

SAMVAAD FELLOWSHIP CONCEPT NOTE

Samvaad Fellowship is an initiative born under the Samvaad ecosystem (link below) in the year 2017 aspiring to address one of the ecosystem's core objectives *"to document and hence, preserve a body of knowledge and a world view that runs the risk of being obliterated"*. The Fellowship envisions supporting initiatives/ ideas which are aligned towards conservation of any lesser known indigenous practices from tribal cultures which are vulnerable and are not part of a large conservation effort and thus run the risk of being lost. This will mean the loss of the unique identity of that particular community and therefore part of the beautiful diversity of our nation's myriad mix of cultures. The journey has been exciting with the diversity of cultural ideas that it has witnessed. The Fellowship provides some initial financial support and mentoring towards meeting this objective.

In total, at present we have 22 Samvaad Fellows, who are working on myriad aspects of culture but at the same time have very little or no exposure to execute a project. Therefore, a workshop is designed every year to help fellows develop skills & co-create an ambience of learning and get a chance to interact with experts who have both knowledge and experience of cultural conservation. The workshop focuses on the following objectives:

- Address any skill gaps of Fellows which is a source of reduced confidence thus hindering their progress.
- Exchange of ideas with academicians and development practitioners to improve the Samvaad Fellowship.
- Create a pool of mentors for the Fellows who can provide guidance, inspiration and support in navigating their journey of cultural conservation.
- Catalyze a grassroots cultural movement through igniting one committed individual's interest, respect and pride in the unique identity of his / her own tribe.
- Create a sense of belonging amongst the Fellows and encourage co-learning among them by structuring an alumni network.

PROFILE-

1. Pourangkam (Aakam Pame), 30, Male, Zeliang, Nagaland, from the Centre for learning knowledge and skills is a finalist for Samvaad Fellowship Programme 2021. His area of research encapsulates, "Attributes of Cultural and traditional dress preservation and it's usage in the modern Zeliang Naga society."
2. Palden Lepcha, 22, Male, Lepcha, finalist from Sikkim wants to bring back endangered indigenous handicraft to life through his project: SUMOK THAKTYUK (traditional indigenous Lepcha hat made out of bamboo and cane)\
3. Dr. David Hanneng, 32, Male, Kuki, finalist of Samvaad Fellowship 2021, from Nagaland, intends to preserve the folk tales of the Kukis of Nagaland before the few old people who remember the stories are no more with us. Kukis of Nagaland are very unique and different from the Kukis elsewhere and no work has been done on Kuki folk lore of Nagaland so far.

4. Makan Babison Chothe, 25, Male, Chote, Samvaad Fellowship finalist, from Manipur, deals in his research the Documentation and conservation of Chothe Indigenous Cuisine with its customary relevance.
5. Kuvethilu Thuluo, 26, Female, Chakhesang of Mt. Olive College is a finalist of Samvaad Fellowship from Nagaland. Her area of research includes-- Preservation of Feast of Merit Monoliths in Phusachodu village, Phek, Nagaland.
6. Setpuone Silsi, 34, Male, Lamkang of Lamkang Students' Union is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021 from the state of Manipur, whose research deals with the Conservation of Lamkang Musical Instrument "Reelruu" - 'An instrument invented from the dream'.
7. Anuranjan Kiro, 26, Male, Kharia is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021 from the state of Jharkhand. His area of research dwells in the Preservation of Kharia Folk song and folk stories through digital media (Project Dudh Kharia).
8. Amabel Susngi, 26, Female, Khasi (sub-tribe Pnar) is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021, from the state of Meghalaya. Her project includes "Documenting, musical notations, audio recording, and dissemination of Khasi tribal lullabies for parents and families in Khasi and English."
9. Aamna Khatun, 30, Female, Van Gujjar is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021, from the state of Uttarakhand. Her area of research focuses on Van Gujjar Nomadic Life in Changing Times: Stories of community women looking at indigenous knowledge, culture traditions and experiences from the lens of Van Gujjar Women.
10. Tokala Leeladhar, 27, Male, Chenchu is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021 from the state of Telangana. His quest is to identify our food; what our ancestors ate, and go back to our roots to make sure our next generations consume the same and live a healthy life.
11. Jatwang Wangsa, 37, Male, Wancho of DDSE Longding, is a finalist at Samvaad Fellowship, 2021, from the state of Arunachal Pradesh. His primary area of research includes the documentation of Pongwan festival followed by the Wancho tribe.

12. Nungchim Casimir Tijaangsha, Female, Moyon is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021, from the state of Manipur. Through her research, she intends to collect, revive, rediscover and enrich Moyon forgotten words- because of influence of bigger neighbouring communities and because of students who go out of the community to study elsewhere as a result of which the language is not given importance and is neglected by the younger generation.
13. Sonanklal Kende Batheker, 36, Male from the Korku tribe, of Diocesan Social Service Society, in Manipur is a finalist at Samvaad Fellowship, 2021. His area of research deals with the festival of tribal Korku tribe.
14. Roshankumar Puroshuttambhai Chaudhary, 35, Male, Chaudhary is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021 from the state of Gujarat. His area of research includes preservation and Redevelopment of Chowdhury Tribal Folk Instruments – A Step towards Self-Reliance (with reference to South Gujarat).
15. Pramod Bajirao Kale, 31, Male, Phase Pardhi, is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021 from the state of Maharashtra. His intention, through his research is to promote this important heritage language of the tribal Pardhi tribe located in the state of Maharashtra and help in the development of the society through the study of the language.
16. Sujit Kumar Bhuyan, 31, Male, Lanjia Saura from Lokshishan Pratisithan is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021 from the state of Odisha. His research thesis is entitled, “NungNung: A Life tune of Langia Saura.”
17. Ramchandran C, Male, Kurichian, is a finalist at the Samvaad Fellowship, 2021 from the state of Kerala. His area of research deals with the visual documentation of life and culture of Kurichiya tribes of Wayanad through a visual ethnographic journey.