

BEST PRACTICES

Chandrakona Vidyasagar Mahavidyalaya

Chandrakona Town, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India. PIN 721201

BEST PRACTICE-1:

Title: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUITY VISION of the College

Objectives:

- ❖ To bring awareness about redressal mechanism in case of sexual harassment, ragging, eve-teasing and dowry system
- ❖ Involve social activists and legal experts to enlighten the girl students on human rights and equal opportunities
- ❖ Organize debates and discussions on gender equality and women empowerment
- ❖ Awareness programs on women related health problems

Context: The college organized several awareness programs and activities to empower female students. As the gender sensitization programs revealed several disparities and inequalities, people especially the other gender, urged discussing gender and roles of gender. Similarly, the various legal protective provisions for women were misunderstood as undue favour meant to belittle men. Under this circumstance, the college has created an exclusive cell for women and encouraged girl students to participate in the programs on gender sensitizations.

Practice:

- The college has involved significant number of female volunteers in the NSS unit of the college.
- The program officers, coordinator and the volunteers of NSS unit and women's cell have implemented the awareness programs in consultation with NGOs, Legal and Health Experts and Government officials for the protection of women's rights and actively empower women creating conditions for gaining confidence in their abilities.

- College aims to prevent social evils like eve-teasing, ragging and dowry system providing necessary counselling and guidance.

The College has organized several awareness programs so far extensively and some of them are:

- Webinar on "Gender Inequality - Consent - Sexual Harassment" on 26th June 2021
- “Politics of Intersectionality: Feminism ...” on 4th March, 2022
- Women's Cell and NSS organized a Free Health Check-up Camp for Women on 12th and 19th November, 2022
- Celebration of International Women’s Day on 8th March, 2022
- Gender Awareness Postcards by Zuban shared with interested students and strategies to carry forward the discussion of Gender Equality at home and community on 10th March, 2022

Community female role models are crucial for changing stereotypical perceptions on gender. The college provides this platform by entrusting women with leadership roles.

Evidence of Success:

Women empowerment and gender equity concerns the rights and benefits, obligations and opportunity among the students in the college. As such, the girl students are spontaneously participated in the different programs and activities of the college with the boy students in every aspect.

- ICC, Grievance Redressal mechanism and Shree: Women’s Cell
- Participated in the event of Women's Cell of the other college (Garbeta College)
- Observance of International Women’s Day every year on 8 March
- CCTV surveillance
- 24-hour Security staff
- Art and Posters on Women’s Empowerment and College Helpline
- Implementation of guidelines for Gender Champions in college

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- ❖ To ensure all round support and participation of female teachers and girl students in the programs is a tough task.

- ❖ Organizing various programs during working hours, sometimes, has led to sacrifice the classes.
- ❖ More vocational courses and Special computer training programmes are needed to be introduced in the college to provide girls with the necessary skills for achieving financial independence.

Best Practice-2

Title of the Practice:

Promotion of the Indigenous Culture and Local Knowledge Systems

Objectives of the Practice:

- Encourage inclusive environment and provide a common platform for the present generation from both dominant and marginalized groups may exchange their ideas, technology and culture
- Spread awareness among students about the underprivileged inhabitants of our district
- Protection and preservation of the popular customs, skills, wall painting (*'Bhit Potaw'* / *'Rangoli' design*) and other practices of tribal communities.

The Context:

Young people are mainly concern to the cutting-edge techniques and modern facilities. It is very important for a good society that the students and youth must be connected to the roots by knowing their traditions and indigenous culture. A significant number of students from Santali community take admission in our college every year. We need to preserve their cultural diversity and protect the rights.

The Practice:

Chandrakona Vidyasagar Mahavidyalaya has taken the following initiatives to promote the indigenous culture:

- **Honours programme in the Santali language** has been introduced in 2019. In the academic session 2022-23, the Santali department is running with total 101 number of students including all three years.
- The college has celebrated the following events to make coming generations aware of the freedom movements by tribal community:
 - **HUL DIWAS on 30th June**
 - **JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS on 15th November**

➤ **SANTALI BHASA DIVAS on the 22nd December**

- Santal students participate in cultural programmes and perform Santali dance with folk music instruments like flutes, pipes and drums on campus
- An advisory board for Adivasi studies has been formed by the eminent Professors of Santali from Vidyasagar University and its affiliated colleges.
- A **Centre for Adivasi Studies** has been established for the first time among all affiliated colleges of Vidyasagar University.
- Various **traditional musical instruments** are displayed and preserved in the **museum** to create interest about the indigenous culture.
- The centre for Adivasi Studies organizes workshops on indigenous skills, arts, crafts etc.

Evidence of Success:

- Introduced three-year Santali honours programme in college. Students can opt Santali language as general course also.
- Better ethnic cooperation and ethnic harmony in the institution, digitalization of some old manuscripts in Santali, learning various indigenous ethnic skills related to arts and crafts, mutual respect for each other etc.
- The Covid guidelines *has been translated in Santali* and broadcasted through FM 90.8 MHz and Internet radio station of Vidyasagar University.
- Providing 100% scholarship to tribal students

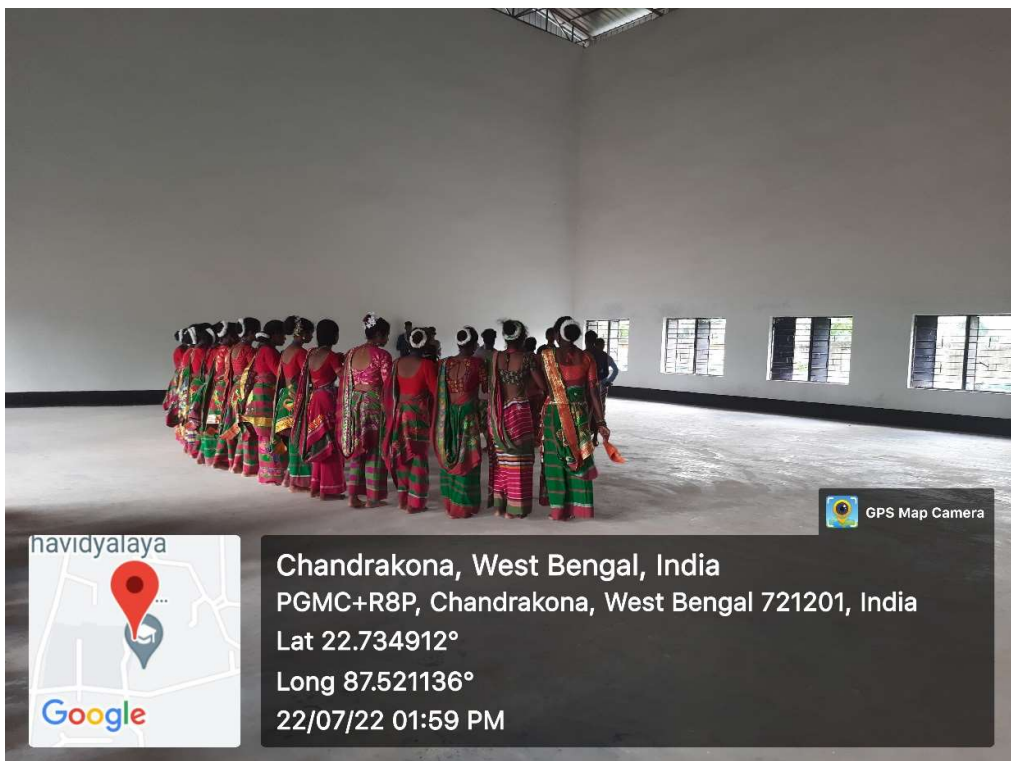
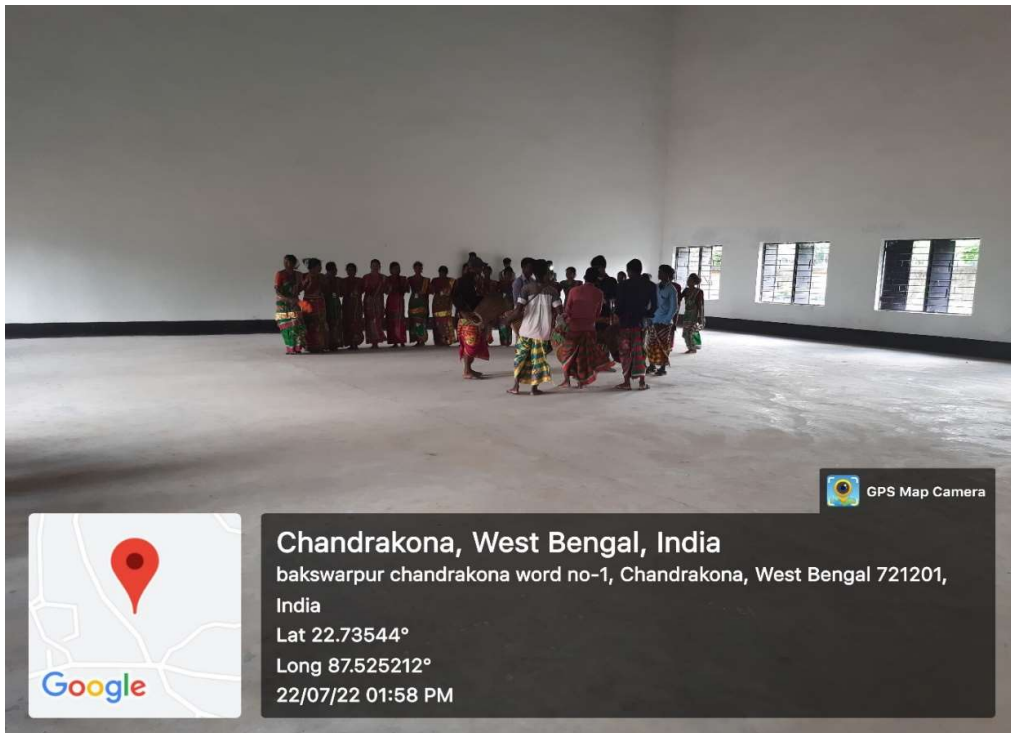
Problems Encountered and Resources: We have not faced any problem in promoting indigenous culture. However, organising activities for students without disrupting the academic schedules in a semester system is challenging. While organising the Santali programme in the college, necessary funds are released by the college to make their events successful. Financial Support or sponsorship is necessary for the implementation of students' cultural programs or to host any program related to this practice.

Future Plan:

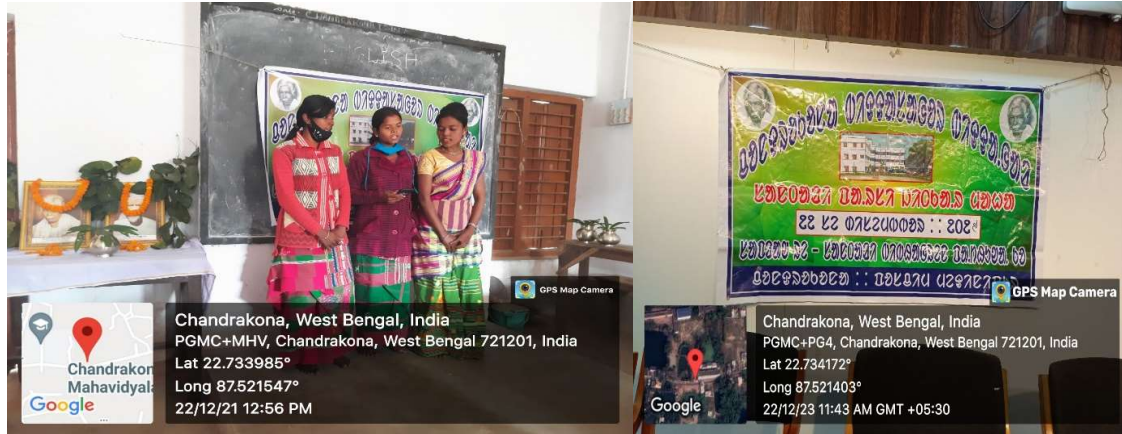
- Translation of Santali literature
- Expansion of the Museum
- Separate Website for Adivasi Studies
- Introduce fellowship for researchers

Promotion of Indigenous Culture and Local Knowledge System

Students of Chandrakona Vidyasagar Mahavidyalaya practicing folk dance



Photographs 1-3: Programme organized by the Department of Santhali on 22 December, 2021 & 2023 to celebrate the SANTHALI BHASA DIVAS



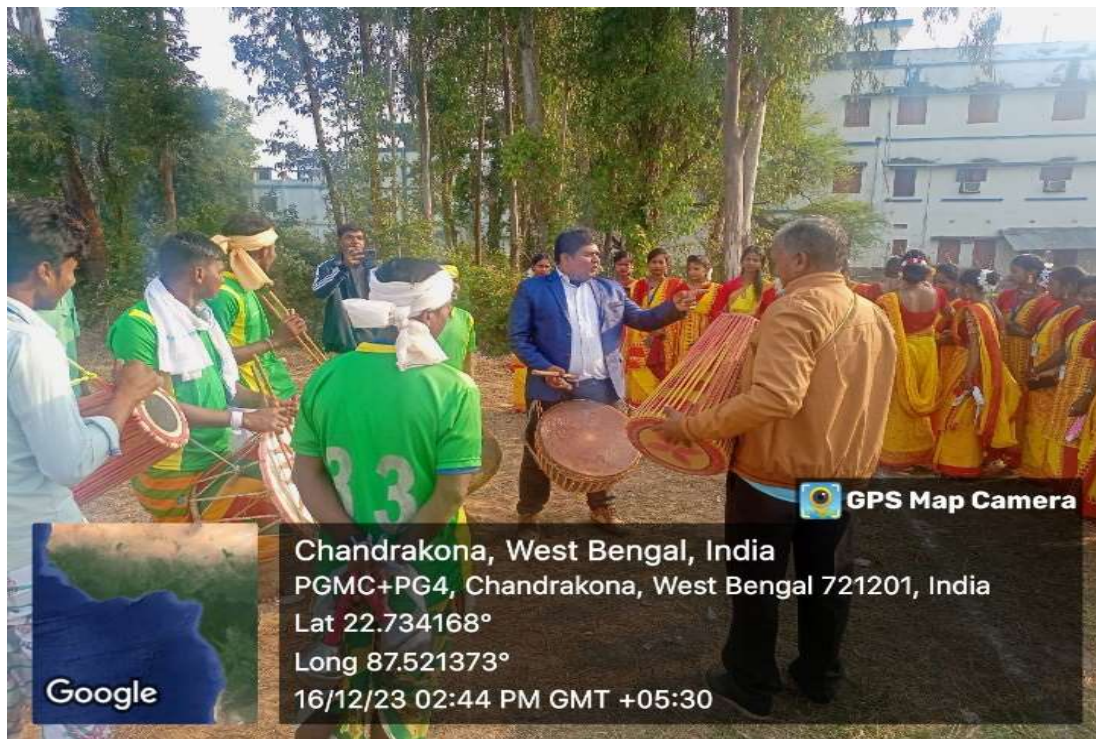
Photographs 1-2: Inaugural ceremony of the Centre for Adivasi Studies and cultural programme organized by the department of Santhali on 16 December, 2023



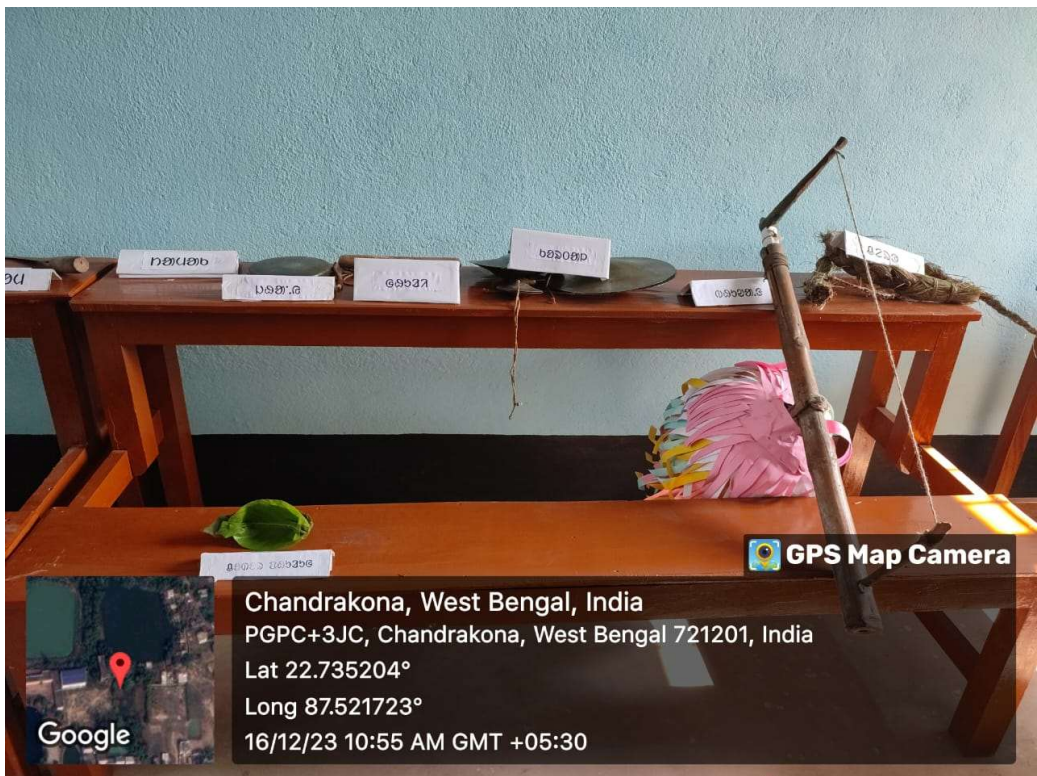
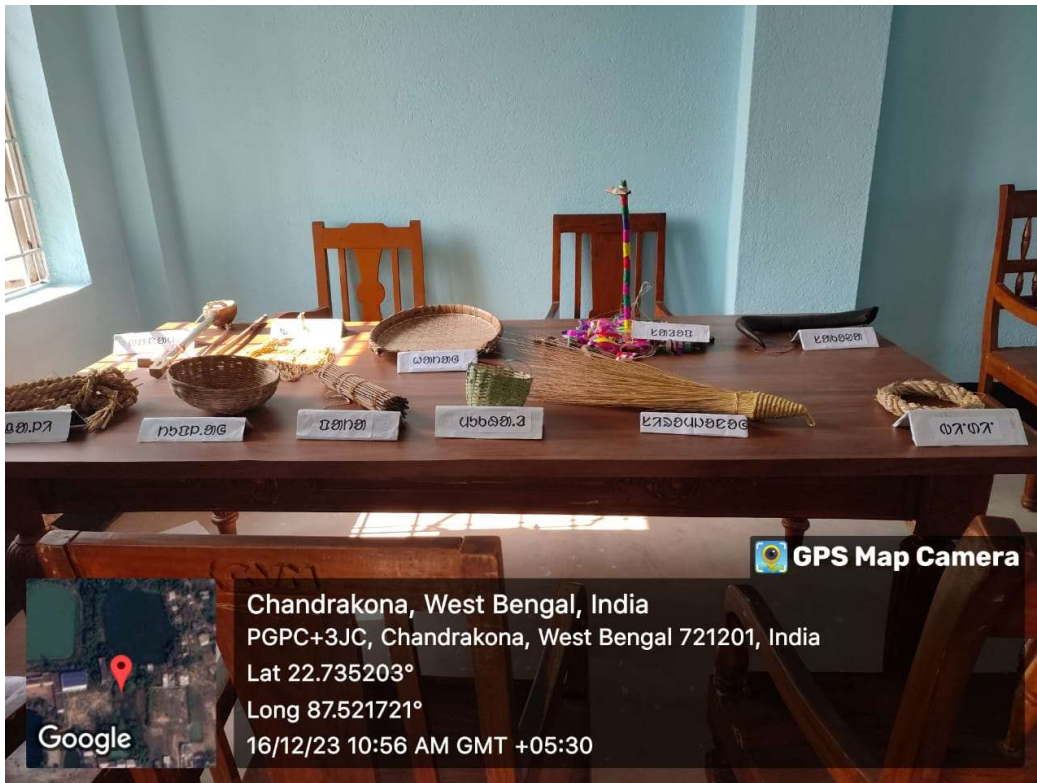
Photographs 1-2: The Cultural programme organized by the department of Santhali at the college campus



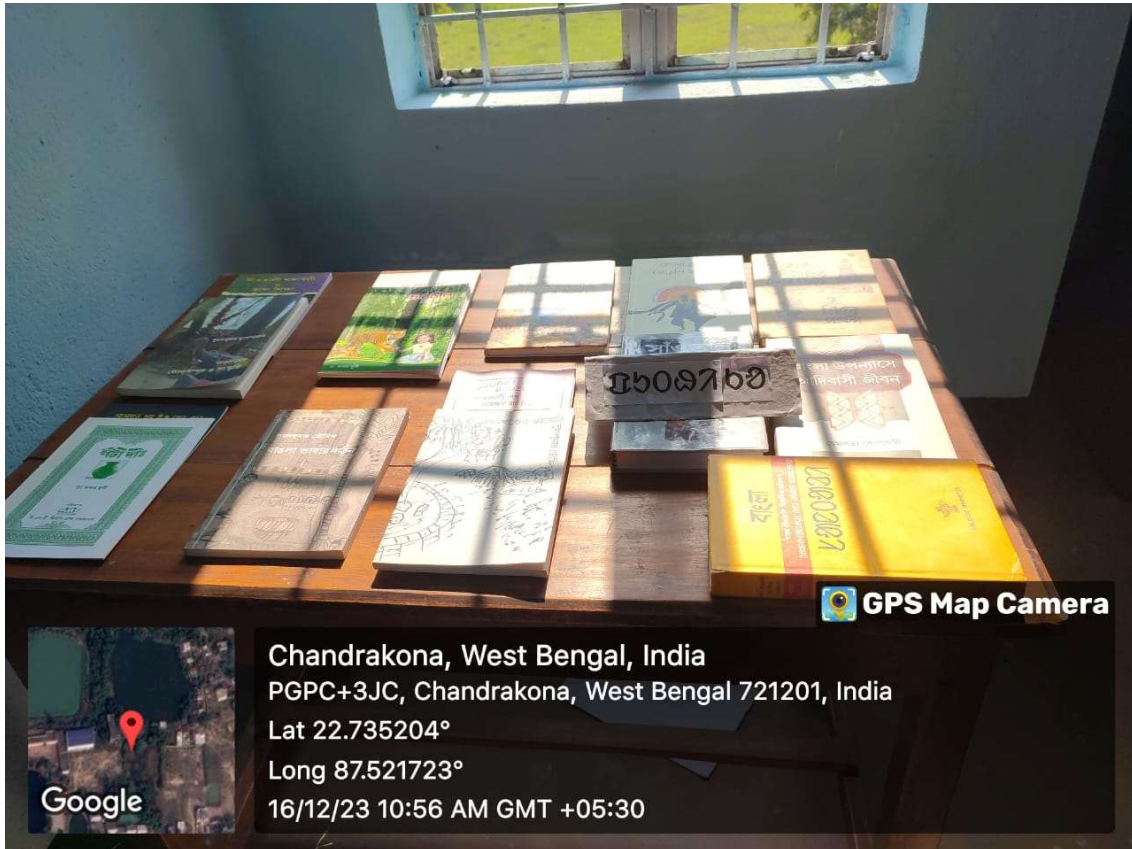
Photographs 3-4: The Cultural programme organized by the department of Santhali at the college campus



Photographs 1-6: Display of the Arts, handcrafts, Indigenous tools, Ol Chiki script, books etc. in the Centre for Adivasi Studies.







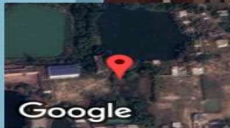
GPS Map Camera



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Photographs 1-3: Traditional Santali Houses and Painting on the walls

