

Meenakshi and the trio sisters selling fresh produce

Meenakshi, Sharada & Manorama are a trio of sisters selling vegetables outside a school at this busy suburb of Goregaon in Mumbai, India. The sisters have been at this very street corner for over 50 years! Carrying on with the legacy of their mother. 50 years of relationships, shared smiles and with love of their profession.

The day begins with a two hour long journey bringing in the usual seasonal supplies and a few extras for special orders. A competitive market place where the sisters employ a creative sales pitch – wooing potential customers and the regulars by calling out (in their non-native) English. One can hear cheerful cries of, “Hey friend” and a “how are you”, this brings smiles on the passer- bys faces and they flock around the sisters, examining the spread of colorful fresh produce.

A small business but the trio is well connected with the local community. “Bored” is how they describe their days, when there are less customers due to the school vacations. They long for the street to burst into life. June will bring monsoons and its own challenges but at least the schools will reopen and the children, parents will be out in the streets again. The thought of seeing their regulars makes the sisters giggle in glee.

Monthly bills and commitments do often cast a dark cloud, it’s being a trio and not a individual that brings in strength. They share and conquer, their support for and to each other is for all to see.

A bright hot summer day on a crowded street with three sisters and their lively banter, strong faces ever ready to break into a smile for everyone, including me, while I am sketching them.