"Conserving Tradition and Practices of Adivasi Communities in India"

National Institute of Disaster Management (Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

https://nidm.gov.in

Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre (Tejgadh – Gujarat)

DATE: 14TH OCTOBER , 2021

TIME : 11:30 AM - 1PM

Table of Contents

- Poster
- About the Institute
- Genesis and Function
- About the Webinar Programme
- Programme Schedule
- Inaugural Session
- Technical Sessions
- Key Takeaways
- Attendance Sheet

Feedback of the participant

Poster:

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
nidm
Adivasi Academy
Online Webinar Programme on
Conserving Tradition and Practices of Adivasi Communities in India
14th October 2021
11:30 AM – 01:00 PM
PATRON
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Executive Director,
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PROGRAMME CHAIR AND CONVENER
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Dr. Sushma Guleria
Assistant Professor,
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KEY SPEAKERS
Madan Meenaji (Honorary Director)
Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre
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Vasant Rathwa (Academic Coordinator)
Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre
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NIDM
Jointly Organised by:
National Institute of Disaster Management,
MHA, GoI
and
Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication
Centre (Tejgadh – Gujarat)
Registration Link
https://training.nidm.gov.in/
LIVE STREAMING
YouTube
https://youtu.be/13lZTmz-e-8
Stay Protected from Corona
Wear mask properly
Wash Hands with Soap
Maintain safe distance
Get Vaccinated

About the Institute

As the premier national institute focusing its work in disaster mitigation and management, the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) came into existence on 16th October 2003, through a Government of India. The said order upgraded the National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM), which was established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India, in March 1995. The NIDM functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It primarily works as a think for the Government of India, providing assistance in disaster related policy formulation.

Genesis and Function :

The following are the significant aims of the NIDM:

- To work as consulting agency for the Government by providing assistance in policy formulation; and
- To facilitate in reducing the impact of disasters through its technological innovations In order to realize these aims, the NIDM functions with the following objectives in focus:
- To undertake quality research covering both natural and human induced disasters, with a multi-hazard approach
- To work as a national resource center for the Central and State Governments in the country, through effective knowledge management and sharing of best practices. 3. To professionalize disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency management in India and other neighbouring countries by developing an independent cadre of professionally trained emergency and mitigation managers.
- To promote formal training and education for Disaster Management in India and in the region.

- To build working partnerships with the Government, universities, NGOs, corporate bodies and other national and international institutes of eminence.
- To link learning and action by building a synergy between institutions and professionals in the sector.

Brochure:

Adivasis or as the name translates in the Sanskrit language, "natural inhabitants" of India, have a co-existential relationship with nature. We know forests are sacred to the Adivasis community. They associate their existence with land. This is not only because agriculture is their primary profession, but also they think of nature as their "mother" i.e. a divine entity. The land is their pride. Adivasis have mostly resided within or around the periphery of jungles. This can be seen by their dominance in forest-covered areas of Central India. Adivasis do not live a resource-intensive life, hence they do not depend on mining for their needs. Adivasi people are unfortunately referred to as primitive beings. But they are one of the few communities who have lived during every stage of Indian history.

The Adivasi Academy is established to create a unique educational environment for the study of tribal communities. The Academy is aimed to become an institute for the study of tribal history, folklore, cultural geography, social dynamics, economy, development studies, medicine, music, arts and theatre. With its multidisciplinary approach and related interventional measures, the Academy is striving to create a new approach of academic activism.

The session aims to create a new outlook to development by underlining Adivasi values of self-reliance, a need-based life and ecological harmony; building their capabilities to survive against all odds by rescuing their dignity and respecting their cultural heritage through festivals, cultural performances, theatre, songs, dances, rituals, documenting folklore and promoting modernizing tools in their languages.

Objective:

- To become an institution of quality research and education in relation to Adivasi development and social dynamics;

- To translate the study and research undertaken at the Academy into interventions for empowerment of marginalized communities.

- To nurture a community of Adivasi thinkers and new thought processes so as to facilitate social transformation.

- To become a national institution for research, reference and the study of social dynamics.

Schedule: (11:30AM- 1:00PM)

Time (11:30AM- 1:00PM)	Topic	Resource Person
11:30- 11:40	Welcome Address	Dr. Sushma Guleria, Assistant Professor, NIDM
11:40-11:45	Inaugural / Key note	Prof Anil K Gupta , Head of ECDRM, NIDM
11:45-12:20	The study of tribal history, folklore, cultural geography, social dynamics, economy, development studies, medicine, music, arts and theatre	Madan Meenaji (Honorary Director , Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre (Tejgadh – Gujarat)
12:20- 12:50	Multidisciplinary approach and related interventional measure in order to create a new approach of academic activism.	Vasant Rathwa (Academic Coordinator, Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre (Tejgadh – Gujarat)
12:50-12: 55	Q & A	Participants
1:00	Vote of Thanks	Aradhna YP, NIDM

Inaugural Session

Inagural Address: Prof Anil K Gupta Head of ECDRM, NIDM shared the ingural address of the session . He clarified that disasters are not natural, he shed light on the contemporary concerns of the tribal in mitigating disasters. Explaining how NIDM is set-up and its functions. Duly acknowledging the limitations during COVID-19 pandemic, Prof Anil K Gupta Head of ECDRM, NIDM expressed that this online webinar program organized in collaboration with Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre (Tejgadh – Gujarat) is an effort to democratize Disaster Risk Reduction, highlighting that DRR is a collective responsibility of various stakeholders in a society with special focus on Adivasi and Nomadic communities in India, and if possible, to indigenous peoples in other continents as well.

Speakers:

Madan Meenaji (Honorary Director , Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre (Tejgadh – Gujarat). Sir shared a presentation on Conserving Tradition and Practices of Adivasi Communities in India. Sir took us to the journey of Bhasha Centre established in 1996 as a Public Trust for conservation and study of Adivasi languages and culture. The Bhasha Trust's brief for itself was to establish a premier institution of national excellence for creating Tribal Studies as a field of serious intellectual and social-action field. He emphasized that the institute was visualized as a combination of a university, a research centre, an activist-centre, a laboratory for experiments in development and a

cultural expression forum, addressing all aspects of adivasi culture.

The institution conceptualized by the Bhasha Trust has evolved as a people's institution, and was given the name Adivasi Academy by the community of scholars and activists associated with it. With its multidisciplinary approach to the field, and related activities aimed at Adivasi development, the Adivasi Academy strives to combine research and academic excellence with development interventions. Since its inception in 1999, it has come to be seen by scholars involved in Tribal Studies and Tribal Development, as well as Adivasis and Nomadic Communities of India, as an eminent forum for study, analysis, policy intervention and advocacy. The Adivasi Academy is viewed by Adivasi communities as a space for intellectual dialogue, imaginative expression and hope for a dignified future.
Sir concluded with the unique approach to the concerns of Adivasis, the role of the Adivasi Academy in developing a new perspective to Adivasi knowledge, education and development, the Bhasha Trust has been recognized as a 'Center of Excellence' by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

Vasant Rathwa (Academic Coordinator, Tribal Academy of Bhasa Research & Publication Centre (Tejgadh – Gujarat). Sir narrated how Adivasi Academy was visualised as an institution that would bring together academic study/research with grassroots development for the empowerment of Adivasi communities. With the aim of making 'education' engage with development, the Adivasi Academy introduced its first Post Graduate Diploma in Tribal Studies geared to study and understand 'how Adivasis perceive the world'. An intensive dialogue with the first batch of trainees all of whom belonged to Adivasi or rural communities, led to the emergence of a new philosophy of development based on self-reliance. These courses also played a significant role in redefining Anthropology and creating Tribal Studies as a discipline in India. Sir highlighted other initiative of Adivasi Academy like Vaacha museum, holding print and audio-visual resource on tribal societies, 90 Ethnographies, healthcare etc.

Key Takeaways:

- Culture and tradition play a big role in the development of any community. This is especially true of marginalized rural communities such as India's Adivasi tribes.

- The farming practices of tribal people are truly sustainable in many ways. Their subsistence life style, local diet habits and dependence on rainfed irrigation have influenced them to cultivate and conserve the traditional cultivars or land races. The tribal communities practice a unique method of farming, known as the mixed cropping system in limited areas depending on monsoon rain.

- Cultural diversity in terms of ethnic groups gives us knowledge on the value of plant resources. The knowledge of ethnic groups on the cultural, spiritual, social and economic values of plants can be of immense use to the entire humankind. It can provide many valuable genes for developing the crop plants that are extensively cultivated today. It can equip the humankind with several new chemicals for combating many human ailments.

- Tribal areas located deep inside the forest areas were selected to ensure less contact with the so called civilized society. Reconnaissance surveys were done to select tribal communities and hamlets in order to work with people who still practice forest depended lifestyles, living in rich forests.

- Medicinal properties of plants have been recognized and practiced by tribal communities as a tradition for thousands of years. Knowledge on some common medicinal plants of their locality is available with all the members of the community. However, the elderly members possess a great deal of knowledge of medicinal plants as well as on medicines for curing certain life threatening diseases. Tribal people use plants solely or in combination.

- Community co-operation and participation prevailing particularly in tribal community has helped them in conserving the traditional land races. The practice is such that every family in the community will contribute a stipulated amount of their harvest to the community granary maintained and managed by the chieftain of the hamlet. During important occasions like marriages, social events and festivals and also as and when someone needs for regular consumption, grains can be borrowed on loan and paid back. This system has enabled the tribals to conserve the seed material even if the produce in a particular season is less or if the grains stored for domestic consumption are exhausted.

- Policy decisions, which might affect the ecological balance of biodiversity, should be taken through prior consultation of tribal people inhabiting the areas, who may help us with practical suggestions. Otherwise, ultimately the ethnic people are the worst affected in any environmental crisis, as they exist at the bottom line of social strata. Loss of biodiversity results in the loss of cultural diversity, which is the cradle of knowledge on the values of plants.

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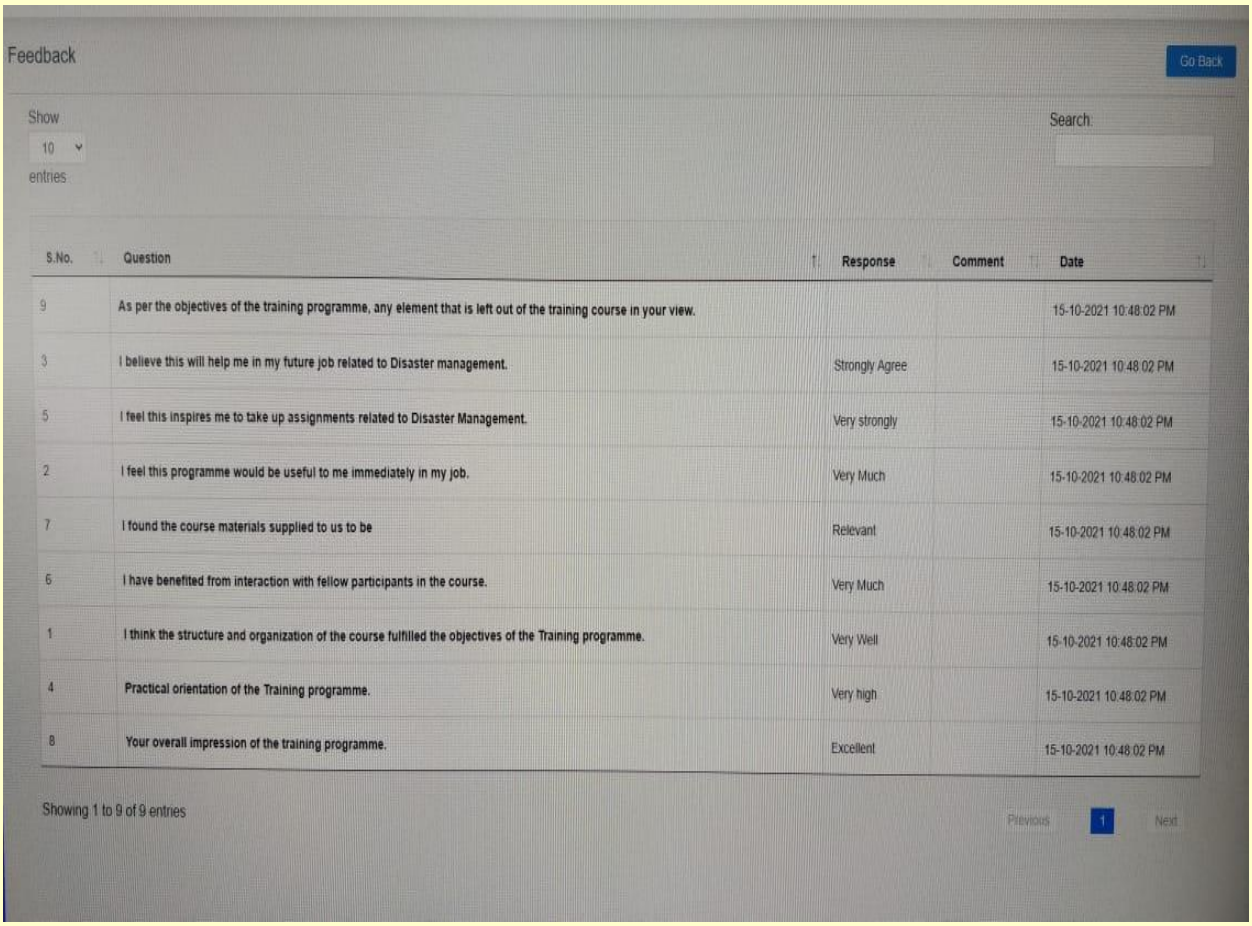
Feedback of the participants:



Feedback

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S.No.	Question	Response	Comment	Date
9	As per the objectives of the training programme, any element that is left out of the training course in your view.			15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
3	I believe this will help me in my future job related to Disaster management.	Strongly Agree		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
5	I feel this inspires me to take up assignments related to Disaster Management.	Very strongly		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
2	I feel this programme would be useful to me immediately in my job.	Very Much		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
7	I found the course materials supplied to us to be	Relevant		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
6	I have benefited from interaction with fellow participants in the course.	Very Much		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
1	I think the structure and organization of the course fulfilled the objectives of the Training programme.	Very Well		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
4	Practical orientation of the Training programme.	Very high		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM
8	Your overall impression of the training programme.	Excellent		15-10-2021 10:48:02 PM

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

Previous 1 Next