



STREET PLAY

# ബോധവും ബോധ്യവും

CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONVICTION



An Initiative by

**COCHIN UNIVERSITY LEGAL AID CLINIC**

**THANKS,**

**VICE CHANCELLOR, CUSAT  
REGISTRAR, CUSAT  
SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES, CUSAT**

**PATRON**

**DR. PREETHA S, DIRECTOR, SLS, CUSAT**

**FACULTY COORDINATORS**

**DR. HARIGOVIND PC, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
SLS, CUSAT**

**DR. BINUMOLE K, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SLS,  
CUSAT**

**STUDENT COORDINATOR  
HARIDEV VARMA**

**CORE COORDINATORS  
DEVU R  
GOKUL THEJUS**

**DIRECTION  
SIVA P BABU**

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTION  
ARYA KRISHNA PS  
PARVATHY RAJ**

**SCRIPT AND TRANSLATION**

**DEVAKI P S  
MARIYA SHINON  
AISWARYA P  
SHANA NAYEEM  
DIYA SREE  
KRIP MARIYA  
ELZA REJI JACOB**

**STORY AND SCREENPLAY**

**ARYA KRISHNA PS  
NADIYA A  
SIVA P BABU  
PARVATHY RAJ**

**CINEMATOGRAPHY**

**ANUNATH KM  
AKARSH P CHAND  
PRIYAL P**

**CHARACTERS**

**LENA JOSEPH  
SREELAKSHMI K  
ATHUL RAJ  
ANNA ROSE TOMI  
PAVITHRA K  
CEONEL MATHEW  
GAUTHAM S  
AMATH RAJENDRAN  
KAVYA B  
EDWEENA BIJU  
FATHIMA HANAN  
KARTHIK GANESH**

**Cochin University Legal Aid Clinic presents the street play 'Bodhavum Bhodhyavum' with a sense of legality to tear down the black face of the power supremacy of the era of exploitation of the working class.**

**Through powerful scenes, we explore the critical frameworks that should protect these workers by stating the ILO conventions, human rights guidelines, and national legislation like the Indian Immigration Act, Passport Act, Indian constitution and the landmark 2013 Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, Sexual Harassment of Women at Work (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**

**The narrative weaves together stories of different workers fighting for basic rights - equal pay for equal work, workplace safety measures, and human dignity.**

**To watch various scenes of the street play -**

**[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/141jCfRpBE2LrDPL5hEANHHq2tTu0Fk8k?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/141jCfRpBE2LrDPL5hEANHHq2tTu0Fk8k?usp=drive_link)**

## **THEMES OF THE STREET PLAY**

**1) WAVES OF RESISTANCE: THE FISHERMEN'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE**

**2) BOUND BY DEBT: THE SILENT STRUGGLE OF MIGRANT WORKERS**

**3) HIDDEN STRUGGLES: RINGS AND RIGHTS**

**4) LIGHTS, CAMERA, INJUSTICE**

**5) EMPOWERED VOICES: BREAKING THE SILENCE ON MENSTRUATION**

**6) SIGNED, SEALED, AND SILENCED: THE COST OF CONTRACTS**

**7) ECHOES OF THE UNHEARD: A CALL FOR JUSTICE IN THE SHADOWS**



## **WAVES OF RESISTANCE: THE FISHERMEN'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE**

**We want justice...we want justice  
(Everyone claps again)**

**Can I tell a story? Alas, the story cannot be told, natives. Circumstances have driven fishermen to the ground. Thousands flocked to the Vizhinjam port gate.  
(Stands round)**

**It's a brazen worship of deserving rights.**

**Scene 1**

**Workers: Let's fight together with the natives.. Together we are If we fight, if we strive, we will win.**

**Chorus - We must earn our rights.  
(Together they say- we must achieve it.... Achieve it)**

**The police and the minister come there.**

**Minister : Our Kerala is developing through the Vizhinjam project. The income is for our india, why should we stop it... Only foreigners should strike without thinking.**

**Workers -(Laughter, angry) (one among the group)Hello minister, our children got white skin not because of medical treatment abroad. As a result of playing and bathing in this sea. Are we foreigners.....we are poor threesomes...**

**(People crash and climb)**



**Police – calm down.....calm down....**

**Fishermen - (jokingly to the police)**

**Sings a tamil song**

**Scene 2**

**Fishermen are making demands to the Government.**

**Fishermen – Mainly due to changing climate we have unemployment among us which should be compensated by minimum wages According to Section 3 of Minimum Wages Act 1968 or after realizing the problem of the people, the law should be made for it...**

**Government – we wil fix it .....fix it....**

**Later, the workers raised six other demands.**

**6 posters are to be displayed**

**Poster 1- A permanent solution to coastal erosion caused by port construction.**

**Poster 2 - Those who have lost their homes and are living in camps, cement godowns, etc., should immediately pay the full rent and resettle them.**

**Poster 3 - Compensation for those who lost their homes and land**

**Poster 4 – Conduct expert study**

**Poster 5 – Government to intervene to withdraw arbitrary kerosene price hike**

**Poster 6 - Provide kerosene and other rations**

**All united.....We want justice... We want justice**



**Scene 1**

**(A Gulf Country Background)**

**(Two workmen are tired and talking to each other, one from India, the other from another country)**

**(Indian man takes his wallet out of his pocket and looks at his family picture and gets worried)**

**Indian: It's been a long time since I left home, it will be 3 years tomorrow I have seen my wife and children.**

**Chorus: Song**

**Indian: (says in broken English for the other person to understand) me ... go .. home .. 3 year .. tomorrow**

**Other: me... too... me... 2 years**

**Indian: My contract expired 6 months ago... (looks at the other person and says) contract over 6 months**

**Other: then .. why.... No ..go**

**Indian: (showing pocket) no passport**

**(Looking at the audience) How is it so, isn't it held by those Arabs, traitors**

**(Then an Arab comes in, says something in Arabic and scolds him)**

**Indian:- Oh... Oh... Oh... Oh...**

**(shows some Gestures and asks what the other person said)**

**Indian:-Who knows**

**(He quickly picks up the axe and continues working)**

**(The Indian calls out from behind while the Arab mumbles something)**



**Indian :- sir.... My passport?**

**Arabic : Again passport? Oh man! Your passport is with us! For company safety**

**Indian: Sir sir please sir, my contract over, already six month, I go home sir, please sir.  
(shaking hands)**

**Arabic :-Aish! Stop it! You do one thing, pay recruitment fees, visa fees, then you are free, simple  
(saying the Arabic goes)**

**Indian: (saying sadly) They are making us work like dogs after incurring unpayable debts like this.  
I need an end to this.**

## **Scenario 2**

**(Labor Office Background)**

**(Writes and shows a poster) (Here the labor officer and an NGO worker are talking about this. (He stands listening to it).**

**Labor Officer: Yes, today some people do not complain because they are afraid of losing their jobs.**

**NGO workers: Yes, withholding passports and other essential documents is punishable.**

**Labor Officer: If you feel that your rights have been denied, contact your embassies and file a complaint**

**(So they three talk more to resolve)**

**NGO workers: Many organizations like ILO, HRO are there to help you.**

**Several legal provisions like the Indian Immigration Act and the Passport Act have come to your aid.**

**Indian : Yes we are not alone! A number of migrants like me are working, and everyone is silent because of the fear of losing their job. We are nobody's slaves. We are workers who have left home and work for family.**

**Chorus: Yes, dear workers, we have our government, we have our country, and you are not alone!**

**Chorus: You are not alone**





## HIDDEN STRUGGLES: RINGS AND RIGHTS

### Scene 1

(Speech and atmosphere suggestive of a posh family)

**Boss:** Listen to that elephant and then take the car and put it there for me to go out.

**Child 1:** She put my ring in the drainage

**Child 2:** I'm not dad

**Boss:** Oh my God, what is the price of gold now, do these guys even know this? Hey guys don't worry I will call someone.

(The boss calls so many people and no one is willing to come. Then the boss remembers a worker from the manhole job and tells him to come strictly as he is only paid a meagre wages.)

The worker's daughter also comes with him. The worker and the child who came to work are treated with hatred.

The worker discovers the ring.

**Worker:** Got the ring

**Boss:** Janu, take this ring and wash it and bring it to the other side

**Boss** calls the worker and pays him very low wages.

**Worker:** That's it?

**Boss:** What more would you pay to pick up a ring from a ditch?

**Worker:** What a mistake this is. When I go to work at the next place, I will not be paid for being late.

Each says to the audience.

Don't you see, they are doing this work without any security and they are not getting the wages they deserve

For this we have a law Safai Karmachari Act 2013, it is our responsibility to ensure minimum wage and insurance for daily wage earners like this.

Modern technologies should be used for their safety Bandicoot, a robot brought by Guruvayoor, should be used everywhere

**All together:** Their safety is our responsibility.



**Scene 1- workplace**

**A female character stands up and comes forward and talks to another girl working with her.**

**Girl 1: My stomach hurts.....(saying she cries loudly)**

**Girl 2: Why did you come today as you got your periods?**

**Girl 1: The boss says that if you take leave, your salary will be cut!!**

**Girl 1: I want water (angry) (from this side of the chair where Girl 2 is sitting)**

**Girl 1: If I didn't have a friend like you, who would have helped me in this work?**

**Girl 1: I'm hungry (angry) (Girl 2 gives a chocolate)**

**Girl 2: Eat Snickers, because you're not you when you're on your period!**

**Girl 1: thanks dear!(hugs her very lovingly)**

**Scene 2**

**Girl 1 goes to the boss's room.**

**Boss: You have to reach this target by this evening. (gives her a file labeled TARGET)**

**Girl 1: I need leave sir. I am on my Periods and have terrible stomach ache. ....(saying she cries loudly.)**

**Boss: (Laughs) If it starts like this, the company will be shut down (he jokes)**

**Boss: (to the audience) Didn't you hear that she needs leave for periods?**



**Chorus: “Shiva Shiva, leave for periods!!! Kalikalam**

**Girl 1 : So what, girls don't have rights? How will she do her job if her body is ruining her mental state?**

**True, periods do not affect all women equally, but some women experience severe pain and discomfort. It will affect work. Therefore, monthly leave should be considered as a right. This is the law in many countries of the world. It will help women's health and productivity.**

**Boss : (Suddenly comes ) Good, good, but what if it is misused? "What about?" (Sings)**

**Chorus: [ sings a Tamil advertisement song tune]**

**Girl 1/2: Let's make a policy. Doctor's certificate may be mandatory. And it is also the social responsibility of the company.**

**Girl 1/2: Ensuring the health and well-being of employees will also help the company grow.**

**Boss: So, our company will be an example for others! (Pleasantly)**

**Chorus- Ah!!! (Back to rhythm)**



**LIGHTS, CAMERA, INJUSTICE**

**Scene 1**

**Rhythm is sung and everyone sits in a circle**

**(A mother and son coming to watch TV in their house)**

**Son: Where is the remote? I got that!**

**(CLICKING THE REMOTE)**

**(A square frame is shown like a TV in front of them)**

**(Newsreader from the other side of the Frame)**

**NEWSREADER: Welcome to 'Cameraman' news. Firstly, News Highlights**

**(Make a tune after saying the main news. Drum roll)**

**(Let 2 people pass here and there at the time of that knock, and in order to show that editing, the newsreader fixes his hair, and reads the news with the sense that he has suddenly come back live telecasting in shock.)**

**NEWSREADER: The J.SHYAMA COMMISSION REPORT has come up with a shocking revelation of the open secrets in the film world. J SHYAMA highlights the actions of "celebrities" (show inverted comma with hands) in the film industry. In the committee meeting, the stars decided to dissolve the association "AMMOMMA".**

**Son: Ughh! Change the channel!!**

**(He takes the remote from his mother's hand and changes the channel)**

**(When the channel is changed, two others are behind the frameinte - a movie is telecasted on TV right now.Two actors are in a conversation in the movie.)**

**ACTOR-1: Mohan! (Put your hand on your shoulder - best actor movie reference) If you thought you wanted to be an actor. ....**

**Son: "You may have to undress yourself?"**

**(The 2 actors inside the TV frame look at their "son" in shock)**



## Scene 2

### Courtroom

(A judge-wig is placed on the judge's head, two clerks each side , in front of them we have prosecutor and defence advocates)

**JUDGE :** Silence Silence! Prosecutor, Will there be any action in the near future?

**PP:** Investigation is going on, your honour. We need some more time.

**DEFENCE:** Objection your honour! Time is running out. If it's even more late, the victims are likely to be attacked. I humbly request that a decision be taken as soon as possible.

**JUDGE :**(he gives the clerk a note after scribbling )

**CLERK:** case has postponed to next month!

## Scene 3

(Reporters and cameraman - must have a mike and camera)

(Then the minister walks in.)

**REPORTER:** Sir, sir! What do you have to say about the Shyama Commission report?

**Minister:** Where did I come from now?

**REPORTER:** Hotel, isn't it, sir?

**Minister:** Then ask me about it.

(The minister pushing away the cameraman and reporter)

(Another actor aka minister is also walking in)

**REPORTER:** Sir, what do you have to say about the allegation against you sir? Will it affect your art as an actor as well?

**Minister:** You need some dignity! Dignity!

**A combat face**

**Protesters:** We haven't lost! We haven't lost! The history of losing have never been heard!

(A reporter and cameraman covering it live)

**Protesters:** One by one comes forward and says

**Strong and fair laws should be brought as soon as possible to regulate the film industry and protect its workers.**

**Ensure safety of women and men at shooting locations.**

**Ensure equal pay.**

**Strictly enforce laws against sexual harassment in the workplace.**

**An impartial mechanism should be introduced to investigate allegations.**

**REPORTER:** Cameraman Venu signing off with reporter renuka

(News back to rhythm)



**Scene 1**

**(Mother) Wife: Why are you so tense?**

**Father: I didn't get my pension this month too..How will we pay the bills this month? I have no idea...**

**Daughter (Sister): It's time to pay my fee as well.. and what about my iPhone....**

**Mother: Ha! An iphone is it? I have no idea how we will manage the household expenses this month.**

**Son: Mom...Dad I got a job now I can help with the household bills ...**

**Song in the background**

**Scene 2- Company**

**Manager: What's the name? Oh yes! The appointment. This is the company contract. Read it and sign it. If you violate this contract, you will be fined up to 10 lakhs.**

**Son signs the contract.**

**Mother: Son, are you still working? Do you want something? (Group )  
Well then, I am not bothering you, continue with your work.**

**He continues working and remembers all of his responsibilities in the meantime.**

**One in the group: You haven't attained the target yet?**

**Bank loan: EMI is not paid yet.**

**Unable to sleep, he takes pills and then sleeps for a while.**

**(Everyone whispers disturbing things into his ear from behind, in his sleep)**

**Father: Son..we need money to pay the bills**

**EMI: Haven't you paid the loan yet**

**Sister: What about the loan?**



**Everyone keeps taunting him with his responsibilities. He wakes up startled and screaming. Everyone suffocates him leading to him having an unbearable panic attack. He dies due to the panic attack. Everyone surrounds him.**

**Scene 4- Mother comes seeing all this (crying)**

**Mother: My dear...we all killed him.. this contract killed him**

**I will fight for us**

**One amongst the group: This contract is illegal..exploitation in the name of “target” should be stopped.**



## Scene 1

[hospital]

As several people lie in the ward, two doctors are shown on duty. They are both depicted as looking after the sick.

Duty Doctor 1: Frankly speaking this is one of the busiest and also oldest hospital in the state. But here we don't even have the basic things we need. There is no rest room or a good toilet here.

Duty Doctor 2 : Thats true!

Duty Doctor 1: Ha!..... Wasn't it busy all this time..... And you also have fever , you should go and lay down for a while. Now the patients here are almost asleep. Now I can manage them.

Duty Doctor 2: But where to sleep! Is there a rest room here?

Duty Doctor 1: You do something. Go to that seminar hall and get rest. I will call you, you will come and I will go.

Duty Doctor 2: That's right. Then I will go and lie down.

Duty Doctor 2 goes to the seminar hall.

## Scene 2 : Seminar Hall

The doctor rests there. Later that doctor is tortured by someone there.

From there, make use of instruments and create other horrible sounds and screams.

Naranathu bhranthan comes.

Naranathu bhranthan: Did you not call me mad when i rolled boulders up a mountain and pushed them down? So tell me now, am I crazy?

Naranathu bhranthan: Penine ariyatha branth.. hahaa..... Ith kama branth !

Sthree ammayan, makalan, sahodariyan, chakkayan, mangayan, enitto innathe kalathe chollu... haaa haaa .....

"Na sree swathanthrathinte argati"





**Naranathu branthan: True, she is still not free from the shackles of male supremacy.**

**Child 2: Constitution provides equal justice and security for women.**

**Child 1: So what's the point**

**Child 2: The Sexual Harassment of Women at Work (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013) is in place to ensure safety and prevent violence against women at workplaces.**

**Child 1: And then the violence**

**All together : Yes violence violence.**

**Yes violence....**

**Yesterday in Kottarakkara, today in Kolkata and in Delhi**

**Tomorrow it will be me and you...**

**( Song)**

**To fight for rights,**

**To raise voice for needs,**

**To survive against the capitalist system,**

**Let there be working communities with legal awareness.**

**Loud voices will continue to be heard in these streets until every owner is convinced that the workers are not slaves, and every worker is instilled with the sense to speak out against their exploitation.**



## CONTEXTUAL EXPLANATION

Naranath Bhranthan, or "Naranathu the Madman," is a legendary figure from Kerala's folklore. Known for his eccentric behavior, he is often depicted as a philosopher who defied societal norms and embraced a life of apparent madness to teach deeper truths. One of the most famous stories about him involves his daily ritual of pushing a heavy boulder up a hill, only to let it roll back down, symbolizing the futility of worldly pursuits. Though he was seen as mad by many, his actions and words were laced with profound wisdom, questioning the established beliefs of society. Naranath Bhranthan represents the idea that true enlightenment may be hidden beneath what appears to be madness.

