

### **Report on street play “Chuppi Todo Zor Se Bolo”**

The students’ association of Women’s Studies department, *Phenomenal Women* collaborated with the NGO, Men Against Violence and Abuse, MAVA, to present a street play titled “*Chuppi Todo, Zor Se Bolo*”(Break silence and speak aloud against violence) at the foyer of SNTD Juhu Campus on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014. The MAVA theatre group, comprising of students from different campuses and courses, performed this Hindi play to highlight the various forms of violence that women face in public as well as private spaces. *Phenomenal Women* aimed to raise awareness about the crucial issue of gender based violence amongst the SNTD family by this open-to-all performance.

The MAVA team was formally welcomed by the members of the Student Association. The play presented snapshots from a young girl’s life in college, at home and during her everyday commute between these two locations. The college scene portrayed how in spite of the subtle discomfort felt due to unnecessary physical display of affection of male college mates, the young girl feels odd to complain or reject harassment. As she is homeward bound in a public bus, accompanied by a friend, she is targeted by a group of boys who feel no shame in harassing her and even retort back scathingly when she and her friend oppose their actions. Finally, she reaches home, perhaps hoping for a secure and loving welcome. But instead we find her brother and mother to be suspicious of her own conduct in public. Hearing of her ordeals outside home, the family decides to discontinue her education and get her married so that her ‘wings can be clipped’, denying her right to achieve her dreams. With the help of innovative songs, actions and dialogues, the play emphasized the need to break the silence and oppose patriarchal social systems that oppress women. The audience enjoyed and appreciated the performance and even pledged to help change attitudes so that society can change for the better and free itself from the layers of violence.

The programme concluded with the actors introducing themselves and a formal vote of thanks. The foyer was buzzing with action for a long time as members from the audience joined discussions with performers and the RCWS staff and students after the 30 minute performance.

Report submitted by Ms Subarna Ghosh (MAI).