

Project 13: Narrating Tribal Stories

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Brief description: Tribal literature forms an integral part of our literary traditions. Tribal folk tales are not only rich in local knowledge but also in universal wisdom. But most of this knowledge is in an oral form, hence is often neglected. This documentation, done in the last semester is being carried forward in this project by collecting and narrativising life stories of tribals. For this, the project team has decided to research and explore tribal life, people, and their imagination in greater depth, and then learn to use their life stories imaginatively. The project will explore tribal cultures, available literature and folklore of tribal communities in India which would help us to identify certain tribal cultures. This shall be done through workshops conducted by various professionals specializing in these fields, visits to art exhibitions and research in the IGNCAs about the tribal cultures. We hope to collect stories in their original form and then narrativize them. In-depth collaborative work among the members is expected for each aspect of the project such as reviewing and selecting, translating and illustrating stories. The aim is to bring out an anthology of tribal stories eventually. The social significance of the project is to attempt to build an archive of the 'unheard' and 'soon to disappear' real stories that deal with the vivid experiences of adivasis. The stories will aim at comprehending the dignity of tribal life stories and cultures.

