

V Dog and the missing girl child: Missing before birth

From before the cradle to the grave

Edited by Viren Lobo

An Especioza Trust Production



Will even this face be seen in Taliban's Afghanistan

Editorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvzn41Lv-O4>

This was the topic discussed on 2nd December 2023. It deals with the question of the issues and challenges facing India with less than 25 % of women workforce in the market place. This hides the following

a. A lot of agriculture production is not on the market place, women are engaged in these activities as well, mostly for self consumption.

b. Most of the household labour - cooking, cleaning done by women. Also taking care of the sick, elderly and children. In many regions this has been commercialized/ socialized.

Having said this, some points

a. 42% of those under 25 are unemployed so they are engaging themselves in higher study while looking for jobs.

b. Due to the labour laws in India which mandate PF, gratuity, pension, maternity and other leave, most entrepreneurs try to keep a work force of 9% or less. This is in general less productive so we have 80% of the production produced by 20% and 20% produced by 80%. A productivity oriented strategy means that the 80% producing 20% are dispensable.

c. Since most jobs available do not pay enough, women stay at home to do the essential work to keep the family together while men struggle for survival on the marketplace.

Given this scenario, conservative cultural values dominate which aggravate conditions to seek financial independence through competing on the market place. This also reinforces the role of the women as homemakers and hence pressure not to get them educated. A section which do get educated is to find husbands.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/hr-policies-trends/women-now-make-up-36-per-cent-of-indian-it-workforce/articleshow/102932322.cms>

The Indian IT sector has witnessed a significant increase in the number of women employees over the past decade. Currently, over 20 lakh women are employed in the sector, accounting for 36% of the total workforce. This growth can be attributed to various factors such as progressive policies, increased availability of computer science courses, visible examples of women in leadership roles, and policy frameworks enabling women to work night shifts.

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https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/info/public/sp/WCMS_847085/lang--en/index.htm

While ICT specialists only account for 3 per cent of the national workforce, nominally India has many ICT specialists. The IT industry of India employs approximately 10 million workers.

<https://tradingeconomics.com/india/labor-force-total-wb-data.html#:~:text=Labor%20force%2C%20total%20in%20India,compiled%20from%20officially%20recognized%20sources.>

Labor force, total in India was reported at 523839158 in 2022, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources

The CGA- VERRM

(So called because of its insidious nature of getting under our skin: A version of naturopathy still evolving, natural version of plastic surgery to change the way Human Beings respond to mother earth)

Background¹

Action Research: Participatory Research, Evaluation and Monitoring

Ashankur 9th - 15th June 2023

Goal: Unification of various processes taking place within and outside the country as a concrete way to engage with the current '**Silo based approaches**'.



Dr Sunil Dubey explaining relevance of the biodiversity at Ashankur//Maureen Monteiro explain the issues related to the Great Barrier Reef

Overall Objective: Establishing core values and approach for concrete realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objective 1: Integration of different approaches being tried out across the country and abroad. Field testing how the slogans: '**Think Globally Act Locally**' and '**Act Locally Spread Globally**' work in practice.

Objective 2: Participatory engagement with women and Children: Evolution of base line and methodology for engagement.

Objective 3: Exposure to tools related to scientific assessment of Ecology, livelihoods and capacity building and its application in Ecological Governance.

Objective 4: Participatory appraisal of the lesson learnt over the last year and evolution of the way forward.

Having initiated a qualitatively different approach during the last quarter, this quarter was devoted to seeing the interface between the work in Ashankur and its relevance to other ecosystems across the country. Accordingly the members from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand were also added to what's app group including members from different parts of Maharashtra and a resource person from Australia as well. The agenda design for the action

¹ This has been extracted from the report Titled Sustainable Goals 5&10: A gender based outlook to sustainable development. The collaboration (SDG 17) has been dedicated to Sr Karuna Mary Braganza of the same congregation of which Ashankur is a part of. Her stellar role for the upliftment of the downtrodden in India was recognised by the Government of India who awarded her the Padma Shri in 2008.

research workshop that took place from 9th October to 15th October 2023: tried to incorporate different facets, so that the integration of the work done by different resource persons could be integrated into the approach being followed by Ashankur.

Day two (10th October): Engagement with the women



[Dr Leena giving live demonstration on how to prepare Tooth powder from Local species available](#)

The meeting was attended by over 120 women from 7 villages namely Bhokar, Haregaon, Vadala, Bherdapur, Nipani, Ashoknagar and Deolali. The meeting began with a prayer and inspirational songs sung by the women. This was followed by an introductory session where Dr Leena Gupta and Dr Sunil Dubey provided a perspective on the relevance of the local biodiversity in dealing with health and nutritional issues and the harmful effects of invasive species. This was also demonstrated in practice when the women were divided into two groups to explore the biodiversity on Ashankur campus itself. Dr Leena then proceeded to give a practical demonstration of how tooth powder (Dant Manjan) could be made from the native biodiversity. The experience encouraged the women to realize that the issue was not just about the impact that local biodiversity could make on nutrition and health but also its potential for value addition and income generation as well. This experience will translate over the next quarter, providing a more comprehensive base for the women to use the potential offered by the Natural resources in their region to address their basic concerns.



women of 7 villages who attended the training at Ashankur



Watching how dant manjan is made



A group of participants settling down for lunch



Another group of women with child at lunch



Preparation of dant manjan



Sr Prisca distributing the dant manjan prepared to the participants

Dedication

<https://www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2023-women-and-newborns-bearing-the-brunt-of-the-conflict-in-gaza-un-agencies-warn#:~:text=Women%2C%20children%20and%20newborns%20in,and%20Works%20Agency%20for%20Palestine>

Women, children and newborns in Gaza are disproportionately bearing the burden of the escalation of hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, both as casualties and in reduced access to health services, warn the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency (UNFPA), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

As of 3 November, according to Ministry of Health data, 2326 women and 3760 children have been killed in the Gaza strip, representing 67% of all casualties, while thousands more have been injured. This means that 420 children are killed or injured every day, some of them only a few months old.

The bombardments, damaged or non-functioning health facilities, massive levels of displacement, collapsing water and electricity supplies as well as restricted access to food and medicines, are severely disrupting maternal, newborn, and child health services. There are an estimated 50 000 pregnant women in Gaza, with more than 180 giving birth every day. Fifteen per cent of them are likely to experience pregnancy or birth-related complications and need additional medical care.

These women are unable to access the emergency obstetric services they need to give birth safely and care for their newborns. With 14 hospitals and 45 primary health care centres closed, some women are having to give birth in shelters, in their homes, in the streets amid rubble, or in overwhelmed healthcare facilities, where sanitation is worsening, and the risk of infection and medical complications is on the rise. Health facilities are also coming under fire – on 1 November Al Hilo Hospital, a crucial maternity hospital, was shelled.

Maternal deaths are expected to increase given the lack of access to adequate care. The psychological toll of the hostilities also has direct – and sometimes deadly – consequences on reproductive health, including a rise in stress-induced miscarriages, stillbirths and premature births.

Prior to the escalation, malnutrition was already high among pregnant women, with impacts on childhood survival and development. As access to food and water worsens, mothers are struggling to feed and care for their families, increasing risks of malnutrition, disease and death.

The lives of newborns also hang by a thread. If hospitals run out of fuel, the lives of an estimated 130 premature babies who rely on neonatal and intensive care services will be threatened, as incubators and other medical equipment will no longer function.

Over half of the population of Gaza is now sheltering in UNRWA facilities in dire conditions, with inadequate water and food supplies, which is causing hunger and malnutrition,

dehydration and the spread of waterborne diseases. According to initial assessments by UNRWA, 4600 displaced pregnant women and about 380 newborns living in these facilities require medical attention. Already more than 22 500 cases of acute respiratory infections have been reported along with 12 000 cases of diarrhoea, which are particularly concerning given the high rates of malnutrition.

Despite the lack of sustained and safe access, UN agencies have dispatched life-saving medicines and equipment to Gaza, including supplies for newborns and reproductive health care. But much more is needed to meet the immense needs of civilians, including pregnant women, children and newborns. Humanitarian agencies urgently need sustained and safe access to bring more medicines, food, water and fuel into Gaza. No fuel has come into the Gaza Strip since 7 October. Aid agencies must receive fuel immediately to be able to continue supporting hospitals, water plants and bakeries.

An immediate humanitarian pause is needed to alleviate the suffering and prevent a desperate situation from becoming catastrophic.

All parties to the conflict must abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure including health care. All civilians, including the hostages currently held in Gaza, have the right to health care. All hostages must be released without delay or conditions.

In particular, all parties must protect children from harm and afford them the special protection to which they are entitled under international humanitarian and human rights laws.

Part I

The Missing Girl Child

Missing even before birth



The unwanted female

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5084599/>

Several reports on this issue reveal that thousands of marriageable girls from rural parts of different Indian states including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh have been either brought or “bought” for the purpose of marriage in Haryana. These women in Haryana are called as “molki” as the buyers pay money to buy these girls from their parents. One of the field studies in Haryana revealed that more than 9000 married women are bought from other Indian states as molki. Post wedding, the situation with these “molki” varies greatly as most of these girls adjust with the difficult Haryanavi culture or pass through several bouts of “Agni pariksha” in the form of physical, mental, moral, and emotional torture. There are instances where these “purchased brides” have been forced to work as maids, exploited, or even denied their basic rights.

Every year, an estimated 500,000 girls are lost to female feticide. An estimated 4–12 million sex-selective abortions of girl child have occurred in different Indian states during the past three decades, and the brutal massacre still continues.

<https://pha.berkeley.edu/2021/04/10/un-natural-selection-female-feticide-in-india/>

A poll by the Thomson Reuters Foundation found that India is ranked the most unsafe country for women. Their culture of perpetuating female inferiority and subordination contributes to a vicious cycle of mass sex-selective abortions and female feticide, which has exacerbated crimes against women. Sex-selective abortions, also known as female feticides, occur when female fetuses are aborted due to a cultural preference for sons. In India, the cause for female feticide is the overwhelming belief that women have less societal value than men. A lack of education among women, insufficient female leadership, and negative perceptions of women as “economic burdens” contribute to this view.

Part II

Education of the Girl Child



Dream of a girl Child

On educating the girl child

https://loksabhadocs.nic.in/Refinput/New_Reference_Notes/English/Girls%20Education%20in%20India.pdf

As per the 2011 census, literacy rate was 74% and literacy rate of women 65.46% up from 8.86 in 1951, The female literacy rate increased by 14.87 from 1991 to 2001 while the male literacy increased by 11.2 % during the same period, between 2001 to 2011 the increase has been 10.9% and 5.6% respectively indicating more focus on the girl child post liberalisation. Currently male lieteracy rate is 80.9% indicaating more needs to be done on both fronts.

<https://www.unicef.org/education/girls-education#:~:text=Girls%20who%20receive%20an%20education,strengthens%20economies%20and%20reduces%20inequality.>

Girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy, productive lives. They earn higher incomes, participate in the decisions that most affect them, and build better futures for themselves and their families. Girls' education strengthens economies and reduces inequality.

<https://www.smilefoundationindia.org/blog/importance-of-girl-child-education-in-india/>

Challenges to Achieving Maximum Girl Education

Apart from ensuring enough schools and their easy access to girls, many key elements need to be in order before girls' education can increase and run a smooth course. So while dedicated educated classrooms and schools for girls will boost attendance, there are several other issues that need to be addressed and resolved. Such as

1. **Girls' safety** within these surroundings is paramount– often parents are scared of distances that their girls need to travel to receive an education. Especially in rural areas where neither roads nor transportation are available or reliable. This can be a deterrent leading to massive dropouts from girls attending school.
2. **Access to free education**– this is the only way that parents in marginalized and rural economies will agree to send their girls to school. By eliminating any expense and cost burden to families will make them more receptive to the idea of education.
3. **The academic curriculum** ideally should be a blend of subjects and vocational courses that support girls in the careers they choose to pursue. The curriculum offered should be created keeping in mind that most of these girls are likely to be either married off or allowed to work in selective professions. In both cases, apart from traditional education methods, schools should also offer robust and easy-to-understand vocational courses that can be of help should girls wish to pursue occupations in their later age

4. **Access to free and hygienic sanitation**– this is also one of the reasons why we see girls dropping out of schools without completing even their primary education. Schools set up in rural areas as well as tier 2 and 3 towns should have provisions for clean toilets and hygienic waste disposal systems for girls to avail of during their menstruation cycles
5. **Language-based education**– Native language-centric education will see higher consumption amongst families who prefer their children to be educated in their mother tongues. This also helps parents be involved in their child’s education making them willing and open to sending their daughters to school as well.
6. **Freedom to study with no burden of household chores**– once parents understand that the role of education for their girls is equally important as it is for their sons, they can be persuaded to let the girl child study without expecting her to help with household chores. Parents need to see the benefits of education for the girl child and how it will impact and enhance their quality of life. Once we are able to achieve that, girls can devote their time to learning well and studying hard

Dream of a Gender-Equal World in Education

“*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*” (translated into “save the girl child, educate the girl child”) is the country’s slogan to prevent female infanticide and move the spotlight to the importance of girl education. If India wants to be perceived as a highly developed nation and one of the leading voices in world affairs, then it must focus on girl education and work hard to ensure that there are no gaps and that education is openly and freely offered to both genders.

Part III

Working Women: The Vishaka Judgement


 legaldoubts



VISHAKA VS STATE OF RAJASTHAN (1997)

One of the Landmark
Judgement
by Supreme Court,
which deals with the evil
of Sexual Harassment at
Workplace.



 www.legaldoubts.com



[The Vishaka Judgement](#)

The Vishaka judgement

<https://www.facebook.com/legaldoubts/photos/a.883885278761515/897260624090647/?type=3>

Vishaka & ors. v/s state of Rajasthan is one of the case with a landmark judgement from Supreme Court, which deals with the evil of Sexual Harassment of a women at workplace. Sexual Harassment is an unwelcome sexual gestures from one gender towards the other, which makes the person feel offended, humiliated and insulted.

The issue raised in this case was whether the enactment of guidelines mandatory against sexual harassment of women at workplace.

In the judgment of Vishaka & ors. v/s state of Rajasthan case, which was conveyed by Chief Justice J.S Verma as a representative of Justice Sujata Manihar and Justice B.N Kripal on account of writ petition filed by the victim of the case Vishakha, the court observed that every profession, trade or occupation should provide safe working environment to the employees considering the fundamental rights under Article 14, 19(1)(g) and 21 of Constitution of India.

The Supreme Court held that, women have fundamental right for the freedom from sexual harassment at workplace. It also put forward several important guidelines to avoid sexual harassment of women at workplace. The court also suggested to have organized techniques for the enactment of cases where there is sexual harassment at workplace. The main objective of the Supreme Court was to ensure gender equality at workplace avoiding any kind of discrimination towards women.

With this judgement, Supreme Court has made the term Sexual harassment well defined. Accordingly any physical touch or conduct, showing of pornography, any unpleasant taunt or misbehavior, sexual favor or any sexual desire towards women will come under the definition of sexual harassment.

The petition in the Vishaka case was filed by various NGOs and social activists as a Public Interest Litigation in the light of the brutal gang rape of an employee of the Women Development Department under Government of Rajasthan. The Supreme Court, considering the vacuum of existing legislation to prevent sexual harassment of working women in all workplaces, laid down guidelines - which are popularly known as Vishaka guidelines.

Conditions of women at the Workplace

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/aashank-dwivedi/challenges-for-female-workers-in-india-42410/>

Gender Pay Gap

There is no country on the planet where women get paid equally to men for doing the same work. Even the Nordic countries, which have extremely high overall gender parity, cannot claim equal pay for equal work. India has the distinction of being the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) economy with the lowest gender parity, which includes wage parity. The Global Gender Gap Report from 2010 revealed this. For more than a century, salary inequality between men and women has been a global problem. After the initial successes, however, progress has been modest.

According to the survey, India has a 25.4 percent pay difference between men and women. This means that a woman's median hourly wage is 25.4 percent lower than a man's median hourly wage. Some of the causes for the gender wage gap, according to the survey, could be a preference for male employees over female employees, a preference for male employees being promoted to supervisory roles, and career pauses for women owing to family duties and other socio-cultural issues.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is an abominable reality for Indian women on a daily basis. Every day, their greatest challenge is to retain their holiness in their homes, on the road, in their educational institutions, and at work.

Despite the increase in numbers, women are finding that their complaints are not being adequately addressed by their employers. Employers are either uninformed of the law's provisions or have only partially implemented them, and those that do set up internal panels have members who are poorly trained. According to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act of 2013, every commercial or public organisation with 10 or more employees must have an internal complaints commission (ICC).
Inadequate Sanitation Facilities

Women suffer as a result of a lack of sufficient sanitation facilities in the workplace. According to Indian Census figures from 2011, there are 587 million women in India, accounting for 48 percent of the population. Despite this, only 29% of women over the age of fifteen participate in the labor. At least part of the reason for this could be traced to women's lack of safety, which could be linked to their lack of access to bathrooms.

Gender based Discrimination

According to a report by recruiting agency TeamLease Services, five out of ten employees in India Inc have experienced some form of discrimination. In terms of benefits, hours, leave, earnings, opportunities, and promotions, there is gender segregation in the workplace. According to the firm's recent poll, 'Bias@Workplace,' India Inc. (mostly in the top 8 cities) has yet to fully embrace the concept of equal opportunity. The survey revealed a high frequency of biased hiring and workplace practices. Pregnant women and women with young children are also at a disadvantage throughout the recruitment process and when competing for job prospects, according to the TeamLease survey.

Part IV
Women's movements in India



Women led movements in India

Women led movements in India

<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/women-and-protest-5-iconic-movements-led-by-indian-women-that-shattered-status-quo-news-185897>

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." - GD Anderson

For centuries, women have borne the burden of being called the 'weaker sex'. But a look at the history of women's movements and history shows that the tag is nothing more than an excuse to exclude women from the public sphere - a domain historically claimed by the man. Through eras and aeons, women have been told they are unequal to men, especially when it came to politics, war, or even having a career.

But time and again, women have risen up from the depths of patriarchal apathy to claim what's rightfully theirs or against the misogynistic practices that denied them the right to live and grow with freedom and equality. While the women's rights movements across the world have been spearheaded by women, feminist thinkers, activists and even ordinary women have not shied away from taking up the mantle of protest, be it against oppressive government policies, sexual violence, bad governance and environmental degradation. In India, where women are both revered as the goddess and abused in the same breath — where women are mothers but also expletives - women have taken on various roles as leaders and fighters.

https://www.arsdcollege.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Women-Movement-in-India_BA-II-HRGE.docx

Gail Omvedt explained four kinds of movements related to women which can be called as women's movement and also distinguishes between them.

1) Movements where women participate: In these movements, men and women together fight some form of oppression. But the oppression due to sexual differentiation is not the focus of these movements. So Omvedt does not call such type of movements as women's movements.

2) Movements of women: There may be movements on general issues (slum improvement, price rise) where women are the only participants. But sole participation of women itself does not make them women's movements. In fact such movements may confirm the gender division of labour where men fight for wage rise and women fight against price rise, without challenging the male-dominated family and social structure.

According to Omvedt, these movements has a progressive role as they give women participants a chance to experience their own collective strength.

3) Women's reform movements: Reform movements include the series of movements on education for women, for abolition of Sati that took place in the pre-independence India. Although these issues were concerned with women, Omvedt refuses to call them women's movements because these movements did not challenge the fundamental structure of oppression in family and society.

4) Women's liberation movements: These are channelled by an ideology of fighting the sexual division of labour and patriarchy. They also act against the specific issue of women's oppression and move in the direction of liberation. Omvedt called these movements, as women's movements.

Part V

Health, Happiness and the Hope Gene



Tecnology workshop promoting cottage industry

Women and the relevance of the cottage industry

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/koyali-has-6-cottage-industries-run-by-women/articleshow/43411461.cms>

Koyali is a village near Vadodara. It has a population of just 200 families but it is home to six cottage industries employing 80 people. It is the only village selected by the State aimed at village empowerment.

<https://zeenews.india.com/companies/lijjat-papad-success-story-how-seven-women-created-an-iconic-brand-loved-by-millions-of-indians-with-just-rs-80-2661675.html#:~:text=Lijjat%20Papad%2C%20formally%20known%20as,create%20employment%20opportunities%20for%20women.>

For decades, women in India were confined to traditional roles as homemakers, while the world of business was predominantly considered a male domain. However, in 1959, seven determined Gujarati women shattered these stereotypes by joining forces to establish a brand that is now cherished by people not only in India but across the globe. The product in question - Papad - a crispy accompaniment to Indian meals and a popular snack, is the result of the hard work and determination of these seven visionary women who rose from humble beginnings, dared to dream and achieved greatness. This is the incredible journey of Lijjat Papad, a company that began with a mission to empower women and has since become a leading FMCG (Fast-Moving Consumer Goods) enterprise.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/06/gender-gap-india-how-womens-cooperatives-can-help-accelerate-empowerment/>

- The Self employed Women's Association (SEWA) is working to support informal women workers in India
- Mirai Chatterjee, the leader of the movement, explains how it empowers women to become self-reliant while giving them a voice to speak up.

The 2023 edition of the Gender gap report indicates that it will take 131 years to reach full parity.

<https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/>

According to the 2023 Global Gender Gap Index no country has yet achieved full gender parity, although the top nine countries (Iceland, Norway, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden, Germany, Nicaragua, Namibia and Lithuania) have closed at least 80% of their gap. For the 14th year running, Iceland (91.2%) takes the top position. It also continues to be the only country to have closed more than 90% of its gender gap.

Global data provided by LinkedIn shows persistent skewing in women's representation in the workforce and leadership across industries. In LinkedIn's sample, which covers 163 countries, women account for 41.9% of the workforce in 2023, yet the share of women in senior leadership positions (Director, Vice-President (VP) or C-Suite) is at 32.2% in 2023, nearly 10 percentage points lower. Women's representation drops to 25% in C-Suite positions on average, which is just more than half of the representation in entry-level positions, at 46%. Different industries display different intensities and patterns when it comes to this "drop to the top". Women fare relatively better in industries such as Consumer Services, Retail, and Education, which register ratios of C-suite vs entry level representation between 64% and 68%. Construction, Financial Services, and Real Estate present the toughest conditions for aspiring female leaders, with a ratio of C-Suite to entry-level representation of less than 50%. For the past eight years, the proportion of women hired into leadership positions has been steadily increasing by about 1% per year globally. However, this trend shows a clear reversal starting in 2022, which brings the 2023 rate back to 2021 levels.

<https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1481517/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Leadership for sustainability is female or is it ? A critical gender perspective on sustainability consciousness. The positive element of this study indicates that the question of sustainability is gender neutral. Clearly a quality needed to achieve gender equality too ??



Viren Lobo who was influenced by liberation theology during his college days did an MBA from Institute of Rural Management Anand. He has been working the development sector since he passed out from there in 1985. Employer, employee and other contradictions observed by him during his thirty year stint at Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) forced him to examine the relevance of Marxism as a way of looking at reality in relation to change he sought to bring. During the course of his work covering more than twenty States, he noticed a link between the livelihoods and ecology which he pursued strongly as Executive Director SPWD. The limitations of existing organisations to deal with the complex questions society posed motivated him to set up Institute of Ecology and Livelihood Action as the transition needed to address issues he was looking into at that time. The contradictions arising out of the a series of Bills that were passed during the last five years encouraged him to use the enforced sedentary life imposed on him to use his creativity to write plays. These were the first of a series which have helped serve the purpose of putting on paper the complex dilemma and diverse social opinions he came across.

About Especioza Trust:



Especioza Trust is named after my great, great grandmother who widowed at an early age brought up her only son Aogustinho (seated in centre). Shortly after a family reunion in December 2013, we got news that the family home at 84 Porvorim had been illegally sold to a builder. My aunt Marie stepped in and after getting the required mandate from the family not only got the family home back but the previous ancestral home of 85 Porvorim as well. Since then it became her project in memory of her widowed great grandmother till her death on her mother Amy Lobo's 117th birthday (25th July 2019). Since the informal trust set up by her could not achieve fruition I decided to keep the struggle and memories alive by carrying on her mission to bring unity within the family and dedicate the work of the Trust to all widows and single women of the world. My Aunt/Cousin Hazel Cardozo the daughter of Liban Pinto one of the two brothers born on my birthday (6th September) has helped me to give this project shape. The other brother Lucian in whose name the house was, also happened to be born on my birthday as well. The spiritual connection and the necessity for me to step in also come from a lot of other quarters which need not be documented here.

Viren Lobo