



**Shivaji University Marathi Teachers' Association, Kolhapur  
And  
Arts and Commerce College, Satara**

**Organization of International Interdisciplinary Seminar on  
India-Mauritius Intercultural and Political Relations: The Influence of Art,  
Literature, and Culture**

**Introduction:**

An international interdisciplinary seminar on the theme "India-Mauritius Intercultural and Political Relations: The Influence of Art, Literature, and Culture" was held on November 23-24, 2023, at Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius. It was jointly organized by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (Mauritius), Shivaji University Marathi Teachers' Association (Kolhapur), and Karmaveer College, under the Satara University Association.

Shivaji University Marathi Teachers' Association, Kolhapur, is a leading academic institution in Maharashtra dedicated to scholarly excellence. The association has continuously strived for the promotion of Marathi literature and research. Established in 2008, the organization has successfully conducted various state-level and national conferences. Its commitment to the holistic development of students is evident through its academic and intellectual initiatives.

This international seminar featured discussions on topics such as literature, history, social sciences, and culture. Researchers and scholars from Mauritius and India presented research papers that explored various aspects of Indo-Mauritian relations. Issues related to literature, history, migration, traditions, and mutual cultural exchanges were extensively discussed. Eminent personalities and experts from both countries shared their insights, further enriching the discussions. Overall, this seminar provided a valuable platform for in-depth academic discourse on Indo-Mauritian relations. It facilitated a fruitful exchange of ideas, fostering stronger intellectual and cultural ties between the two nations.

Indian culture is considered one of the oldest and most comprehensive cultures in the world. Just as gold is tested in fire, Indian culture has endured numerous challenges and still stands strong. Over time, many other nations have attempted to overpower this culture, using their influence and dominance to impose their customs. Many countries tried to assimilate India into their own traditions, including the Shakas, Huns, Portuguese, Muslims, and the British. These foreign influences tried to destroy India's identity. However, Indian culture remained resilient. Its core values remained intact and continued to guide people towards enlightenment and progress.

Indian culture is vast and has influenced many parts of the world. A prime example of this is the presence of Indian heritage in Mauritius, where Indian traditions have merged with the local culture. The customs and values brought by Indian ancestors to Mauritius continue to shine as a testament to India's cultural influence. This demonstrates how Indian culture has preserved its traditions despite geographical and political changes. The study of history allows us to analyze and research how Indian culture has been nurtured and retained outside India.



The objective of this seminar was to study the political and intercultural relations between India and Mauritius. It focused on Mahatma Gandhi's historical perspective, Mauritius's political and social landscape, and the study of languages, literature, and regional influences of Mauritius. The discussions aimed to explore Mauritius's literary and cultural contributions, as well as the economic and diplomatic connections between the two nations.

The aim of this study was to understand the impact of environment and society on literature and analyze how it influenced Indian literary traditions. This seminar was organized with the objective of contributing to this academic discourse. The key objectives of this study were as follows:

1. To study the political relations between India and Mauritius and understand the political landscape of Mauritius.
2. To study Mahatma Gandhi and his historical perspectives.
3. To understand the social conditions of Mauritius.
4. To understand the religious diversity of Mauritius and study the linguistic structure of its multilingual society.
5. To explore the cultural traditions of Mauritius and understand its influence on Indian and Mauritian cultural exchange.
6. To understand the economic conditions of Mauritius and study its impact on literature.
7. To learn about the agricultural landscape of Mauritius.
8. To understand the industrial development in Mauritius.
9. To analyze and discuss the international cultural relations between India and Mauritius.
10. To study the extent to which international relations have influenced literature.
11. To collect information about religious disputes and analyze how they have been resolved historically.
12. To promote research on drama and theater and study the thematic and cultural connections between Indian and Mauritian theatrical traditions.
13. To study how the environmental conditions of Mauritius have changed over time.
14. To research the development of Marathi drama.
15. To analyze whether the foundation of our linguistic traditions is based on previous literature and to study how modern linguistic developments have influenced the Marathi language.
16. To study how language acquisition occurs in different environmental contexts and the challenges faced in language development.
17. To assess how Marathi plays have influenced the linguistic development of the Marathi-speaking community and their continued relevance in contemporary times.
18. To analyze the reasons behind the decline of Marathi drama.
19. To study the influence of environment and society on literature and analyze its impact on Indian literary traditions.
20. To explore how these literary traditions have evolved over time.

A total of 60 researchers from India and Mauritius participated in this discussion. Out of these, 50 researchers presented their research papers. The discussion session commenced on Thursday, November 23, 2023, at 10:00 AM. The seminar was inaugurated with a formal ceremony. The event was attended by prominent personalities including Mr. Anilbhai Bhudh (Sanskrit Scholar, Mauritius),



Mr. Indrajit Rath, Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department of Mauritius, Dr. Vasant Musaddi, Dr. R. Apay, Dr. Madhumati Kundal, Dr. Shivkumar Sonawane, Dr. Anil Gawli, Dr. Prakash Dukle, and the President of the Shivaji University Marathi Teachers' Association, Dr. Sunil Jadhav, among others. During the introductory session, Dr. Prakash Dukle provided insights into the research activities of Shivaji University. Vice-President of the association, Bharat Jadhav, discussed the objectives of the seminar and the process of conducting research sessions. Dr. Madhumati Kundal, Head of the Marathi Department, Mauritius, highlighted the participation of researchers in this seminar and its academic significance. The Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department of Mauritius, Mr. Vasant Musaddi, shared his experience of Indo-Mauritian linguistic and cultural relations, while representatives from the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Government of Mauritius provided valuable insights into linguistic and cultural connections. Mr. Indrajit Rath elaborated on the influence of Indian languages and culture in Mauritius, presenting an in-depth analysis. Mauritius scholar Anilbhai Rath delivered a keynote address on Indo-Mauritian linguistic and cultural relations, providing a clear analysis of these connections. He emphasized the significant influence of Indian languages and culture in Mauritius. Dr. Anil Gawli presided over the inaugural session. He highlighted the role of language in preserving cultural heritage and the deep connection between the Marathi language and culture in Mauritius. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Shirish Rama of the Department of Linguistics. Dr. Bijayalakshmi Lama chaired the session.

In the second session, chaired by Dr. Sanjay Patil, researchers from different linguistic backgrounds presented their research papers. Dr. Chanda Somkar (Hindi), Dr. Roopa Chari (Hindi), Sanjay Divekar (Hindi), Vijay Devdhar (Marathi), and Dr. Vijaya Lodhi (Marathi) shared their research insights. The session was moderated by Dr. Krishna Patil, while Dr. Bejwada Patil coordinated it.

The third session was chaired by Mr. Roshan Bughuna and Dr. Suman Shetke. Research papers were presented by Dr. Anugraha Belgaonkar (History), Dr. Rajkumar Chetiwal (Commerce), Dr. Hemlata Mani (English), Dr. Anita Jodge (English), Dr. Mangal Lotke (English), Dr. Rajesh Nikam (History), and Dr. Bejwada Patil (English). The session covered interdisciplinary research, and Mr. Roshan Bughuna, an expert in Indo-European studies, delivered a thought-provoking presentation. Dr. Suman Shetke summarized the academic discussions of the session.

In the fourth session, chaired by Dr. Sunil Jadhav, Dr. Anand Bhangle, Dr. Suhas Mahangade, Dr. Mohini Hemant, Dr. Prakash Dukle, Dr. Sudhakar Gharat, Dr. Vinod Shelar, and Dr. Nishi Hing presented research on Indo-Mauritian linguistic relations. Dr. Madhumati Kundal also presented research on the impact of literary traditions on the Marathi-speaking diaspora in Mauritius. Dr. Subhash Bawane chaired this session, emphasizing the contribution of literary research to Indo-Mauritian cultural exchange. The session explored Marathi literary influences and Indo-Mauritian socio-cultural interactions.

On Friday, November 24, 2023, the second day of the discussion, the fourth session began at 10:30 AM. Dr. Sudhakar Pusadkar, Dr. Laxman Patil, Dr. Vijayrao Gawali, Dr. Prataprao Shinde, and Tanaji Patil presented their research papers. Their



presentations focused on Indo-Mauritian relations and the impact of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts on Mauritius. The session was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Patil.

The two-day international seminar concluded with a final session. Dr. Shyam Jadhav delivered a closing address, summarizing the key points discussed. A vote of thanks was extended to all participants and organizers, emphasizing the success of the event in fostering Indo-Mauritian cultural and literary research. The seminar highlighted the growing academic exchange between India and Mauritius and opened new avenues for future research collaborations.

The concluding session took place at 1:00 PM as scheduled. Dr. Prakash Dukle welcomed everyone to the session. Dr. Bharat Jadhav provided an overview of the discussions held over the two days. Dr. Shivkumar Sonawane highlighted the significant contributions and writings of eminent scholars. Dr. Anil Gawali analyzed the research presentations and their impact, summarizing the key findings of the discussions.

Dr. Ram Aghav emphasized the deep linguistic ties between India and Mauritius, particularly the relationship between Marathi speakers in both regions. Dr. Subhash Shetke presided over the session. Dr. Sanjay Patil and other dignitaries graced the event. Researcher Dr. Madhumati Kundal discussed the Marathi language, Mauritian culture, and linguistic diversity, stressing their academic significance. She noted that in-depth studies, impactful teaching methods, and comprehensive literary distribution are crucial for strengthening this linguistic bond. The event was successfully coordinated by professors from Mauritius and India. Dr. Nishi Hing and Dr. Vandana Somkar were among the key contributors who ensured the smooth execution of the seminar.

During the detailed discussions on linguistic and cultural studies, the experiences of Indo-Mauritian Marathi linguistic relations were examined. The historical connections between various regions and the exchange of linguistic and cultural knowledge were explored. Language difficulties, linguistic diversity, and the understanding of different cultures were important aspects of the discussion. The Marathi Language Council's representative, Mr. Nitin Babu, and the head of the Marathi Department, Dr. Hema Ajna, played significant roles in this seminar. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius also actively contributed.

Mr. Nitin Babu from the Marathi Language Council provided detailed information about various literary and cultural activities. He mentioned how Mauritian cultural diversity plays a crucial role in bringing people together. In recognition of his contributions, a special event was organized in his honor in the village of Bhibhum. Dr. Sanjay Sonwane conducted the event, which was attended by many enthusiastic participants. Dr. Mohite explained in detail the linguistic and cultural ties between Marathi in Mauritius and India. In the presidential session, prominent scholars such as Dr. Jayshri Babar, Dr. Sangita Palkeri, Dr. Purnima Chari, Dr. Rupa Chari, and Dr. Vishwajeet Gawali participated.

Dr. Subhash Shetke was in charge of the session's coordination. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Mr. Gawali, Mr. Subhash Waghmare, and Dr. Hemangini Mane, who contributed valuable insights.

Dr. Nitin Babu, Dr. Ram Aghav, Dr. Ajay Mudhol, Dr. Madhumati Kundal, Dr. Hema Ajna, and others discussed how collaborative efforts in the field of Marathi language studies can enhance research. It was emphasized that Mauritian students studying at different academic levels, from primary schools to universities, should have access to high-quality linguistic and cultural resources. Various scholarly works, publications, and research materials were also made available. The international conference, held from 23rd to 24th November 2023, was a significant milestone in linguistic and literary discussions. However, many aspects still remain unexplored, indicating the need for further research.



  
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