



Understanding and Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage



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Introduction:

Intangible cultural heritage encompasses the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills that communities, groups, and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This course provides a comprehensive understanding of intangible heritage, its significance, and methods for its preservation and promotion.

Targeted Groups:

- Cultural heritage professionals.
- Museum and archive staff.
- Educators and researchers in cultural studies.
- Community leaders and activists.
- Policymakers in the culture and heritage sectors.
- Students of anthropology, history, and related fields.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, the participants will be able to:

- Define and explain the concept of intangible cultural heritage.
- Identify different forms and examples of intangible heritage.
- Assess the importance of intangible heritage in cultural identity and diversity.
- Develop strategies for safeguarding and promoting intangible heritage.
- Collaborate with communities to document and transmit intangible heritage.

Targeted Competencies:

- Cultural awareness and sensitivity.
- Heritage management and preservation.
- Community engagement and collaboration.
- Research and documentation skills.
- Policy development and advocacy.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Understanding Intangible Cultural Heritage:

- Definition and Scope of Intangible Heritage.
- Explanation of intangible heritage.
- Differences between tangible and intangible heritage.
- Categories of intangible heritage.
- Importance of Intangible Heritage.
- Role in cultural identity and continuity.
- Contribution to cultural diversity and creativity.
- Economic and social benefits.
- Examples of Intangible Heritage.
- Oral traditions and expressions.
- Performing arts.
- Social practices, rituals, and festive events.
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe.
- Traditional craftsmanship.

Unit 2: Documentation and Research Methods:

- Fieldwork Techniques.
- Ethnographic methods.
- Participatory research.
- Oral history interviews.
- Recording and Archiving Intangible Heritage.
- Audio and video recording techniques.
- Digital archiving.
- Ethical considerations in documentation.
- Case Studies.
- Successful documentation projects.
- Lessons learned and best practices.

Unit 3: Community Involvement and Empowerment:

- Role of Communities in Heritage Preservation.
- Importance of community involvement.
- Collaborative approaches.
- Strategies for Community Engagement.
- Workshops and training programs.
- Awareness-raising campaigns.
- Capacity-building initiatives.
- Case Studies.
- Examples of community-led heritage projects.
- Challenges and successes.

Unit 4: Policy and Legal Frameworks:

- International Conventions and Agreements.
- UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Other relevant international frameworks.
- National and Local Policies.
- Developing and implementing heritage policies.
- Role of government and non-governmental organizations.
- Advocacy and Policy Development.
- Strategies for influencing policy.
- Building networks and coalitions.

Unit 5: Strategies for Safeguarding and Promotion:

- Education and Transmission.
- Formal and informal educational programs.
- Role of schools and universities.
- Cultural Tourism and Intangible Heritage.
- Sustainable tourism practices.
- Challenges and opportunities.
- Media and Technology.
- Using digital platforms for promotion.
- Social media and public engagement.
- Funding and Resource Mobilization.
- Identifying funding sources.
- Writing grant proposals.
- Building partnerships.