

NATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON
INCLUSION OF 'CULTURE' IN HIGHER EDUCATION
CONCEPT NOTE

Culture is generally classified as tangible and intangible. Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts. The multidimensional culture includes not only the antiques, monuments and such other materials but even the customs, etiquettes and traditions that are handed over to posterity orally. They are manifested in our festivals, pilgrimages, food preparations and so on. Such cultural practices of India have evoked a great admiration and respect abroad. India is a country having a large number of such repositories of rich cultural resource. The rising interest of the foreign students and researchers to do research on these practices is an indicator of the same. Presently, the countries with not much cultural legacy also project their culture and incorporate Cultural Studies in their respective school and university curricula. On this background if we train our younger citizens to have expertise in culture there will not be a dearth of employability. It is high time that we make conscious efforts to show-case various facets of our culture through education. Over the years various skills have been involved in the realm of arts and crafts, customs and practices that have been instrumental in the creation of the unique identity of India. However, there is a danger of these skills being wiped out in the wave of globalisation. Inclusion of 'culture' into education will lead to reverential formalisation of the skills. The workshop aims at creating awareness about marketability of cultural resource through educational programmes at different levels.