Sahitya Vedi

Government College Mananthavady

<u>Report of the One -Day Symposium on "Tribal Language and Culture"</u> 11 March 2022

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Sahitya Vedi, Govt. College Mananthavady conducted a one-day symposium on "Tribal Language and Culture", on 11 March 2022.

The Inaugural session began at 9.30 a.m. Mr. K. P. Radhakrishnan, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the gathering and spoke about the objectives and aims of Sahitya Akademi. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Abdul Salam K., Principal-in-Charge, Govt. College Mananthavady. Dr. Mini Prasad, member, Malayalam Advisory board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the inaugural address. She pointed out the importance of tribal languages and how they could be protected and preserved. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Sukumaran Chaliggadda, a Gothra poet. He spoke about the languages of different tribal communities which are the "Soul of tribal culture". He spoke in detail about Ravula community, and their language. Dr. Sarath S., Asst. Professor, Dept. of English, proposed the vote of thanks. The inaugural session was over by 11 a.m.

After the inaugural function, the first session of the symposium started at 11.15 a.m., which was chaired by Ms. Vidya S. Chandran, Assistant Professor of English, Govt. College Mananthavady. Mr. Vasudevan Cheekkallur started the session with his presentation on the Paniya community. He enriched the session with his innate style of speech on the origin, language, culture and traditions of Paniya community. He also pointed out the exploitative practices that haunt the Paniya community. He also presented a copy of his novel 'Veliyattu' to Dr. Rameshan K., Assistant Professor of Malayalam, Govt. College Mananthavady. The next paper presentation was on Kurichiya community by Mr. K.K. Kelu. He elaborated on their origins, festivals and language. He highlighted the cultural practices and linguistic peculiarities of the community. Ms. Sindhu Kali Cheeng Keer, presented a paper on 'Bettu Kuruma' community. She sang songs from Bettu Kuruma language. She also recited one of her own poems written in Bettu Kuruma language. The first session of the symposium ended at 1.00 p.m.

The second session began at 2.00 p.m., chaired by Mr. Sudheer Kumar P., Asst. Professor of History, Govt. College Mananthavady. Three research scholars presented their papers. The session started with Mr. Vasu M.P. presenting his paper on the topic "Life of Kattunaykkar and Their Culture". The second paper was presented by M. Biju K.K. on "Mullu Kuruma Community – Their Songs and Literature". Unlike other tribal communities, Mullu Kuruma do have written literature, and also their songs are influenced by Jain community. He concluded his presentation by reciting some riddles and proverbs in Mullu Kuruma language.

The final presentation was on "The culture and Life of Adiyas" by Dr. Rameshan K., Assistant Professor of Malayalam, Govt. College Mananthavady. He recalled the contributions of Sri. P.K. Kalan. He also explained in detail the cultural practices of the Adiya community and the peculiarities of their oral literature. The one-day symposium on "Tribal language and culture" was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Rameshan K., Coordinator, Sahitya Vedi, Govt. College Mananthavady.











