Interviewer - You said you are 20 years old? Till what class have you studied and what are you doing now?

Subject – I’m in 12th standard.

Interviewer – So have you completed your 12th?

Subject – No Its ongoing.

Interviewer – So when did you join Sneha? When did you start?

Subject – I don’t remember exactly. I think it was around the time I was in 5th or 6th standard.

Interviewer – Can you please speak a little bit louder or it won’t get recorded.

Subject – I was in the 5th or 6th  standard when I joined Sneha. The ColourBox projects were ongoing then and I was interested in drawing.

Interviewer – The ColourBox project? Weren’t there any Ehasaas projects then?

Subject – There were no Ehasaas projects back then. Back then there was PVWC when I joined. There was the ColourBox project and one of my friends told me that I was good and drawing and I should join the project where they’ll teach me different drawing techniques. So I joined there through him. Sitaram sir used to be here back then, whom I met for the first time here. He wrote my name down and made me sit for a while. They took me to play somewhere in Mahim at the hotel Hirani, I think its name was. Back then I had no idea what a street play was. So they just made me stand in the middle of the play in a group and told me “You’ll do a street play”. I followed all the things they said and then soon new skills were added like comic work shop, acting workshop, theatre group, etc.

Interviewer – But all of these were Ehasaas workshops right? The comic and acting workshops were conducted by Ehasaas.

Subject – I wasn’t aware of all of this back then. I only knew about 2 projects, one was the ColourBox and the other was the PVWC project.

Interviewer – So your comic book and drawing projects were done long back?

Subject – Yes. Back then we had Chaitanya sir. He used to take 2 or 3 workshops in a week or a month. I had joined back then. So slowly my skills increased and I got interested in dance. So slowly we started improving at dance. Sitaram sir used to teach us different activities. In colour box, we used to learn drawing, poster painting, wall painting, etc. Back then we had about 20, no 50 members in our group. Now I’ve have been here for about 8 to 9 years, since I joined.

Interviewer – Oh my god! 8 to 9 years is a really long time.

Subject – Yes.

Interviewer – Do you remember how you felt when you came to Sneha for the first time.

Subject – I felt a bit strange. I was unsure what I will get to learn here and what I wanted to learn. I was told that I would be doing drawing but they took me to do a street play on the first day. I was a bit scared and worried about what would happen if my family found out what I was doing here. My mother would shout at me, my father would shout at me, etc. But I practiced. Our first show got over and our second show was in Ambani School.

Interviewer – Ok. In Dhirubai Ambaini High School?

Subject – Yes. The one in BKC. We had our second show there and I had no idea which school this was and how big this school was. There we had a PVWC stall arranged by the students of that school. They took us for dance there. There was a dance in the play. I was told to play a goon who is a rapist and I had a friend along with me. That time the whole group used to go for the show, a team of around 20 to 30 people used to go. We had no idea who all would come there, there would be celebrities and all but we had no idea. So one of us was asked to perform on the spot. All were each asking others to dance. So I got up on the stage and performed my routine. Later I came to know that there were Sonu Nigam, Farah Khan and other celebrities were watching our show from the Ambani School building. Sonu Nigam complimented our play, my dance and the message we were trying to convey through it.

Interviewer – So the story in the show was conveyed through dance?

Subject – Yes. There was an act in the show where we talked about eve teasing and rape through a dance. He (Sonu Nigam) liked it a lot. There he also performed a song