



Department of Applied Research
School of Health Sciences and Rural Development
Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University)
Gandhigram - 624 302
Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu



THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
School of Health Sciences and Rural Development
Department of APPLIED RESEARCH
Organizes
International Conference on
“From Local Wisdom to Global Futures:
Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainability, and Empowerment”
7-9, January, 2026

Call for papers

Theme of the conference

This conference on “From Local Wisdom to Global Futures: Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainability, and Empowerment” attempts to provide a vibrant platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration among academicians, research scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders from across the world. Indigenous knowledge holds eternal key for modern challenges and this conference attempts to uphold the importance of it and emphasize the intersection of sustainable development, community empowerment and inclusive growth. It aims to explore the significance of local wisdom and how it can contribute to addressing the pressing global issues such as inequality, climate change, environment degradation and sustainable development goals.

The conference will highlight innovative ways to integrate traditional knowledge with contemporary science and technology, while promoting inclusive growth and social justice. Special attention will be given to women empowerment of women, youth, marginalized and elderly who will play pivotal roles in sustaining cultural heritage and be the driving force of transformative change. Ultimate aim of the conference is not just mere survival of the indigenous knowledge but also prospers in shaping sustainable, equitable, and robust global futures.

Rationale for the Conference

Indigenous knowledge is a timeless repository of sustainable practices, cultural heritage and social justice. In an era of Artificial Intelligence/Machine learning and climate change, it becomes crucial to revisit these local wisdoms and contextualize them in shaping sustainable global futures. This conference seeks to highlight how indigenous practices can inform policy, technology, and empowerment strategies while fostering inclusivity and resilience. By bringing together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders, the event aims to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge systems and contemporary global challenges.

Subthemes

- *Indigenous knowledge & cultural heritage*
- *Environment and sustainability*
- *Empowerment, rights and social transformation*
- *Intergenerational knowledge transfer*
- *Innovation, technology and global futures*
- *Local models to successful global applications*

RESOURCE PERSONS



Dr. Monika Pfaller-Rott
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Dr. Anita Gulczyńska
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Dr. Doris Boehler
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Dr. P. Muthuraman
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Transfer of Technology and Training
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Dr. J. O. Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo
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Department of Social Work
Bharathidasan University
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University & Colleges



CONFERENCE CO-ORDINATORS



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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



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Dr. S. Dinesh Kumar

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Conference Objectives

1. To explore the role of indigenous knowledge in achieving sustainability and resilience
2. To create a platform for knowledge exchange among academicians, policymakers, and community stakeholders
3. To document and disseminate best practices from indigenous traditions that can serve as models for local-to-global applications
4. To promote women and youth empowerment through cultural and educational initiatives.
5. To integrate traditional practices with modern innovations for holistic development
6. To encourage research that promotes the knowledge transfer between elderly and youth with reference to the traditional knowledge
7. To generate policy recommendations for inclusive and sustainable futures

Expected Outcomes

1. Knowledge sharing with enriched understanding of indigenous knowledge in global contexts
2. Networking and collaboration in strengthened linkages between academia, communities and policymakers
3. Improved awareness and empowerment for greater acknowledgement of the indigenous communities' role in shaping sustainable and social justice
4. Capacity-building strategies for women and SHGs, youth and disadvantaged populations
5. Research contributions for publication of peer-reviewed papers, edited volumes, and policy briefs focusing on indigenous knowledge for sustainable development
6. Collaborations and networks for formation of interdisciplinary and cross-country networks for future projects, exchange programs, and funded research
7. Policy recommendations on role of technology in documenting and protecting indigenous knowledge, ethical considerations and a multidisciplinary approach to combine traditional and modern knowledge

ABSTRACT & PAPER SUBMISSION

The authors are welcome to submit their abstracts and completed full papers. Abstracts can be submitted along with registration forms. Full papers can be sent to the e-mail id: departmentofappliedresearch@gmail.com

Important dates

Last date for registration: 1st December, 2025
Last date for abstract submission: 10th December, 2025
Last date full paper submission: 20th December, 2025

Conference Registration Fees

Delegates	GRI Only	Other Universities/ Colleges
Students	Rs. 750/-	Rs. 850/-
Research Scholars	Rs.900/-	Rs.1000/-
Faculty Members /Others	Rs.1500/-	Rs.1600/-

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Conference Registration Link

