



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Anthropos India Foundation



INTRODUCTION

Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) is a registered Trust in Delhi since 2011. It is envisioned by eminent academicians in the field of social science research and development professionals to device specific issue based action plans and seek tangible solutions for social problems in our country. AIF employs anthropological knowledge, methods and tools to understand, address, analyse, and formulate sustainable innovative solutions for social problems in India. AIF carries out empirical research using ethnography, needs assessment, monitoring, evaluation studies, policy research, advocacy to engage with, and resolve social challenges faced by marginalised sections of our society.

The goal of Anthropos India Foundation is to bring together a group of committed and zealous individuals who would help us in the mission to bridge the gap between research, policy, positive action and enable us in building better future of our people and nation. The four major activities of the AIF is organizing 'distinguished guest lecture series', 'organizing workshops' on topical issues and methodology and 'conducting action and applied research' and taking up 'advocacy and policy change'.

I am grateful to our trustees Shri. Shankara Reddy, Ms. Kavita Tank, Ms. Pushpinder Kaur and Ms. Aditi Verma for their constant support. I am also thankful to Ms. Sunanda Reddy and Mr. Suresh Kumar for their financial help. I appreciate Ms. Shefali for designing this report and the lively cover picture.

Sunita Reddy

FOUNDER MEMBER

ACTIVITIES

Distinguished Guest Lecture Series

Anthropos India Foundation since its inception has been organizing distinguished guest lecture series. Some of the eminent anthropologists and social scientists from India and abroad delivered lectures. In the series, Prof. Joan Mencher (USA), Prof. Vinay Srivastava (India), Dr. Heidi Kaspar (Switzerland), delivered lectures.

AIF in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University organized a guest lecture by Dr. David Lancy on 17 Nov. 2018. Dr. David Lancy is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology at Utah State University. His work focuses on the anthropology of childhood, how children acquire their culture, socio-historical analyses of schooling & the culture of street kids. With extensive fieldwork with children in Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Trinidad, Sweden, Uganda, Madagascar and the US.



Prof. Dr. David Lancy

He has authored several impactful books on Children like ‘The Anthropology of Childhood’ ‘Raising Children’, ‘Anthropological Perspectives on Children as Helpers, Workers, Artisans and Labourers’. In 2011, he was given Utah State University’s Throne Award as the premier scholar.

Seventh Foundation Day: AIF celebrated its Seventh Foundation Day with eminent scholars and development professionals on 27th October 2018 in Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr. Reddy shared the humble achievements of the foundation so far and thanked all those, directly and indirectly, supporting the foundation. With limited resources, the foundation is trying its best to take small yet effective steps. Many well-wishers and scholars congratulated the AIF team for their valuable work, action research and encouraged to take up more such work on contemporary issues in future.



Seminar on Child Abuse

WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS

Anthropos India Foundation has been organizing various workshops and seminars for the purpose of mutual sharing and gaining a deeper understanding of varied subjects. AIF organized three days intensive workshop on 'Doing Ethnography' in 2014, which was appreciated very much. Another workshop on 'Breaking the Culture of Silence: Child Sexual Abuse' was organized in 2016

1. This year Anthropos India Foundation organised a workshop on '**Child Abuse and the Methodological Challenges**' on 11th September 2018 in JNU to critically introspect on the methodology before conducting a four-state study on Child Abuse in India, supported by World Vision India. The workshop was attended by experts, academicians, and development professionals. This Workshop was instrumental in honing the various methods and techniques for conducting this research.

2. Another workshop on '**Traditional Knowledge Systems and Indigenous Healing Practices in North Eastern India**' was organized on 17th October 2018 by Indira Gandhi National Center for Art and Culture in collaboration with the Anthropos India Foundation, New Delhi.

As part of the ongoing project, the initiation workshop was meant to set a tone to discuss and deliberate on the issues of ethnomedicine with a focus on indigenous healing systems, located in the anthropological theory and method, the challenges they face and the possibility of integration into the mainstream health care and also issues of benefit sharing and biopiracy. The broad themes of the workshop were: a) Traditional healers and Indigenous Medicine: Practice in the North Eastern States. b) Challenges and State Response: Legitimacy, Autonomy and Integration c) Knowledge preservation and the Way Forward and d) Methodological Challenges. The deliberations envisaged to generate a larger debate and feed into the policy recommendations as well as our research study.

3. A workshop with '**Folk Healers on Folk Knowledge, Intellectual Property Rights and Possible Integration**' was held at Anthropology department of Sikkim on 23 Feb. 2018. The event was organised by Anthropos India Foundation in collaboration with IGNCA, New Delhi. The herbal healers from East Sikkim participated in this workshop and shared their knowledge, experiences, challenges they face and their expectation from the State. Their healing practices have been helping people in their communities for basic health care and sometimes even some serious ailments. They share that they treat people with jaundice, excessive bleeding, piles, sinusitis, skin problems, stomach problems, and also sprain and fractures. The workshop discussions and the findings were widely covered by the local Newspapers in Sikkim.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. Gender-Based Child Abuse: A Study among the selected sites in Four North Indian States Supported by World Vision India (WVI). The study was conducted in Punjab, Haryana, New Delhi, and Rajasthan. The attempt was to understand the contextual realities wherein the challenges and concomitant abuses against children transpire through a qualitative empirical study. The objectives of the study were:

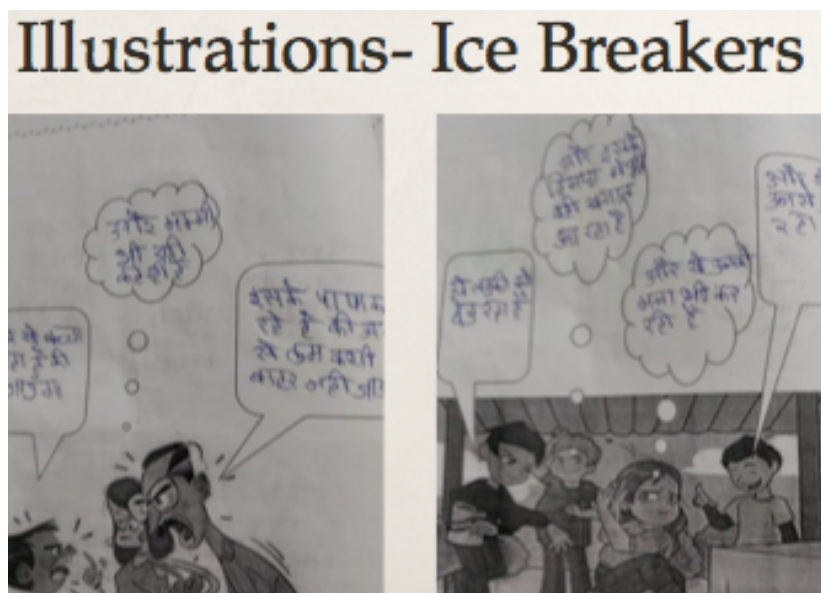
- To understand various forms of child abuse.
- To understand the social and cultural determinants of vulnerabilities of children for various forms of abuse.
- To map out any existing unsafe spaces and institutional mechanisms for the protection of children.

The total fieldwork of two months in these four states apprises us with structural realities that produce, perpetuate, or sanctions the various challenges for children and the parents. The findings come from the accounts of the respondents, field observations and against the backdrop of news and general profiles of the states.

The fieldwork consisted of spending roughly two weeks in every state where the team approached three basic types of respondents: children, parents, and community leaders. This gave insight into the culture around childhood and upbringing. The context was then the mooring from where to understand the first-hand accounts of the children. The latter was approached in schools and interactions were aided with nuanced methodological tools to best bring out the otherwise sensitive and private affairs with anonymity.



Report of Child Abuse Research



There are many parallels that can be drawn from certain vantage points. For example, the four states, sometimes referred in the report as these northern states (of India), have some common underlying values like patriarchy, parenting methods of control, certain class/caste conditions which have a similar impact on the lives of the children. On the other hand, there seem to be different macro-level factors that weigh heavily on the upbringing of the children and childhood. The child issues/abuses are covered under 12 different categories. The anonymous testimonies and accounts of the children are collected and laid under twelve overlapping categories. The conventional categories are neglect, discrimination, violence and abuse (divided into Emotional, physical, and sexual) (NCPCR and Childfund India, 2018). However, getting a child-centric view on abuse, this study brings out many more forms of abuse which for convenience were categorized into twelve different forms.

2. Applied Research: Folk and Tribal Healing Practices in Select States of North East

Kala Nidhi division of Indira Gandhi National Center for Art and Culture (IGNCA) collaborated with Anthropos India Foundation to take up this research project in the North Eastern States, starting with the state of Sikkim.

The plurality of healing systems is universal across cultures. Though Biomedicine is predominant and is state patronized across the world. In India, it is followed by recent recognition of AYUSH that are codified systems. The expansion of professionalized, biomedical systems in the capitalist world, with ever-expanding biomedical markets are expensive and out of reach for most people. Many in the rural and tribal regions reach out to non-codified traditional healing systems (based on oral traditions, folklore). There have been minimal efforts to document, preserve, conserve and integrate indigenous 'non-codified systems healing systems.



Healer showcasing his herbs, Sikkim



Healer treating a patient for injury, Manipur



The AIF team with officials of NEIFM

The tribal communities have been using various natural resources as medicines since time immemorial. The classic ethnographic and anthropological works focus on the shamanic and magico-religious healing practices, along with many studies on the aetiology of diseases and the role of healers among the tribes. Subsequent studies on indigenous healing practices have also continued to study the shamanistic and magico-religious practices. There are debates over science and superstitions, rights and recognition, autonomy and accreditations when it comes to tribal medicines. The tribal medicines have experienced a systematic avoidance and the legitimacy of tribal medicinal practitioners is undermined and questioned.

This research is about creating an archive of visual documentation on the importance of tribal healers and their traditional indigenous knowledge on health and healing in the North Eastern States. The research objectives explored how healing practices benefit communities? What are the different ailments, which are treated by the healers? What kinds of challenges are faced by the in practising the healing systems- such as dwindling flora fauna and mineral resources in the locality?

What are the other challenges like autonomy to practice and their legitimate position in the community and the state? How are their intellectual property rights protected and the process of knowledge transmission? What are the possibilities and challenges in integrating them into mainstream health care?

We have finished our data collection in the states of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and the report is submitted. We are in the process of collecting data from Manipur.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Importance of Folk Healers in Primary Health Care: Need for Recognition and Support

DR. SUNITA REDDY
(ASSO. PROF.)
TSHIRING LEPCHA
(Ph.D. scholar)

This piece is written out of the project being carried out by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts in collaboration with Anthropos India Foundation across North Eastern states. Starting with Sikkim, the project presents some of the important findings from a public health perspective. The seed of this research, however, were sown by Ph.D. research Scholar Tshirong Lepcha through his six years of research experience with the folk healers since 2013. The report built by the scholar helped to study the healers in-depth.

The traditional knowledge and wisdom have existed for ages where communities have been safeguarding and saving themselves from various illnesses, much before the advent of biomedicine or western medicine. It is important to credit the biomedicine system of medicine for its cutting edge technology, skills, expertise and professional training that can handle emergencies and do sophisticated surgeries. This has led biomedicine to gain state patronage almost in every

other, through oral traditions that continue to treat communities across the world. India with its diversity, across states and regions have a plethora of traditional wisdom on healing practices, combined with the natural bio-resource base. However, it's under threat due to various reasons of non-state support, deforestation, non-recognition, bio-piracy, and loss of knowledge with the demise of the healers.

Biodiversity Sikkim is the first declared organic state in India with a wide variety of bio-resources. Dr. Bharat from Biodiversity Board stated that the Himalayan range in Sikkim varies its altitude from 200 meters to 8500 meters and is an abode of around 700 species of medicinal plants, some of them are now endangered and rare, as classified by Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT, Bangalore) which needs immediate preservation and conservation. Dr. Bharat stated by 'supporting the Biodiversity, we can conserve and promote the biodiversity', they are the true custodians of nature. The Biodiversity and the medicinal plant board and forest department are doing their best to conserve and protect the

that across the hills; the communities are staying at varied heights, are mindful of the mother nature in their own culture, tradition and are protecting and conserving it. The hills and forests are their abode and are sacred. They reserve sacred mountains, forests, and rivers. The people living a tough and precarious life on these hills have strong faith and beliefs in the *Lamas, Bonpo, Dharmis, Chakris, Padangas, and Bhaidary* who guide their everyday lives.

Though all the healers have an important role to play in healing and care, the healers have been treating the local communities for generations for bone fractures, sprains, curing poisons, piles, excess bleeding, joint pain, stomach problems, post-dog bite, snake bite, and many other illnesses. They are the most accessible, affordable and first line treatment service providers in the rural Sikkim.

Issues and Concerns

The 22 healers studied, some of them are very well known traditional healers like Nar Bhadr Limboo, Krishna Prasad Puktel, Lila Ram Dhakal, P.R. Chetri, Laxman Karli, Yunnan Prasad Basola, Chandra Prasad Subedi and many more. They have been given letter of appreciation

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The state can help these healers to help in growing herbal nurseries, provide simple equipment, space, training, capacity building and some seed grant for establishing their practice. As the election is due, the healers can revive their association and add into the election manifesto of their political leaders to recognize and value their selfless contribution to the communities who live in far-flung areas.

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Do we need to do



SU workshop on folk healers, folk knowledge

SE Report

GANGTOK, February 22: A workshop with the folk healers on folk knowledge, intellectual property rights and possible integration was held at the Anthropology department of Sikkim University here today. The event was organised by Anthropos India Foundation and supported by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Art and Culture, a press release informs.

During the workshop, herbal healers from different parts of East Sikkim

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The traditional knowledge and wisdom have existed for ages where communities have been safeguarding and saving themselves from various illnesses, much before the advent of biomedicine or western medicine. It is important to credit the biomedicine system of medicine for its cutting edge technology, skills, expertise and professional training that can handle emergencies and do sophisticated surgeries. This has led biomedicine to gain state patronage almost in every country, through oral traditions that continue to treat communities across the world. India with its diversity, across states and regions have a plethora of traditional wisdom on healing practices, combined with the natural bio-resource base. However, it's under threat due to various reasons of non-state support, deforestation, non-recognition, bio-piracy, and loss of knowledge with the demise of the healers.

Biodiversity Sikkim is the first declared organic state in India with a wide variety of bio-resources. Dr. Bharat from Biodiversity Board stated that the Himalayan range in Sikkim varies its altitude from 200 meters to 8500 meters and is an abode of around 700 species of medicinal plants, some of them are now endangered and rare, as classified by Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT, Bangalore) which needs immediate preservation and conservation. Dr. Bharat stated by 'supporting the Biodiversity, we can conserve and promote the biodiversity', they are the true custodians of nature. The Biodiversity and the medicinal plant board and forest department are doing their best to conserve and protect the

that across the hills; the communities are staying at varied heights, are mindful of the mother nature in their own culture, tradition and are protecting and conserving it. The hills and forests are their abode and are sacred. They reserve sacred mountains, forests, and rivers. The people living a tough and precarious life on these hills have strong faith and beliefs in the *Lamas, Bonpo, Dharmis, Chakris, Padangas, and Bhaidary* who guide their everyday lives.

Though all the healers have an important role to play in healing and care, the healers have been treating the local communities for generations for bone fractures, sprains, curing poisons, piles, excess bleeding, joint pain, stomach problems, post-dog bite, snake bite, and many other illnesses. They are the most accessible, affordable and first line treatment service providers in the rural Sikkim.

Issues and Concerns

The 22 healers studied, some of them are very well known traditional healers like Nar Bhadr Limboo, Krishna Prasad Puktel, Lila Ram Dhakal, P.R. Chetri, Laxman Karli, Yunnan Prasad Basola, Chandra Prasad Subedi and many more. They have been given letter of appreciation

high and dry. They express that they should have been supported by helping them to grow herbal nurseries, given space and infrastructure to practice, given simple tools and technology and most importantly, credit and recognition by the state to practice their specialization.

The fact is that patients go to these healers, instead of ignoring this, it's apologetic to recognize the importance they play in giving primary health care in the rural areas. No way it is a threat to medical practitioners as they are our 'barefoot doctors', treating at primary level healthcare and referring patients to secondary and tertiary care.

The state can help these healers to help in growing herbal nurseries, provide simple equipment, space, training, capacity building and some seed grant for establishing their practice. As the election is due, the healers can revive their association and add into the election manifesto of their political leaders to recognize and value their selfless contribution to the communities who live in far-flung areas.

Questions are raised on the genuineness and validity of their medicine. In the lived and shared experiences of people treated by them

certify them and provide basic minimum state support to build 'healers hut' in every gram panchayat, where they can all practice their specialization.

Do we need to do



Workshop held at MU

By Our Staff Reporter

IMPHAL, May 29: Expressing serious concern on the waning folk and indigenous healing practices in the country, Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) Founding Chairperson, Dr. Sunita Reddy has called for promotion and revitalization of the age old indigenous healing practices of different cultures and regions of the country.

She was speaking at a resource person during a one-day workshop under the theme "Folk and Indigenous Healing Practices in Manipur" which was held at Committee Room, Administrative Block, Manipur University yesterday.

The workshop was organized by the Manipur University (MU) in collaboration with AIF. Dr. Sunita Reddy, who is also an Associate Professor of Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health (CSMCH), JNU, New Delhi, went on to observe that indigenous healers have been making immense contribution in the communities for many decades and their efforts should not go unrecognized.

She further advocated that indigenous or traditional healing practices should be put on the backdrop of universal public health services and raised to a higher standard.

Pointing out the difficulties face in boosting traditional healing practices in the country, she said that many sections of the society who cannot understand the values of traditional healing practices, underestimate traditional healers and are often hesitant in taking up initiatives for the promotion of the traditional knowledge in healing systems.

This led to the deterioration of decades old healing practices in India. Knowledge of decades-old traditional healing practices in the country should be well-documented and protected while the patent of varied healing systems in India should be given to the respective healers, she added.

The Associate Professor mooted the idea of setting up healing huts at Panchayat level to protect their practices.

Throwing light on 'healing practices' in North East

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A workshop on "Traditional Medicine Systems and the Indigenous Healing Practices in North East India: Methodological Challenges" was organised recently at IGNCA by Kala Nidhi Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) in collaboration with Anthropos India Foundation (AIF).

Dr. Ramesh Gaur, Director, Kala Nidhi, IGNCA welcomed the participants and provided an overview of Kala Nidhi programmes and activities. He also talked about the genesis of the project.

Followed by the welcome address, Dr. Sunita Reddy Associate Professor in JNU and founder member of AIF introduced the project by sharing the conceptual understanding, objectives, methods and ethical aspects in undertaking this study, which will maintain the academic rigour and yet make it accessible for the general public, using radio visual documentation.

Dr. Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA in his inaugural session gave very insightful remarks and shared that IGNCA has richness in various knowledge systems, however, the project should focus on the traditional healing practices. He further suggested that emotional content should be brought out which is the



Panelists at the 'Traditional Medicine Systems and the Indigenous Healing Practices in North East India: Methodological Challenges' workshop organised at IGNCA

essence of any healing process. He also suggested that this research can help in designing Post Graduate diploma or a certificate course on traditional healing system, which are so important given the wide

use across communities. The aim of the work is to create on the project invite comments, suggestions, long in doing an ethnographic study in the selected three states of North East India, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur)

gation given their presence at the community level which takes the huge burden of taking primary level care.

In the workshop, it was suggested that a robust study in a state will set the standard framework which will help in expanding this study not just to North Eastern states but can be taken up at the national level. Further, digitising the findings will be in the public domain for acknowledging the knowledge of the healers, the value of

Aim of the workshop was to focus on project taken up by Anthropos India Foundation and invite comments, suggestions, and challenges in doing an 'ethnographic' research in the selected three states of North East States (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur)

such healing practices by the communities without impairing on the secrecy of their practice and giving them the intellectual property rights.

Dr. Shailaja Chandra shared her experience researching with local health tradition in North East and also suggested IGNCA should also organise a festival of healers in its premise.

During the workshop, in various sessions, interesting ideas came up along with many challenges to be faced. Use of SWOT studies, looking at healing as an integral part of local culture and interconnected with various festivals, rituals, taboos, natural resource base, and the practices needs to be written keeping the narratives intact for various interpretation. The Intellectual property rights and the challenges in the integration of their knowledge was discussed at length. The challenges of languages, limitation of interpretation, understanding of ethnic groups, local culture, diversity, and the wide geographic area need to be taken into account while doing research.

Following the workshop, an ethnographic research will be carried out bringing in 'emic' perspective and also from critical medical anthropology perspective, connecting the micro level reality to mess and macro factors influencing the traditional healing systems.

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