

**UNESCO CHAIR on INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
University of Calicut, Malappuram District,
Kerala, India Pin: 673 635**

UNESCO Chair on indigenous cultural heritage and sustainable development is established for studies and research on indigenous language and knowledge systems that will be a significant contribution to the endeavours of cultural conservation of indigenous communities essential for world's cultural heritage.

Vision and Mission the Chair

The mission of the proposed Chair on **Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development** to be set up in the university of Calicut, Malappuram district of the state of Kerala is to attain excellence in academic quality, scholarly engagement, leadership, cultural enrichment and heritage and also the service of the tribal population of Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, which comes under the jurisdiction of the State of Kerala. The Proposed chair has an interdisciplinary focus that also recognizes the diversity of tribal communities, culture, and languages. As the proposed chair intends to include the students and research scholars from tribal communities who have graduated from the tribal institutes like Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR), the chair can ensure the teaching and research works conducted correspond to the culture of tribal communities in Kerala. The academic collaborations that Calicut University has already made with the individuals, institutions, and the various indigenous communities in Kerala as part of its remote tribal educational projects would help take account of the indigenous communities concerned in molding the modus operandi of the proposed chair.



The mission serves the following purposes:

1. The proposed chair is committed to take forward the United Nation's missions and visions. It will work for the individual dignity, equality, respect for the local cultural expressions and long-cherished traditions whilst promulgating the universality of humanity and human values.
2. The chair will include indigenous institutions and communities in the design and implementation of the Chair projects to ensure that education provided to indigenous communities take into account the cultural methods of teaching and learning.
3. It will implement student programmes that support and nurture personal skill development and academic success in higher education that would ensure tribal share in job sector. The chair will be committed to design and implement programs so that tribal women will be the major beneficiaries. Since majority of tribal students pursuing their school and college education at tribal institutes like ITSR, ASHRAM schools or MRS are girl students, the major beneficiaries of the educational programs, training and research works will be tribal women who suffer from multiple layers of discrimination and exclusion. The activities at the chair would also carve out specific programs that empower the tribal women in Kerala.
4. To provide outreach programmes which encourage tribal students to excel in early education and to pursue higher education.
5. To partner with indigenous tribal population in programmes that meet education of tribal population, professional development and other mutually beneficial needs. Inclusion of tribal communities in all programs would ensure all programmes envisioned that reflect their cultural methods of knowledge and learning.
6. To facilitate appropriate design and implementation of action research and other projects on issues and concerns that impact the quality of life of indigenous people. Researches and projects will be conducted taking the indigenous communities and institutions as stakeholders.
7. To conduct seminars, symposia, conferences, exchange programmes and forums that present issues and topics relevant to the indigenous people.
8. To serve as a center propagating additional knowledge on preservation of natural resources, agroforestry and wildlife conservation. The preservation of these rare forms of resources is beneficial for the existence of entire humanity.

9. To serve as a center that document, facilitate and promote the knowledge of traditional indigenous medicinal systems and ethnobotanicals.

The vision of the Chair is the preservation of traditional knowledge as a source of intangible and material wealth, and in particular the knowledge systems of indigenous peoples. It acknowledges their positive contribution to sustainable development, as well as the need for its adequate protection and promotion, It recognizes the need to take measures to protect the diversity of cultural expressions, including their contents, especially in situations where cultural expressions may be threatened by the possibility of extinction or serious impairment.. The Chair on Conservation of Indigenous Culture and Heritage will ensure learning opportunities and experiences which promote leadership, development, professional preparation, civic responsibility, and cultural stewardship among the tribal groups and also committed to the values that promote equality, compassion and respect for human dignity. And above all the Chair will act as a worthy research centre exploring the rich history of the region, the legacy of the tribes in various fields of human endeavor, their indigenous knowledge systems and specific art forms and culture, preservation of natural resources, wildlife and promotion and propagation of traditional system of tribal medicine.



CURRENT STATUS OF THE UNESCO CHAIR

Bilateral Agreement between UNESCO and University of Calicut has been signed and currently in the implementation process.

Dr. E. Pushpalatha
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