

The NIFT, Chennai Textile Design Sem VI student, Mr. Adheep A.K. was spotted by Laura. C. Wright, an American Textile artist when she was invited to the institute for a presentation on her smart textile project on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2018. He was invited as a representative of NIFT to Pepper house, Kochi, Kerala to participate in Zero 1 mission, a project aimed at depicting Gender equality through smart textile art installation. It consisted of a series of educational workshops with an exposure to sound based art practices organised by American Art Incubation India, an initiative of the Department of State, USA and ZERO1. It was held in partnership with Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF), an international art forum held every two years and Sacred Heart College, Thevara.

There were totally 16 participants who were all well established art professionals were divided into 4 teams. He participated in the project for 5 days (2 weekends and a Wednesday between Feb 25<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>) following which the teams were given two weeks(march 5th to 16th march) to develop their prototype based on their concept.

The team headed by Mr. Adeep named their project as “AXIA” Greek word meaning “Value”. There was a distinguished Jury including Robert.G.Burgas ( American Counsel General), Maya Sundararajan, regional Officer, United States India, Manju Sara Rajan (CEO Kochi Muziris Biennial foundation) evaluated their project. It was awarded 16 lakhs rupees to actualize it which would be showcased in the forthcoming Kochi Biennale. Mr. Adeep also topped all the 16 participants/art professionals and won a 15 days trip to USA and was also awarded a Fulbright scholarship for further studies.

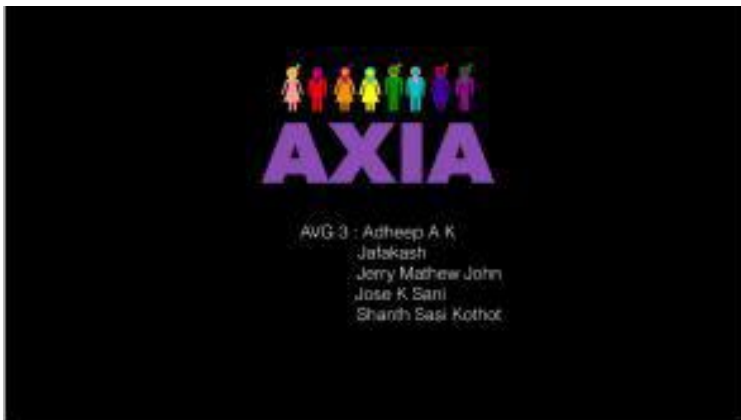


# AXIA

The project aims to conduct a survey to collect random samples of opinions from various genders, places and different age groups and visualise the collected data in an interesting way to show how it affects the stability of a society. The installation tries to prove that in a stable society there is always an equality among all the genders and everyone's voices are heard and considered.

## FUTURE OF PROJECT

To take a bigger leap we would like to install the project at public spaces similar to how telephone booth are placed. So that if there is a call for gender equality issue people can talk in real time and convey their idea about the situation in such a way that the addressed issue is broadcasted anonymously in different public spaces. We can generate statistics at intervals of time. For more info - [akartist2.wixsite.com/axia](http://akartist2.wixsite.com/axia)



### MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that if everyone regardless of their gender/race/creed is given equal opportunity to speak and be heard the society will be more stable and peaceful.

In most cases we do not have the patients to stop and listen to the problems people suffer from their perspective.

The basic idea we put forward to our spectators is to communicate more, because conversations can solve most problems.

### THE JOURNEY FOR VOICES

As we went around to collect audios for the project we were able to get a deeper understanding of the problems regarding gender equality from different perspectives.

A black and white photograph showing two hands holding a microphone, with the hands positioned as if speaking into it.A black and white photograph of a person's face and mouth, speaking into a large, professional microphone.

These conversations from different (male/female/gender minority) view points revealed the deeper problems and prejudice in our society.

Hence we took these datas/conversations to levitate a globe, trying to imply that having a meaning full conversation can bring stability in the society.

### SCULPTURE / INSTALLATION

A diagram showing a globe in the center, surrounded by several human figures. Lines connect the figures to the globe, suggesting a global network or communication. The globe is depicted with a green and blue color scheme and concentric circles around it, representing signal waves or connectivity.



Our sculpture is in a triangular shape since it is the strongest shape and a good metaphor for the bond between the different genders.



The 3 speakers are the voices of the survey we conducted among the male community, female community and gender minorities.



The levitating globe represents a stable society where people are free to talk about their problems from their perspective.



### REALISTIC FUTURE OF THE PROJECT

#### MAKE IT PUBLIC AND ACCESSIBLE

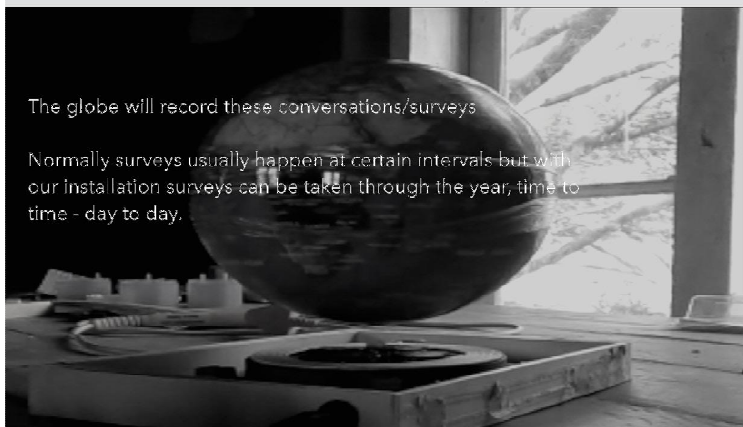
We plan to create an Axia booth with 3 microphones at public spaces to initiate conversations.



### AXIA BOOTH



Anyone is free to talk about their problems and perspectives about Gender Inequality.



The globe will record these conversations/surveys

Normally surveys usually happen at certain intervals but with our installation surveys can be taken through the year, time to time - day to day.



### THE ART OF CONVERSATION LIES IN LISTENING

From the Four following project our team got selected for the higher project with a fund of 16 lak. From the 16 members I got selected for a trip to USA for the further study and a personal interest from Maya Sundararajen got a scholarship from Full Bright.

Thank you ,  
Adheep.ak