

Bi-Decennial Year (1999-2019)



**Two Days National Seminar  
on  
Tribal Cultures  
in  
Transition:  
Issues of Identity,  
Sustainability & Development**

**1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2019**

*Research Papers Invited*

*Organized by*

**Department of Anthropology,  
Pondicherry University,  
Puducherry**

*In collaboration with*

**Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya,  
Bhopal**



**Concept Note**

Tribal populations, though recognized by different names, all of them possess primarily same diagnostic features like unique cultural traits, strong territorial bond and dependency, ethnic identity, quick vulnerability and aloofness coupled with simple technology when compared with their technologically advanced neighbors. This ideal situation of tribals is no more intact, rather many changes have taken place in the culture of the tribal population under the influence of many external forces and agencies whether advertently or inadvertently. This has been a global reality but at the same time these continuous changes in turn have triggered unforeseen problems like an identity crisis, incompatibility of culture and physical health, raised many questions on the sustainability of their environ and economy, and many more such issues as recorded in huge anthropological literature.

Coming to Indian scenario, the stock of tribal population is highly diversified into 705 (2011 census of India) communities being recognized as STs; each has its peculiar culture that has evolved over thousands of years. Furthermore, based on the level of development some of these scheduled tribes are coined as particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG) and they still possess the cultural remnants of the early human beings. This clearly indicates that the insular tribal societies are subjects to cultural changes at varying degrees through the history. However, the process of cultural change has been rapidly escalated ever since our country attained independence due to far-reaching developmental programmes and other welfare activities. Irrespective of the source, the forces of change have inflicted tremendous impact both positive and negative upon the tribal societies at large. It would be of immense value if the change process in cultural practices is reviewed and the dimensions of the progress are discussed. This exercise would give us an opportunity to critically

understand the tribal scenario in the country underlining both the merits of change on one hand and owes and concerns of the tribal group with equal emphasis so as to arrive at a better strategy of tribal development. The effort in this direction would also meet the anthropological interest of conservation of cultural features both tangible and intangible which also meets the native people's zeal for their unique cultural identity.

**Objectives of the seminar**

With this premise, the ensuing national seminar proposes to identify and deliberate upon the following factors for a meaningful reconstruction of tribal culture under the influence of the change in the process.

- Ethnicity:** Tribal identity forms the central focus for most of the groups as it ensures group solidarity and provides a platform for achieving a common cause.
- Language:** Tribal languages/dialects form the core of undisputed tribal identity and the medium of enculturation but the process modernization through acculturation brought them in contact with many new things including language.
- Social structure and organization:** the tribal communities possess a unique form of structural arrangement and organizational features which form the very base of the society, and uphold and regulate relationships within peripheral changes and consequent assimilation are the possible developments.
- Habitat:** The life and culture of tribals are very much entangled with the habitat wherein they are found and any attempt to separate them or any rapid changes in the habitats has a very serious consequence on the very existence of the tribals for they closely depend on nature.
- Livelihoods:** The livelihood practices of the tribals have a very close link with their habitat. Their ecologically evolved subsistence patterns are



under constant threat due to developmental activities and technological interventions.

f) Traditional Health Practices: All the tribal communities have their unique health seeking practices that are culture-specific and mostly operative within the said social and natural environment which are of great potential for providing input for evolving out a better means of getting good health. However, their well cherished traditional health practices are vanishing, some of which may be potentially of great value.

### Sub-themes

Keeping the above factors under consideration the following subthemes are proposed. However, the scholars are free to present papers also on the themes not specified here, provided if they are in tune with the main theme of the seminar.

- 1) Identity crisis faced by the tribal populations and the consequent problems.
- 2) The concerns of conservation of tribal cultures in the face of external influences that have significant impact on lesser known tribal cultures and the role of Museums.
- 3) Role of language in tribal identity and Language as a cultural vehicle.
- 4) Structural and organizational changes taking place in tribal societies.
- 5) The relationship between natural habitat and tribal life in the light of habitat loss.
- 6) Health seeking innovative behavior as a dimension of tribal aspiration.

Submission of abstract and full paper: An abstract of 300 words highlighting the problem, methodology, theory and findings has to be submitted. Research papers submitted for presentation must be original, previously unpublished, and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Publication: Selected papers and thematic talks will be published as an edited volume through a reputed publisher. Hence authors are requested to take extreme care in maintaining high quality and check plagiarism. Please submit full length papers.

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### Important Deadlines

National seminar dates: 01-02, August 2019

Submission of Abstract: 05, July 2019

Submission of Full paper: 20, July 2019

**Travel:** Authors (one presenter only) of accepted papers will be reimbursed TA as per IGRMS guidelines through e-transfer to bank account after submission of proper bills. Faculty is entitled for AC II, and research students entitled for AC III or Sleeper rail fare (Subjected to fund position) only on submission of full length paper.

**Hospitality:** Only registered outstation delegates are entitled for free boarding and lodging. They will be provided moderate accommodation in guest house or hostels on sharing basis with prior request.

**Registration:** All the participants are requested to register in order to ensure participation and other arrangements. There is no registration fee. Extra members without paper should make their own arrangements for accommodation.

### Registration Particulars

Name :  
Designation :  
Institution :  
Address for Communication :  
Accommodation Required : Yes / No  
Phone/Mobile No :  
E-Mail :  
Title of the paper :  
Date & time of arrival :  
Date & time of departure :  
Signature :

### Organizing Committee

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