

For better or verse

A poetry website is drawing a lot of attention from young enthusiasts

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MUMBAI

What is the "use" of poetry? Or, as people say, does poetry have that much meaning today? Renu Rakheja Halve feels otherwise. Along with her husband Raj Halve, she has started a poetry website for folks who are fond of poetry but do not have a channel or platform to express it.

Renu quit her long career in merchandising and marketing and took a sabbatical to change the course of her life. She discovered a divine expression in



At a poetry meeting

the form of poetry. That is when she realised that there are no active forums on poetry in Mumbai and there is a need of a medium through which poetry-lovers could share their interests with others. "I opened a poetry community last December on Orkut. Initially, we only had four

members. After posting a few poems, the response from the public was immense. We decided that it was time we had a space of our own. That is how www.p4poetry.com was born. We wanted people to share their poems which would reach a wider audience," Renu says.

Social networking sites have a huge reach among the younger audience but how are youngsters taking to this new website? She says, "Poetry is an absolute hit with the younger generation. We have approximately 650 members and most of them are youngsters. Infact, our co-founders are also youngsters, who have just finished college. We have poetry meets where members can come and share their poems with us and prizes are given to the best poetry."

The website also plans to give its members a chance to publish themselves and later, sell their books on the site.