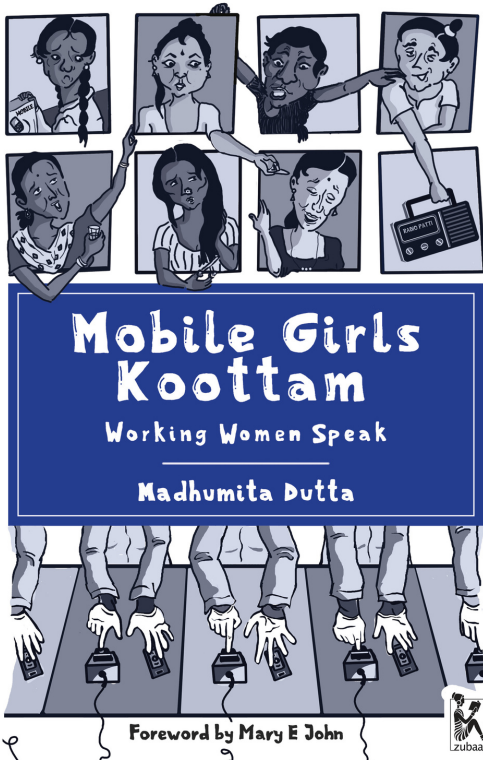




New Book Announcement



Zubaan Non-fiction

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Mobile Girls Kottam: Working Women Speak

Madhumita Dutta

Madhushree (Illustrator)

In 2013 Madhumita Dutta, a doctoral student, went to do research in Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu. There she met Kalpana, Abhinaya, Satya, Lakshmi, and Pooja—all women working inside an electronics factory. In the women's rented room, they would gather regularly over the next year, drinking tea, chatting, recording, and producing a radio podcast: Mobile Girls Kottam.

Challenging what theorisation and research can be, *Mobile Girls Kottam* offers us a look into the complex lives of young rural migrant women in their own words, and invites us (listeners) to engage in a process of learning and unlearning, and to interrogate our own privileges as we imagine the life-worlds of working class women.

Consisting of transcripts from the titular radio podcast, this book brings to the page conversations between the five women, Madhumita, and her interpreter, Sam. The group speaks of their lives as working class women, the nature of their work and their dreams, each from her own unique and nuanced perspective. What results are playful, joyous, angry, and thoughtful discussions on diverse topics like tea stalls for women, factory work, menstruation, and much more, made all the more lively through illustrations by Madhushree.

MADHUMITA DUTTA is an assistant professor in the department of geography at The Ohio State University, USA. Her research explores themes around women's labour, worker narratives and labour organizing in South Asia. She has worked for over a decade with grassroots environmental and social justice organizations in India.



MADHUSHREE is an illustrator/cartoonist based in Chennai and West Bengal.

