

oh!!!

womania

[woo- m-uh-nia] noun, abstract most of the times, raw, unadulterated, ridiculously suave

featuring **Manikarnika** - a tennis ball, under 19 - cricket tournament for GIRLS



manikarnika
a tennis ball cricket tournament for girls



volume 1 - march' 2014

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and men and dogs should relax and
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Yes/ No"

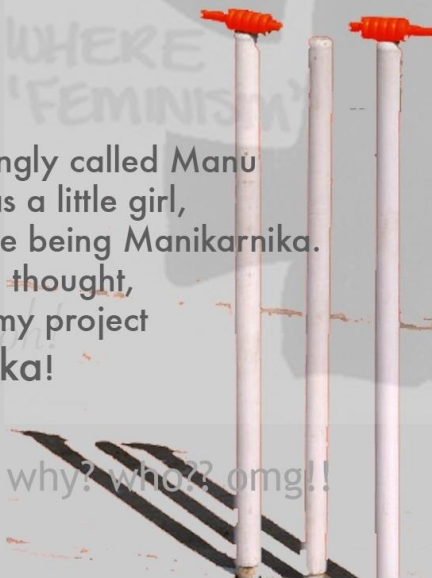
"The question isn't who's
going to let me; it's who
is going to stop me!"



well behaved
women....
seldom
make
history

She was lovingly called Manu
when she was a little girl,
her real name being Manikarnika.
That's when I thought,
I would call my project
Manikarnika!

oh.... wow! why? who?? omg!!



'i have never been able to find out precisely what
feminism is:

i only know that people call me a feminist
whenever i express sentiments
that differentiate me from a doormat'

- rebecca west

FEMINISM
IS THE RADICAL
NOTION THAT
WOMEN ARE
PEOPLE



Hello-s and Hi-s!

'Dai Dai! Don't spend your life doing these petty things! You are supposed to get married and have kids and manage a family. What's all this into sports and writing and clicking pictures and designing homes and managing businesses, developing software? All that should be left to men!'

Imagine your grandma talking like this! Most of ours did! Well my grandma was a Gen-Next woman. So is my mom, and now there is no stopping! Despite all the urbosexuality, feminism fads, arenas to prove our mettle, why is it so, that women are still a minority? I want to ask the IPL team owners,

would they select a female player for their team? If we say, the best of women players are ready to play for free. Would they? Well, why should we play for free? But the point is Cricket is a guy's game. Even for playing club cricket matches, in India, women are seen as someone who is not strong!

Flashback to the hockey match in Chak De! How did they fight against men? Well, that was a movie. But are we ever going to come to that level, ever, in India?

The only representation of women in IPL is that of cheer girls. But I know something that is changing this idea. 22 women on a cricket

field, not cheering on any item number! Instead playing some genuine cricket, and how?

The eventful second season of Manikarnika just got over. This Women's Day, the first edition of this magazine will bring together all the snippets and reminisce on how the tournament went. After following Manikarnika for good 7 days, we just sighed in pride and said.....

Oh! Womania! That's the way to go!

Wishing all the lovely ladies, a very happy International Women's Day!

~Editors



Interviews

The Mastermind

-Priyanka Acharya



1. Priyanka, tell us, why this name "Manikarnika"?

I was looking for something related to women-power. Something resembling the fire within women, which if given a proper direction blossoms into something magnificent. I had asked my friends to suggest me names for this Cricket Tourney and they all came up with very good suggestions, but none appealed. I kept looking for that one perfect name, until the last moment. While going through books and websites, I realized I was satisfied with Rani Laxmi Bai as an icon for the tournament. She is indeed an inspiration to the women in India. I wondered how could I justify her name and my tournament both! *Kuch bhi click nahi ho raha*! Then I read about Rani Laxmi Bai's childhood.

She was lovingly called Manu when she was a little girl, her real name being Manikarnika. That's when I thought, I would call my project Manikarnika!

It sounds like a perfect platform for the young, budding cricketers, doesn't it?

2. Sure, it does! What gave you the idea for creating and organizing Manikarnika?

On completing my graduation I had an idea of starting up a residential academy for girls. It was even before VCA started with its own, but practically it was not possible since the strength of female cricketers in

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Vidarbha region was reducing day by day. So finally after my post-graduation I decided to start working at the grass root level and that's how Manikarnika was born.

3. What do you think is the future of women's cricket, particularly in Vidarbha region?

With Manikarnika, work at the grass root level has started and in next 5 year Vidarbha will have huge turnout for the selection trials and very soon many girls from our region will represent the zone and the Indian side.

4. What or who is the inspiration behind this whole project?

Prevailing situation of women's cricket encouraged me to come up with it.

There are many people behind it - Adv. Baba Rocque and Adv. Jagdish Karnewar have inspired me with work and my friends especially Madhumita, Diba Shilpa and Yamini believed in my project.

5. Tell us about your team - Creative stance and what future activities do you plan to organize?

Words fall short to describe my team. It was initially just a bunch of female cricketers along with some really talented and creative people like Madhumita who helped me conceive and develop this idea. Now it has grown with more talented people and professionals involved.

Very soon we'll be coming up with leather ball tournament. From next year it's more likely that Creative Stance shall organize it twice a year with teams from other parts of Maharashtra getting involved. Also we are planning to come up with a female cricket club where we'll not just train them to be good cricketers but also help their overall growth and development.



Logo-Designer

-Shilpa Kanor



1. How did you come up with such a creative logo for Manikarnika?

Priyanka had chosen the name Manikarnika as it was the name of "Jhansi ki Rani Lakshmi Bai" and she thought it was the best way to represent the tournament as she symbolizes the strength of a woman, her power, spirit and devotion. So I thought of designing the logo with this idea of an inspiration from the past and a step into the future of women's sports by promoting women's cricket.

2. What did you have in mind while designing it? Was it a thought of Priyanka as a cricketer or the idea behind the tournament (promoting women's cricket), or both?

I think my previous answer explains my idea behind the logo too.



Coming to the next question, I think it was a bit of both. Priyanka's selection of the name for the tournament and the idea behind the tournament both helped me in designing the logo.

3. Did you have creative discussions or differences with the team while designing it, or did you have all the liberty while designing?

Priyanka gave me all the liberty to design the logo. So with the creative independence I had no pressures and I was able to give my best. The logo was finalized in the first sample

draft that I sent.

4. How do you relate the colors you've used in the logo to women?

I have used bright shades of yellow, orange and red. They are all colors of energy, light and growth. I had the idea of "Shakti" in mind signifying women empowerment, their progress.

5. This was the second season of Manikarnika, this year. Better than before in all terms. Any thoughts?

Manikarnika has definitely grown and beautifully so. We had more teams participating this year. Along with participation we had lesser inhibitions this year. So our confidence has grown too and we are sure that every year is going to see a better tournament.



Did you know?

- First Indian woman to reach the final of an Olympic event was Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha, popularly known as P. T. Usha ~ We have come a long way since PT, haven't we!
- First Indian woman to win Grand Slam junior title: Sania Mirza (partnering with Russian Alisa Kleybanova) in the Doubles category of the 2003 Wimbledon Championships. ~ She still reigns! Where are the budding tennis sensations, we wonder!
- First Indian woman to climb Mount Everest: Bachendri Pal, 1984 and the oldest woman to achieve the feat is Premlata Agarwal at an age of 48, in 2011! ~ It's never too late!
- First woman Chess Grandmaster: Koneru Humpy, 2002. ~ She was also the youngest woman in the world to become a grandmaster at 15 years old.
- First woman to win 1st round match in a Grand Slam event: Nirupama Vaidyanathan beat Italian Gloria Pizzichini in the first round of the 1998 Australian Open
- First woman to reach 4th round (highest as of 2008) of a Grand Slam event: Sania Mirza in the Singles category of the 2005 US Open.
- The first woman to cross English Channel: Aarti Saha

On covering Manikarnika

– Pooja Cornelius



1. Your clicks are being appreciated and featured all over. Have you done anything differently this time?

Photography is an art and every art is done differently. With respect to sports photography this was my first assignment. I went out there on the field only with my instincts. Of course I had to do a bit of homework as to what camera settings would be most appropriate for sports photography. Rest is all is pretty evident!

2. What do you think about Manikarnika? It's like an "all-women's project"!

Priyanka, the woman behind Manikarnika has done a fabulous job. This is a stage where young girls have showcased their talent. It is a wonderful project. I have immense respect for the project and each person who has made this dream come true.

"Well photography! I am in a relationship with it."

3. Women sports are lagging far behind in India. While clicking pictures, did you try to highlight this platform in a certain way. If so, how?

Women sport most certainly is lagging far behind. This platform is a talent hunt. In the last 7 days I have seen girls, diving for catches, running hard to get that 1 extra run, bowling to accuracy and batting to win hearts. I promote such inspiring concepts on social media as well as personally to family and friends.

4. Any favorite moments, from the tournament?

My favorite moment from the tournament was when Vishakha, from St. Ursula School scored a six from the last ball of the match. The hit was an unorthodox one. The ball was played from between the legs above the head and hit for a six!! Oh boy what a sight it was simply amazing!!

5. Tell us about your passion for photography?

Well photography! I am in a relationship with it. I love to capture the various emotions and walks of human life. My basic area of interest is Portraits. This is the first time I am doing sports Photography. I sincerely believe that a picture speaks a thousand words

6. Any tips for budding photographers who might want to do sports photography?

Sports Photography is all about timing. There are so many great moments on the field that make you laugh, cry, feel sad and feel happy for. A lost catch disappoints you personally. Equipment is a very important aspect in Sports Photography. A telephoto zoom lens with a proper sun filter is a must. Rest I will say keep clicking, that's the best way to learn photography.



"We just wanted to prove it to the guys that girls could play cricket too"



Let's Talk

"From Business point of view, I will never take a female player in my IPL team"

Thus spoke the participants!

"We just wanted to prove it to the guys that girls could play cricket too", that's what one of the enthusiastic participants of Manikarnika had to say, after they won a match against their competitors. A 10 over tennis ball cricket match packed with extreme excitement and competition is nothing less than a T-20 or an IPL match. The only difference here is, the spectators' turnout is comparatively low. The girls had put up such a brilliant show and there were not many people in the audience to watch the action.

This season saw some great scores with a high run rate ranging from 12 to 19 runs per over. Some of the girls did a commendable job at bowling and took 8 wickets in a match. The overall participation showed the interest that the girls took in this sport. For many girls, cricket is not just about watching and cheering the guys on the field. It's about being a part of the game and promoting it for their clan. That's what Manikarnika has been doing since last two years.

We often wonder where the Indian women's cricket stands. Most of the channels don't even cover the women's cricket matches. It's indeed a sad state. But what we see of, in the grounds of St. Ursula, Nagpur, we are fed with a hope that sometime soon this situation will change.

With more seasons of Manikarnika coming up, there will be a drastic change in the way people look at women's cricket. We could already see a hint of change in people participating and watching, both.

There sure will be a time, when Indian Women's team will put up a great show on national and international levels. This is just a start and there is a long way to go. The attitude is gradually changing and like Priyanka Acharya says, "it's all about inventing attitudes!"

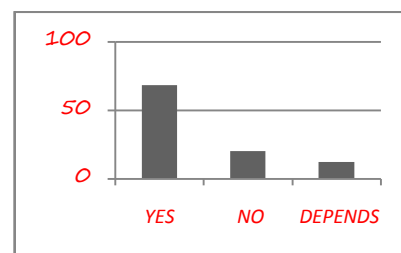


Survey – What the guys had to say!

We happened to take a random survey and asked around 25 guys a simple question.

"If it was allowed and if you owned an IPL team, and there were women cricket players (great at cricket) ready to play, would you bid for them? Yes/ No"

Here are the results!



The guys who said NO, had pretty clear things to say, like "From business point of view, I will not include a female player in my IPL team!" Another gentleman said, "No, it makes no sense, I will lose the tournament".

We don't judge any of them. There were many who very enthusiastically said YES for reasons apart from skills and talent. Some interesting answers that we got from the guys were "Is this bid for cheerleaders – then definitely YES". One said, "I would have 2 good looking women cricketers who would inspire the other 9 men in the team to play with the strength of 15". The other said, "I will earn money, because I'll have more spectators! So yes, I will have women in my team"

We were not surprised at the responses. There is a lot that needs to be changed and done. Mindset – to begin with. The idea of women being just an object of desire or beauty needs to be gotten over and women need to be accepted for the strength they possess. For the remaining who genuinely believed in women and said YES, they are the kind of men, society needs! Well, challenges make heroes. We are already facing a number of them!





Over a Cuppa Coffee!

With
Madhumita
Chuckerbutty



1. You have been one of the foundations of Creative Stance. What is the motive behind it?

The basic motive is rights for girls to achieve what they deserve, to provide them a platform where they can showcase their hidden talent.

2. Women are lagging behind in many aspects. What has pushed you to join Priyanka in this endeavor of bringing up women's sports?

The reason was Priyanka herself. In life, especially cricket, she has struggled hard, yet she did not receive what she rightly deserved. So seeing her urge and desire to fight against all odds, and to do something for women sports, motivated me to join her in her endeavor.

3. You have been a part of Manikarnika right from the moment it was conceived. Tell us about the journey?

If u start with something challenging it is never easy, so we have gone through many ups and downs to make this dream come true. But all the fruits of our hard work and efforts have reaped well and it is indeed sweet and tasty.

4. What do you think is the future of women's sports and arts in Vidarbha? Do you feel we can make a mark at a national level?

Of course! According to me hard work definitely pays. In today's society one has to take a step forward to achieve their desired goal and for that one has to expend their sweat and blood. There is no gain without pain.

5. Do you think the status of women, in present society has changed in last 10 years?

Yes it has but still there are many corners where they are back seated. They are still fighting with

W- Wounds of life.

O- Orthodox nature of society.

M- Male chauvinism.

E- Egoistic society.

N- Nuisance of people who still try to put her down.

6. Your message for young entrepreneurs who wish to do something like what you are doing?

LEADERS ARE FOLLOWERS OF-

WHAT IS TRUE

WHAT IS FAIR AND

WHAT IS RIGHT.



"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea!"



"The question isn't who's going to let me; it's who is going to stop me!"

Dress Code!

When we think of women's sports, one of the most questionable topics becomes the attire. When Sania Mirza started playing tennis, there was a lot of criticism from her community for being improperly dressed. Despite that she donned attires like other international players did. She even received threats for choosing and sticking to her fashion statement. Sometimes it becomes very difficult to select between relenting to the demands of the Indian society and doing "the right thing".

Imagine if women from orthodox Asian countries wore Burkhas or Sarees and played sports like badminton and tennis! We can never dream of excelling in these sports, if we stick to what the society demands. Even if it means – style of dressing. What is indeed sad is that even today, in many parts of India women are told how to dress by the men of the society else they invite trouble, as we all know it.



The other sports are no different! While men question the integrity of women and flaunt their sexuality, we would like to see men playing sports in Indian wear!

Wonder if the attire about women is so spoken about, how wonderful it will be for men to play with Dhotis and Kurtas! Then we'll talk about "comfortable clothing"

Image courtesy for this article:

<http://sareedreams.com/2009/11/18/>



About us

We strongly believe that, a woman is helpless only when her nail polish is drying! We also believe in a lot of other things too, like women are the foundation of the society and women are harbinger of peace and love... Well, let's just say, we are *Oh!Womania - raw, unadulterated and ridiculously suave!* That's what we said about ourselves, in the first place, didn't we? Help spread the love with Diba and Yamini!

Credits

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Bibliography: The quotes and facts are extracted from Wikipedia.



FEEDBACK

Tell us everything – what you liked, what you didn't, what do you want to read, at ohwomania@gmail.com. We love emails!

Note: All the typos in the magazine are intentional. Congratulations if you did not spot any!

