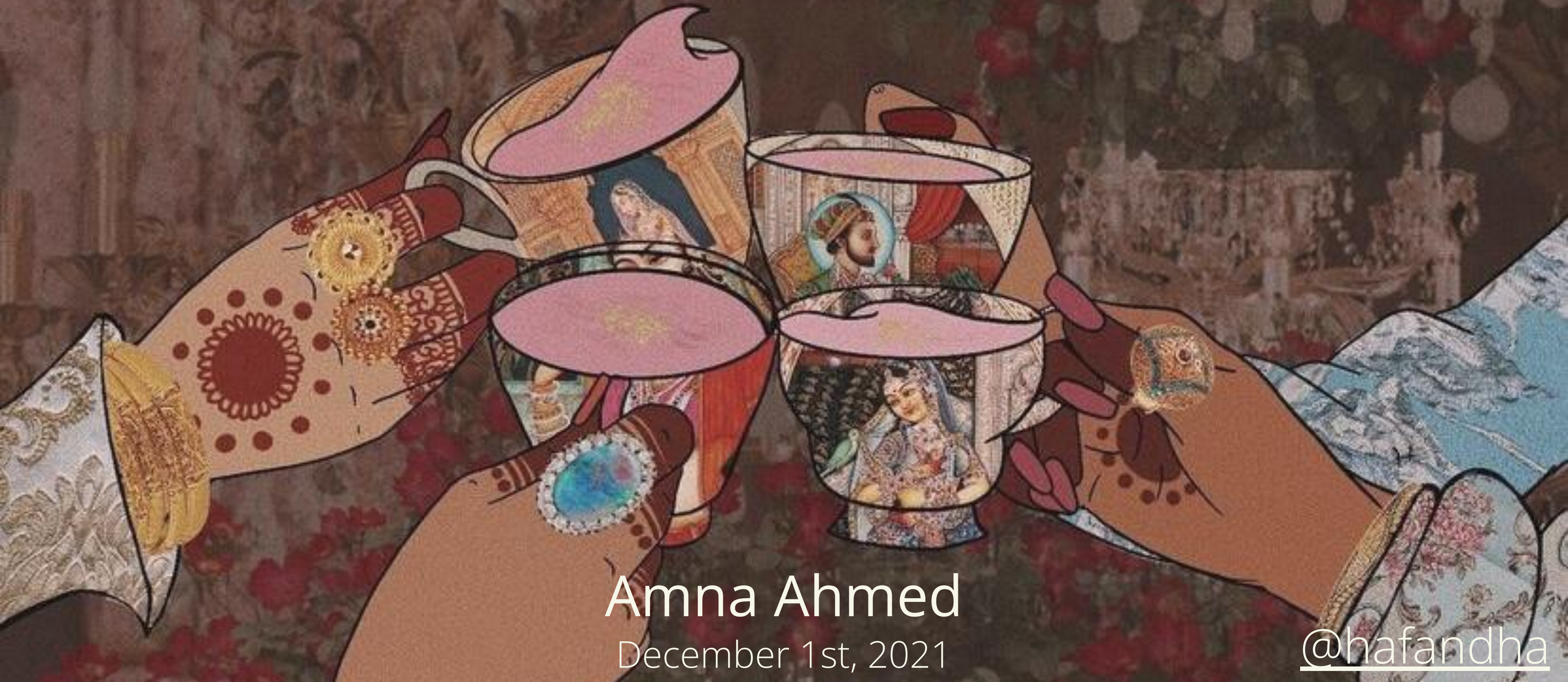


Main Tumhare Saath Hoon

I am With You



Amna Ahmed

December 1st, 2021

[@hafandha](#)



Institute for Women's Leadership

The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice leadership through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.

Where Do I Belong?

My grandmother's generation fled India after the 1947 Partition, my mother's generation immigrated to the United States, and my generation is navigating a post- 9/11 world.

We are all so different but resist being marginalized, oppressed, and silenced based on our lived experiences.

As a student passionate about social change, what does this mean for South Asian women across different fields and generations? How is our sense of activism an extension of identity?



Goal

To collect South Asian female narratives of how differences in their life experiences manifest different

practices of resistance. An oral archive for South Asian women to reflect on their own identity and sense of activism.

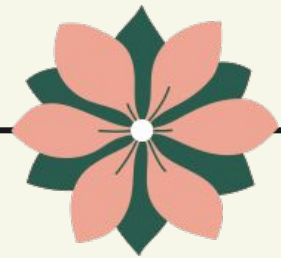


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- Intergenerational Trauma- The Evolvment of Resistance Practices
- Hybrid Identities- Navigating Activism as a South Asian American
- Political Agency- South Asian Women Challenging Various Systems of Oppression

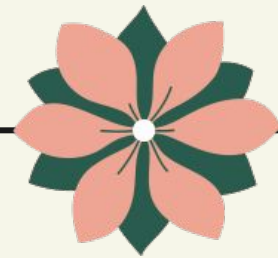


Timeline



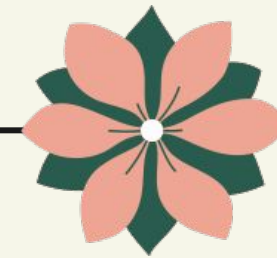
September

Began the research process, initial emails sent to partner organizations



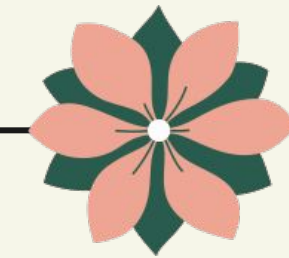
October

Restructuring project, finalized interview questions, studied videography and editing techniques



November

Purchased recording equipment. Began interviewing and collecting narratives



December

Interview remaining individuals, finalize oral archive

Interviews



Arsala Khan

Welcome
Home



Kritika Singh

Welcome
Home



Shamita Das
Dasgupta

Manav
i



Maliha Janjua

Women
Aware

What Is Resistance?

Challenging oppression through:

- Activism on the ground
- Claiming AND making space
- Consciousness-Raising
- Everyday life

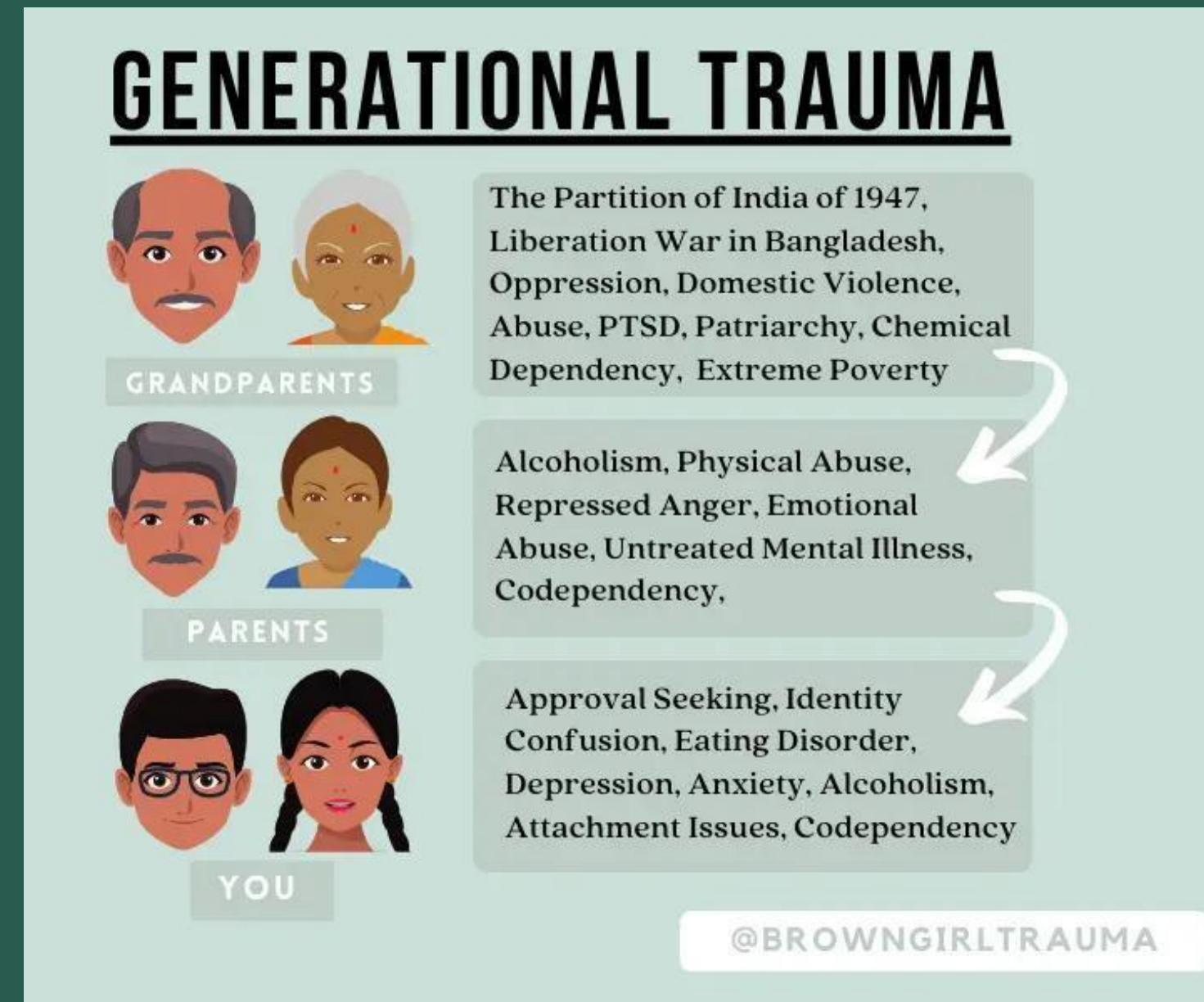


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“Empowerment is not only education but women acquiring skills so that they can question society” (Takhar, 347).

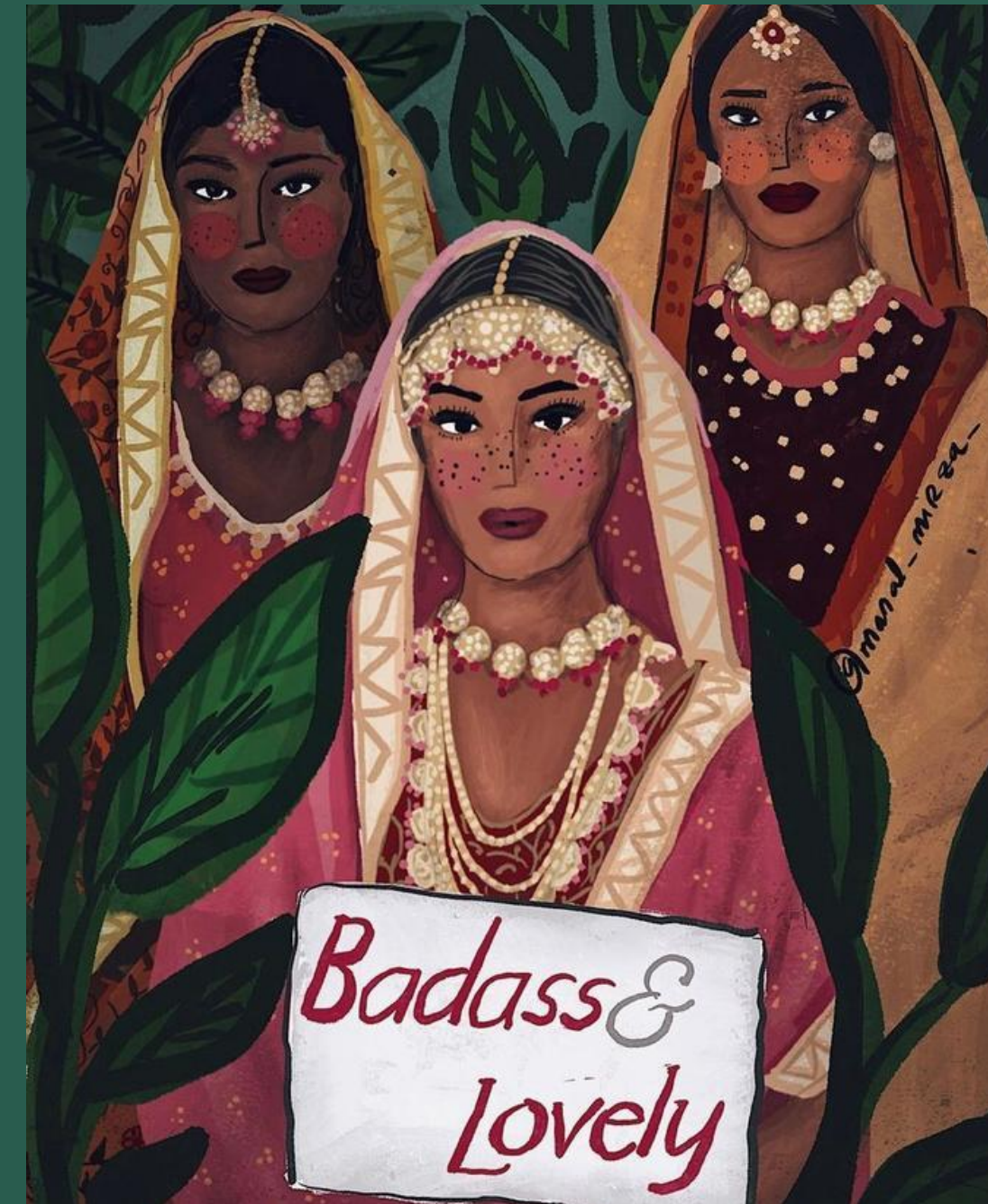
Healing Through Social Change

"Women were creating herstories, in order to complicate and correct histories that marginalized them. By remembering, we can honor truth. Through truth, we may be able to reach a space of healing. Within the spaces of oppression, there are small pockets of resistance, where we can rewrite what is written about us, in order to reclaim ourselves" (Sachdev, 35).



Hybrid Identities

- South Asian women's identities should not be seen as fixed or static, rather, they are fluid and ever-evolving.
 - Their lived experiences are a form of knowledge production.
 - This manifests differently based on gender, class, religion, socioeconomic status, etc.
- Slipping in and out of cultural systems while asserting their political agency.



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"When the crow imitates the walking style of a swan,
it forgets even its own walk"

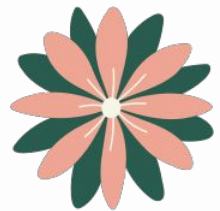
"No, it's the other way around. We are graceful
swans who can also be crows. We remember all the
ways of walking"

(Chaudry, 59)



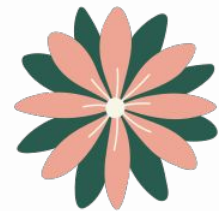


Key Takeaways



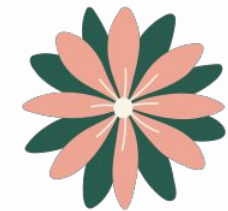
Reclaiming Identity

Asserting our political agency,
redefining different spaces.



Keep Moving Forward

Keep challenging the
community, and yourself,
through social change.

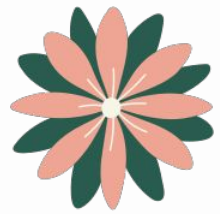


Creative Acts of Resistance

Resistance is everywhere.
Ideas, spaces, and within
our daily practices.



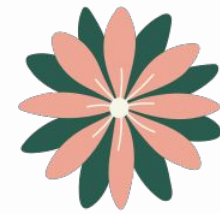
Lessons Learned About Feminist Leadership



Consciousness

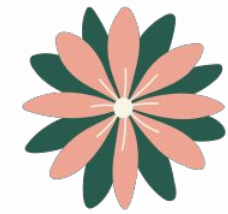
Raising

Gaining the skills and knowledge to question and challenge the status quo.



Active Listening

Listening with intent and honoring each other's truths.



Self-Care

Self-reflection and awareness can help us become stronger leaders.

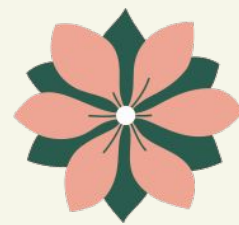


Current Impact

This project in itself was an act of resistance, challenging what identity and activism means for South Asian women

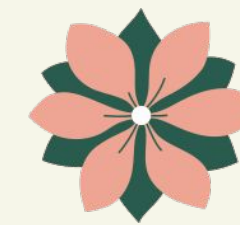
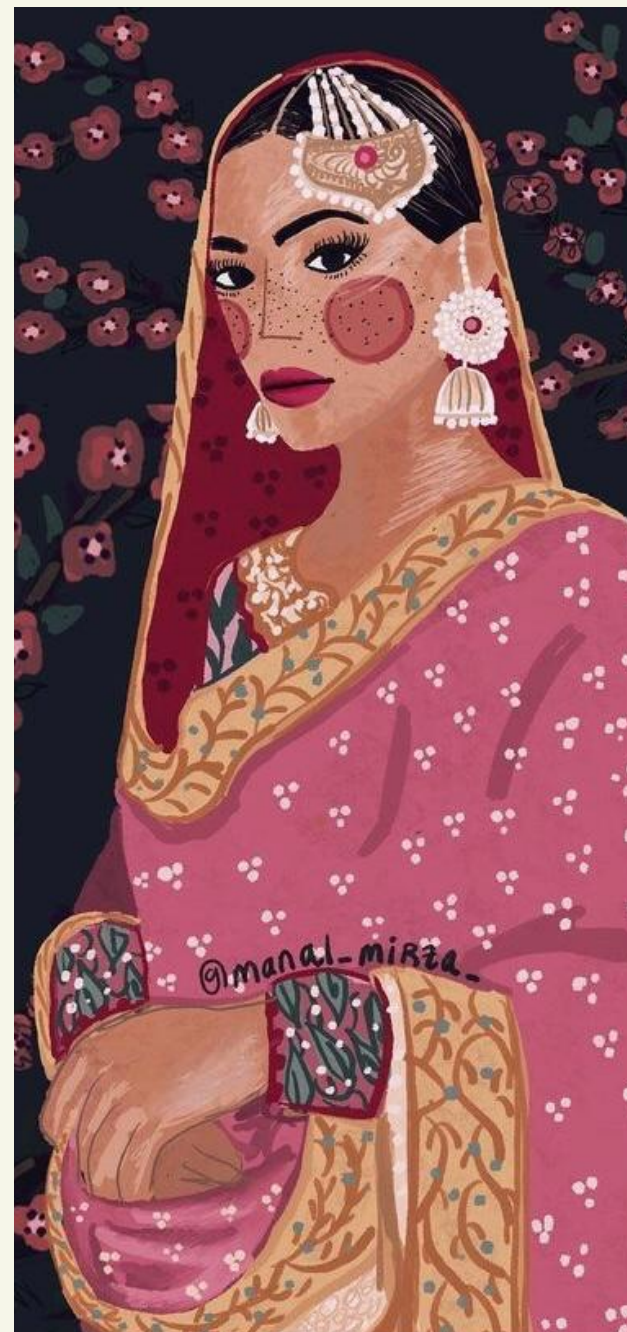


Future Impact



Empowering Future IWL Scholars

South Asian students will be able to reflect on the oral archive and what it means to them, developing further research on South Asian



A Documentary in the Making

Continue building bridges between South Asian women and how their work is leaving an impact on the community, both big and small.



Thank you!

“I have always wondered how women who carry war inside their bones still grow flowers between their teeth” Ijeoma Umehinyuo, Questions for Ada



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