



## The Maya Sharma and Indra Pathak Collection

Maya Sharma and Indra Pathak are feminist, queer, grassroots activists based in Vadodara, Gujarat. Maya Sharma, a journalist, worked with trade unions and with the autonomous women's movement before entering the queer movement. Likewise, Indra Pathak was involved in labour activism, the Mahila Samakhya programme and Nari Adalats in rural Gujarat.

Currently, they lead Vikalp Women's Group, a feminist-queer NGO in Vadodara. Indra Pathak has been working with Vikalp since the late 1990s, and Maya Sharma's association with Vikalp began when she undertook research on lives of lesbians, FTM transpersons and queer female couples in rural Gujarat. Aided by Vikalp, this project culminated in Maya Sharma's first book, *Loving Women: Being Lesbian in Unprivileged India*.

By the mid-2000s, Vikalp initiated work in the HIV/AIDS field, and with Sharma and Pathak's involvement expanded into working with queer women and FTM transpeople. They were instrumental in creating Parma, a self-support group for female born queer individuals in Gujarat, which is now called Sabrang.

This collection, built over a period of almost two decades, represents Maya Sharma and Indra Pathak's work with queer communities in Gujarat and some of their organisational work with Vikalp and Parma/Sabrang. The collection is divided into four series: 1. Documentation, 2. Organisational Documents, 3. Maya Sharma's papers, and 4. Photographs.

**1. Documentation:** This series contains newspaper clippings and magazine articles on violence against lesbians and FTM transpersons that were featured in the media, and legal documents from some of the cases in which Parma/Vikalp intervened to lend support to queer individuals. This series forms a majority of the primary sources on which *Loving Women* is based.

**2. Organisational Documents:** This series covers programmes and activities that Parma/Vikalp participated in and organised as part of their mission towards social change; and includes the organisation's publications, and a set of hand written letters sent to them by queer women from across the state.

**3. Maya Sharma papers:** This series is a selection of some notes from fact finding committees she was part of, and notes from meetings.

**4. Photographs:** This series has ten photo albums which document Parma/Vikalp's journey, the people involved and the memorable episodes they were involved in.