

## Report

on

**National Webinar on "Tribal Literature: Production and Reception"**  
**Organized by Department of English, Government Khawzawl College**

**Date: 13.4.2022, Time: 10. 00 am to 5 pm**

**Venue: Meeting Room, Government Khawzawl College, Khawzawl-796310, Mizoram**



### One-day National Webinar on

## Tribal Literature: Production and Reception

**Organized by**

**Department of English, Government Khawzawl College, Mizoram**  
**under the aegis of IQAC, GKC**

**Date: 13.4.2022 (Wednesday), 10 a.m. onwards**

### Invited Talk 1

**"Tribal Literature from North-East India with a Special Reference to  
Mising Folk Songs and Folk Tales"**



**Speaker: Dr. Lakhimai Mili**

**Associate Professor, Department of English  
Pondicherry University (Central University)**

### Invited Talk 2

**"Reflections of Tribal Life in Bengali Literature:  
Engaging Literary Anthropology"**



**Speaker: Dr. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay**

**Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, WB  
& Director, Center for Adivasi Studies & Museum, Vidyasagar University, WB**

**President: Pu K. Ziona, Principal**

**Chairman: Mr. N. Umananda Singh, HoD, English. Convener: Dr. Soukarja Ghosal, Asst. Prof.**

**Co-organizers: Ms. Lalramlawmi, Asst. Prof. & Ms. Lalrinmawii Ralte, Asst. Prof.**

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Department of English, Government Khawzawl College, Khawzawl, Mizoram organized a National Webinar on "Tribal Literature: Production and Reception" on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. Mr. N. Umananda Singh, Head of the Department of English was the chairman and Dr. Soukarja Ghosal, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English was the convener of the webinar. The two other staff members of the department Ms. Lalramlawmi and Ms. Lalrinmawii Ralte were the co-organizers. The resource persons for the webinar were Dr. Lakhimai Mili, Associate Professor, Department of English, Pondicherry University (A Central University), Puducherry and Dr. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University and Director, Centre for Tribal Studies and Museum, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal. Dr. Lakhimai Mili's talk was on the topic "Tribal Literature from North-East India with a Special Reference to Mising Folk Songs and Folk Tales" and Dr. Bandyopadhyay's talk was on "Reflections of Tribal Life in Bengali Literature: Engaging Literary Anthropology".

*Approved*

*13/4/22*



The webinar was held via google meet and started at sharp 10 am. Mr. N. Umananda Singh, Head, New English, Govt. Khawzawl College talked about the department and the institution. He narrated how the department, in spite of facing the challenge of being located in a remote village, has been actively organizing several activities. After Mr. Umananda's speech, Dr. Soukarja Ghosal, Assistant Professor and the convener of the webinar, talked about the theme of the webinar. The virtual intellectual summit "Tribal Literature: Production and Reception" was on a topic which is quite relevant in today's context. According to Oxford Dictionary "A tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding themselves as having a common ancestor". India has the second large concentration of the tribal population in the world. As D.N. Majumder and T.N. Majumder have argued, "The whole of tribal India is at the present moment going through the critical stage of transition" with their unchanged position on the society, their conditions have remained same. Article 342(1) refers to STs as "the tribes or the tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribe or tribal communities..."

Some of the Problems faced by the Tribals in India are:

- i. Land alienation and displacement
- ii. Poverty and unemployment
- iii. Lack of healthcare service, infrastructure, and proper educational system
- iv. Identity crisis
- v. Language issues as their language is in an unwritten form
- vi. Ignorance and abhorrence from the mainstream society

Tribal Studies is interdisciplinary in nature. Tribal studies provide a frame of reference for the diverse perspective and experience of tribal people not only in India, but worldwide. It is difficult to understand the actual perspectives of tribal studies, but it can be understood and analysed through anthropological perspective, gendered perspective, historical perspective, institutional perspective etc.

The tribal literary tradition was mainly oral. But as the tribals were far away from the civilization, their literature was ignored by the civilized society. Later historical and material facts led to the emergence of the contemporary tribal literary movement after the second world war. Now the contemporary writers feel the urge to write about the tribals and their culture, customs etc. So, basically, Tribal literature is a literary platform to protect the tribal identity, existence, their culture and customs etc. and to protest the centre in the light of increasing exploitation due to economic liberalization. There arises a question whether literature written by tribals strictly speaking should come under Tribal Literature or even non-tribal writers Mahasweta Devi also. Tribal studies is necessary primarily because of the misrepresentation of tribal people and tribal women in popular culture: in Satyajit Roy's *Aranyer Din Ratri*: Duli's complexion is dark as opposed to Aparna and Jaya's skin colors (binary & inferiority), on-screen representation of Duli's sex act is treated as realistic, hence praised, but Hansa Sowvendra Shekhar's narrative *The Adivasi Will Not Dance* drew criticism and his book was banned and his depiction of women was termed as "denigrating and pornographic". Discrimination and social exclusion result in marginalization and offend a particular group and human dignity and rights: the tribals are treated as marginal and inferior As the title suggests, literary production and reception, the literary processes of writing, appropriation, and communication, are mutually related and form a relational structure. As Manfred Naumann suggests, it is, "diachronically embedded in the whole historical process, and synchronically in the existing and changing material and ideological relationships of the current social format". The webinar therefore aims at a methodical procedure surrounding tribal literature which permits us to grasp the complexity of the processes actually occurring in the interaction between the writing and reading of literature, among author, text, and reader.



The first resource Dr. Lakhimai Mili delivered her talk on Mising Folk Literature. As Jawaharlal Handoo has pointed out, the study of folklore, "the semantics of folklore and the cultural categories it represented have remained much neglected area in Indian academics". Her speech on Mising Folktales will unfold new vistas of critical exploration surrounding Mising tribes, a specific tribal group belonging particularly to the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The second resource person Dr. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, a renowned anthropologist, talked on the representation of the tribals in Bengali literature from the perspective of literary anthropology. The field of "literary anthropology" actually covers two fields of study. The first is an exploration of the role that literature plays in social life and individual experience, in particular social, cultural, and historical settings. As Nigel Rapport explains, literary anthropology can be understood here as an exploration of different kinds of genre of expression, and how these genres can be said to have a historical specificity, a cultural evaluation, and a social institutionalism attached to them. Secondly, literary anthropology is a study of the nature of anthropology itself as a discipline. Clifford Geertz is an important name in this field. Even French critic Claude Levi-Strauss talks about kinship and myth in many of his essays establishing a close connection between humanities and anthropology. (One can in this regard particularly refer to Fernando Poyatos' well-researched book *Literary Anthropology: A New Interdisciplinary Approach to People, Signs and Literature*) Professor Bandyopadhyay's insightful talk helped the researchers further explore the domain of literary anthropology.

The paper presenters from various parts of India with their thoughts and deliberations created new avenues for research and the webinar in every way was intellectually enriching.

There were more than 95 registered participants but due to technical glitch around 58 participants attended the webinar. There were twenty paper presenters, both research scholars and faculty members from various parts of India like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha and Punjab. Some PG students were also given a platform to present. The paper presentation started from 1.15 pm and continued till 5.15 pm. The sessions were chaired by the departmental staff members. The presenters were divided into four sessions and each session had five presenters. The UG students of the institution were also engaged during the technical sessions as student coordinators enabling them to have a first-hand experience of attending a national level webinar.

The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Soukarja Ghosal and feedbacks were also collected from the participants who attended the webinar and all the participants whole-heartedly praised the department for organizing the webinar in a very efficient manner.





## One-day National Webinar

on

### "Tribal Literature: Production and Reception"

Organized by

Department of English, Government Khawzawl College, Mizoram  
under the aegis of IQAC, Govt. Khawzawl College, Mizoram

Date: 13.4.2022 (Wednesday), 10.00 a.m. onwards

Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/yuz-kwaz-dbd>

#### Program Schedule

**10:00 a.m.:** Inaugural Speech by Mr. N. Umananda Singh, Associate Professor & Head,  
Dept. of English, Government Khawzawl College

**10.15 a.m.:** Introduction to the Theme of the Conference by Dr. Soukarja Ghosal, Asst.  
Prof., Dept. of English, Government Khawzawl College

**10.30 a.m.:1<sup>st</sup> Invited Talk: "Tribal Literature from North-East India with a Special Reference to Mising Folk Songs & Folk Tales" by Dr. Lakhimai Mili, Associate Professor, Department of English, Pondicherry University (Central University), Puducherry**

**Moderator: Ms. Lalramlawmi, Asst. Prof. of English, Govt. Khawzawl College**

**11.40 a.m.:2<sup>nd</sup> Invited Talk: "Reflections of Tribal Life in Bengali Literature: Engaging Literary Anthropology" by Dr. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, Professor, Dept. of Anthropology & Director, Center for Adivasi Studies & Museum, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal**

**Moderator: Ms. Lalrinmawii Ralte, Asst. Prof. of English, Govt. Khawzawl College**

**12.50 p.m.-1.30 p.m.: Technical Session I (Paper Presentation)**

Chairperson: Mr. N. Umananda Singh

Student Coordinator: Lalramchhani Colney, B.A. English (6<sup>th</sup> Sem.)

**1.30 p.m.-2.10 p.m.- Technical Session II**

Chairperson: Ms. Lalramlawmi

Student coordinator: HV Lalruatfeli, B.A. English (4<sup>th</sup> Semester)

**2.10 p.m. -2.50 p.m.: Technical Session III**

Chairperson: Ms. Lalrinmawii Ralte

Student Coordinator: Lalvenpuia, B.A. English (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

**2.50 p.m.-3.30 p.m.: Technical Session IV**

Chairperson: Dr. Soukarja Ghosal

Student Coordinator: Lalrohlupuii, B.A. English (4<sup>th</sup> Semester)

**3.30 p.m.-3.45 p.m.: Vote of Thanks: Dr. Soukarja Ghosal, Asst. Prof. of English, GKC**



**Technical Session I (12.50 pm-1.30 pm)**

**Chairperson: Mr. N. Umananda Singh, HoD & Associate Prof.,  
Dept. of English, Govt. Khawzawl College**

<b>Serial No</b>	<b>Title of the Paper</b>	<b>Name of the Presenter with designation (As per alphabetical order)</b>
1.	Tribals and Dalits: A Comparative Study	Anindita Basu, Research Scholar, Dept. of English & Culture Studies, The University of Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman, WB
2.	Making of Naga Women: Unfolding the Womanhood in Easterine Kire's <i>a terrible matriarchy</i>	Awnisha Verma, Research Scholar, Dept. of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, UP
3.	Tracing the Tribal Culture of the Purig Tribe of Ladakh	Dr. Azra Khatoon, Faculty Member, Dept. of English, Government Degree College, Baramulla, J&K
4.	Critical Evaluation of women's roles in Mizo folk stories	Debbie Lalrinawmi, Research Scholar, Dept. of English, National Institute of Technology, Mizoram
5.	Deconstructing the Problematics in Translating Tribal Narratives with reference to Mahasweta Devi's "Douloti the Bountiful"	Dr. Sarmila Paul, Faculty Member, Department of English, Rani Birla Girls' College, Kolkata, West Bengal

**Technical Session II (1.30 pm-2.10 pm)**  
**Chairperson: Ms. Lalramlawmi, Asst. Prof. of English,**  
**Govt.**

**Khawzawl College**

<b>Serial No</b>	<b>Title of the Paper</b>	<b>Name of the Presenter with designation (As per alphabetical order)</b>
1.	<b>Retrieving Tradition to Archive the Struggle, Positionality and Culture of Tribal People in India</b>	<b>Khushdeep Kaur, PG Student, Dept. of English, Akal University, Bathinda, Punjab</b>
2.	<b>(Re)- presenting the Unheard Identities in Tribal Paradigms</b>	<b>L. Santhosh Kumar, Research Scholar, Dept. of English, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirapalli, Tamilnadu</b>
3.	<b>A Study on the Fundamental Components and Significance of Mizo Traditional Festivals</b>	<b>Lalchhanhima, Faculty Member, Dept. of History, Govt. Khawzawl College, Mizoram</b>
4.	<b><i>Nadugadhika</i> as a Mnemonic Device: Healing Cultural Amnesia</b>	<b>Dr. Limna P, Faculty Member, Dept. of English, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, Kerala</b>
5.	<b>Tribal Literature - A Hybrid Camouflage of Indian Literary Imagination</b>	<b>Madhurima Dey, Research Scholar, Department of English, Jain University, Bengaluru, Karnataka</b>

**Technical Session III (2.10 pm-2.50 pm)**  
**Chairperson: Ms. Lalrinmawii Ralte, Asst. Prof. of**  
**English,**

**Govt. Khawzawl College**

Serial No.	Title of the Paper	Name of the Presenter with designation (alphabetically arranged)
1.	A Study of Ramanujan's <i>Folktales from India</i>	Monica Karki, Research Scholar, Dept. of Humanities, Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand
2.	Anxiety and Existence: A Survival Discourse on tribal literature with special reference to Mamang Dai's <i>The Black Hill</i>	Mridul C Mrinal, Faculty Member, PG Department of English, MES Keveeyam College, Valanchery, Kerala
3.	Challenges faced by the Tribal students with special reference to Gurez	Mudasar Ahmad Lone, Research Scholar, Dept. of Islamic Studies, CCAS, Kashmir University, J&K
4.	Assimilation and Identity Issues as depicted in the Native American Writings	Dr. Nanduri Raj Gopal, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala, HP
5.	Halma - from a Bhili Tradition to a sustainable rural development movement	Nidhi M Shastri, PG Student, Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Gujarat



**Technical Session IV (2.50 pm-3.30 pm)**  
**Chairperson: Dr. Soukarja Ghosal, Asst. Prof.**  
**Of English, Govt. Khawzawl College**

Serial No.	Title of the Paper	Name of the Presenter with designation (alphabetically arranged)
1.	Unheeded Voices of Indian Tribes: A Study of <i>Jay Bhim</i>	Prerna Guha, PG Student, School of Languages, KIIT Univeristy, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
2.	Technological Impact on the rural society of Santhal Tribe: A Case Study with reference to the Santhal Tribe of Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand	Simon Kisku, Research Scholar, Dept. of English Studies, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, Jharkhand
3.	Gender and Diaspora: Reflection on the Culture and Identity of Tribal Women	Suparna Roy, Research Scholar, Dept. of English, West Bengal University of Teachers' Training, Education Planning and Administration, Kolkata, West Bengal
4.	Marginality and Social Exclusion in Gopinath Mohanty's <i>Paraja</i>	Talat, Research Scholar, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Patna, Patna, Bihar
5.	Tribal Verse and a different point of view	V. Sapna Devi & T. Keerthana, PG Students, Dept. of English, Bharathiar University PG Extension and Research Centre,