work with refugees, asylum seekers, teenage girls, victims of human trafficking, sex workers, economic migrants, trans-women, and more generally women from marginalized communities. We want to educate them in how to employ different types of media. By technically and artistically challenging the women we want them to not only be empowered but also to make others aware of their situation. VOW Media hopes to give its participants a voice to accurately present themselves against stereotypes and misrepresentation in the main-stream media.

Organizational Goals

VOW Media is an emerging organization that aims to provide a way for women from marginalized communities to express themselves through different forms of media. We provide educational workshops, the main goal of which is to have women participate in a skills training in order to offer an alternative outlet of expression and to give them a chance to have a voice, express themselves and share an insight on their lives in a creative way.

The vision of VOW Media is to contribute to the advancement of women in society by fostering the creation of a positive self-image and a stronger sense of identity through the use of art, media, and education. VOW Media believes that personalizing women's individual experiences can have a positive and long lasting effect on women's rights and positions worldwide. VOW Media aims to contribute to the advancement of women in society by giving them the means to make media. Through using media and skills training, we want to further their abilities to empower themselves and let their own voices be heard.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

2015 was a busy year for VOW Media – from moving our base to Nepal and getting ourselves organized, to winning a prestigious award to increasing our international reach, 2016 has seen a real development in VOW Media's presence within the field of feminism and women's empowerment. The earthquake of Nepal is what welcomed VOW Media into working in the country.

▪ The Nepal Earthquake

On April 25 2015 a 7.9 Richter scale earthquake hit Nepal which made us stop everything and focus on earthquake relief. We halted all of our organization related activities. It was only obvious to pull all our strings together and focus our energies on providing earthquake relief in all the possible way we could. We managed to raise 10,000 euros and worked for relief till the end of June. Our work was concentrated around Kathmandu Valley and its surroundings. Along with supplying physical support we managed to collaborate with a group of artists and activists to run art classes which provided youth and women with therapy and mental ease to be able to deal with their emotional troubles in such tough times.



▪ Adobe Youth Award

To recognize the outstanding effort of educators worldwide and to promote advanced youth media making, Adobe Youth Voices selected VOW Media's director Pooja as one of the 50 winners at Adobe Youth Voices making her the only one from Nepal. We were proud to represent an organization that is working to enable marginalized youth's access to media tools. This award not only recognizes VOW Media's efforts but inspires us to fight against gender inequality with a new zeal.

▪ She is the Story

A web-blog we started in order to document women's stories. Each story in 'She is the Story' holds a complicated reality of the character's individual identity and the social setup that defines the reality of her existence. She tells these stories, just the way she experiences them and not how they are supposed to be told. 'She is the Story' is focused on the understanding of self and the social issues surrounding her realities.



▪ Feminist Film Screening

We screen a movie / documentary each month with a feminist loom. The main objective of the screenings is to bring women and men together in talking about topics circling gender perception and myths.

Feminist Film Screening has a focus on using visual stories as the point of connection between the stories of women, the similarities in their struggles and achievement. It is also a platform where the aim is to discuss women's experiences, build stronger in-groups and a strong sense of belongingness.



Photography workshops with Women Lead



An image is worth a thousand words. We believe that visual expression is significant to our lives and is the catalyst to many movements.

VOW Media trained a group of 30 young women from Women Lead on the basics of photography. The core of the training which took place twice aimed at helping these women express themselves through photography and learn about visual storytelling.

We are now officially registered in Nepal

Projects

Todo Bandishen



Todo Bandishen, a campaign against early and forced marriage was another significant collaboration with Feminist Approach to Technology. A group of girls from the slums of Delhi who are regular at FAT's tech center were provided with multimedia trainings, which enabled them to create a body of photos and a video which is a story of five girls who fight their battle against early marriage.



Publicity/Campaigns



Our training workshops may have an end point, but that doesn't mean that a project is over. Disseminating the results of a workshop is an important part of VOW Media's work. In presenting participant's work to as wide an audience as possible, we hope to challenge negative stereotypes and promote marginalized women's voices. Participants play an active role in disseminating their work by holding screenings and discussions in their own communities, developing their advocacy skills in the process.

VOW Media got featured at various press outlets in national media platforms. Feminist Film Screening and She is the Story has been extensively viewed and appreciated. We are available on most active social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter as well as actively update our website which also has a blog.

Sleep-In Campaign



21st International Day of World's Indigenous People

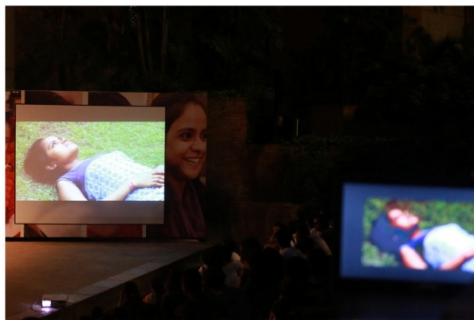


Citizenship in the name of Mother



Screenings of Todo Bandishen

The film created has had a total of 34 screenings across India and one in Nepal.



Internal Structure and Network

VOW Media is now based in Kathmandu, Nepal with our office in Amsterdam playing a supportive role. We now have a new board in Nepal and the previous board plays an advisory role. In Nepal we have Astha Thapa, Sarita Lamichanne, Sangita Lama, Nayantara Kaksyapati, and Uajwala Bajracharya as members of the board.

Moni Jha contributed as the officer of Communications and Research since June 2015 and Monalisa Dhimal and Sangita Shrestha joined as interns and have proved to be quite an asset. We are also lucky to find amazing story contributors for She is the Story.

The Office

This year we moved our base to Nepal. Women Lead Nepal hosted us for the entire year in order to support our seeding stage. They were also kind enough to let us utilize their resources to initiate our feminist film screenings in their workshop hall.

It will not be untrue to say that 2015 indeed was a shaky year. We survived the natural disaster and everything else that followed. This took us sometime but it all turned out well.

Collaboration- Networks

VOW Media's vision to have marginalized women represented and voiced at all levels has only been possible with the hands who have helped us in this journey. The kind support of our allies and sponsors makes your vision come to life. We would like to thank Feminist Approach to Technology, Women Lead, Mitini Nepal, FWLD, GASP and everyone else who have helped us establish our new mission in Nepal. We hope the support continues and we make 2016 an outstanding year.

Supported by



Preview Of 2016

Feminist Film Screening

Our aim this year is to collaborate with as many diverse feminist NGOs and raise awareness on feminist issues at local and global level. The screenings will also be open to the general public.



She is the Story



She is the Story will continue as the first Nepali platform bringing stories of women and recording her-story together. We will continue to celebrate the diversities that we live with and contribute to making history of women an important subject of our social evolution.

Resource/ Media Center

The Media Centre will not only function as space where women can learn about media technology but also as a community & resource center for feminists including the LGBTI community.

VOW Media is planning to set up a physical structure called the Media Centre that will be used as a community center, a media & technology center, and a resource center for feminists & feminism. We will train women in basic technology like how to use a computer to advanced technology like how

to make films and websites. We will also have a resource center which will be developed in the future into a small feminist library, carrying books and leaflets on health, sexuality, women's rights, etc. We will have an audio-visual center that will have a fully functioning studio & screening venue for our monthly film screenings.

We would like to create a safe space for young girls and women to be able to talk freely about sexuality, identity, feminism and rights.



Website: <http://www.voicesofwomenmedia.org>
 Email: info@voicesofwomenmedia.org
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vowmedia>
 Twitter: https://twitter.com/vow_media
 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/voices-of-women-media>

voices
of women
media