

‘Documentation of Folktales through Digitization’: Dr. Tulika Chandra, Associate Professor, Department of English, Shiv Nadar University

Dr. Tulika Chandra is presently working on a project ‘Documentation of Folktales through Digitization’ to preserve the folktales that await digitization and revival. The folktales, folksongs are video-recorded, as narrated by the native speakers and are negligibly edited. These have been recorded from the natives residing in the ‘Braj’ area (Uttar Pradesh, India) like Barsana, Nandgaon, Vrindaban, Chhata, Mathura etc. who carry forward the oral tradition of narrating the folktales, folksongs, anecdotes and fables. These folktales are in threat of getting lost or they are affected by the transmission from one generation to the next and are also impacted by mass media and worldwide exposure that have reached the distant areas of India. She aims to initiate a ‘Digital Folklore Archive’ which would house several collections of Folklore.

Dr. Chandra says, “Folktales, folksongs have been a cradle of value education as well as recreation in Indian societies, they are the spirit of our culture and traditions. Transmission and preservation of the folklore are impacted by various aspects, like region, religion, political, social, economic and cultural conditions. By interpreting and crafting digital versions of the folk-tales & folk-songs, we are virtually ‘freezing’ them in time. I am thankful to Shiv Nadar University for supporting me financially for this project.”

