



Application Of Musical Instruments In Tribal Culture Of Odisha: An Overview

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ABSTIRACT:-

Music is the heart and soul of tribal way of life. It has its natural exuberance in the fields, jungles with the waves and ripples of the social and individual heart bubbling and floating in the winding hilly ways down to the village huts. This prompted in the contrivance of sound generating devices that move and throw along the moods and feelings to whisper from heart to heart and community to community, the voice, the message and the feelings of joy and woe, through the traditional tribal musical instruments. The sorrows and sufferings neither find expression in the tearing eyes and the palpitating hearts, but in the melancholy tunings of the flute. The aim of tribal life is to find joy in deeds and actions that stimulate the individual to mingle in festivities. Each tribal community of Odisha has devised ways and means to commemorate a function. It may surround the forest, the village or the field to perform with all intimacy and with all free expressions as a slipway of the bandaged and regulated social life.

KEY WORDS :- Music, Tribal, Folk, Cummunity, Cultural, Instruments

Music exists in all human societies of the world. It may be in the most primitive stage of development or in an ultra-modern stage, the music has its own essential functions in all societies. The universal emergence of music has given development to many types of musical instruments. Though the language and vocal music might have come later but the construction of musical instruments evidently dates with the earliest inventions which suggested them to human ingenuity. Even

in the most primitive tribes of Odisha variety of musical instruments of their own contrivance exist, with which they accompany their traditional songs and dances.

Wood, bamboo, metal and the horn of animals are the most common substances used in the construction of tribal musical instruments. In tribal areas of Odisha bamboo or some similar kind of cane and gourds are especially made use of for blowing musical instrument purpose.

The mode in which individual tribal artists or tribes are in the habit of embellishing their musical instruments is sometimes as characteristic as it is singular. The materials for ornamentation chiefly employed by primitive tribes are bright colours, bamboo, beads, shells, grasses, the bark of trees, feather, stones, gildings, etc.

Tribal blowing musical instruments of the flute kind including pipes, whistles, flutes, pipes, etc. are also to be found almost everywhere. Much the same is the case with tribal blowing instruments of the trumpet kind. These are often made of the bamboo, horns, bones and tusks of animals; frequently of vegetable substance and of metal. They not un-

frequently contain a series of tones produced by slabs of wood or metal, which are beaten with assort of hammer, as the harmonicon is played.

Odisha is mainly a tribal and rural based state. The education and literacy rate is not so high here. Hence from this point of view the position of tribal music and tribal musical instruments has much significance here. In Odishan tribal societies the forest product gatherers, farmers, labourers and daily wagers when return to their respective homes after some daily work, prefer to relax with music and dance. It is the tribal music which fulfills the aspirations of tribal people to a great extent. The tribal music one, which acts like a companion in one's work and which stays along with one's religion, can also be a source of joy for those who practice music.

Various types of tribal songs and music have also been prevalent in different districts of Odisha. The prevalence of various types of tribal songs along with the tribal musical instruments are found, especially in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Koraput, Sundergarh, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Kalahandi etc...

Traditions of tribal music in Odisha, is as rich as the cultural traditions of Odisha. The tribal dances, plays and music of Odisha are traditidered more entertaining than that of the other regions of India. These arts of tribal dance, music and plays were mainly performed in praise of the deities which are adorned in the caves, temples, royal palaces and the village-huts of Odisha. The arts were also performed here on various occasions and festivals.

The prevalence of various tribal instrumental music is found in Odisha's western region, north region and southern region. According to the findings, the tribal communities of Odisha used to compose various tribal dances by following the activities of wild animals and birds. Normally these tribal people use very simple musical instruments. Instruments called Chanagu (a type of drum) and Basi (flute) are used in almost all the tribal regions of Odisha. Besides this some specific musical instruments are used in some particular regions. 'Durga' is a wooden musical instrument. This particular instrument is used only by the 'Gond' tribals of Umarkote area in Odisha. The 'Khanjani' musical instrument is used mainly during the 'Kondhs' tribal dance of Phulabani district. 'Tulia' is a wire-made musical instrument. And this 'Tulia' instrument is mainly played by the farmers of Mayurbhanj district. Similarly the musical instruments called 'Goonoong', made of thin-strips of bamboo is only played by the 'Gond' tribals.

It would be appropriate to say that the tribal music of Odisha is like the mementos which live in numerous hearts of the people. Tribal music of Odisha is meant for the recreation and entertainment of tribul people. Tribal music of Odisha is a companion is ones daily routine. At times we come across some tribal people who sing out of joy or spontaneously for example, a tribal farmer while to sing a song.

When we talk about the tribal, musical instruments or about the dance art of Odishan tribe, then the name of Koraput, Kat about and Mayurbhanj districts comes up spontaneously to our mind. These are important places where the tribal dance forms like 'Dhemsas', 'Ghumura', 'Jhoomar', 'Karama' etc. emerged and developed excellently. There are also some musical instrument which have not come to the limelight till date. One of such lesser known folk musical instrument is called 'Tuila'. If it is held with a bare body while playing then good tunes are created by this instrument. 'Tuila' is said to be a tune-machine. The thread attached to this musical instrument is pulled to create musical sounds. Unlike other string-musical instruments its sound movement is slow and its sounds can be heard up to a lesser distance. With this musical instrument the tunes of 'Karama'song along with the 'Jhoomar' song can be played.

The musical instrument called 'Deka' is especially prevalent in the 'Desia Kandha' community of Koraput district. This type of musical instrument is found in the undivided - Phulbani district of our state. As per the classifications this musical instrument called 'Deka' belongs to 'Tat' class. This musical instrument is very closely related to the lives, culture and tradition of the 'Desia Kandha' tribes. Earlier, the 'Desia Kandha' tribes used to practice human sacrifice in order to reap higher produce from their agricultural lands. This was called as 'Meria puja'. In this 'Meria puja' other was a tradition for playing 'Deka' musical instrument. Today this 'Deka' musical instrument is played during the 'Jhagidi' Puja and also during the 'Dhangda-Dhangdi' dance performance of the tribes. Two gourds made bowls, a bamboo stick and a wire etc. are combined in a process to make this musical instrument called 'Deka'. This musical instrument is pulled by hand and performed. This is called a This musicice or tune machine. "Doondooni is a stringed musical instrument with a single string, which is found in the tribal regions of Phulbani, Rayagada districts of Odisha. It is prevalent in the 'Kandha tribal

communities and the 'Sabar' tribes also use to play this musical instrument. This musical instrument is a source of livelihood for many tribes. It looks like the 'Ektara' musical instrument. It has also some similarities with the classical musical instrument called 'Tanpura'. The 'Tanpura' has 4 strings where as there is 1 string attached in the "Doondooni" musical instrument. This instrument is played during the marriage ceremonies and also during the Puja occasion of various deities, Although the pattern of dance and music prevalent among them vary from tribe to tribe in different tribal districts of Odisha yet there are certain features common to all.

Tribal music and dances have some accompaniments by means of which the rhythm is maintained. This consists of clapping of hands or beating of drums or an orchestra of different traditional instruments. Every dance is accompanied by a song which is sung by the performers. Both men and women, young and old dance and invariably sing but the accompanying orchestra or music is usually provided by the male members. Tribal music and dance is characterized not only by its originality and spontaneity but also for its wide range of movements. Many parts of the body such as head, back, arms, feet, finger, etc. are brought into play. Some of the tribal groups put on colourful dancing costume during their performance.

Like dance, the songs sung by different tribal groups differ from one tribe to the other. Among the tribes everyone is a musician and poet. When happily inspired, they can coin a song then and there and sing it. Like any others, when they see things of beauty and meet pleasantly, they exhibit this pleasure and happiness by composing songs. One finds in these songs humors, jokes, romance, satires, criticisms, acquisitions and anger. Though there is no modernity and fineness, their ideas being natural, the compositions are good, inspiring and melodious. On the occasion of performing religious rituals and observance of festivals the songs sung are different. Such songs are adopted from the past so many years. These songs describe the history of gods, the process of creation and some epic stories.

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