

DIALOGUE ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF COMMUNITIES

AITS not only outreach the communities but also brought the communities to University in order to bridge the gap. In this regard, the two-day programme brought together the community resource persons from different regions of Arunachal Pradesh to Rajiv Gandhi University during 19 & 20 November, 2018 and provided a common platform to discuss, interact with each other and share their views. The programme was jointly organized by Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies in collaboration with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi. The main purpose of the programme is to make the community resource persons to share their knowledge, experience and challenges. The first interactive session was held with the Shamans. The Shamans were asked various questions on the issues of Shamanism amidst modernization and emergence of new religions. The Shamans clarified that Shamanism is a gift from God and not everyone can become a Shaman at will. They also told that one who is to become a Shaman is revealed beforehand through dreams or signs. Sometimes it is also inherited i.e. if the Father is a shaman one of his sons or daughters is destined to be a Shaman. The second interactive session was with the Artisans (Wood carving & Basketry) from different communities of Arunachal Pradesh. The artisans demonstrated and showcased their traditional items (basketry, wood carvings etc). They express concern over the lack of interest among the youth in all these age old traditional practices as they are more inclined towards modern technologies and equipment.

The second day of the program started with interactive session with the weavers of different community where they demonstrated the procedure and equipment used for weaving. The weaving session was followed by an interactive session with the Indigenous Chiropractors. The traditional ways and remedy of curing/ joining fractured bones were discussed. The indigenous chiropractor also claimed that the power to cure was God's gift and cannot be acquired by learning or practicing. Next session was interactive session with beads workers of different communities of Arunachal Pradesh. Where they displayed their traditional ornaments and modified ornaments. They discussed about their traditional ornaments, local names and the procedures of accessory making and materials they used.

