



Trends

SHOT ON CAMPUS!

Equipped with DSLRs, students in City institutes indulge in filmmaking to highlight social issues



● Soumika M Das



Anative of Andhra Pradesh, Yanam Deepak grew up in a town, which had 100 single screen theatres. Watching films with parents in the theatres on weekend: it was like an unquestionable ritual! "I breath cinema," he says.

In 2014, when Yanam came to Bhubaneswar to study medical science at KIMS, he grew curious about the State, its culture and especially, cinema. Despite being a Telugu, he claimed to have watched 50 Odia films, mostly in theatres! Language is no bar for this movie buff. Be it bengali, Punjabi or Korean, he claimed to have watched films in several languages.

"After all this, I decided to make films. I had watched enough, now it was the turn to pick up the camera to document

whatever I see around," said Yanam. While pursuing MBBS, he started making short films and documentaries on Odisha. Being a medical student, he made films on health issues and also addressed other issues. One of his films on anti-ragging has been selected by UGC for spreading awareness among students. UGC screens his films on different college campuses. His short film, 'Five Who Am I?' had travelled to various Indian film festivals.

At present Yanam is working on two short films on health issues. "I have shot a documentary on the epidemic of Chronic Kidney Diseases. In at least 400 villages lying near Odisha and Andhra Pradesh border, every household has a member who is suffering from CKD and is about to die due to lack of medical facilities. My next film is on the lone patient of multiple sclerosis in the State, who is from Bhubaneswar," he said.

Yanam is one among the dozens of aspiring or independent filmmakers in different City institutes. Major engineering, degree or medical institutes in the City have their own student-run filmmaking societies or clubs.



In most cases, these passionate filmmakers save pennies from their 'pocket money' to make short films on a range of subjects. Shot in and around the campus, these filmmakers have little to support their logistics requirements. However, the ideas are 'big' and know no limit!

"Neither my family members nor relatives gave me money to invest in my passion. But, for each film I had to save at least ₹5000 for travelling to different shoot locations," Yanam added, who has made at least seven films until his final year in MBBS. When it comes to the technical requirements, they manage shooting the scenes with DSLR cameras or high-end smartphones; a tripod stand and wireless microphones. And, campus is the first and most-preferred shoot location.

If Yanam's films are realistic, another student of KIIT Avik

has made films on the campus life. From comedy to romantic, he claims to have captured all emotions in his DSLR. Both these students are also the members of KIIT Film Society. Formed in 2013, the society had organised the first on-campus film festival, Kalinga International Film Festival, in 2017, attended by renowned actor Anupam Kher.

While the society at KIIT has 200 members, the cinematic club of IIT Bhubaneswar has at least 70 members. From SOA to IIT Bhubaneswar, most institute has similar clubs. These societies conduct monthly film screenings, script writing workshops, direction workshops and acting workshops. They are promoting the concept of making zero budget short films. And, social media is a tool for marketing and promotion.

"We upload the films on YouTube first. There's a separate social media team to promote films made on campus," said Tarun Guguloth of IIT Bhubaneswar. The members of these societies also have to face interviews for being a part of the club.