

Vani Saraswathi

Passionate about	<p>After 20 years of working full-time in publishing, I now use that wealth of experience to work on select projects that straddle social justice, advocacy writing, freelance journalism and content management.</p> <p>This gives me the freedom to explore what I am most interested in, without it being in conflict with business interests or agenda.</p> <p>I now focus on three streams of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Rights Advocacy, both as a journalist and as a media trainer for NGOs. I work closely with rights organisations including ILO, OHCHR and MFA on advocacy. - Freelance journalist for publications in Qatar and outside - Consultancy for corporates and organisations, helping them use content to inform decisions and deliver results.
Now	<p>Since July 2014, I have been working as an Editorial Consultant and Freelance Journalist. I took on a consultancy role with GCC-based advocacy organisation, for which I work full time now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associate Editor & Director of Projects for Migrant-Rights.org, an online content-based advocacy organisation: This involves reporting for the site, working on campaigns and representing the organisation in conferences and events internationally. Two of the Projects that I've conceived and executed are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridges is a project that aims to reduce the isolation of migrant domestic workers in the Gulf. The project is executed in partnership with Hivos. I work with stakeholders across the region, and the corridors of migration. - Ensaniyat is a project that brings together students from Kuwait and Qatar to address issues facing migrant workers; and also engaging with businesses on corruption in sub-contracting supply chain.
Experience	<p>Started my career at a daily newspaper in Chennai, India, in 1995, covering primarily health, women's development and rural governance.</p> <p>After a short stint in a newspaper in Doha, Qatar, I moved onto join a fledgling publication house, launching the business and several print periodicals which are leaders in their segments.</p> <p>In 2012, I moved onto a new challenge, exploring online media and launching Qatar's first community news portal. Alongside this, set up the content business for one of the country's oldest and leading communications agency.</p>
Skills	<p>From news reporting and interviews to analysis and long features, capably handles a variety of journalistic assignments.</p> <p>Using the years of news reporting skills to conceive and execute advocacy that's both impactful and collaborative.</p> <p>Experience in managing a large and diverse multi-national team in my various capacities in the last 16 years.</p> <p>Work to tight deadlines. Sharp editing skills, presenting the story in the best possible manner without compromising on the writer's original voice and context.</p> <p>Managing crowd-sourced, user-generated content, and holding it to highest standards with insight and editorial guidance.</p> <p>Have led several multi-cultural and ethnic teams over the last 12 years, harnessing the diversity to deliver dynamic and interesting editorial products.</p> <p>Editorial and production budgeting. Working with design and production teams to deliver content the way it's best consumed.</p> <p>Conceiving innovative solutions and approaches, and ensuring the ideas achieve fruition.</p> <p>Have a track record of conceptualising, launching and managing editorial products, from magazines to websites.</p>
Other credentials	<p>Member of ILO's Policy Advisory Committee on the Fairway Project for the Arab Region</p> <p>Mentor and trainer for media training by Panos and ILO</p> <p>Media Trainer at workshops run by Diplomacy Training Programme of University of New South Wales, Australia</p> <p>Reviewer of books for the literary section of The Hindu, a leading Indian news daily</p> <p>Mentor at Qatar Professional Women's Network</p> <p>On the Advisory Council of How Women Work, Qatar</p> <p>Native-level fluency in English and Tamil. Fluency in Hindi and Urdu. Basic fluency in French</p> <p>A sample of my portfolio can be viewed on Scribd.</p>

www.vanisaraswathi.com vani.saraswathi@gmail.com Scribd::Twitter::Skype: @vanish_forever Linkedin: https://qa.linkedin.com/in/vanisaraswathi	Education	Summer School Certificate on International Human Rights Law from University of Utrecht Certificate on Domestic Work from ILO Training Centre, Turin Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, Madras University in 1994 Advanced Systems Management from National Institute of Information Technology Pre-diplome from Alliance Francaise Diploma in Media Entrepreneurship with MEPI & Rady School of Management
	Testimonials	Specific references on request. For a list of testimonials spanning my career, please refer to my LinkedIn profile.

CAREER TIMELINE		
<p>Associate Editor and Director of Projects Migrant-Rights.org</p>	<p>Now ◦ ◦ 2014</p>	<p>-Work on advocacy and campaigns for Migrant-Rights.org -Report on issues pertaining to migration and employment both in the GCC and the corridors of migration -Manage two of its flagship projects, Bridges and Ensaniyat, that deal with isolation of domestic workers, engaging communities in solutions and cross-border information exchange -Represent the organisation in international events and conferences</p>
<p>-Worked on processes and content management for Hukoomi (www.gov.qa) as a consulting Editor-in-Chief -Worked on white papers for local businesses, leveraging content to inform product development -Developed and managed (with a team) lifeinqatar.com website for Commercial Bank of Qatar -Freelance correspondent for BQ Doha</p>	<p>2015 ◦ ◦ 2014</p>	<p>Editorial Consultant & Freelance Journalist</p>
<p>Business Director of Content at Adabisc & Managing Editor of JustHere.Qa</p>	<p>2014 ◦ ◦ 2012</p>	<p>-Launched Qatar's first online community news magazine JustHere.Qa; This is the first and only English platform that included Qatari voices. -Set up page.adabisc, a business division to handle content needs of businesses.</p>
<p>Was responsible for a stable of publications in Qatar that I helped launch. These titles are now leaders in their segments and include: -Progress, an annual publication launched in 2003 -Qatar Today, a monthly business magazine re-launched in 2004 -Qatar Al Yom, the Arabic edition launched in 2005 -GLAM, Qatar's first fashion title launched in 2007 -T Qatar, the first international franchise, associated with NYT's T magazine. -Several B2B publications.</p>	<p>2012 ◦ ◦ 2003</p>	<p>Managing Editor of Oryx Publications</p>
<p>Freelance Journalist</p>	<p>2002</p>	<p>Reported on Human Rights issues in Qatar for The Hindu Businessline, India</p>
<p>Was responsible for the features tabloid supplement of Qatar's leading daily.</p>	<p>2001 ◦ ◦ 1999</p>	<p>Features Editor, Gulf Times</p>
<p>Reporter, The New Indian Express, Chennai</p>	<p>1999 ◦ ◦ 1995</p>	<p>Primarily covered the Health and Rural governance beats as a cub reporter. Specialised in HIV/AIDS reportage, women's issues, rural governance. Travelled widely across India, breaking several stories in the said beats, including stories on illegal blood sale, series on commercial sex workers, Manipur's IV drug user problem and Jammu's rural healthcare constraints. Covered Tamil Nadu's first rural body elections, following it up with series of reports over two years on its functioning.</p>