

## *Revolutionizing Women's Narratives*



General Narsamma from DDS Sangham Radio was invited to speak at a panel on *Revolutionising Women's Narratives* organised by Godrej India Culture Lab on July 1 2017 at Mumbai.

General Narsamma, India's first woman radio producer came into association with Sangham Radio almost 17 years ago. She spent her initial days meeting different sections of the people and recording their observations on various local issues. She was a former child labourer educated at DDS' Green School that incorporated regular academic work with training for rural work. Known for her persistence and leadership skills, she was nicknamed "General". She has been working as a radio producer for 17 years now and has years of experience in broadcasting and managing the Sangham Radio station.

In the conference " Micro Narratives of Change" General boldly put forth her views on the



role of community media and how Sangham radio had made significant changes in her community. General shared the platform with two other powerful women ; Aisha Khatoon who is an editor and heads the video unit of Sanatkada Samajik Pehel, a voluntary organisation working with young muslim and

dalit women in Lucknow and Meera Devi, editor for Khabar Leheria , a community run newspaper in Bundelkhand.

The two day conference also showcased incredible individuals and organizations who are innovatively archiving, reporting and commenting on the changes taking place in contemporary Indian society. On the first day, there was presentation by P Sainath, celebrated author and journalist on why it is vital to talk about rural India and the work he has been doing through People's Archive of Rural India (PARI).

The second day, had various organisations coming together on panel discussions, talks, video showcases, exhibitions and more. These organisations include Video Volunteers, who help marginalised people to tell their stories, Digital Desh Drive, an annual report that explores how non-metros are using the internet; Khabar Lahariya, a newspaper from Bundelkhand run by women, Sangham Radio, the first all-women community radio in Asia, Sanatkada Samajik Peהל, that trains Muslim women in photography and video making and CGNet Swara, a voice-based portal that allows anyone to report and listen to local stories that are moderated by journalists.

The event heard impactful stories from the panelists that enabled great conversations between the panelists and with the audience.