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# Training their lens on the margins

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**Chennai:** When Mumbai-based filmmaker-couple K P Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro first went to Rann of Kutch in 2008, what caught their eyes was a Sufi tradition of Sant Kabir rooted in their society.

The result was 'Do Din Ka Mela', a documentary in search of the dying musical tradition in the region. Today, the couple is planning to visit Kutch again.

"The documentary was a two-day journey into the music and life of an uncle-nephew duo set against the backdrop of Kutch, said the professor of School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, Jayasankar.

The music and culture of the region evolves from various faiths. We want to explore more in this region," he add-



Mumbai-based filmmaker-couple K P Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro were in city to screen their documentary on Tamil woman poets, 'SheWrite'

ed. "At a time when traditional values are forgotten, it was nice to see a secular tradition still exists in Kutch. And that's why when Gujarat burned in the 2002 riots, Kutch remained safe. We are in search of such places and faces," he said.

Jayasankar and Anjali

need no introduction. The 35 documentaries both made on various issues concerning the marginalized in society speak for themselves.

The couple were in city to screen 'SheWrite', a documentary that portrays the works of four Tamil woman poets made in 2005. The shortfilm is inspired by the controversy following the publication of poet Kutti Revathi's anthology titled 'Breasts' in 2003.

"When women write about the violence against their bodies, many attack them, saying this is pornography. It was a clear example of moral policing controlling women's sexuality. If a man writes about women, there is no problem. The situation is worse today and that's the reason why we thought of screening the documentary," said Anjali, who is also a professor at TISS.

"Tanda', 'One hundred years of drought', 'YCP 1997',

'Trees', 'Naata', 'Gender Unpack', 'Our Family' and 'Climate Justice for All' are some of the documentaries made by the couple that was widely screened in India, as well as abroad.

Despite its potential, the documentary as a medium is edged out by mainstream cinema and TV soaps, said Jayasankar.

"But at the same time, internet is bringing lot of changes. It's time documentary filmmakers' explored space through internet," he said.

The couple said they are happy that youngsters are using documentary as a medium to fight social apathy and violence against the marginalized.

The couple have done a series of documentaries about Mumbai titled 'Remembering 1992' using their students at TISS.

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