

Architectural Conservation and Historic Preservation
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Lecture - 06
Assessing Heritage Significance and Values

Welcome, we are today we will discuss about the assessing heritage significance and values part 1, remember last time in the last lecture we talked about different types of values heritage values and significance. So, today we will talk about how to assess this values and significance and what is the role of that, in management of the heritage and the cultural properties.

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If you remember, that last lecture we talk about the temple in Japan in Kyoto, Kinkaku-ji temple. I said that, it is a beautiful temple the significance of is that is beautiful.

At the same time I talked about the Itsukushima shrine in Japan, which I told that it is inspiring I told that, but who am I to decide, that the which one is beautiful and which is inspiring it is I cannot say that, this is somebody else can come up hence say that, no that is beautiful too so; that means, that we have to find out from a larger audience through different objective technologies and objective measurement techniques, that what is really beautiful and what is inspiring and the degree may vary.

So; that means, that we have to objectively assess the significance and values of the cultural heritage just saying that, I like it or I think it is beautiful or I think it is inspiring is not enough. So, let see today we will talk about that.

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Understanding the values

because they find it **beautiful** or **inspiring**

Santiniketan

Mandir/ upasana griha

Shyamali

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The slide features a yellow background with a blue header and footer. It contains two photographs: one of a traditional Indian temple (Mandir/upasana griha) and another of a building in Santiniketan. Blue lines connect the text 'beautiful or inspiring' to both images. A small video inset of a woman is visible in the bottom right corner.

For example, in Santiniketan also I say that the, Upasana Griha or Mandir is beautiful, whereas Shyamali is a different because, it is inspiring and the same questions happen that, who decides that which is inspiring and which is beautiful and a how to what degree because, these are very, very subjective parameters.

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Values & Significance

role of conservation in public life

to have an impact on the social and economic realms of society

Shifting tendency

from cultural heritage to the social agents that confer cultural values to heritage

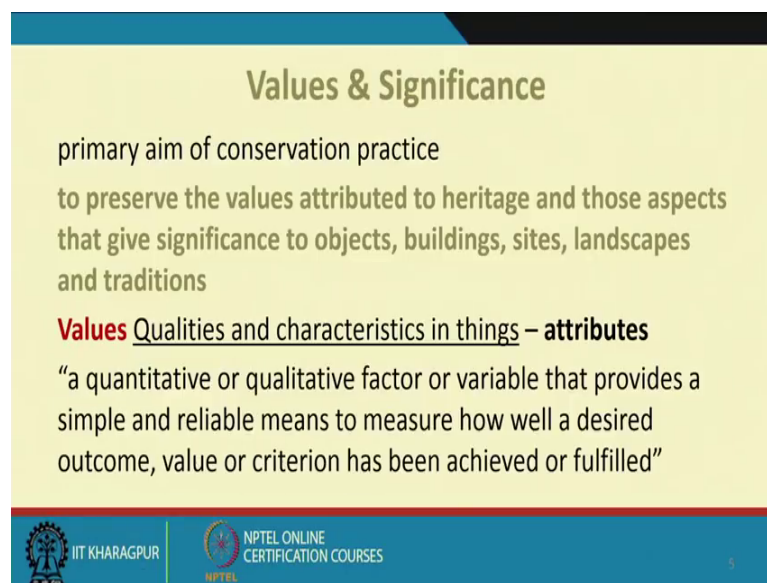
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The slide has a yellow background with a blue header and footer. It contains text discussing the role of conservation and a shifting tendency in cultural heritage. The footer includes the IIT Kharagpur and NPTEL logos.

So, also, we must remember, that while we are talking about the significance and the values the role of conservation in public life there is a gradual shift, that because just by the experts saying that, this is has significance is not enough even though there is a shifting tendency from cultural heritage and the heritage property as the social agents and it should have an impact on the social and economic realms of the society.

So, the people the community, who are really the stakeholders or the caretakers of the heritage property is very important to consider their values and significance and we must remember that, if even if they are stakeholders there are also different groups of stakeholders and there may be conflicting issues. So, that is why it is very important that, we again I am saying that, it is objective assessment of the significance and values is very important.

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Values & Significance

primary aim of conservation practice
to preserve the values attributed to heritage and those aspects that give significance to objects, buildings, sites, landscapes and traditions

Values Qualities and characteristics in things – attributes
“a quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure how well a desired outcome, value or criterion has been achieved or fulfilled”

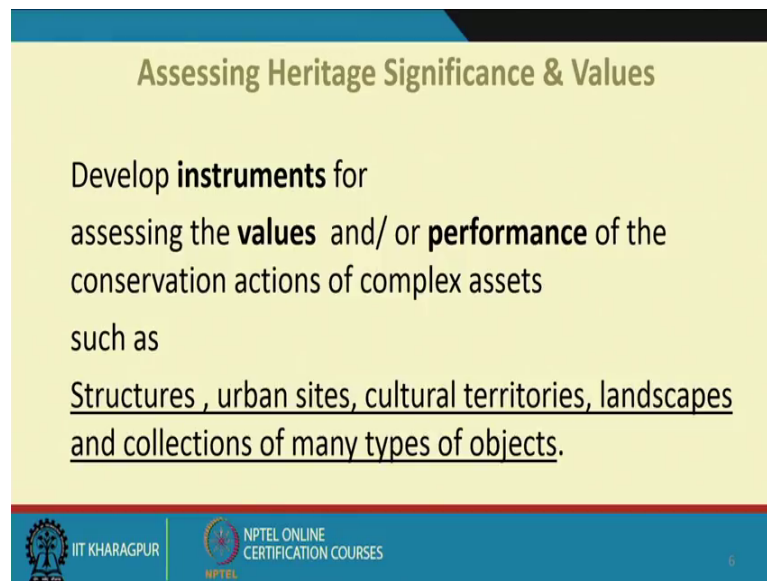
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So, also, we must remember, that the primary aim of the conservation practice is to preserve the values attributed to the heritage and these aspects, that give significance to the objects, buildings, sites, landscape and tradition in I am saying that the, which are the aspects, which are the parameters, which contribute to the value of either buildings or sites or landscape is very important to understand that.

Now, what are the values, values basically are the qualities and characteristics in things, which are actually the attributes a quantitative or qualitative factor or variable, that provides a simple and reliable means to measure how well a desired outcome value or

criterion has been achieved or fulfilled we must remember that, these assessment of the significance and values happens at 2 stage first of all for identification of the cultural property and later on that, for monitoring purpose that, how well the values have been preserved. So, the value assessment is very important and as is saying that, they can be qualitative and they are can be quantitative aspects.

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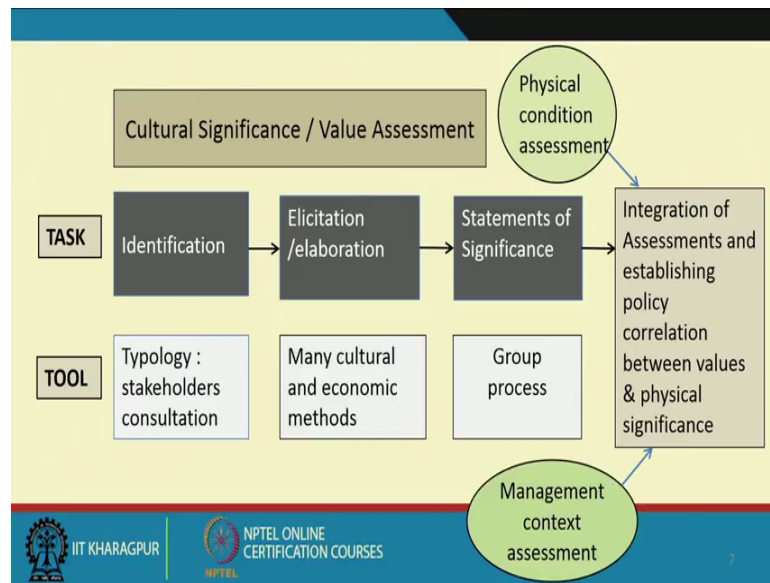
Assessing Heritage Significance & Values

Develop **instruments** for
assessing the **values** and/ or **performance** of the
conservation actions of complex assets
such as
Structures , urban sites, cultural territories, landscapes
and collections of many types of objects.

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So; that means, if we have to go for objective assessment not being totally subjective, we have to develop instruments for assessing the values and or performance of the conservation actions of complex assets such as structures, urban sites, cultural territories, landscape and collections of many types of object, because they are vary types of object and the scale also changes. So, we must understand that, what are these instruments.

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So, let us talk about some of these. So, first of all there is an task and there are certain things, which are called tool what are the task? The task are first of all identification and this identification of the typology of the values we have talked about different types of values and significance, it also should happen through the stakeholder's consultation, that is very, very important and that is what at the present that is a very important role play the community place in that, identification of the typology and the values and significance, along with the experts of course.

Now, after the identification of these different types of values and significance of different types of properties and cultural properties and heritage properties or sites and areas, we also have to find out that, what are the task the task is elicitation and elaboration of the and there are many, many cultural and economic tools and methods to do that. Following that, what is done is that though I have said that, it has to be objective, but is not always possible to like quantitatively say this is number 5 or this has got 8 out of 10 or 9 out of 10 actually it does not mean much.

So, what is very important in case of the cultural sites and it is to prepare a statement of significance, and that is absolutely important and these statement of significant is a group processes, it is cannot be done with individually as I said that, I thought that is beautiful and the other one is inspiring is not enough it has to be done through a systematic process or transparent process involving all the stakeholders into the process and then

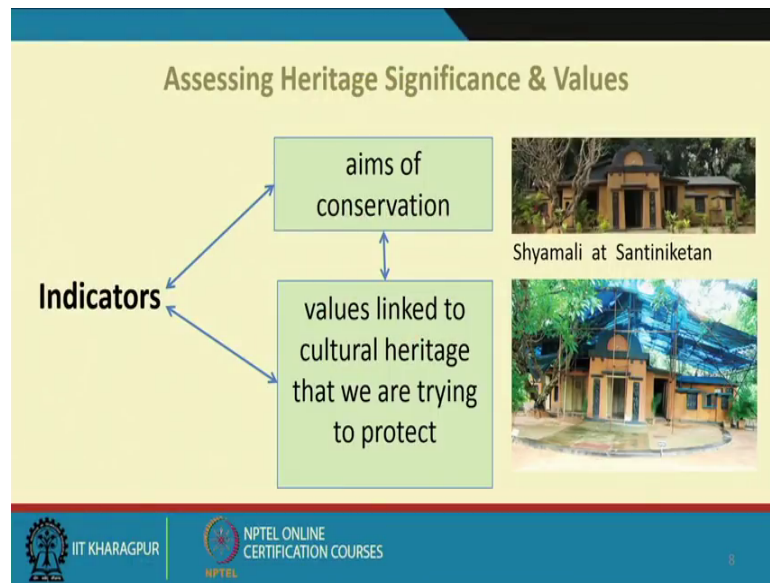
finding out the statement of significance and the types, the degrees, the degrees as I say that, it cannot be always quantitative. So, there are ways of saying that, high very high moderate another thing, but as I said that it has to be through a concentrative process and there has to be a sort of a very transparent process to see that, what is there. So, that is there are various tools and techniques available.

Now, what comes out of that is integration of the assessment and establishing a policy correlation between the values and the physical significance. Now as I said that, conservation is actually a process what we see there as a structure that is the product, but we must understand, that it has gone through a process and this process is very important and the values are actually intangible aspects and the physical objects the structural size and other they embodied those sort of intangible aspects and that is where, we have to understand the multiple types of value and view through the different people or different types of stakeholders.

So, these brings us into 2 very important aspect one is the physical condition assessment, because we are talking about structures, which probably have been there through ages through centuries or sometimes it may be relatively new, but we have to understand the physical condition assessment of the structures.

And then followed by that, is also very important is the management context assessment, because it is not only important to know the value and prepare the statement or significance also what is important is to understand that, how it will be manage for posterity for future generation and also for the present time. So, these 2 actually should be integrated, which we call the assessment of significant and establishing a policy correlation ship.

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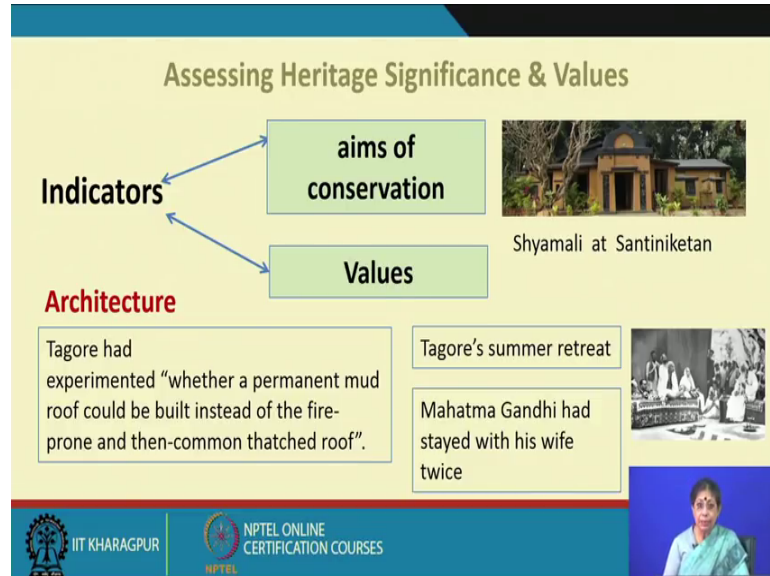
So; that means, there has to be the indicators, that indicators what is the indicators to the one is the aims of conservation we must through the indicators actually the dictate what is the aims of conservation or vice versa the aims of conservation and decided by the indicators. And also interrelated aspect is the values link to the culture heritage that, we are trying to protect. So, these aims of conservation the values link to the cultural heritage that, we are trying to protect and the indicators they actually are interrelated and one depends on the other. So, we must understand this aspect or this interrelationship.

Let us take one example, we have talked about Shyamali and Santiniketan which I said is an adobe structure. Now, at the moment if on goes to Santiniketan they will see that it is covered under a tapolin, why? Because yes, archeological survey of India is doing for 2 or 3 years it is doing the restoration of that, and it is in adobe structure. So, it is actually liable to be get washed away by the rain, because when Rabindranath Tagore sort of designed it he sort of thought it as an adobe structure.

Over the years and he actually there is a writing that, where he said that is not supposed to be a permanent structure it will dissolve over the time, but over the years it has attributed it has got some other values, which we will discuss and people want to preserve it. Now, preserving it means that, what we do? How do we preserve the adobe structure the roof and other things and also over the years they have been some sort of repair works, which have been carried out on that side? So, at the moment because there

is a lot of controversy and people are taking time there at cautious and so, it is covered with the tapolin to protect it from the rain water.

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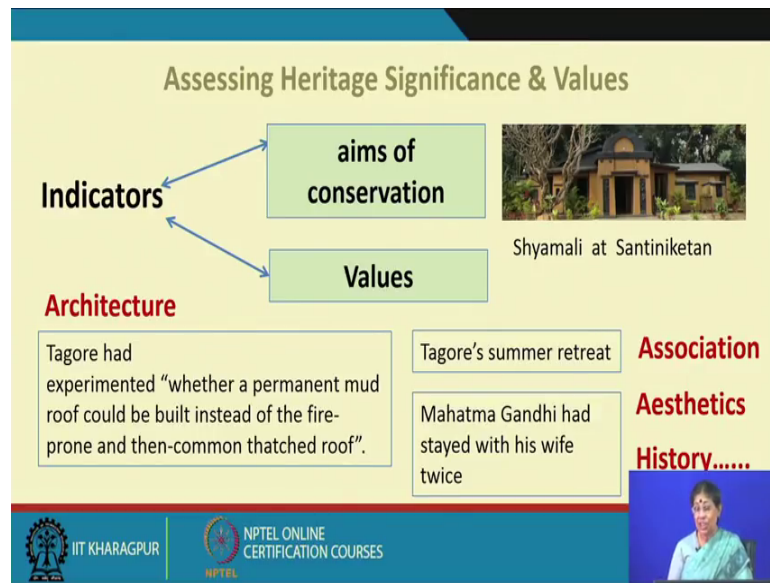


Now, let us see while we talked about this we must understand what is the value? It is possible there are so many approaches possible that, it can be covered it can eternally be covered like that, or it can be covered or the roof can replaced the adobe structure sort of can be replaced with some other permanent material. So, there are various ways of doing it various approaches. Now, let see what are the values, because as I said the values actually decides what should be the management technique.

Now, Tagore has really one value is the Tagore has experimented, whether a permanent mud roof could be built instead of the fire prone and the then common thatched roof, because he was actually getting inspirations from the tribal huts and he wanted to experiment with that.

So, it was a product, which shows his experimentation with the adobe structure. At the same time, it is also the place where, Tagores summer retreat he actually has adopted a lot of sustainable things, because the walls within the walls a hollow pictures, which keep the play school, there is a vacuum and it is what is a very, very good technique to keep the inside cool and also as I said this is an association with Tagore and also Mahatma Gandhi had stayed with his wife twice when he visited that.

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So; that means, if the value of that if you try to do one is the association, because it is association with Tagore and also association with Mahatma Gandhi and association because, it is an example of an architecture or construction technique. So, these are the values of that, it is association is not only because it is a Tagore summer retreat or Mahatma Gandhi is also association because, artist of Santiniketan on the Gurudev's guidance also had done a lot of really work and art work on his wall. So, there is an association with those artist also.

So, we can say that, if you talk about values of Shyamali one is association, then the other is the architecture aesthetics definitely because, though he got his inspiration from the tribal structure, but it is very you take it is very different it has got the remarkable contribution of Tagore's thought and aesthetic ideas and because, is taken the inspiration as you can see from (Refer Time: 13:35) or classical architecture, and also because it is a history and there can be some more values attributed to this structure.

Then, when we sort of assess this values then, actually these actually decide that what should be the way to preserve that should be really cover it to protect to keep the original fabric or should be replace that, with the other type of structure, because if we replace that we talk on other type of permanent modern material, that will actually intervene with Gurudev's idea of the adobe structure and his experimentation, because the value is the experimentation.

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Assessing Heritage Significance & Values

cultural significance
of each place or site
is constantly being
reformulated
due to the changing
nature of values



The slide features three photographs of a heritage building. The top right photo shows a well-maintained, restored building with a prominent entrance. The bottom left photo shows the same building in a state of significant disrepair, with many windows missing and the structure appearing dilapidated. The bottom right photo shows the building in a state of partial restoration, with some windows and doors replaced, but still showing signs of age and wear.

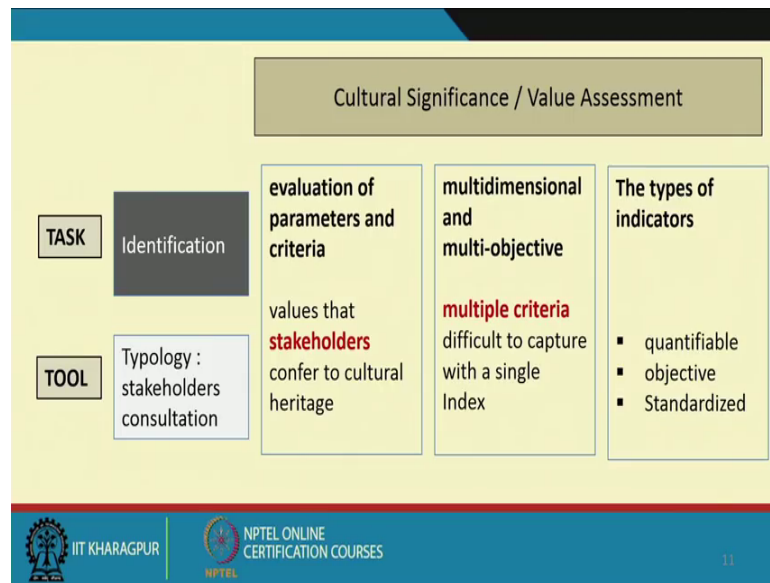
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And also, we must understand another thing, the culture significance of each place or side is constantly being reformulated due to the changing nature of the values. For example, Shyamali when Gurudev built it, he had some other idea for building or experimenting this house, but over the years it has change and we can see from some of the old photographs, that this window is there which is actually has changed and now, some windows have been rebuilt, some doors have been rebuilt, they have been replaced and other things. So, they have been some sort of a minor changing.

Now, the question comes because it has been changing. So, to which date if we want to sort of repair it to which take, we should take it back and their lies a very, very controversial issue and a very challenging issue, that been we are talking about the history of a structure we must recognize that, history means that it has spanned over a different periods and we cannot go back to only one particular time or day, we must respect all pulleys of history and we have to see. So, these are great decision or very challenging decision, which has to be taken while restoring or preserving a structure.

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Now, so what we have seen in Shyamali is the multiple types of value and then, that actually is decides that how it should be manage and the aim indicators and the management are interrelated to each other. Now, let us talk about that we talked about that, the structure that evaluation of the parameters and the criteria the values does structural stakeholders confer the values also we have established by these time, that it is a multidimensional and multi objectives. So, it is actually multiple criteria, which is difficult to capture with a single index and also, we must understand the types of indicator some are quantifiable, some are objective and some are standardized.

So, with these type of multiple criteria and complex situation we must decide, that what should be done to the structures.

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Cultural Significance / Value Assessment

areas of assessment

- a) the conservation of **cultural significance**, including both the fabric and the values ascribed to cultural heritage
- b) **economic impacts**
- c) **social impacts**
- d) **environmental impacts**

Each of these areas requires different indicators and methodologies of assessment.

TASK Elicitation /elaboration

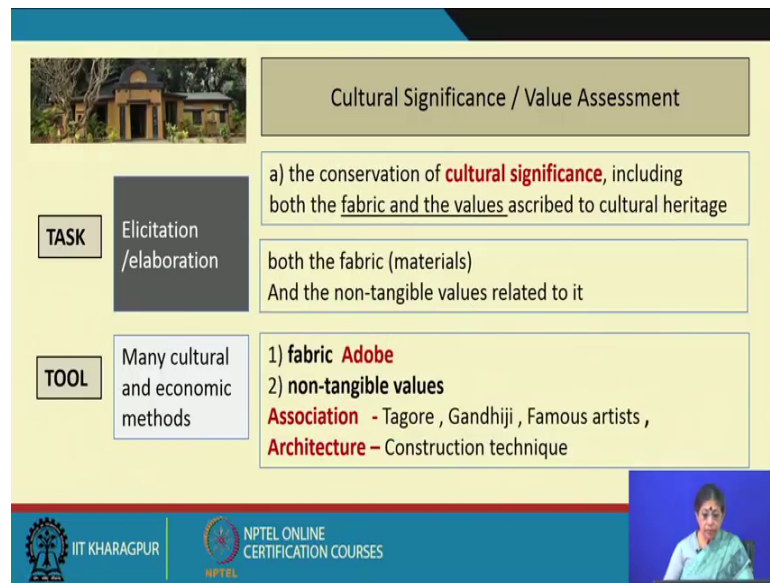
TOOL Many cultural and economic methods

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So, as we talked about that, we have to elaborate and there are many, many culture methods the major things what we must remember that, the area of assessment the conservation of cultural significance including both the fabric and the values. So, we must understand that, one side we are talking about the fabric for example, the Shyamali which is an adobe structure and the one on the other hand we are talking about the values, association value, construction, architecture, aesthetics and artistic values.

So, we must talk about the fabric and the values ascribed to the cultural heritage, and also by this time we must also understand the economic impact, what are the economic impact? What are the social impact? And what are the environmental impact? These actually are very important and that is why while talking about that, will talk in detail later on the heritage impact assessment. Now, each of these areas requires different indicators and methodologies for assessment.

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Cultural Significance / Value Assessment

TASK Elicitation /elaboration

TOOL Many cultural and economic methods

a) the conservation of **cultural significance**, including both the fabric and the values ascribed to cultural heritage

both the fabric (materials)
And the non-tangible values related to it

1) **fabric Adobe**
2) **non-tangible values**
Association - Tagore , Gandhiji , Famous artists ,
Architecture – Construction technique

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So, if we try to sought of say that, like the conservation of cultural significance we talked about the fabric and the values. So, both the fabric the materials and the non-tangible values related to it like, I said in case of Shyamali the architecture, association these are actually intangible aspects both at important interrelated for example, as I said the fabric in case of Shyamali is adobe the non-tangible values are association with Tagore Gandhiji and the artists and architecture the construction technique. So, we must understand that, how these sort of a product or Shyamali has a structure, how they sought of continue or they sort of embody the different values and that, actually will decide what should be should decide what should be done with this structure.

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The slide is titled "Cultural Significance / Value Assessment" and "Assessing the conservation of the fabric". It features a photograph of a traditional Indian building. The content is organized into several sections:

- Cultural Significance / Value Assessment**
- Assessing the conservation of the fabric**
- TASK**: Elicitation /elaboration
- TOOL**: Many cultural and economic methods
- variety of
 - materials,
 - types of decay
 - conservation processes

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So, the assessing the conservation of the fabric. So, first let us talk about the assessing the conservation of the fabric this is still relatively easier and a lot of work already have been done in this. So, when we talk about the assessing the conservation of the fabric, we must take these 2 aspects into consideration one is the appropriateness of the conservation material, because each material has it is own challenges, own type of decay depending on which type of climate they are in and the methods of intervention again these 2 are very interrelated aspects, because as I said there are variety of the materials there types of decay and there are different types of conservation process, which we will talk about later, when we will go into the detail of the decay of the different types of materials.

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Cultural Significance / Value Assessment

Assessing the conservation of the fabric

- relevance of conserving the fabric varies across cultures
- some cultures prioritize nonmaterial values over the conservation of the fabric.

Rebuilding practices of Shinto shrines in Japan

- buildings are demolished and reconstructed every 20 years

TASK Elicitation /elaboration

TOOL Many cultural and economic methods

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But, also, we must understand that, while we are talking about the interrelated aspects of the fabric and the intangible aspects of the value and significance we must also understand that, these relevance of conserving the fabric, where is across the cultures it is not same not uniform in different cultures. Some culture give more priority to the nonmaterial values over the conservation of the fabric and some cultures give a lot of importance to the conservation of fabric.

So, let us take some of the examples, one of the very well-known example in these aspect are the Shinto shrines of Japan. The Shinto shrines of Japan actually, there is a tradition where, the buildings are demolished and reconstructed every 20 years, one would have sort of shudder at these thought that, this whole structures are demolished over 20 years and exactly reproduced on the same site now, why? And that is the way they continue. So, the fabric is not continuing what is continuing is something else what is continuing? They are maintaining the tradition and construction know how rather than the material itself.

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Cultural Significance / Value Assessment


Assessing the conservation of the fabric

- relevance of conserving the fabric varies across cultures
- some cultures prioritize nonmaterial values over the conservation of the fabric.

TASK Elicitation /elaboration

TOOL Many cultural and economic methods

what is actually maintained is the **tradition** and **construction know-how** rather than the material itself



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Cultural Significance / Value Assessment




Assessing the conservation of the fabric

- relevance of conserving the fabric varies across cultures
- some cultures prioritize nonmaterial values over the conservation of the fabric.

Intangible heritage

Shinto belief about the renewal of nature.

Living religious heritage



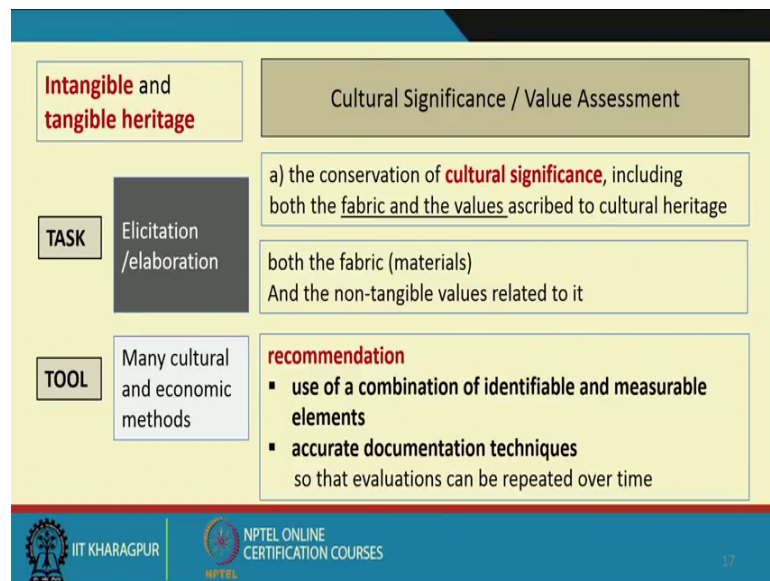
Ise Jingu grand shrine ,
Mie Prefecture, Japan

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So, it is a very inbuilt cultural tradition of Japan of this Shinto shrines and while they do that, while they sought of every 20 years they sought of reconstruct the temple according to the old practice on one hand, they continue to preserve the know-how and the skill on the other hand while these rebuilding process there is a lot of sort of rituals processions, the play and other things which happen and these are integral part these intangible aspects are integral part of this conservation process of the Shinto shrine.

So, we must understand that, the Shinto belief about the renewal of nature and living religious heritage is more important in their culture, then preserving the fabric itself. So, that is why we say the culture to culture there are different sort of values and the value they conferred to a particular aspect of conservation or significance. So, these brings us to the question of as I said one is the fabric another is the intangible heritage well the fabric or the product is tangible, but the values and significance and this practices are intangible heritage.

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So, well talking about the intangible heritage we must understand that, this non-tangible values are related to it. And so, that what is the recommendation, the recommendation should be the use of a combination of identifiable and measurable elements and accurate documentation techniques.

So that, the evaluation can be repeated over time. So, if we try to summarize that we have seen that, assessing the value is very important number one there are different types of values and there are different types of way to find about the value, the involvement of the stakeholders all type of stakeholders and community are very important to understand what are the values and significance and values and significance can be varied there can be various ways of finding out the values and significance there can be tools and techniques, some are quantifiable, some are qualitative aspects and then also we must understand the values and significance change over a time.

Because even a product is continuously changing and when it is changing we must understand what are the changes? How it has changed? What are the new values attributed to it? We must take that into consideration at the same time as we have shown the in case of Japanese Shinto shrines that, the significance and value is not of something universal because, it changes from culture to culture each culture has his own way of looking at the heritage and the significant some may give a lot if importance to the fabricate itself some may give more importance to the intangible aspect of the renewing it or the associated rituals beliefs and practices.

Then, this actually make it, so interesting and we have to see that in combination and that, actually decides that what should be the management techniques of that. So, in our next lecture we will talk about that, we today we have talked about in this lecture this aspects next lecture, we will talk about more of the intangible aspects of the heritage significance and how it sort of decides the management practice.

Thank you.