



Jyoti Mhapsekar

President

Stree Mukti Sanghatana (Women's Liberation Organisation)

Jyoti Mhapsekar, 68, is an active member of women's movement of India since 1975 and she is one of the founder members of Stree Mukti Sanghatana (SMS- Women's Liberation Organisation). She is qualified Librarian, Post graduate in Sociology. She is also well known as playwright (Mulagi Zali Ho and many other plays), song writer, actor and at present she is an advisory committee member of organisation Women Playwrights International. She is Ashoka fellow, voluntarily retired from the post of Chief Librarian from Academy of Architecture in 2001 and devoted all her energies in organising 5000 waste picker members in self help groups; in a program Parisar Vikas (Neighbourhood development) which trained 1000 members in Composting and Biomethanation and other alternate skills.

Through Parisar Vikas Federation of self Help groups and ten Cooperatives are initiated to secure Waste Management Contracts. A special Education Promotion program is implemented for 5000 children of waste picker families to eradicate the child labor and child marriages in the waste picker families. She tried to highlight the connection between recycling work done by waste pickers and Climate Change in various National and International forums which includes UN conventions at Bonn and Copenhagen in 2009. She constantly advocates for proven decentralized Zero waste- models and Bio-gas technology. She was felicitated by Clinton Global Initiative in New York in 2010. She has received numerous awards for her contribution to women's movement prominent among them are Hirkani award from Mumbai Doordarshan, Savitribai Phule award from Government of Maharashtra and in March 2016, Narishakti Puraskar (for women's empowerment) in the hands of President of India.