

National Conference Report

A) **Title:** Celebrating the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (Dedicated to Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, The First Martyr from Chhattisgarh) "**National Seminar on Tribal Development in India in Context of Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous System**".

B) **Duration:** 3 Days (14th -16th February, 2023)

C) **Organizer:** S.o.S. in Anthropology, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

C.1.Co- Organizers:

- i) UNICEF, Chhattisgarh.
- ii) ICSSR, Government of India, New-Delhi
- ii) TRTI, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
- iii) Dept. of Culture, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.

D. Represented Universities/ Institutes:

- i) Dept. of Anthropology, DHGV, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- ii) Dept. of Anthropology & Tribal Development, Guru Ghasi Das Central University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
- iii) Department of Anthropology & Tribal Studies, SMKV, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.
- iv) Department of Sociology & Social Anthropology, IGNTU, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.
- v) Department of Anthropology, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag, Jharkhand
- vi) Department of Anthropology, Ranchi University, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- vii) Department of Anatomy, AIIMS, Bhopal.
- viii) Department of Political Science, GLA College, N.P. University, Medininagar, Jharkhand.
- ix) MATS University, Arang, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

- x) Department of Sociology & Social Anthropology, A.N.
Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, Bihar.
- xi) Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University.
- xii) Department of Anthropology, MGAHV, Warda
- xiii) Department of Social Work, Shree Rawatpura
Sarkar University, Raipur.
- xiv) Department of Anthropology, Savitribai Phule
University, Pune.
- xv) Department of Anthropology, Sambalpur University,
Sambalpur, Odisha.
- xvi) Department of Sociology, Hemchand Yadav
University, Durg.
- xvii) Indira Gandhi Mukht Vishvidalaya, New-Delhi.
- xviii) Kalahandi University, Odisha.
- ixx) Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh,
Vizianagaram.
- xx) Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University,
Kolkata.

E. Participation Status:

- i) Registered Delegates: 103
- ii) Departmental Organizing and working members: 147

F. Program Details:

F.1. Inaugural Function: 11.00am-12.00am (14.2.2023)

Speech given by:

**Dr. Shailendra Patel, Registrar, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur,
Chhattisgarh**

He has dedicated his speech to Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh. He has a vision that if we work in an economic development of the Tribal community we can uplift them through our research work.

Professor P.C. Joshi, Vice –Chancellor, Delhi University, Delhi

He says that Indigenous Knowledge has many aspects and has its significance. Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh in 1910 in February participated in Bhoomkal Movement. Anthropologists have recognized Tribals revolts and movements. Tribes used to consider them self backward and weak that's the reason they justified themselves through Tribal Movements. They also fought against Britishers. India is a country of diversity and whatever things are present here cannot be found elsewhere. This diversity is just not because of food, culture etc but also India is like a banyan tree, it has its own identity, There are different people live in centre at the same time is their anatomy. We all support this kind of idea.

Topic of diversity in Indigenous knowledge system can be seen in Tsunami 2004 in Andaman & Nicobar Island in that wave many people have died but the tribes of Jarawa when they have seen a wave suddenly coming to their way they all ran towards the hill-top and didn't come back till it subsides. They saved themselves because of their indigenous knowledge base. Indigenous Knowledge is a behavioral knowledge and science is experimental knowledge. They have gained these experience from generation to generation and saved themselves. There was a time in India where question of everything was found in our Epic, in culture, in our dohas when we should eat our food, what we should eat our food, what medicines we should take for our diseases, when we should take it etc. When cloud used to come in the west direction Tribal people predicted that it will rain

now this is indigenous knowledge. That's the reason Indigenous Knowledge is very important and I congratulate Department of Anthropology for conducting National seminar on this topic. Chhattisgarh is the mind of Indigenous Knowledge.

Dr. K.L. Verma Sir, Vice-Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

He says that in the present context there is need to test the knowledge and put forward the Indigenous Knowledge. We should tell new generation about the importance of our Indigenous knowledge. We have forgotten our Traditional knowledge. We should see Indigenous Knowledge from the scientific point of view and justify it in detail. Different types of calamities have been faced by the Tribal people but they haven't much affected, why we should see it? Loss of language leads to loss of traditional knowledge. by keeping them alive we could benefit our generation through them.

As much as tradition will grow people will be benefitting from it. We should do continuous effort for development by conserving Nature. There is a serious need to look in that way and conservation of that traditional knowledge.

Dr. J.K. Bajaj, Chairman, ICSSR, Delhi

Anthropology subject has an Indian aspect. "Levi-Strauss Mitsonian Institute" is from where the Anthropology subject and study of the society started. Anthropology is important in every aspect and to acquire any knowledge we need to have deep understanding of that subject. Research is taking place in different subjects but research taking place in the tribal problems is significance.

Traditional Medicinal Knowledge is present in every society in a systematic form. Traditional Medicinal Knowledge has a theory we need to see it through Ayurvedic research. A person who lives in the forest has immense knowledge but we will not come to know about it until we talk with them. Therapeutics in Charak Samhita is taken from the local tribal people. Though we don't believe in it but we should have an understanding towards that knowledge.

If you want to know that knowledge live with them for three months than you will come to know about the meaning of that knowledge. "Look from insight actually becomes an insider". India is a country of diversity and by respecting this diversity we can have unity. Anthropology gives you that discipline. In the reference of Traditional Medicinal Knowledge through community participation we need to conserve that knowledge. Then only India will be a Developed nation.

Vote of thanks by Dr. Jitendra Kumar Premi

We are not accepting human difference and it is the duty of human to preserve and we all should work towards the preservation. Rani Chinnama was the brave person in 1826 she fought with Thomas Mundy, who was a Britisher.

F.2. Special Lecture (Online): 12.am-01.00pm (14.2.2023)

Resource Person: Dr. J.K. Bajaj, Chairman, ICSSR, New-Delhi.

He spoke elaborately on the importance of field-work in Anthropology and motivated younger researchers for doing participatory field-work. He emphasized the need of high degree of objectivity while collecting field-data. He also advocated the need of complete documentation of tribal medicines on priority basis before it gets vanished under the influence of modernization.

F.3. Technical Sessions:

Sixteen sessions were organized in two parallel sessions in Hall-A & Hall-B in which out of 142 research papers, 81 papers were presented, which are as follows:

F.3.1. Session-1(Hall-A) :2.30pm -4.00pm (14.2.23)

a) Title: Traditional Medical Knowledge, System and Health

b) Chairperson: Dr P. C. Joshi (Former Vice- Chancellor, Delhi University).

c) Rapporteur: Mr. Hemant Joshi (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, Raipur).

d) Research Papers Presented: 09

F.3.2. Session-2 (Hall-B):2.30pm -4.00pm (14.2.23)

a) Title: Natural Resources, Environment and Eco- System Management.

b) Chairperson: Dr Ninad Bodhankar (Professor & Head, S.o.S.in Geology &WRM, PRSU, Raipur).

c) Rapporteur: Ms. Sanjana Patel (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

d) Research Papers Presented: 05

F.3.3. Session-3(Hall-A) :4.15 pm—05.30pm (14.2.23).

a) Title: Indigenous System and Traditional Community Participation: Traditional Knowledge, Indigenous System and Sustainable Development.

b) Chairperson: Mr. Dhammshil Ganvir (Director, Kanger Valley. National Park, Bastar).

c) Rapporteur: Mr. Hemant Joshi (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, Raipur).

d) Research Papers Presented: 09

F.3.4. Session-4 (Hall-B): 4.15pm—05.30pm (14.2.23)

- a) **Title:** Tribal Art, Craft, Beliefs and Preservation of Tribal Culture
- b) **Chairperson:** Dr (Ms) Ranju Hasini Sahoo (Prof.& Head, department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, IGNTU, Amarkantak, M.P.
- c) **Resource Person:** Padamshree Ajay Kumar Mandavi (Art Field, Kanker, Chhattisgarh).
- d) **Rapporteur:** Ms. Sunita Sodi (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).
- e) **Research Papers Presented:** 08

F.3.5. Session-5 (Hall-A): 10.00am-11.45am (15.2.23)

- a) **Title:** Traditional Knowledge and Tribal Development
- b) **Chairperson:** Dr. N. K. Awasthi (Consultant *Prarmparagat Gyan Evam Vanoushadhi Vikas* Foundation).
- c) **Resource Person:** Shri. B. K. Lal (Finance Expert, Government of Chhattisgarh, Nava Raipur).
- d) **Rapporteur:** Mr. Rajkumar (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).
- e) **Research Papers Presented:** 03

F.3.6. Session-6 (Hall-B):15.2.23 (10.00-11.45am)

- a) **Title:** Women Empowerment
- b) **Chairperson:** Dr (Ms) Reeta Venugopal (Professor & Head, Centre of Women Studies, PRSU, Raipur)
- c) **Rapporteur:** Ms. Oshin Bajrang (Research Scholar., S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).
- d) **Research Papers Presented:** 06

F.3.7. Session-7(Hall-A): 12.00am—01.30pm (15.2.23)

- a) **Title:** Traditional Knowledge and Science and Technology, Traditional Education and Development
- b) **Chairperson:** Dr. Nitin Malik (Registrar, Dr. Ambedkar University, New-Delhi
- c) **Rapporteur:** Mr. Rajkumar (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).
- d) **Research Papers Presented:** 05

F.3.8. Session-8(Hall-B) :12.00am—01.30pm (15.2.23)

a) Title: Politics of Knowledge, Accessibility and Utilization; Communities and Right over Traditional Knowledge.

b) Chairperson: Dr. N. K. Vaid (Director Vaid`s ICS & Practicing Anthropologist, New-Delhi)

c) Resource Person: Dr. S. R. Padi (Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, IGNTU, Amarkantak, M.P.).

d) Rapporteur: Ms. Oshin Bajrang (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

e) Research Papers Presented: 01

F.3.9. Session-9(Hall-A): 02.30pm—04.00pm (15.2.23)

a) Title: Developmental Programmes and Knowledge Sharing

b) Chairperson: Dr. Farad Mollick (Professor and Former Head, Department of Anthropology, MGAHV, Wardha).

c) Resource Person- Shri Sanjay Goud (A.D. Department of Tribal Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur).

d) Rapporteur: Ms. Sanjana, Patel (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

e) Research Papers Presented: 03

F.3.10. Session-10 (Hall-B):02.30pm—4.00pm (15.2.23)

a) Title: Nutrition: Breast Feeding, Weaning and Solid Food Supplements.

b) Chairperson: Dr. Sapan Kolay (Professor & Head, Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, SMK University, Jagdalpur (CG).

c) Resource Person- Dr. Nitin Malik (Anthropologist & Registrar, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi).

d) Rapporteur: Ms Bhumika Raj Sonwane (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

e) Research Papers Presented: 03

F.3.11. Session-11 &12 (Hall-B): 4.00pm-5.30pm (15.2.23)

a) Title: Child Rearing Practices: Emotional Health of Children

b) Chairperson: Dr. (Ms) Aparna Deshpande (Nutritional Specialist UNICEF, Office of Chhattisgarh).

c) Rapporteur: Ms. Sanjana, Patel (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

d) Research Papers Presented: 7

F.3.12. Session-13 (Hall-A) :10.00am-11.45am (16.2.23)

a) Title: Women and Health: Nutrition, Menarche, Marriage and Pregnancy.

b) Chairperson: Dr. K. K. N. Sharma (Professor & Dean, HSG Central University, Sagar, M.P.).

c) Resource Person, Dr. M.L. Naik (Former Director General, Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology, Raipur).

d) Rapporteur: Mr. Sunil Mehta (Research Scholar, S.o.S.in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

e) Research Papers Presented: 11

F.3.13. Session-14 (Hall-B): 10.00am-11.45am (16.2.23)

a) Title: Tribal Freedom Fighters and their Role in Freedom Movements

b) Chairpersons: Dr, L.S. Nigam (Former V.C., Shri Shankracharya Professional University, Bhilai)

c) Resource Person: Dr. Shamrao I. Kureti (Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj, Nagpur University, Maharashtra)

d) Rapporteur: Ms Shaila Mukerjee (Research Scholar, S.o.S.in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

e) Research Papers Presented: 2

F.3.14. Session-15 (Hall-A): 12.00 am-01.30pm (16.2.23)

a) Title: Women and Mental Health: Post-Partum Depression ,Abuse etc.

b) Chairperson: Dr. Promila Singh (Former Professor & Head, S.o.S.in Psychology, PRSU, Raipur).

c) Rapporteur: Mr. Sunil Mehta (Research Scholar, S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

d) Research Papers Presented: 7

F.3.15. Session-16 (Hall-B): 12.00am-01.30pm (16.2.23)

a) Title: Tribal Freedom Fighters Who Fought for their Land and People

b) Chairperson: Dr. Rajesh Gautam (Professor & Head, Department of Anthropology, Dr. HSGU Central University, Sagar, M.P.)

c) Resource Person Dr. Abha R. Pal (Former Professor and H.o.D., S. o .S. in History, PRSU, Raipur).

d) Rapporteur: Ms Shaila Mukerjee (Research Scholar, S.o.S.in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur).

e) Research Papers Presented: 02

G. Selected Presentations:

- i) **Nikam and Ramteke** (Dept. of Anthropology, Sikkim University) threw light on prevalence of singeing practice therapy among the Korku tribe of Melghat, Central India.
- ii) **Netam** (S.o.S. in Sociology, PRSU, Raipur) drew the attention on impact of industrialization and Westernization on indigenous medical knowledge with reference to Muriya tribe of Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- iii) **Bakhla** (MGAHV, Wardha) traced the causes of diseases prevalent among Hill-Korba of the Chhattisgarh to nature, economy, religion and magic. They are traditionally treated through performing specific rituals and by use of locally available medicinal plants.
- iv) **Sahu** (MGAHV, Wardha) investigated the impact of occupational hazards on health of traffic police posted in Wardha and Nagpur

districts of Maharashtra in light of BMI, blood pressure and personal habits. He identified prevalence of obesity, cardiac ailments, diabetics, respiratory disorders the subjects.

- v) **Jurri** (MGAHV, Wardha) drew attention on medicinal applications of Mahua plant with reference to tribal communities residing in Kanker district of the Chhattisgarh in treating various diseases, namely, Constipation, Ulcer, Sickle cell Anemia, knee pain and so on.
- vi) **Deepak Kumar** (MGAHV, Wardha) made observations on traditional medical practices prevalent among the Halbi tribe, inhabiting Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra with focus on their diagnosis and treatment.
- vii) **Oshin and Premi** (S.o.S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur) focused their study on ethno-medical knowledge of curing chronic fevers among the tribal communities of North Chhattisgarh. They reported use of 17 medicinal plants for treating chronic fever.
- viii) **Gautam** (Social Work Dept., Shree Rawatpura Sarkar University, Raipur) informed that modern medical system, just 200-300 years old, does not have solutions to all health issues of the humanity, as evidenced during recent Covid pandemic. Gradually, the world is gradually recognizing the importance of traditional medical practices knowledge. Recently, Global Centre of Traditional Medicine have been started to focus their research on preservation and conservation of indigenous knowledge.

- ix) **Seth & Meher** (Anthropology Dept., Sambalpur University) reported findings of their study on women belonging to Paudi Bhuiyan tribe of Deogarh district, Orissa regarding impact of marriage practices on their health. They observed higher incidence of maternal morbidity and infant mortality, as a result of child marriage practices. They also attributed the incidences of miscarriage and still birth to child marriage.

- x) **Pandey** (S. o. S. in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur) focused on socio-economic aspects of Abujmaria, sub-group of Gond tribe. Because of

their distribution on hills, they are called Hill –Maria. Observations are made on their family, marriage and religious practices. Impact of contact with other cultures on their traditional dress is noted.

- xi) **Any Rose Todar** (Dept. of Anthropology and Tribal Development, GGCU, Bilaspur) mentioned about the exchange program between Central University, Gujarat & GGCU, Bilaspur. Under this exchange program, students from these universities get exposure to know each other's language, traditional food, bandhani saree art & heritage sites.
- xii) **Panigrahi & Puja** (Dept of Anthropology and Tribal Development, GGU, Central Univ., Bilaspur) attempted to explain indigenous system, sustainable development and changes over time in light of conceptual framework. They also noted the negative effect of modern technologies and development concepts on indigenous knowledge.
- xiii) **Poorvi & Pradhan** (S.o.S.in Anthropology, PRSU, Raipur) recorded that majority of Agaria tribals of Korba district have abandoned their traditional iron smelting technique. As majority of them do not own land, their subsistence largely depends upon forest gathering and labour work.
- xiv) **Kazmi and Jha** (MATS University, Aarang) opinioned that traditional knowledge deals not only about technology but also include ethics, culture, language and lifestyle. Their suggestion is to develop knowledge and social network to add maximum people in development of tribals.
- xv) **Bramhhatti et.al.** (Dept. of Rural Technology & Social Development, GG Central University, Bilaspur) focused their study on women belonging to Birhor tribe (PVTGS) of the Chhattisgarh. They observed that the Birhor women are custodian of family income, expenditure, customs and traditions. These women are found actively involved in economic activities, namely, food gathering, trapping of birds, agriculture, agriculture labour, basketry and rope making besides doing household chores and rearing children

- xvi) **Mamta & Tirkey** (VBU, Hazaribag) reported high dependance upon traditional healthcare system among Munda tribals of Khunti, Jharkhund. Ethnomedicinal plants and their derivates play important role in treatment of various diseases. Such resources need to be preserved for future generations.
- xvii) **Sharma** (Anthropology dept., Dr. HSG univ., Sagar) reported running of various programs for the overall development of Hill-korba tribe. He observed that natives are, however, not getting adequate benefit as these programs are not framed in light of their needs and socio-cultural background.
- xviii) **Maiti & Midya** (Dept. of Anthropology, Vidyasagar university) focused on indebtedness issue in context of Bhumij tribe of Jhargram, West Bengal. They observed that practice of ceremonial reciprocal cooperation play important role in reducing burden of ceremonial expenses. It acts as adaptive strategy to counter indebtedness particularly among poor tribal families.
- xix) **Swarnkar and Sharma** (Dept. of Anthropology, Dr. HSG university, Sagar.) threw light on reproductive health care practices among the Birhor tribe of Raigarh (CG). They emphasized the need of understanding of social system, beliefs and behavior related to their culture in order to appreciate what health care signifies to tribal communities.

H. Other Activities:

H.1. Exhibition on "Swatantrata Sangram me Janjatiya Nayako ka Yogdan":

Exhibition on "Swatantrata Sangram me Janjatiya Nayako ka Yogdan" was organized in the National Seminar and sponsored by Tribal Commission of India, National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. More than 80 Posters were presented depicting the life journey and major contributions by the Tribal freedom fighters, were exhibited in National Seminar. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr K.L. Verma, Vice Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla

University and remained opened for both delegates and public throughout entire period of the National Seminar.

H.2. Interaction with Traditional Healers: Twelve traditional tribal healers, (i) Vaid Santosh Patel, (Malhari, Dhamtari district) (ii) Vaid Sukhram Pav (Padbaniya, Guarella-Pendra- Marwahi district) (iii) Mahesh Tandia (Charama, Kanker district) (iv) Sarojini Goyal Panika (Balco, Korba district) (v) Ghanshyam Mandavi (Kanker district) (vi) Veer Singh Padda (Narayanpur district) (vii) Shukla Prasad Dhurve (Bahedamuda, Bilaspur district) (viii) Ramlal Pav (Pandbaniya, Guarella-Pendra-Marwahi district) (ix) Sonsai Sevtia (Jambahar Charama, Kanker district) (x) Ishwariyalal Mandavi (Kanker district) (xi) Teejoram Sahu (Malhari, Dhamtari district) (xii) Nirmal Kumar Awasthi (Bilaspur district) from various parts of the Chhattisgarh state were provided platform during the conference for informal/formal interaction between them and delegates. During entire 3 days of the conference they demonstrated their skill and knowledge of local herbs used in treatment of various diseases. Besides, they treated several delegates and provided free medical consultancy through *Naadi* examination.

I. Valedictory Function:

- (i) **Chief-Guest:** Shri J. A. C.S. Rao IFS (Chief Executive Officer, Chhattisgarh Local Health Traditions and Medicinal Plants Board, Raipur).
- ii) **Guest of Honour:** Shri Job Zachariah (Chief UNICEF, Chhattisgarh)
- iii) **Guest of Honour:** Dr N. K. Vaid, Director (Vaid's ICS, New-Delhi) & Practicing Anthropologist.
- iv) **Chairperson:** Dr. K. L. Verma, Vice -Chancellor, PRSU, Raipur.

J. Recommendations:

- i) There is urgent need of documenting the traditional knowledge, as it is gradually vanishing under the impact of modernization.
- 2) Traditional knowledge about medicinal applications of herbs is of immense value. It needs be documented on priority basis and should be scientifically analyzed to identify its active ingredients.

- 3) Traditional knowledge regarding prediction of weather and other natural hazards is also very valuable and need to be preserved.
- 4) Similarly, traditional concept of sustainable development can be applied to save the planet from further destruction.





