Akshara KV:

"…and I think this will be one of the most contested sessions. The session is about our institutions and training. Actually this subject can be held for 3 individual sessions. One on organizations, one on training and one on funding. Actually we have included all three in one session, and there are many many many questions that all of us have. Do we really have institutions? Are our institutions working? What do we mean when we say that our institutions are not working responsibly? How do we envisage them as working responsibly? What are the problems behind building an institution? What is the state of funding in India? What is the state of training in the theatre? These are all hard questions. We have four people here. Sanjna, as far as I know has not acted or directed but she runs an organization, (prompt: Hero Hiralal) (laugh) but she is one of the people in India who takes organization as an art. I sometimes feel that when I write accounts of Ninasam, I start enjoying it. It is almost like writing poetry. Making budgets, especially, has a great feeling. You feel like writing poetry, and organization has to have such an approach. And I think Sanjna is one of them. We have Shayamala Vanarase, who is a psychologist, has worked in the areas of film studies, appreciation. First came to Ninasam as a teacher in our film appreciation courses. She has been an actress. She has done Mrs. Peacham in Jabbar Patel's '3 penny opera' and she has taught courses in SNDT college. Anmol Vellani, worked with Ford Foundation initially, now heads one of the most important funding agencies in India, the IFA. He is also a theatre director, has directed plays, has written about theatre, one of his recent essays has been about arts and management and the creative industry. Then we have Samik Bandhopadhyay. It is very difficult to say what he is not. He is a theatre scholar, publisher, film theorist and he is a resource person in the real sense of the term. So I invite all four of them and Sanjna will talk first."