

Jeevika: 11th Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival, 13 -14 December 2014

We hosted the 11th edition of the annual [Jeevika: Asia Livelihood Documentary Festival](#) on 13 and 14 December—in an effort to advocate the need for livelihood freedom for the rural and urban poor who are currently restrained by regulatory barriers while trying to earn an honest living.

The festival, held at the University of Chicago Center in Delhi, saw attendance of close to 150 people. We screened 16 movies—the top entries selected from a pool of 80, that represented a fair blend of the interactive, observational and the expository genres of non-fiction film making.

Against the backdrop of the festival, CCS also hosted a panel discussion on '23 Years of Indian Economic Reforms' with Amir Ullah Khan, Director Research, Aequitas and Advisor to Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Barun Mitra, Director of Liberty Institute. Amir Ullah Khan stressed the need for a second generation of reforms in health and education to tackle India's inequality. Barun Mitra, emphasised the need to trust that every individual has a rational choice—to recognise and respect the other person as much as we want ourselves if we want markets and liberalisation to work.

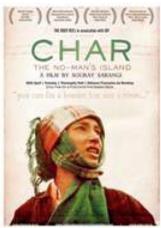


Winners

Best Long Documentary (Professional): [Moddhikhane CHAR](#)

(Char: The No-Man's Land)

Director: Sourav Sarangi



'CHAR' by Sourav Sarangi seamlessly moves between time, space and literally countries, to portray a poignant yet powerful account of people displaced by development. It touches upon the arbitrariness of national boundaries and their impact on trade, through the narrative of Rubel, a fourteen year old boy smuggling rice from India to Bangladesh to make a living.

Best Student Documentary: [Padmini my Love](#)

Directors: Munmun Dhalaria, Ruchi Sawardekar, Sriram Mohan and Silja Wurgler



Padmini My Love
Munmun Dhalaria, Ruchi Sawardekar, Sriram Mohan & Silja Wurgler

The documentary 'Padmini my love' emerges from a recently issued government order in Mumbai which reduced the age limit of the iconic black and yellow Padmini taxis to a maximum of 20 years. The film explores the various ways in which the government-imposed age limit affects the livelihoods of the taxi drivers on the one hand and shatters a peripheral economy around the taxi on the other. Through personal narratives of taxi drivers, the movie offers a ringside view of the changing city and its invisible workers.

Special Jury Mention: [Her Stories](#)

Director: Farred Muhammed, Milanth Gautham, Ridhima Sharma, Shiva Thorat & Silja Wurgler



Her Stories
Farred Muhammed, Milanth Gautham, Ridhima Sharma, Shiva Thorat & Silja Wurgler

An attempt to challenge the conventional male-centric way of looking at histories. Her stories revolves around the lives of Vaishali Girkar, Sulekha Rana and Laxmi Dhamanse—all of them former mill workers. The film explores their life in the mills, their struggle after the strike of 1982 and the way in which they continue to negotiate the personal with the political.

Special Jury Mention: [Silver Gandhi](#)

Director: Rohit Pawar



Silver Gandhi
Rohit Pawar

The documentary film is about a poor 'street family', which makes their living by disguising children as Mahatma Gandhi (Father of The Nation – India). The film is a comment on the poverty-stricken situation of street-children and the use of Gandhiji's image to make money.

Overall, the festival was a tremendous success. Through the medium of documentaries, we highlighted the serious need to concentrate on the issue of livelihood freedom for the poorer sections of society in India and Asia.



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