TUESDAY TALK_August, 2023

Role of Indigenous Culture in Promotion of Ecological Conservation

*Presented by **Dr.** Sreyasi Chatterjee, Assistant Professor of Sociology,*

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya

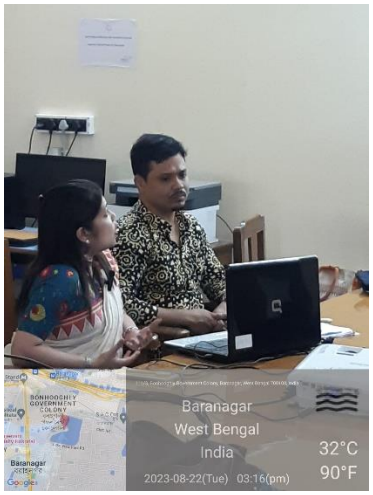
Abstract

Indigenous people are distinct social and cultural groups that share collective ancestral ties to the lands and natural resources where they live, occupy or from which they have been displaced. The land and natural resources on which they depend are inextricably linked to their identities, cultures, livelihoods, as well as their physical and spiritual well-being. They often subscribe to their customary leaders and organizations for representation that are distinct or separate from those of the mainstream society or culture. Many Indigenous Peoples still maintain a language distinct from the official language or languages of the country or region in which they reside. (World Bank). Indigenous peoples are the holders of unique languages, knowledge systems and beliefs and possess invaluable knowledge of practices for the sustainable management of natural resources. They have a special relation to and use of their traditional land. Their ancestral land has a fundamental importance for their collective physical and cultural survival as peoples. Indigenous peoples hold their own diverse concepts of development, based on their traditional values, visions, needs and priorities. Indigenous communities are most negatively impacted by climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation, primarily because they have subsistence economies and have a spiritual connection with the environment. They use traditional knowledge and culture to conserve the environment. This is best understood by the Khasis veneration of sacred groves; or the Idu Mishmi's reverence for tigers. Mainstream cultures use their art to construct an environmentalism narrative that does not include the struggles of indigenous communities. Indigenous art, therefore, needs to be disseminated from the perspectives of these tribal folk and spaces are needed to do that. Indigenous art is not merely a form of cultural expression, but it is reflective of the collective identity of a community. These art forms depict an interconnectedness between humans and the environment. Abstract concepts of environmentalism are converted into tangible representations through such art forms. The recurrent theme in Indian folk art is restoration of the ecological balance; respecting the land; resilience against oppression and eco-justice. Such art forms use sustainable materials. Indigenous art creates a space where indigenous communities can build upon their narratives centered around not only their struggles with regard to ecological crisis but also with regard to their community's resilience against 'othering'.

This research explores how indigenous art is based on local knowledge systems that are intrinsically based on conceptualizations of nature and on the long-term conservation of social-ecological systems. Content analysis and analysis of archival work of six types of

indigenous art—-Baiga, Madhubani, Gond, Bhil, Warli and Pattachitra art explores how local knowledge systems promote ecological conservation through indigenous art.

Indigenous peoples are the holders of unique languages, knowledge systems and beliefs and possess invaluable knowledge of practices for the sustainable management of natural resources. They have a special relation to and use of their traditional land. Their ancestral land has a fundamental importance for their collective physical and cultural survival as peoples. Indigenous peoples hold their own diverse concepts of development, based on their traditional values, visions, needs and priorities. Yet they suffer from an identity crisis. On one hand, Indigenous people are custodians of Planet Earth– their ancestral land is considered holy; they believe in living in harmony with nature; living in biodiversity hotspots and they are masters of the art of living on the Earth without destroying it. But on the other hand, they are a vulnerable population–facing displacement, exploitation of their natural habitat, loss of their cultural distinctiveness and a loss of livelihood, all in the name of development.



Speaker

Audience

Thunderstorms, Lighting and Climate Change

*Presented by **Dr.** Sudip Roy, SACT, Department of Sociology,*

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya

Abstract

Thunderstorms and lightning are dynamic atmospheric phenomena that significantly shape weather patterns and influence the Earth's climate. This abstract explores the intricate connections between thunderstorms, lightning, and climate change. With the global climate undergoing shifts attributed to human activities, understanding the impact of these changes on convective weather events becomes crucial.

Thunderstorms are complex meteorological events driven by warm, moist air convection. Lightning, a common component of thunderstorms, results from separating charges within clouds. As the climate changes, alterations in temperature, humidity, and atmospheric circulation patterns contribute to variations in the frequency, intensity, and distribution of thunderstorms worldwide.

A warming climate may lead to an increase in the frequency and intensity of thunderstorms. Warmer temperatures enhance atmospheric instability, providing favourable conditions for convective activity. Additionally, precipitation patterns may influence thunderstorm characteristics, affecting regions differently based on their climatic zones.

Lightning, as a product of thunderstorms, holds significance in the context of climate change. An increase in lightning activity can contribute to enhanced levels of atmospheric nitrogen oxides and the production of greenhouse gases. These secondary effects may affect air quality, climate feedback mechanisms, and ecosystem dynamics.

Furthermore, thunderstorms and lightning are integral components of the Earth's electrical circuit, influencing the global electrical environment. Changes in these atmospheric phenomena can impact atmospheric composition, ionosphere dynamics, and electromagnetic interactions between the Earth's surface and the atmosphere.

Understanding the intricate relationship between thunderstorms, lightning, and climate change is vital for predicting weather patterns and assessing the broader implications for ecosystems, agriculture, and human societies. Ongoing research aims to refine climate models, incorporating the complexities of convective processes to provide more accurate projections of future atmospheric conditions. As our climate continues to evolve, monitoring and comprehending the dynamics of thunderstorms and lightning are essential for adapting to the challenges posed by a changing environment.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Speaker