

Goa University

Name of Directorate: Directorate of Visiting Research Professor Programme

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Government College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Khandola Report on Public Lecture

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1. Title of the Event/Activity/program	Public lecture by Prof. Anvita Abbi (Padma Shree) on Topic: Documentation of Oral Tradition			
2. Date and Time	24 th January 2025 11:00 am to 1:00 pm			
3. Mode of conduct (Physical/Online)	Physical			
4. School/ Directorate/ Section	Directorate of Visiting Research Professor Programme			
6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	Enclosed			
7. Number of Faculty attended/participated	32			
8. Number of Student attended / participated	62			
9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants	10			
10. The objectives of the Program/activity/event	 To safeguard oral traditions songs, folktales, myths, and rituals that are at risk of disappearing due to language loss or cultural assimilation. To document traditional ecological knowledge, medicinal practices, and 			

	 community wisdom embedded in oral narratives, which are often not found in written sources. To support the passing of oral traditions from elders to younger generations by creating accessible archives and educational tools. To compile phonetic, grammatical, and semantic data that contribute to linguistic research and help in reconstructing linguistic and cultural histories. To validate and celebrate the identity of indigenous and marginalized communities by acknowledging the richness of their oral heritage.
11. Description of the Program/activity/event	Prof. Anvita Abbi's public lecture on "Documentation of Oral Tradition" was held in an academic setting with an audience comprising students, scholars, and language enthusiasts. She delivered her talk using a combination of engaging oral presentation, visual slides, and multimedia clips from her fieldwork, showcasing examples of endangered languages and oral traditions from various indigenous communities in India. The lecture was structured to provide both theoretical insights and practical case studies, emphasizing the urgency of preserving intangible cultural heritage. The session concluded with an interactive discussion, allowing the audience to ask questions and delve deeper into the subject.
12. Benefit/Key outcomes of the Program/activity/event	The lecture by Prof. Anvita Abbi highlighted the importance of preserving oral traditions and endangered languages. It emphasized the urgency of documentation to safeguard cultural heritage and showcased real-life examples from her fieldwork. The session inspired greater interest in linguistic and cultural research and raised awareness about the need to protect indigenous knowledge systems.
13. Enclosures with report	Photos, Attendance of participants, Bio Data of resource person.

Bio Data

Prof. Anvita Abbi

A Ph. D. from Cornell University, N.Y., USA, Anvita Abbi is a rigorous researcher, a highly respected teacher and guide, a successful administrator, and a distinguished academic from Jawaharlal Nehru University where she taught for four decades. Maintaining the noblest traditions of academia, she combines her scholarship with effortless humility and kindness. She is undoubtedly one of the world's most distinguished researchers on minority languages. In the case of the vast Indian subcontinent, she may be the only one who has conducted first-hand field research on all the six families of languages spoken here. She identified a new language family of India, i.e., the Great Andamanese. Her research was corroborated by population genetics. The Government of India recognized her pioneering work in the form of bestowing upon her the Padma Shri in 2013. Her Manual of Linguistic Fieldwork and the Structures of Indian Languages (Lincom Europa, Germany, 2001) is a prominent reference book consulted the world over by linguists working on the languages of South Asia.

She was awarded one of the most prestigious linguistics awards by the Linguistic Society of America USA the Kenneth Hale Award (2015) for her outstanding lifetime contributions to the documentation and description of languages of India, with a particular note of her extraordinary contributions to the documentation of the Great Andamanese language, a moribund language that is a key isolate in understanding the peopling of Asia and Oceania.

It is because of her undeniable stature in the field that she has been invited as a Visiting professor and researcher at prestigious institutes in the USA, Germany, UK, Canada, and Australia. She has immense experience in field linguistics, language documentation, and analysis of ethno-linguistic aspects of language use. Her wide experience of working on tribal languages of Jharkhand, Northeast, and Andaman and Nicobar makes her a truly rare linguist. Her experience of working with minorities and tribals has motivated her to write extensively on language and education policy. She served as the UNESCO expert on language issues. At present, she serves on the Expert Committee of the UNESCO World Atlas of Languages and is an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada in addition to holding the B. B. Borkar Chair for Comparative Literature in Goa University.

Poster





Directorate of Visiting Research Professors Programme KAVIVARYA BAKIBAB ALIAS B.B. BORKAR CHAIR IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND

GOVT. COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE, KHANDOLA MARCELA



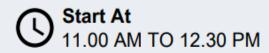
PUBLIC LECTURE BY

PROF. ANVITA ABBI (PADMA SHRI)

VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSOR UNDER B.B.BORKAR CHAIR PROFESSOR IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, GOA UNIVERSITY









TOPIC: DOCUMENTATION OF ORAL TRADITION

LECTURE COORDINATOR: PROF. (DR.) PRAKASH VAZRIKAR, HOD,
DEPARTMENT OF KONKANI
GOVT. COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE, KHANDOLA
MARCELA

PROF. (DR.) PURNAKALA SAMANT GOVT. COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE, KHANDOLA MARCELA

DR. PRAKASH S. PARIENKAR DIRECTOR, VRPP

Attendance Sheet

Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce Khandola, Marcela - Goa.

Programme: Public lecture

Date: 24 01 25 [11:00-12:30]

Name of the Guest Prof. Anvila Abbi

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Photos



Prof. Anvita Abbi delivering her lecture



Students and faculties attentively listening to Prof. Anvita Abbi's lecture



Participants asking their questions to Prof. Anvita Abbi



Group Photo with Prof. Anvita Abbi, College Principal, Faculty members and students of the College

Signature:

Name of coordinator: Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Vazrika

Designation: HOD, Department of Konkani,

for Halley

Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Khandola.

Date: 24th January, 2025

Signature
Director, VRPP
Director
VISITING RESEARCH
PROFESSORS PROGRAMME