



Women in Bhopal

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KATHMANDU: These photos don't just unveil the faces of the people of Bhopal, rather these unfold their varied cultural attires along with their day-to-day household activities. 'Faces from the heart of India,' an exhibition showcasing photographs by Sharmila Runa Pyne is on at the Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre in Jhamshikhel.

Be it a young girl or an old woman, the photos reveal their shy expressions while some are readily giving the usual poses. More than anything else, the photos focus on the typical but very colourful attires of these women. The photos also capture these women busy in their daily activities — preparing chapatti (flat bread), making jewellery, rearing children and others.

The women in these photos are either consciously posing for the photographer or are unaware of being photographed. Except for two, all the photos have women with their heads covered either with a shawl or an end of their saris. The fascinatingly colourful bangles on their worn out hands attract viewer's attention. While some have their hands fully covered others are just wearing couple of those bangles. Almost every woman is adorned with accessories.

'Lady in pink in Bhopal' shows a woman with shy smile holding a glass of tea, while 'Iranian migrant gypsy lady of Bhopal' gives a closer view of an old Iranian woman with wrinkled lines on her face and head covered with a red shawl. A mother and daughter-in-law market vendor from Bihar in Bhopal Bazaar sitting back-to-back on a jute sack is yet another photo which impressively captures the beauty of the moment.

There are very few photos of men with one showing old men wearing a pagadi (turban) and holding a cane.

The exhibition is on till December 12.