



ACHRH

Empowering Communities
through Knowledge & Research

ACHRH Newsletter

October 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Hello to all our friends

Remember that by following the ACHRH on Facebook, you can be kept informed and up to date by a reliable source on the important issue of family violence which affects us all in some way.

In this newsletter, you can read about the new exciting theater project 'Natak Vihar' designed by ACHRH with the help of Dr. Rosemary Blight of University of Melbourne, and the upcoming film called the Colour of Love. Dr O'Connor interviewed the film's

director and we are all very much looking forward to its release.

Gauri has also written about a workshop she attended, on doing program evaluation. A practical task which is very important in ensuring we learn as we go on how to defeat the scourge of domestic violence.



ACHRH Members and Friends at the All Indian Independence Day Celebrations and Charity Dinner night on 16 August.



**Manjula
O'Connor**

IN THIS ISSUE...

Natak Vihar

... is a new community participatory theater project that seeks men's participation to explore their vision and solutions to stopping family and domestic violence

The Colour of Love

... is a new feature documentary set to explore India's 50 billion dollar wedding industry and India's obsession with love. .

Mutual Cultural respect

Read about this fun filled cultural exchange and acquiring local cultural knowledge program designed for migrants and international students.

Doing Program Evaluation

Gauri Kapoor has written about a workshop she attended, run by Sue Dyson of La Trobe University.

The Colour of Love

An interview by Dr Manjula O'Connor



THE COLOUR OF LOVE is a new feature documentary being made by an Australian/Indian team that is set to explore India's 50 billion dollar wedding industry and India's obsession with love. From breathtaking scenes at weddings most people can only dream of - to simple ceremonies in the slums, The Colour of Love is an in-depth portrait of the most beautiful side of Indian wedding culture to the extreme pressures and heartbreak that can follow after the first flowery night.

Dr Manjula from ACHRH asks the Director of the film, Emma Macey-Storch, a little bit more about the production and why this is going to be a landmark film for both India and Australia.

Dr Manjula: So why is this film being made?

Emma Macey-Storch: For many years now the Indian diaspora have been looking for a way to talk about some of the difficult issues of divorce and domestic violence. We have worked very closely with a number of cultural advisers over the last 6 months to ensure our vision for THE COLOUR OF LOVE is not only going to showcase the most beautiful aspects of Indian culture but is also an opportunity for everyone to open their hearts to this debate.

We are making this film for and with some members of the Indian community in Melbourne and I am genuinely excited by what is possible and how people might respond to it.

Dr Manjula: How did you come to work on this film?

Emma Macey-Storch: As filmmakers, my team and I are extremely passionate producers of film content of this kind and also regular collaborators with NGO's and communities to tell their stories. We develop projects with communities who have an urgent and powerful story to share with the world and who need our skills or support to make it possible.

In 2014 we met a group of very lovely women who had a great idea and really needed our help to make it possible. It was an immediate meeting of minds when we sat down to discuss the potential and we haven't looked back since. There are now about 20 people involved in the production and growing.

Dr Manjula: Why do you think storytelling is particularly effective in dealing with the issue of domestic violence here in Australia and India?

Emma Macey-Storch: As an organisation and as filmmakers, Some Kind of Squirrel Productions believe that the act of storytelling is a powerful conduit for social change and can be a catalyst for community development, the challenging of harmful stereotypes, tackling isolation and socio-economic disadvantage, bringing human rights issues into the mainstream for debate and providing meaningful connections for people from all walks of life.

The nature of this project is very collaborative and so we believe it has a better chance of being authentic, relevant, culturally exact and meaningful because of this. The more people who relate to the film the more effective it is

We'd like to think everyone who sees the film next year leaves the cinema changed and inspired.

"Entering fictional worlds radically alters the way information is processed. The more absorbed readers are in a story, the more the story

changes them. When we read dry, factual arguments, we read with our dukes up. We are critical and skeptical. But when we are absorbed in a story we drop our intellectual guard. We are moved emotionally. We are creatures of story, and the process of changing one's mind or the whole world must begin with "Once upon a time."

(Article: Why Storytelling is the Ultimate Weapon)

Dr Manjula: What will the film be like?

Emma Macey-Storch: THE COLOUR OF LOVE is being shot in both India and Australia in high definition so as to seamlessly blend high-end, discreet interviews with our subjects with breathtaking landscapes and observational footage of Indian life and wedding culture.

The film will be about 90 minutes long and is being made for a cinema release as well as for online and TV distribution.

Dr Manjula: What have you done in the past?

Emma Macey-Storch: My most recent role was as Director/Producer on a 3 year production called Meet+Eat, created for CuriousWorks, VicHealth, Hume City Council and the Scanlon Foundation to combat race based discrimination. We made 6 x 22 minute films about local residents to highlight the benefits of cultural diversity in Australia. You can watch one of the films here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8aSHOXE7lw>

Before this, I ran a film production company specialising in work with regional communities in the UK. My collaborations have included delivering projects with BBC Wales, The Film Agency for Wales, First light Movies, The British Film Institute, The Welsh Broadcasting Trust, Local Councils, Aberystwyth University, Panasonic, The UK Film Council and to over 6000 participants. This also earned the organization 23 national and international awards and broadcasts of work on BBC 1, BBC Wales, ITV and S4C.

During my time in the UK I also setup a special project that brought Bollywood child star Mayur Raj Verma and writer Sneha Lata Verma into the production of a Bollywood inspired short film called Dream Girl. We involved 180 young people from Wales performing or working on the film. My connection to Bollywood and Indian film may actually surprise people.

Dr Manjula: I hear you are still looking for some help financially?

Emma Macey-Storch: Yes. Actually things have been moving very quickly and we have some unmissable opportunities to document some very important elements of our story if we can get our team to India in November.

We need to raise at least 15k-20k in the next month and with not enough time to raise the funds through mainstream film funding we are looking for other ways we can make it happen.

We have the support of the Australian Cultural Fund who are hosting our project on their fundraising page so we can offer supporters a tax

deductible receipt and so now all we need is 500-1000 people to donate \$30 to get us over the line.

<https://australianculturalfund.org.au/projects/the-colour-of-love-documentary/>

We are hoping like-minded organisations and individuals might be able to help us. If we can find 500 generous supporters to donate \$30-\$50 we will absolutely make it!

Dr Manjula: Thank you for telling us about your project Emma. I wish you good luck with it.

Emma Macey-Storch: Thanks for this opportunity to help us share our work and also your incredible input to date. We can't wait for everyone to see it!

ACHRH believe that The Colour of Love is a timely and urgent voice from CALD communities in the broader Australian debate on domestic violence and will offer both perspective and hope for the future. We are extremely excited to be involved in such a major film production with Emma and her team. In my view, Emma's previous work is always done with a convincing light touch and deep respect for people's personal stories and cultures.

We urge people in our networks to get behind the film by being one of the 500-1000 donors of \$30- that is still required to get the crew to India in November. **The first 500 donors of \$30 or more who also sign up to the film's mailing list will also receive a free ticket to a private viewing of the film upon completion in 2016.** This VIP event will be

exclusively for supporters and will be an opportunity to meet the makers.

Businesses or individuals wanting to take a more active role in the production as sponsors or offer in kind support, please get in touch with Emma directly at love@somekindofsquirrel.com. There are great opportunities for logo visibility as well as investors equity.

ACHRH is proud to announce we are one of the film's official partners, working in an advisory capacity on the film.

HELP THE COLOUR OF LOVE REACH THE BIG SCREEN

FB: www.facebook.com/TheColourOfLoveDoco

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/ColorOfLoveDoc>

WEB: WWW.THECOLOURLOVE.COM.AU

Some Kind of Squirrel Productions is a Not For Profit organisation working with communities to tell urgent and powerful stories for a world stage.

The images used in this article were provided by Emma Macy-Storch. They are quite spectacular and worthy of viewing – indicative of the film to come!



Natak Vihar

'STRENGTHING AUSTRALIAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY THEATRE'

In 2010, women of Indian community participated in a study designed by Melbourne University team led by Dr Manjula O'Connor and Dr Erminia Colucci in association with NGOs. The aims were to identify the nature of Domestic Violence in the Indian community and to identify barriers to service use. This study was useful in highlighting the steps necessary to enhance the service use by Indian women who were suffering family violence silently but not seeking help. The study was also designed to identify cultural shifts that are required to minimise or stop the violence against women. The study used theatre as a medium of community discussion. It was received very well by the Indian community, 160 women and 5 men took part. The study has been published in two academic journals, presented at a dozen scientific meeting meetings and an equal number of professional educational seminars. The findings have served as a guide and formed the basis of ACHRH campaigns against family violence. We estimate we have reached 30,000 members of Indian community through media campaigns and direct contact.

The next phase is to do the same study with men called NATAK VIHAR. Once again the study will use theatre as the medium of community discussion. Dr Blight will run workshops to explore the views and thoughts of men of Indian and South Asian community and explore individual and cultural strengths that the community can employ to stop the violence and harm caused by family violence. ACHRH seeks participation of men and women from Indian and South Asian communities in the theatre based project titled 'Natak Vihar'.

This community action research project will use story telling drama to encourage positive communication between men and women, and to help people reflect on possible solutions to family violence. There will be 6 workshops involving 10-20 male and 10-20 females in theatre based discussions led by Dr Rosemary Blight and supported by Dr Manjula O'Connor, Professor Bob Pease, and Dr Prasanna Srinivasan. We will explore what are the challenges and stressors that are faced by migrants that lead to violence within the home. In the previous study we asked women similar questions, and identified the nature of the

family problems as expressed by women. Many men expressed the view that

men's views needed to be heard and recorded. This project is about recording men's voices. Men will come together, identify the problems, help break the silence and share cultural strengths.

There will be 3 live performances with audience interaction. An expert mediator will lead the dialogue; the community members will give voice to stories, suggestions and means of enhancing family harmony.

If you would like to participate or host a theatre event please contact Dr Manjula O'Connor -- manjulao@unimelb.edu.au or leave a message at the Face Book page of Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health

Further Reading:

O'Connor M and Colluci E Exploring Domestic Violence and Social Distress in Australian-Indian Migrants through Community Theater J of Transcultural Psychiatry. September 4, 2015, doi: 10.1177/1363461515599327

Pease B. 2010. Undoing privilege. Unearned advantage in a divided world .Zed Books. NY and London 2010.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS:

- [Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health](#)
- [Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria](#)
- [Hindu Society of Victoria](#)
- [ISCKON](#)
- [Oorja Foundation](#)
- [DISHA](#)
- [Western Gymkhana Club](#)
- [Indian Senior Citizens Association](#)
- [National Council of Women \(Vic\)](#)



Doing Program Evaluation

By Gauri Kapoor

Definition:

- Evaluation is the process by which we judge the worth or value of something (Suchman, 1967). It is an ongoing process of planning, implementation and review (PADV, 2000). Evaluation skills are essential knowledge for those contributing to grey literature
- Good evaluation always starts at the beginning. It's about accountability and learning from mistakes. Evaluation is intended to inform future planning. (PIP Evaluation Workshop with Sue Dyson, partnersinprevention.org.au)
- Ethical evaluation plays an important part in project clearance by ethical committees.

Stages of evaluation: Formative, Summative, Outcomes, Impact

Step 1 in the evaluation process is setting goals which should not be phrased in quantified terms. Goals should not be too broad. It is important to clarify language.

Step 2 - Establish objectives or construct a statement of outcomes which can be used to determine progress towards the stated goals (PIP Evaluation Workshop with Sue Dyson, partnersinprevention.org.au)

Model of research:

Theoretical frameworks need to be established. Everything starts from theoretical understanding. Theories are essentially different ways of looking at the world. They naturally change according to the times. World views that existed in the 1970s and 1980s do not likely persist in a similar shape and form today.

In relation to prevention of violence and discrimination, a key theoretical conflict exists between the Marxist revolution theory (power is from up to down) vs post structuralist theory (power is not something that can be possessed).

Evaluators often consider what type of evaluation should be undertaken. Ideally there should be mixed methods - qualitative and quantitative. (PIP Evaluation Workshop with Sue Dyson, partnersinprevention.org.au). Different types of evaluation data include statistics, surveys, pre- and post-tests, interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and observation field notes. These all serve as proxy indicators or what changes are being looked for.

By the end of the project there will be different 'indicators and measurers' which could often change shape. They help build a logic model for the project or a graphic display of what the project intends to do.

Methodology:

The central question is "How do we know if behaviour has changed? In the case of domestic violence we often associate attitude change with behaviour change. Adopting the gender lens can be helpful in looking at the issue in a wider context (i.e. the manifestation of male power). Culture must be changed by not simply becoming an expert in Domestic Violence but by closely examining gender equality at large from the workplace to sport clubs.

This report is based on the Workshop run by Sue Dyson (La Trobe University).

References:

Partnership against Domestic Violence (PADV)

<http://padv.org/>

PIP evaluation workshop with Sue Dyson, Retrieved 31 August 2015, <<http://www.partnersinprevention.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Sue-Dyson-Presentation.pdf>>

Suchman, EA 1967, Evaluative Research – Principles and Practice in Public Service and Social Action Programs, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, US

Support Us

ACHRH is an NGO and as such relies heavily and extensively on the mission partners and the wider community for support. If you would like to support us and get involved in any way then please do contact us, either via the website:



find us on
Facebook

<http://www.achrh.org/>

Or Facebook (click the image to follow the link):

MUTUAL CULTURAL RESPECT™®

The intake of fee paying students has almost invariably been spelled out as beneficial in economic terms. Little thought has been given to more subtle benefits that will accrue eventually as those students mature and often secure powerful and influential positions on return to their countries. If they feel good about their time in Australia that sense of rapport will remain for life. Cultural differences create a lack of inclusion by the host society and a loss of sense of harmony among students with their host environment. This results in loneliness, lack of support and mental health issues such as depression and feeling life is too difficult.

In a focus group with International students the students were asked what they liked about Australia and what types of social difficulties they faced after arrival. The male students described a sense of awe and shock at being in this beautiful country "I thought I had landed in

heaven" one student said. "It was like seeing extremely beautiful girls at check-out counters and in the streets"; and a female student described having difficulties in adjusting to the fast pace of life; social isolation and mental depression and not knowing how to deal with it. The male students described difficulty adjusting to having to do household chores and the female student described dismay at having to take care of all the household chores in share accommodation with their male class mates. Students described surprise at being told that copying school work was not allowed whereas in their home country this was accepted as a given. This discussion formed the basis of "Mutual Cultural Respect" workshop that has been now held with over 400 migrants and students. It has been evaluated and early results show great success. Watch this space for the release of the report which is being written and will be launched by December 2015.



WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

- **POLICE IN EMERGENCY -- 000**
 - **YOUR GP -- they are helpful, easy to reach, they will refer you to the right place.**
 - **NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE -- 1800 RESPECT**
 - **INTOUCH MULTICULTURAL CENTER AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE – 1800 755 988**
 - **WOMENS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS SERVICE (WDVCS) 24 Hour state wide line 1800 015 188**
 - **MEN'S 24 HOUR REFERRAL SERVICE 1800 065 973 (FREE CALL VICTORIA ONLY)**
 - **VICTORIA IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN'S COALITION 03 9654 1243**
virwc@virwc.org.au, www.virwc.org.au
 - **WOMEN'S INFORMATION & REFERRAL AGENCY (WIRE) 03 9348 9416**
inforequests@wire.org.au
 - **DR MANJULA O'CONNOR, FOUNDING DIRECTOR ACHRH 03 9654 5271**
manjula@achrh.org
-

WHY GET HELP?

- ❖ Domestic Violence damages our culture
- ❖ Domestic violence breaks our homes
- ❖ Domestic Violence causes:
 - Anxiety,
 - Depression,
 - Suicide,
 - Homicide in women, men and children

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ❖ Support those who may be victims
- ❖ Encourage victims to seek help and become survivors
- ❖ Encourage perpetrators to seek help
- ❖ DO NOT BE SILENT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[*Say No to Domestic Violence*]