



Olakh ओलख

A Space For Women ज०था ज०थां मन मूर्ध्नि क०रीओ वात
A Feminist Documentation Resource & Counselling Centre

We placed a guard
To protect the sapling
I laugh - the sapling has
become a tree
And yet
the guard remains.

- *Shanti*

OLAKH - a new voice, a new meaning. Our voice and identity gets buried beneath never ending responsibilities. In the maze of relationships, we are unable to identify the essence of womanhood that we are born with and are not able to create an image whose colours reflect our own selves. Olakh endeavours to extend the boundaries of our identity.

In this journey of the women's movement, searching for an '*ayam*' and an identity, we dream of a space. A space of our own, for all of us, to share our joys and sorrows, and find new paths. To share the suffocation of the enclosed spaces in which we live; the said and unsaid poems of our hearts. Here we can hear each other - *non judgementally, and our emotions and feelings will be acknowledged*. At **OLAKH** we will share a friendship we always dream of.

*Through The eyes Of The Women.
It Is Another Way Of Seeing.
It Is Another Way Of Knowing.*

OLAKH is a space for women, to mutually share, learn, grow and assert our identities with pride. **OLAKH** is for every woman and man who desires a fundamental change in the existing structure of woman-man relationships.

OLAKH began its activities with an aim to create a society based on justice and dignity for all. It emerged as a Feminist Documentation and Resource Centre in 1996. Our broad objectives are to :

✿ **Evolve** a feminist perspective and practice among women and men to counter patriarchal discrimination. ✿ **Challenge** internalised stereotypes of 'Man' & 'Woman'. ✿ **Recognise** Women's multiple roles and Identities that are in struggle.

OLAKH is involved in multiple Activities, Projects and Programmes :

ISSUE BASED DOCUMENTATION AND LIBRARY :



We provide global information related to women and women's issues, at a local level.

We address various conceptual and practical issues like Feminism, Gender, Patriarchy, Women's movement, Violence, Abuse & Harrasment - sexual, domestic, emotional, marital and other multiple social burdens, Sexuality, Women's creativity.

A very special feature of our work is *dissemination of information*. Keeping this in mind we have started **Sangini** the mobile library in the Working women's hostel, Girls hostels, Nari sanrakshan guruh & Basti's.



Our Documentation and Resource Centre activities include :

Issue based Documentation.

Library-Fiction and non fiction.

Mobile library-SANGINI .EVERY FORTNIGHT.

Study circle & Screening of Documentary and main stream films related to women. EVERY FOURTH SATURDAY.

Translating, Producing and Publishing resource materials.



FEMINIST COUNSELLING CENTRE :

TOWARDS CHANELLING CREATIVE ENERGY - The attempt is to hear women's words - spoken and silent- to develop a deeper understanding of our situation and seek a journey of dignity and empowerment.

OLAKH provides a platform for mutual dialogue in those moments of helplessness and isolation, when we find social and familial expectations and pressures conflicting with our inner desires and needs.

Our Counselling Centre activities include :

Face to face dialogue.

Empowering, intervention when needed.

Providing referral services.

Providing lamp-posts for onward journey.

Creating mutual support group.

OUR OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Networking, organising and creating a support group with single women.

Action based research on Adolescent Girls.

Conducting & Organising Workshops, Seminars and Training related to Gender, Feminism, Patriarchy & other specific issues

Issue based campaigns in Urban and Rural areas.



FUTURE PLANS :

Outreach among Adolescent Girls in Gujarat.
Evolving alternative Healing systems.

YOU CAN BE A PART OF OLAKH BY:

Attending our programs.
Becoming a member of our library.
Joining our study circle.
Contributing your skills.
Volunteering to conduct our activities.
Extending financial and/or other support.
Passing on this information to others
who may be interested.

Or just share your experiences and give your valuable suggestions.

OLAKH is *your* space. Come, join and be friends.

YOU CAN COME TO OLAKH IF you Are going through Gender Discrimination, Sexual/Emotional/Physical Violence and Abuse - at home/ in the workplace/ among acquaintances/friends, stress, Anxiety, confusion, Feeling Neglected and are interested in the Women's Movement and Women's Empowerment

*And so we hope a time will come
when women and men all over the world
can bring their gifts to the fire and
look into each others faces unafraid.*



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