

Lost Lands, Lasting Legacy: The Sindhi Community Experiences in Sustaining Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions

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Abstract

Indigeneity, often regarded as the custodian of knowledge systems, continues to offer profound insights into sustainable living and cultural preservation. Among various such communities, a community that has demonstrated resilience and adaptation is the Sindhi community in India, which serves as the focus of this paper. This research explores how the Sindhi community has preserved its traditional knowledge despite these historical challenges, unrest and displacement. Utilizing doctrinal research and discussions with community members from different age groups and various places; the study reveals that, despite the impact of Partition, the Sindhi community continues to uphold traditional knowledge systems characterized by sustainability and harmony with nature. Key findings indicate that oral traditions, social customs, and culinary practices remain vital links to their ancestral heritage, although the decline of the written Sindhi language threatens the preservation of their full linguistic heritage. The paper underscores the urgent need for documentation and digitization efforts to safeguard these traditions amidst the pressures of globalization. Conclusively, it highlights the role of institutions and policy frameworks in protecting Sindhi culture and practices, offering insights into how these efforts can contribute to the survival of indigenous knowledge systems in the 21st century. By situating the Sindhi experience within the broader discourse on indigenous knowledge, this research emphasizes the

universal importance of preserving cultural heritage to foster diversity, resilience, and continuity.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Documentation, Indigenous Knowledge, Preservation, and Sindhi Community.

Introduction

In the vibrant tapestry of India's cultural landscape, the Sindhi community stands out as a testament to resilience and rich heritage, tracing its origins to the ancient Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's earliest urban societies. The Sindhi people's unique traditions, customs, and artistry are deeply rooted in their ancestral homeland. However, millions of Sindhis were forced to leave their beloved homeland in *Sindh* (a province in south-eastern Pakistan) due to the devastating events of the 1947 partition. This forced relocation signalled an enormous shift in the community's history and sparked a fight for identity and cultural preservation. The resulting diaspora faced the difficulties of language loss, intergenerational disconnection, and cultural assimilation while attempting to preserve the strands of their ancestry and dealing with the devastating legacy of loss.

The Sindhi community have a new recognition in India, as a trader community in central and western cities of the country. The community is scattered mostly in the cities of India and is known for its business practices. Their lifestyle, language, practices and pursuit of the protection of their culture lead to the preservation of the indigeneity. Positioned as an indigenous group, the Sindhi community asserts its historical continuity and deep-seated connection to its roots. Their distinctive cultural practices speak to their enduring identity. By embracing their heritage, Sindhis not only affirm their place within the indigenous fabric of India but also contribute to the global discourse on the importance of traditional knowledge systems. Their practices also

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reflect sustainable relationships with the land. In addition to reaffirming their position within India's indigenous fabric, Sindhis who embrace their heritage also add to the worldwide conversation about the value of traditional knowledge systems. This research will examine the Sindhi community's complex identity. It will examine their historical foundations, the significant effects of partition, and the continuous attempts to protect their cultural legacy in a world growing more interrelated by the day. Through this, the paper seeks to illuminate the significance of indigenous knowledge systems and the vital role they play in sustaining cultural identity.

Historical Background of the Sindhi Community

The Sindhi community belongs to a history that traces back to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, which thrived around 2500 BCE (Jawhrani, 2009). This civilisation was famous for its advanced architecture, urban planning and agriculture practices (Javonillo, 2011). It laid the foundation for the distinct cultural identity that the Sindhi Community has been following through the ages. The archaeological sites of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro reflect the ingenuity and sophistication of this early society, emphasizing the long-standing connection between the Sindhi people and their land. Over time, the Sindhi population was subjected to a multitude of influences, such as the advent of Aryans, Persians, Greeks, and Muslim monarchs, all of whom added to the rich legacy of Sindhi culture (Bhavnani, 2018). Despite these influences, the community has maintained its distinct identity, which is defined by a strong bond with its customs and surroundings.

However, the Partition of India in 1947 marked a pivotal moment for the Sindhi community, though it did not involve the division of territorial boundaries as seen in Punjab or Bengal; rather, it was a demographic division that forced almost a million "non-Muslim" Sindhis from their ancestral homes in modern-day Pakistan. Due to the difficulty of reconstructing their life in a new place devoid of their ancestral homeland, the Sindhi people experienced a "de-territorialized" identity as a result of this event. The lack of a distinct "Sindh" in India has had a profound impact on the Sindhi experience, creating a sense of displacement and longing for their cultural origins (Anand, 1996).

Despite these challenges, the Sindhi community exhibited remarkable resilience, striving to maintain their language, customs, and practices in the face of adversity. When the written form of the Sindhi language started to fade among younger generations, oral traditions took over as the main medium of cultural transmission. This adaptability ensured that despite the erosion of formal

education in their language, the essence of Sindhi culture remained intact across generations. This historical context highlights the difficulties the Sindhi community faced and establishes the context for looking at how they have managed to preserve their traditional knowledge systems. From the perspective of sustainability and resilience, the subsequent section will examine the particular cultural practices and oral traditions that continue to define their identity.

Preserving Tradition: Practices of the Sindhi Community

The Sindhi community, with its rich tapestry of cultural heritage, stands as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of indigenous practices. Despite the challenges posed by modernization and globalization, the community has managed to uphold its traditional practices, which are deeply rooted in both its history and identity. These practices not only reflect the community's unique way of life but also serve as vital links to their ancestral heritage.

Culinary Heritage and Medicinal Practices

The Sindhi community's culinary customs are inseparably connected to their cultural identity and act as a living reminder of their principles and historical origins. Dishes that represent stories, memories, and the spirit of community life, rather than just providing nourishment, are essential to these customs. These foods' preparation and consumption strengthen ties to the community and family by fostering a sense of belonging (Dua, 2019).

The origins of *Dal Pakwan*, a beloved Sindhi delicacy, can be traced back to Sindh's harsh, dry climate, which influenced food preparation and storage practices. In this area, where fresh food could not always be prepared every day due to limited water resources and agricultural constraints, the crispy flatbread known as *pakwan* was invented out of need. In a setting where food preservation was essential, households would make big quantities of dough and fry it into *pakwan* that could be kept for a long time. This was a practical approach. This dish, which combines the *pakwan* with a flavourful dal made from lentils, is still a testament to Sindh's culinary originality. *Dal Pakwan*, which has been prepared in many Sindhi homes today as a reminder of the community's adaptation and the sustainable methods ingrained in their food culture, has been passed down through the generations.

Further, the classic meals, like *Sindhi Kadhi* and *Sai Bhaji*, represent the culinary legacy of the Sindhi community and their dedication to communal life and

sustainability. Traditionally cooked on important days and festivals, *Sindhi Kadhi* is the focal point of family get-togethers, with each home adding its special recipe enhanced with personal tales. In a similar vein, the community's dependence on locally and seasonally sourced ingredients is demonstrated with *Sai Bhaji*, a healthful dish made with spinach and lentils. To ensure that culinary knowledge is passed down through the generations, family members frequently gather together to prepare these delicacies.

Another characteristic of the Sindhi population that sets them apart is their culinary traditions that incorporate therapeutic practices. One such dish is *Bhee* (Lotus Stem) Soup, which is typically made in the winter for its medicinal properties. The Sindhi community exemplifies sustainability by preserving their environment and guaranteeing food security by depending on what is easily accessible. These culinary customs are being carried out in the modern era through social media platforms that showcase traditional Sindhi cuisine, food festivals, and community cooking workshops. This involvement fosters cultural awareness by introducing these customs to a wider audience. The Sindhi community makes sure that its culinary tradition endures in a world that is constantly changing by upholding these customs.

Business Networking Legacy

The Sindhi community has maintained a unique tradition of business networking that is still relevant today. Their networking strategies, which have been handed down through the centuries and are based on historical trade routes and cross-border business, guarantee durability and adaptability.

Informal Credit System

The unofficial credit system, often known as *Hundi* or trust-based finance, is one of the most persistent effects of Sindhi commercial networking. In the past, Sindhi traders relied on an honour-based loan system where dependability and reputation were crucial, operating without official financial institutions. Several Sindhi businesses still conduct credit transactions today without formal contracts, relying instead on community confidence and word-of-mouth (Bhojwani, 2024). They have been able to build strong international trade ties because of this strategy. Additionally, to promote economic growth in the community, wealthier members frequently provide younger business owners with interest-free loans or credit lines. This approach reinforces the Sindhi business network's long-standing tradition of self-sufficiency.

Family-Owned and Inter-Generational Enterprises

Despite making up less than 1% of India's population, the Sindhi community has significantly influenced the nation's economy. Their dominance in trade, industry, and real estate is the main reason for their estimated 15% to 20% GDP contribution to India (Vishnu, 2018). Their versatility and historical mercantile heritage are the reasons for their success. Sindhis founded significant economic enterprises in India, including Raheja Developers (construction), Hiranandani Group (real estate), and Hinduja Group (international conglomerates in banking and automobiles). These businesses have generated thousands of jobs and made significant tax contributions; despite their small demographic share, it is estimated that up to 24% of India's income tax comes from Sindhis.

One of the prominent reasons for this is the ingrained structure of family-owned and intergenerational businesses in Sindhi business practices. Sindhi businesses place a strong emphasis on continuity through family succession, in contrast to many other communities where leadership regularly changes to external professionals (Bhojwani, 2024). This custom originated when Sindhi traders travelled the old trade routes that connected Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Persian Gulf. From financial restraint to negotiation strategies, business knowledge was handed down through the generations, guaranteeing not just economic viability but also the preservation of community-specific ethical standards and trade secrets. Despite geopolitical upheavals, Sindhi business dynasties have proven to be very adaptive throughout history, maintaining their companies for centuries. The Sindhi model depends on striking a balance between tradition and contemporary business. This fusion of tradition and flexibility has made it possible for Sindhi businesses to not only endure but also thrive internationally.

Socio-economic Legacy of Sindhis

For a long time, the Sindhi community has exemplified a unique harmony between social responsibility and economic prosperity, utilising their wealth to improve both their people and society at large. In Mumbai, for example, schools like Jai Hind College, K.C. College, and H.R. College have shaped generations of students from a variety of backgrounds, demonstrating how their contributions to education go beyond their local community (Roy, 2023). As this is going on, philanthropic organisations like the Sindhi Charitable Trust and the Sadhu Vaswani Mission have strengthened the Sindhi tradition of giving by offering disaster

assistance, healthcare, and vocational training to those in need. Sindhi-led businesses have made a substantial contribution to the economic development of India by advancing urbanisation, generating employment, and entering into international markets.

Many families rebuilt their lives from the ground up, especially after the Partition of 1947. They often began with modest businesses like selling *papads* before becoming multinational companies, all the while maintaining their culture and heritage through celebrations like the *Cheti Chand* and initiatives to preserve Sindhi language and culture. In contrast to communities who profit from government reservations or regional identity, Sindhis seized the chance presented by the loss of Sindh and established trading networks in places like Hong Kong and Dubai in addition to integrating into Indian cities like Mumbai and Ahmadabad (Falzon, 2022). A legacy of merchants who previously controlled trade routes, the "Sindworkies" continues to influence their entrepreneurial spirit. As time has progressed, Sindhi women have also been economic contributors, taking on leadership positions in family companies and corporations. The Sindhi heritage is cemented as one of lasting strength and impact by this confluence of tenacity, ambition, and community-driven advancement, achieved not via privilege but rather through sheer inventiveness and adaptability.

Textiles, Handicrafts, and Artistic Expression

The Sindhi community has a long history of producing beautiful fabrics and handicrafts, which serve as both artistic mediums and archives of cultural memory. Using methods and materials handed down through the ages, these crafts showcase the community's strong ties to the environment and its ancestral wisdom (Shen, 2020). The centuries-old block-printing method known as *Ajrak*, which creates exquisitely patterned shawls, is one of the most recognisable textiles from Sindhi culture. Every *Ajrak* item is distinct, and its designs frequently have spiritual meanings that connect to the community's history.

Another important craft is the *Ralli* quilt, which has both aesthetic and practical value. The use of recycled materials to make these quilts demonstrates a dedication to sustainable techniques. Since the word "*Ralli*" itself derives from the verb "*Ralanna*," which means to interact or connect, it represents the social and spiritual unity that quilting fosters among women. Beyond just being beautiful, the *Ralli* quilt is a potent symbol of resistance to social problems like forced marriage and domestic abuse (Doleh, 2021). The act of quilting creates an opportunity for women to come together, exchange stories, and offer

mutual support, converting the quilt from a simple craft into a means of promoting social empowerment.

Within the Sindhi population, *Hurmich* embroidery and *Jandi* lacquered woodcraft are important artistic forms, alongside *Ajrak* and *Ralli* textiles. *Hurmich* embroidery, with its elaborate designs, is visible on traditional apparel and home furnishings and is said to offer protection and blessings. Generation after generation of artisans preserves ancient designs while incorporating their innovative touches. These crafts continue to flourish, particularly among Sindhi populations in Gujarat and Maharashtra, largely because of grassroots initiatives to preserve these talents. Older generations instruct the younger generation of artisans, and festivals honouring Sindhi heritage offer a venue for exhibiting these crafts. The significance of preserving these customs as dynamic manifestations of Sindhi cultural identity is emphasised by such endeavours.

Language and Literature: Cornerstones of Cultural Memory

The Sindhi language has been the unifying thread that binds the community together, transcending geographical distances and historical upheavals. Despite the displacement of Sindhis following the Partition of 1947, their language has remained a powerful force of identity, allowing them to stay connected as a people, no matter where they have settled. It is through Sindhi that the community continues to share its collective memories, traditions, and values, reinforcing a deep-rooted sense of belonging. The written script of the Sindhi language has seen a steady decline in use, posing a threat to the full transmission of the language's cultural depth (Daswani, 1989). The spoken language, however, flourishes in homes, religious gatherings, and cultural festivals, ensuring that the essence of Sindhi identity is never lost.

The preservation of Sindhi is not just about communication; it is about sustaining a shared cultural consciousness. Through the centuries, the language has carried the wisdom of Sindhi poets, saints, and scholars, shaping the moral and spiritual outlook of the people. The verses of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai and the teachings of Sant Kanwar Ram continue to resonate across generations. Even in the diaspora, where communities are scattered across the globe, the language acts as a bridge between the past and the present (David, 2015). It is spoken in Sindhi temples, gurdwaras, and community gatherings, where the words serve as a reminder of their collective history.

Sacred texts like the *Satnam Sakhi Granth* and *Shah Jo Risalo* have played a crucial role in preserving both the linguistic and spiritual aspects of Sindhi culture. By being

recited and interpreted within the community, these works serve as cultural compendiums rather than just religious texts, maintaining language continuity.

The community's yearly calendar, known as the *Sindhi Tipno*, is another important cultural relic supporting the preservation of Sindhi language and customs. Tipno is sent to every Sindhi's home and provides important dates for religious and cultural celebrations, ensuring that these customs are upheld for future generations. Thus, even after the Partition, Sindhi identity and knowledge systems have persisted in India, owing in large part to the interaction of language, literature, and cultural memory. These initiatives show how, despite contemporary constraints and the reduction in formal written usage, the Sindhi community manages to retain its linguistic legacy.

The Rhythm of Sindhi Tradition: Folk Dances and Music

Folk music and dances serve as a bridge to communal expression and spiritual foundations, which is why they are essential to the preservation of Sindhi cultural identity. Even though there is no state for Sindhis, people in India still practice the spirited folk dance known as *Chejj*, especially during festivals like *Chetichand*. Inspired by Lal Shah Baaz Qalandar, *Dhamaal* is a spiritual dance that uses rhythmic movements to link dancers to their Sufi heritage, all while the *nagara* (drum) beats in the background.

A particularly significant form of music is the *Sindhi Palav*, a prayer recited in devotion to Lord *Jhulelal*, the revered Sindhi deity. The *Palav* is much more than a spiritual recitation; it symbolizes hope, abundance, and the continuity of the Sindhi identity. When reciting the *Palav*, Sindhis ask Lord *Jhulelal* to fill their '*pallu*' (a symbolic cloth used during the prayer) with blessings, representing a heartfelt plea for prosperity and protection (Thakkar, 2019). This prayer remains central to the spiritual and cultural life of the Sindhi community, carrying forward traditions that emphasize unity, faith, and cultural pride. These cultural dances, prayers, and musical traditions are, in essence, more than just enjoyment or devotion; they are essential components of Sindhi culture, guaranteeing the continuation of their spiritual and cultural identity for future generations.

Therefore, the Sindhi community's long-standing customs, ranging from business and socio-economic legacy to food customs and language, evidence a strong bond with their ancestors' wisdom and cultural legacy. The community has been able to preserve its distinct identity within the Indian diaspora because these customs have not only withstood the difficulties of migration and displacement but have flourished in new settings. By

upholding these customs, the Sindhis make sure that their rich heritage of craftsmanship, spirituality, and social values is passed on to the next generation and that their cultural memory endures despite the world being more interconnected by the day.

Challenges in the Preservation of Culture

It has been particularly difficult for the Sindhi minority in India to preserve its culture, heritage, and identity since the horrific events of 1947's Partition. Due to severe violence and unrest during the period, Sindhis were compelled to leave their homeland of Sindh (now in Pakistan) in large numbers. They were dispersed throughout India as a result of this abrupt relocation, losing the sense of unity that most other Indian communities still enjoyed. It was difficult for Sindhis to build a cultural bastion in India because they were uprooted and lacked a state of their own, unlike populations in states like Punjab, Gujarat, or Maharashtra (Barnouw, 1966). In addition to being displaced, Sindhis in India frequently endure the stigma of being called "Pakistanis," a misconception that downplays their significant contributions to the country's economy and society. This stigma endures despite their enduring allegiance and contributions to India's progress, which hinders their social assimilation and cultural acceptance. The community has been further marginalised, nevertheless, by the underappreciation of their cultural and economic influence.

Another big issue is the decline of Sindhi as a commonly taught written language in India. The Sindhi community lacks institutional assistance to foster the Sindhi language and culture, in contrast to other communities that have robust state-supported programs to preserve their languages. Younger generations also have little access to official Sindhi literature. The forces of modernity and globalisation, which give priority to mainstream languages and cultural norms over regional and minority traditions, exacerbate this cultural decline.

Additionally, globalization has, in many ways, led to the homogenization of cultures, which further marginalizes minority communities like the Sindhi people. The rise of international media, popular culture, and consumerism has led to the dominance of Western cultural narratives. The shift in values toward individualism, materialism, and consumer-driven lifestyles often clashes with the community-oriented, family-focused, and spiritually rooted traditions of the Sindhi people. This increasing detachment from their roots is compounded by the diminishing interest in regional crafts and art forms, which are seen as less relevant in the face of mass-produced goods and digital entertainment.

Language loss, inadequate educational resources,

urbanisation, migration, and cultural dilution as a result of globalisation are all interconnected issues that threaten Sindhi culture's survival. As these pressures increase, the community and the larger national framework must give the preservation of the Sindhi language and its cultural practices immediate attention.

Impact of Language Decline on the Cultural Identity of Sindhis

The Sindhi community's cultural identity is being endangered by the collapse of the written form of the language. One of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, Sindhi has a long history of being used for community documentation, religious writings, and literary works. The loss of written Sindhi, however, creates a conundrum since, whereas oral traditions preserve the language at the family and community level, the language's cultural depth and function in formal and academic contexts are at risk due to its declining usage.

The inclusion of Sindhi in the Eighth Schedule guarantees the language a place in the official frameworks of the Indian state, which should ideally provide it with institutional support (Kothari, 2011). This recognition affirms the language's significance, yet the reality on the ground is more complex. Over the years, written Sindhi has seen a decline in usage, particularly among younger generations who are increasingly adopting languages like Hindi and English. This shift has largely been due to globalization and the growing dominance of these languages in education, government, and media. The Sindhi community, while preserving oral traditions, has been less successful in ensuring that written Sindhi remains a vital part of their public and intellectual life.

In the Republic of Language, G. N. Devy explores the crucial connection between language and cultural identity. He contends that a language loses its capacity to document history, uphold traditions, and establish intellectual authority in public life when its written form deteriorates. Due to this deterioration, a large portion of Sindhis' literary heritage, whether it be in the form of poetry or religious texts, becomes more and more unavailable (Devy, 2022). Even though oral transmission is robust, it is unable to properly convey the intricacies of written language, which over time may cause a progressive loss of the language's most profound meanings.

The community's identity is also significantly impacted by the loss of written Sindhi. The younger generations' ties to their Sindhi heritage wane as they grow increasingly proficient in Hindi and English. In addition to offering a connection to the past, the written word helps future

generations comprehend and interact with their legacy. Cultural continuity may gradually erode if future Sindhis are unable to access the core documents of their culture, such as classical literature or religious teachings, in written Sindhi.

Moreover, despite Sindhi's inclusion in the Eighth Schedule, there is a notable lack of institutional support for the promotion of written Sindhi. The language's official status should ideally encourage its use in government documents, education, and media, but the reality is that Sindhi, especially in its written form, is often marginalized. This lack of sustained support for Sindhi's written form undermines its survival in the public domain, contributing to its gradual decline (Shahani, 2022). The question arises: *if a language is recognized in the Constitution yet not adequately supported in practice, what is its true status in the cultural and national fabric?*

Thus, the cultural identity of the Sindhi population is significantly impacted by the demise of written Sindhi. Although the language is still passed down orally through the generations, the community's ties to its historical, cultural, and intellectual heritage are in jeopardy due to the disappearance of the written form. Although the fact that Sindhi is listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution confirms its significance, the decrease in its written usage highlights the disconnect between constitutional recognition and actual preservation. The Sindhi language runs the risk of becoming an endangered dialect without revitalisation measures, taking with it a valuable and priceless cultural heritage.

Preservation Efforts: Reviving Sindhi Culture Amidst Modern Challenges

The Sindhi community has demonstrated incredible tenacity in its attempts to conserve and revive its cultural legacy despite the numerous challenges mentioned above. However, these initiatives must address the wider socio-cultural changes brought about by modernisation and globalisation in addition to the decline of the Sindhi language's written form. One of the most significant preservation efforts is being led by institutions such as the Indian Institute of Sindhology, which was founded in 1989. The Institute has played a pivotal role in fostering cultural awareness, offering resources for language preservation, and organizing cultural events that keep the Sindhi language and heritage alive in public consciousness. Similarly, various Sindhi cultural associations around the world actively participate in organizing festivals and events that celebrate Sindhi music, dance, food, and traditions. These celebrations serve as important community-building platforms where people can reconnect with their roots.

The Sindhi community's grassroots organisations are another important source of support for cultural preservation. To strengthen the cultural fabric, local organisations actively plan festivals, cultural events, and workshops that showcase traditional dance, music, and cuisine. The celebration of *Chetichand*, the Sindhi New Year, which represents rebirth and pride in Sindhi customs, is a noteworthy illustration of this grassroots endeavour. The efforts made by other Indian communities, such as the Marathi and Punjabi communities, to bolster cultural pride through regional celebrations and customary get-togethers are similar to this grassroots fervour. These gatherings ensure that customs endure throughout generations by preserving cultural practices in the face of urbanisation and globalisation.

Social media use has created new opportunities for cultural preservation in the digital era. Young people from the Sindhi community have embraced social media sites like Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram to share their cultural customs with the world. The efforts made by younger generations in other Indian communities, including the Tamil diaspora, to interact with their language, culture, and customs through social media are comparable to this. In addition to keeping younger generations interested, social media campaigns help make Sindhi culture accessible and current in the modern world by showcasing it to a worldwide audience.

The Sindhi diaspora is also essential to the preservation of culture. Sindhi cultural centres and community organisations frequently hold events, seminars, and workshops in nations like the US, Canada, and the UK to teach the next generation about their heritage. This is similar to how the Gujarati diaspora has actively helped to keep the Gujarati language and traditions alive in Western nations. Both Gujarati and Sindhi communities preserve close ties to their traditions while adjusting to new surroundings through international festivals and cultural associations.

A significant comparison to the Sindhi community's efforts in preserving cultural identity can be made with the Tamil community. Despite challenges posed by migration and modernization, the Tamil language has been safeguarded due to robust institutional support through education, literature, and government policies. Tamil Nadu's educational system mandates the study of Tamil in schools, and the community has strong representation in literature, media, and government. In contrast, while Sindhi is a Scheduled Language under the Indian Constitution, it has not received the same level of institutional support. The Sindhi community has primarily relied on grassroots efforts, such as the Indian Institute of Sindhology, to preserve its heritage. While Tamil's formalized presence in Indian education

and media has helped preserve its cultural and linguistic heritage, Sindhi, though resilient in oral traditions, struggles with the decline of its written form. This comparison underscores the importance of institutional support in language preservation. Yet, despite this lack of formal support, the Sindhi community has succeeded in maintaining its cultural identity, with its rich oral traditions, festivals, and grassroots initiatives continuing to thrive in the face of modernization and globalization.

Conclusion and Way Forward

Despite the difficulties brought on by modernisation and displacement, the Sindhi community is a singular example of cultural preservation resilience in the setting of indigeneity and traditional knowledge systems. Their experience shows that conventional knowledge, which is based on social traditions, oral history, and language, may endure even in the absence of a geographical location. The significance of intangible legacy as a living force in maintaining indigenous knowledge systems is further supported by the Sindhi community's capacity to preserve their cultural identity through storytelling, shared knowledge, and collective memory.

In the future, more work must be done to preserve Sindhi traditions, particularly the written and spoken forms of the language, which contain enormous amounts of knowledge. Traditional Sindhi expertise, whether in the fields of cuisine, folklore, or social rituals, can be revived and incorporated into mainstream platforms to enable these activities to develop while being loyal to their origins. To preserve this legacy, it is imperative to increase government recognition of the Sindhi language and customs, promote community-based projects, and grow digital archives. The Sindhi experience also sheds light on broader challenges faced by indigenous and displaced communities worldwide. It underscores the importance of adaptability within traditional knowledge systems, ensuring they can coexist with contemporary lifestyles. This balance offers a way forward, where traditional knowledge not only survives but also informs sustainable and culturally rich futures for indigenous groups within the globalized world. By recognizing and supporting the Sindhi community's cultural legacy, India acknowledges a vital part of its diverse heritage, affirming that traditional knowledge systems are integral to national identity and must be preserved for future generations.

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