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Digital repository: An initiative of government of India to preserve and promote cultural heritage of tribes

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Abstract

The inclusion of information and communication technology in education has changed the way of accessing knowledge or information, and digital repositories have become the solution to preserve old/new information and materials and allow open access that is available to the public. In this context, the Government of India has developed 1. Tribal Digital Document Repository, and 2. Tribal repository portal under the ministry of tribal affairs to provide research papers, books, reports and documents, folk songs, videos, original images, audios, and other empirical and ground information with their metadata related to tribal cultures and heritage from different aspects of tribal life for the transformation of knowledge and culture. This initiative can connect researchers, administrators, academicians, freelancers, policymakers, governmental and non-governmental organizations, generalists, learners and the community, and others who are interested in knowing or working on tribes. The current paper focuses on the benefits of repositories for conservation, promotion, and development of the tribes and suggestive measures to promote access to information from available repositories for tribal culture and heritage.

Keywords: Repository, tribal culture, ministry of tribal affairs

Introduction

Information and Communication Technology in education has changed how knowledge or information is accessed. When we want to know the meaning of any word or sentence, we directly search, but sometimes we get a relevant answer, sometimes not. For clarification, we prefer governmental websites. To retrieve data, we need to know from where we can get all the related content in one search. In this context, if someone wants to retrieve information related to Tribal Culture and their lifestyle, he or she searches directly but finds different forms of resources on separate websites; to solve this problem, governments of every country working on easy access to information for a specific purpose. The present paper focuses on the initiatives of the Government of India. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is committed to working in the sector of development of the tribal community, preserving their culture and rights, and ensuring their contribution to national development. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has created Tribal Digital Document Repository and Tribal Repository, which is hosted by NIC. With the help of the Tribal Digital Document Repository and Tribal Repository, anyone can access information related to tribal culture and the lifestyle practiced across India.

Research Questions

1. How many repositories have been created by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, to preserve Tribal culture and heritage?
2. How many TRI and Universities have enlisted in the repository with their contribution to Tribal research for the production of Documents, images, videos, and audio to preserve their culture?
3. Are all the documents openly available for anyone to browse?

Method

For the current paper, the researcher has analyzed and collected data from secondary sources like Governmental websites, Documents, and Journals related to Digital repositories, Tribal Digital Repositories, and cultural heritage.

Digital Repository

A Digital repository is used to preserve old and new information as a digital object for a futuristic perspective or to preserve information for the future generation so that they can retrieve old information for a specific purpose. DR is Information systems ingest, store, manage, preserve, and provide access to digital content (Xie, I. *et al.*, 2016) ^[9]. It is an organized system for long-term digital objects. Also, Institutional repositories are a type of digital repository designated by an institution to preserve digital objects produced under its aegis (IGI Global, n.d.). Several institutional, disciplinary, governmental, and centralized repositories aggregate content from frequent subsidiary repositories.

Tribal Cultural Heritage

Before discussing the culture of tribes, discuss cultural heritage. According to Baker (2013, p. 121) ^[1], cultural heritage includes cultures, customs, beliefs, rites, rituals, ceremonies, indigenous knowledge, social customs and traditions, arts, crafts, music, political and ideological beliefs that influence culture and behavior, history, practices concerning the natural environment, religious and scientific traditions, language, sport, food and drink, calendars, traditional clothing, cybercultures in the digital world, and emerging new cultures which will become the heritage of the future. From a particular point of view, Tribal cultural heritage is nothing but an expression of the ways of living developed by a tribal community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions, and values. The population of tribes in India, according to 2011 census data and as per updated data, is 104 million, comprise as 8.6% of the total population. And there are 705 ethnic groups recognized as scheduled tribes (IWGIA - International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, n.d.). It means.

Digital Repositories related to Tribal Culture and Heritage

Digital repositories help to preserve tribal culture in the form of the document, Video. Audio. Images and other formats from where anyone can retrieve specific information related to tribal culture worldwide. In this continuation, the Government of India has taken the initiative to preserve tribal cultural heritage for the future generation in digital platforms because India has an affluent tribal population, and they practice different cultures, but the continuous change in a lifestyle of a human being changes their culture. Hence, we must preserve culture for the next generation so that they can understand the process from where all the changes happen.

Initiatives of the Government of India

Several initiatives have been taken by India's Government to promote tribal cultural heritage and preserve their culture in the form of a repository that anyone can access. It means all the information is openly accessible. In this context, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, with the help of NIC, developed repositories that are:

1. Tribal Digital Document Repository

This is a unique digital repository of documents related to Tribes in India, developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre) and contents provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Anyone can access the documents directly through its website, "repository.tribal.gov.in," or "tribal.gov.in." Its objective is to provide a more focused approach to the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes, the most underprivileged of the Indian Society, in a coordinated and planned manner. "Tribal Digital Document Repository" provides the search and browse options related to Tribal Documents, so everyone can easily search and browse the information they need. The repository provides the facility of refining search, so everyone can easily find their relevant documents (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, n.d.).



Fig 1: Web page of Tribal Digital Document Repository.

The repository includes different documents which can be accessed by following techniques:

Browse by Title – With this option, anyone can browse documents related to tribal research. Recently 1424 documents have been available. **Browse by Researcher** – This option is helpful if someone browses a document directly by the researcher's name. There are 532 researcher names mentioned in this repository. **Browse by Completed Date** – Anyone can find document search by date with this option and browse 1424 results according to a recent update in the repository.

Browse by Keywords – 2,647 keywords can be found with this browse option as a current update. **Browse by University** – 123 universities have listed in the repository with documents related to tribes. **Browse by Tribal Research Institutes** – There are 15 results anyone can find with this search option, but there are 1,378 documents related to tribal research.

Browse by Document Type - 7 results anyone can find with this search option and browse Books (451), Dissertations (36), Handbooks (132), Journals (126), Reports (312), Researches (358), Statistical Hand Books (9).

Table 1: Categorical information of Available Documents in the Tribal Document Repository

Sr. No.	Categorical information	Numbers
1.	Tribal Research Institute (TRI)	15
1.	Documents	1,378
2.	Document Type	7
3.	Sector	23
4.	Universities	123

There are 15 Tribal Research Institutes (TRI), and the number of documents is listed below in the table:

Table 2: State-wise, Tribal Research Institutes and the number of Documents available in the repository produced by them.

Sr. No.	Name of the State and TRI	No. of Documents
1.	Odisha (SC/ST Research & Training Institute, Odisha)	485
2.	Tripura (Tribal Research & Cultural Institute, Tripura)	212
3.	Maharashtra (Tribal Research & Training Institute, Maharashtra)	154
4.	Andhra Pradesh (Tribal Research Institute, Andhra Pradesh)	150
5.	Delhi (National Tribal Research Institute)	135
6.	Assam (Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes)	123
7.	Chhattisgarh (Tribal Research & Training Institute, Chhattisgarh)	46
8.	Kerala (Kerala Institute for Research Training & Development Studies)	33
9.	Nagaland (Tribal Research Institute, Nagaland)	11
10.	IBRAD (Indian Institute of Bio Social Research and Development, West Bengal)	9
11.	Jharkhand (Tribal Research Institute, Jharkhand)	7
12.	Gujrat (Tribal Research & Training Institute, Gujrat)	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh (Tribal Research & Development Institute, Madhya Pradesh)	5
14.	FICCI (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry)	1
15.	Sikkim (Tribal Research Institute, Sikkim)	1
Total		1,378

There are some Universities enlisted in the Tribal Document Repository listed below in the table with the number of documents produced by them:

Table 3: Name of Universities/Institutes enlisted in Tribal Document Repositories with the number of documents they produced

Sr. No.	Universities/Institutes	Number of Documents
1.	SC/ST Research & Training Institute, Odisha	379
2.	Tribal Research & Cultural Institute, Tripura	191
3.	Department of Tribal Welfare Government of Andhra Pradesh	112
4.	Assam Institute of Research for Tribals & SC	108
5.	SC/ST RTI & Academy of Tribal Language and Culture	46
6.	Tribal Research & Training Institute, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	38
7.	Kerala Institute for Research Training & Development Studies	32
8.	Special Development Council, Malkangiri, Planning & Convergence Department, Govt. of Odisha	20
9.	Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh	18
10.	Tribal Research & Cultural Institute	18
11.	IIPA	18
12.	Centre for Economic and Social Studies Hyderabad	13
13.	Tribal Research Institute Assam	11
14.	Tribal and Harijan Research-cum-Training Institute (THRTI), Bhubaneswar, 751003	11
15.	Tribal Research Institute Nagaland	10
16.	Tribal Research & Training Institute, Raipur	8
17.	SC/STRTI & Special Development Council, Sundargarh, Planning and Convergence Department, Govt. of Odisha	6
18.	Mizoram University	6
19.	Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi	6
20.	Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari, Karnataka	5
21.	Tribal Research Institute, Bhopal, MP	4
22.	Hemchandracharya North Gujrat University Patan, Gujrat	4

23.	Nagaland University	4
24.	Department of ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare, Govt. of Odisha	3
25.	SC/STRTI & Special Development Council, Malkangiri, Planning and Convergence Department, Govt. of Odisha	3
26.	SC/STRTI & Special Development Council, Mayurbhanj, Planning and Convergence Department, Govt. of Odisha	3
27.	SC/ST RTI & Special Development Council, Nowrangpur, Planning and Convergence Department, Govt. of Odisha	3
28.	Jawaharlal Nehru University	3
29.	North Eastern Hill University	3
30.	Tribal Research & Cultural Institute, Tripura	2
31.	Pondicherry University	2
32.	SC/ST Research and Training Institute Odisha	2
33.	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur	2
34.	SC/ST RTI & Special Development Council, Keonjhar, Planning and Convergence Department, Govt. of Odisha	2
35.	Tribal and Harijan Research-cum-Training Institute (THRTI), Bhubaneswar, (751003)	2
36.	Gujarat University	2
37.	Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-05	2
38.	University of Hyderabad	2
39.	Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune, Maharashtra	2
40.	Bangalore University, Karnataka	2
41.	University of Mysore	2
42.	Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	2
43.	Serials Publisher (IBRAD)	2
44.	Serial Publication (IBRAD)	2
45.	Jadavpur University (IBRAD)	2
46.	Serials Publications	2
47.	University of Mysore	2
48.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	2
49.	Serial Publishers	2
50.	Assam Agriculture University, Assam	2
51.	Bodoland University	2
52.	Vikram University, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh	2
53.	Kakatiya University	2
54.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal	2
55.	Andhra University	1
56.	HNGU PATAN	1
57.	Department of Philosophy University of Madras Chennai	1
58.	The English and Foreign languages University Hyderabad	1
59.	Rajiv Gandhi University Arunachal Pradesh	1
60.	University of Kota, Rajasthan	1
61.	Panjab University Chandigarh	1
62.	Barkatullah University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	1
63.	Osmania University	1
64.	Pondicherry University, Puducherry	1
65.	Tata Institute of Social Sciences	1
66.	University of Delhi	1
67.	Annamalai University	1
68.	Pondicherry Central University	1
69.	Nagpur University	1
70.	Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur	1
71.	Gandhinagar Rural Institute	1
72.	Sikkim University, Gangtok	1
73.	Veer Narmad South Gujrat University, Surat	1
74.	Department of Agriculture Process Engineering Post Graduate Institute, Akola	1
75.	Department of Biotechnology School of Life Sciences Mizoram University, Mizoram	1
76.	Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi	1
77.	Govt. Girls P.G. collage Ratlam, M.P.	1
78.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathvada University Aurangabad	1
79.	Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	1
80.	Gauhati University, Assam	1
81.	Visvesvaraya Technological University	1
82.	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	1
83.	Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticulture University	1
84.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	1
85.	KIIT University	1
86.	Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University I	1
87.	FICCI	1
88.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth	1
89.	Tribal Research and Training Institute, Gujrat	1
90.	Manipall University	1

91.	Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Morabadi, Ranchi-9	1
92.	IBRAD CoE Kolkata	1
93.	Horticultural University Telangana	1
94.	Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh	1
95.	Assam University Silchar	1
96.	University of Agriculture Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka	1
97.	Tribal Research Institute, Madhya Pradesh Bhopal	1
98.	Tezpur University	1
99.	S. D. Agriculture University	1
100.	The English and Foreign Language University Hyderabad	1

2. Tribal Repository

“Tribal Repository” is a unique digital repository related to tribes in India, developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, and hosted by the National Informatics Centre (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, n.d.)

In the repository, resources related to tribal culture are categorically divided into the form of Photos, Videos, Links, Audio, Documents, and records of national-level photo competitions. In this context number of different resources are listed below:

Table 4: Categorical information of Types of resources and their numbers available in Tribal Repository.

Sr. No.	Types of resources	Number of resources
1.	Photos	9,473
2.	Videos	156
3.	External Links (YouTube)	61
4.	Audios	215
5.	Documents	551
6.	Photo Competition	284

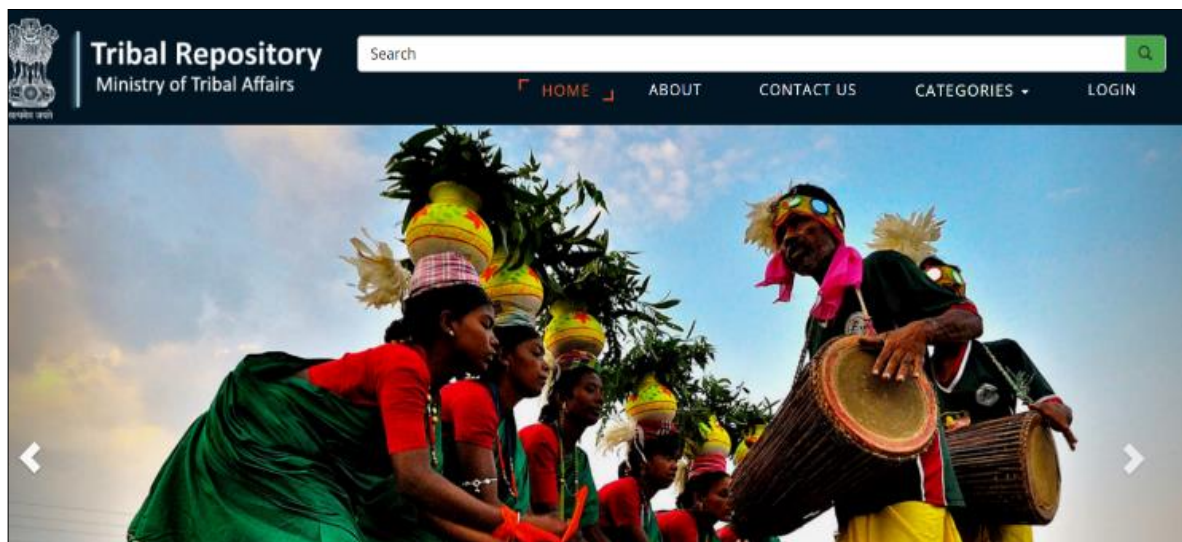


Fig 2: Web page of Tribal Repository

Different links for notifications and updates related to the Tribal Repository and research like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Main Website (Ministry of Tribal Affairs), Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) has been Constituted in all the ten states having Scheduled Areas, namely Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan to ensure welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes in the State.

The National Tribal Research Portal facilitates the Tribal Research Institute (TRIs), Centre of Excellence (CoEs) & Research Institutes recognized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India to submit their Sanctioned Project Details under various Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. The portal also provides organizations to submit the quarterly status of the Sanctioned Project. In Dashboard, all information related to TRI and Project can be accessible. Tribal Department of different states provides all kinds of data related to Tribes that can be accessible to anyone in Official and Regional Languages. Institutional Repositories provide resources related to tribal research, cultures, and activities done for the

development of tribes, but sometimes resources are not accessible to all.

Tribal Research Institutes' resources can be accessed directly going through TRI websites.

A researcher has analyzed that all the documents, videos, images, and audio are available to all and in one search option.

Discussion

The current paper discussed the Digital Repositories to preserve tribal cultural heritage and mentioned different repositories created by the Government of India, so anyone can access relevant and authentic information from one website. But still, improvement is needed to collect data related to the lifestyle of Tribal people and their communities across India. In the Tribal Document Repository, many Universities and TRI are enlisted with their work except Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Amarkantak headquarter and regional centre Manipur. While IGNTU is a central university producing most research documents on tribal culture, there is no document from the University in the Tribal Document Repository. Madhya Pradesh, one of India's most populated states, has

the highest tribal population in the country, touching a galloping number of 15.31 million and covering 21.1% of the State's population (Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis, n.d.).

But in the repository, significantly fewer documents are shown related to tribal culture and the lifestyle of Madhya Pradesh.

After analysis, the researcher found a significant contribution to the tribal repository by the Government of Odisha.

Digitalization of documents is needed to disseminate the cultural practice of Tribal people worldwide for the global connection and development of the nation. Because tribal communities are close to the environment, they can teach us the value of using natural products without harming them. They have many resources created by themselves, which can be added as images and Videos. Those resources and cultures can be used to teach them by correlating with different subjects. Different and Unique culture Practiced by Tribal Community is beneficial in various sectors of National Development.

Suggestions/Policy recommendations

For the shake of knowledge and to preserve the culture of tribes in the form of digital content or objects Government is taking initiatives to disseminate the information about digital content among a large population; some suggestions are given below:

1. Tribal museums in different states can be connected through digital content with in-depth information.
2. Awareness Programmes related to using Digital repositories in different sectors and educational levels with the collaboration of Tribal departments and schools, higher education institutes, etc.
3. A state-wise browse option can be added to the repository.
4. To increase the resources in different forms, encourage students' participation in the production of video content, photo collection, audio recordings, and documentation of the culture of Tribes by conducting competitions and programs based on tribal lifestyles in those schools situated in the tribal area.
5. NGOs, Government bodies, Freelancers, Academics, Researchers, representatives of different tribal communities, and Students can collaborate and make a chain to circulate knowledge and information to preserve cultural heritage for upcoming generations in a digitalized format.
6. Every aspect of the life of tribes can be recorded as digital content available to all.
7. Institutions can give assignments to their students to collect actual data, records, and observations by engaging themselves in the tribal community, which can be helpful for digitization.
8. Project-based on Digitization of Tribal Cultures can be promoted by the higher institutes or Govt. of different states.

Conclusion

Research in the lifestyle of the Tribal community and their documentation in the digital platform is necessary to disseminate their culture worldwide or for the future generation in this context; Tribal Digital Repository will play a significant role. The Government of India has taken

the initiative to preserve tribal cultural heritage for their development and to ensure their participation in national development. All the people of India from different sectors working in tribal development can contribute to the digitalization of every finding and global recognition.

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