



Government Science College, Vankal

मान्यता-शिक्षण विभाग, गुजरात सरकार ठरावक्रमांक: असीओ/1512/न.व.ल.-13/प.त.ल. 21/04/2012

AISHE Code - 46595

Affiliated to Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat (College Code-340)

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7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words

Response:

Title: Preserving the tribal lore to counter the cultural amnesia.

Preserving the culture of tribal community is of paramount importance for several reasons and educational institutions can play a crucial role in this effort. Government Science College, Vankal is located in a tribal area of South Gujarat. The college has been successful in fostering an environment which supports the cause of the preservation of tribal culture in terms of celebrating ethnic food, ethnic dance, tribal dress, tribal paintings and religious and spiritual practices. Specifically on the occasion of Indigenous people's day (9th Aug) our college organizes events exhibiting the tribal practices such as tribal dance, tribal food recipe, tribal dress and painting. Students of the college also offer prayer to their tribal deity - *Nandarva Dev* on every special day according to their culture. In this way the students get an opportunity to experientially learn and understand the importance of such cultural practices and when they leave the college, they are well positioned to spread the tribal lore and learning in the society and can pass this learning on to the future generations as the torch bearers of their community.

Importance of conserving tribal food recipe

Conserving tribal food activities by college is essential for preserving cultural heritage, biodiversity, and sustainable practices. Tribal food systems reflect deep-rooted traditions and sustainable agricultural methods crucial for ecological balance. Our college play a pivotal role in documenting and sharing this knowledge, providing interdisciplinary education, and supporting indigenous communities economically. By integrating tribal food activities into community programs, college enhance cultural understanding, promote health through nutritious traditional diets, and contribute to environmental sustainability. This conservation effort ensures that these valuable practices and knowledge are preserved and appreciated for future generations.

Importance of conserving tribal dress

Tribal dress is a vital aspect of cultural heritage, symbolizing identity, history, and traditions passed down through generations. It reflects the unique artistry, craftsmanship, and values of tribal communities, often incorporating sustainable and locally-sourced materials. Preserving tribal dress promotes cultural diversity and fosters a deeper understanding and respect for indigenous cultures. It also supports the livelihoods of artisans and helps maintain traditional skills. In a globalized world, tribal dress serves as a powerful reminder of cultural richness and diversity, ensuring that these vibrant traditions are not lost but cherished and celebrated for future generations.

Importance of conserving tribal dance:

Tribal dance is a profound expression of cultural heritage, embodying the history, beliefs, and social values of indigenous communities. It serves as a medium for storytelling, religious rituals, and communal bonding, preserving and transmitting traditions through generations. The intricate movements, costumes, and music in tribal dances reflect the unique identity and artistry of each tribe. Preserving tribal dance fosters cultural diversity, enhances understanding and respect for indigenous cultures, and supports the continuity of traditional practices. In a rapidly changing world, tribal dance stands as a testament to cultural resilience and richness, ensuring these vibrant traditions remain alive and appreciated.

Importance of conserving tribal Warli Painting:

Tribal painting is a vital cultural expression, capturing the history, spirituality, and daily life of indigenous communities. These artworks are rich with symbolism, depicting stories, rituals, and the natural world, often using sustainable, locally-sourced materials. Preserving tribal painting helps maintain cultural heritage and provides insights into the values and beliefs of tribal societies. It supports the livelihoods of indigenous artists and keeps traditional techniques alive. In an era of globalization, tribal painting fosters cultural diversity, enhances appreciation for indigenous artistry, and ensures that these unique visual languages continue to enrich the world's artistic landscape.

Importance of conserving Religious and spiritual Practice:

Tribal religious and spiritual practices are essential for preserving the cultural heritage and identity of indigenous communities. These practices encompass rituals, ceremonies, and beliefs that connect tribes to their ancestors, nature, and the cosmos. They promote social cohesion, moral values, and a sense of belonging. Preserving these spiritual traditions fosters cultural diversity, enhances understanding and respect for indigenous worldviews, and supports the transmission of ancient wisdom and environmental stewardship. In a modernizing world, safeguarding tribal religious and spiritual practices ensures the continuity of rich cultural narratives and the holistic well-being of tribal communities. Students in our college worship their God – “*Nandarva Dev*” on every special occasion or festivals they celebrate.

Practice

We celebrate World Tribal Day on 9th August every year. Celebrating World Tribal Day in college involves a variety of activities that honor and recognize the cultural heritage (e.g. performing *Nandarva Dev*/ A tribal deity Pooja ceremony involving local form of prayer and the use of ritually significant musical instruments – *dovdu*, *dhol*, *tarpu* etc.) and contributions of indigenous communities globally. Cultural performances such as traditional dances and music showcase the rich artistry and storytelling of tribal cultures, while art and craft exhibitions (such as *Warli* paintings and bamboo craft) highlight the intricate craftsmanship and symbolic meanings of tribal creations. Food recipe competition and festivals offer traditional tribal dishes, giving participants a taste of indigenous culinary heritage. Hands-on workshops on tribal art, craft, and traditional practices engage students in learning and appreciating tribal knowledge and skills. Drama and storytelling sessions educate the college community about the history, struggles, and achievements of tribal peoples. Awareness campaigns, including social media initiatives, spread the significance of World Tribal Day and the issues faced by indigenous communities. By engaging in these diverse activities, the college create a meaningful and respectful celebration of World Tribal Day, fostering cultural appreciation, solidarity, and support for indigenous communities.

Positive effects of Practice

Food:

Conserving tribal food activities by the college ensures the continuity of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge into the future. By documenting and promoting these practices, the college supports the sustainability of indigenous food systems, which are often more resilient to environmental changes. This preservation helps mitigate the loss of biodiversity and encourages sustainable farming practices, contributing to global food security. Educating students about tribal food systems fosters appreciation for cultural diversity and promotes healthier eating habits. Economically, it supports local communities by preserving traditional livelihoods and promoting sustainable tourism. Ultimately, conserving tribal food activities by the college enriches societal resilience, cultural understanding, and environmental stewardship for future generations.

Dress and dance:

Conserving tribal dress and dance activities in the college can have positive effects on the surrounding area by boosting cultural tourism and local economies. Hosting events and exhibitions featuring tribal dress and dance can attract visitors interested in indigenous cultures, thereby promoting local businesses and artisans. Increased cultural awareness and appreciation within the community can foster pride and solidarity among residents. Collaborations between the college and local tribal communities can strengthen community ties and promote cultural exchange. Moreover, preserving and showcasing tribal traditions in the surrounding area can enhance its reputation as a culturally vibrant and diverse region, attracting further interest and investment.

Tribal Painting:

Conserving tribal painting can positively impact the economy of tribal communities by creating economic opportunities for local artists. It can increase the value of tribal art, attract buyers and collectors, and contribute to sustainable cultural tourism, thereby enhancing income and livelihoods within the community.

Religious and spiritual practices:

Conserving tribal religious and spiritual practices preserves traditional wisdom among tribal communities, ensuring the continuity of cultural values, ethical teachings, and spiritual beliefs. This conservation fosters intergenerational knowledge transfer, strengthens community resilience, and sustains the spiritual foundations that guide tribal life and decision-making.