



BLOWING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF ODISHAN TRIBES

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ABSTRACT

Odishan tribal culture is prevalent among the tribal people of Odisha; majority of which is to be found in the tribal villages. The most important aspect of Odishan tribal culture is their music and dance. Each tribe has its own pattern of dance and music. They use different kinds of costumes and musical instruments to make their performance beautiful. Dance and music is an important part of tribal culture which being continued from the ancient times. The tribal music expressed the primal emotions of human being with simple words and simple tunes. Odishan tribal music as a whole reflects the rich cultural diversity. Although the pattern of music prevalent among them varies from tribe to tribe yet there are certain features common to all. Tribal music has even become more significant since it is an indispensable part of instrumental music especially in the context of blowing musical instruments. Odishan tribal blowing instruments are playing in perfect symphony.

KEYWORDS : Blowing, Musical Instrument, Tribal, Flute Odisha

Music is the combination of three fine arts namely: singing (vocal), playing instruments (instrumental) and dance. Like song and dance, the Instrumental music is an equal contributor to the fame of the whole tribal music. The tribes of Odisha have retained the rich and varied heritage of colourful dance and music forming integral part of their festivals and rituals. Music is developed and maintained by themselves in a tradition without aid and intervention of any professional teacher. 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.. The traditions of tribal music in Odisha, is as rich as the cultural traditions of Odisha. Normally these tribal people use very simple musical instruments. Tribal music of Odisha is meant for the recreation and entertainment of tribal 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 ploughing his field use to sing a song. Learning music in a typical tribal society forms a cardinal part of the entire process of association of its members. It is learnt together with the umpteen customs and practices conforming to the standards reckoned apt by the society. Any given tribal community as a whole initiated its children in learning music, i.e., singing, drumming or dancing, from an early age. The tribal culture of Odisha offers a participatory model of creativity or of communication between the gifted artist and his community. Tribal music, defined as the traditional music passed from one generation to the next. Tribal music as a popular tribal recreation has recently expressed the spirit and character of the people of the Odisha. Most of the Odishan tribes are predominantly have a rich tradition of tribal music that encompasses wide themes surrounding their social and cultural lives. In the simplest sense, these musical instruments are meant not just to generate sound but to produce and modify the character of tribal music altogether. It is therefore useful to look at a classification of musical instruments that accompany tribal music and songs based on the way in which the sounds are generated and produced.

Blowing musical instrument within tribal communities of Odisha, has a very long tradition. It was influenced by many sources yet developed a special style of its own. Odishan tribal music has many distinctive regional styles and requires many years of training. Blowing musical instrument has many functions in Odishan tribal society today ranging from entertaining and communicating with gods. Blowing musical instrument is part of the tribal culture and is being taught in traditionally in tribal society for appreciation, and as part of preserving tribal cultural identity. The musical instrument called Basi (tribal flute) is especially prevalent in the Desia

Kandha, Gadaba, Paraja, Didayi community of Odishan tribal society. This type of blowing musical instrument is found in the undivided Koraput, Phulbani and Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. As per the classifications this musical instrument called Basi belongs to *Sushira Vadya* class. This musical instrument is very closely related to the lives, culture and tradition of the Odishan tribes. In tribal *religious and socio cultural practices* its tradition for playing Basi musical instrument. Today this Basi musical instrument is played during the 'Chaiti Parab' and also during the *Dhangda Dhangidi* dance performance of the Odishan tribes. This musical instrument is a purely wind musical instrument used by Odishan tribes. Odishan tribal music has some accompaniments by means of which the rhythm is maintained with use and application of blowing musical instrument. This consists of playing a bamboo flute, clapping of hands or beating of drums or an orchestra of different instruments. Odishan tribal songs with traditional music especially with blowing musical instruments are sung in chorus and are known for their beautiful tunes. Tribal musical instruments of Odisha are generally manufactured by the tribal musicians and artists themselves, making use of materials like bamboo, coconut shells, animal skin, etc. Into a wholesome Odishan tribal musical session, there can be a mixture of drum and sounds of tribal flutes. Other blowing musical instruments utilized include bamboo flutes, Singha etc. Like the tribal drums, blowing musical instruments particularly trumpets and flutes-have strong socio-religious associations and functions of several tribal communities of Odisha. In some tribal areas of Odisha, for instance, some flutes are very small and some are large in size. The Basi, a thin flute made of bamboo a meter long, is one of the important instruments of the tribes of Odisha. In Odishan tribal cultures here implying tribal traditional communities music often serves purposes other than entertainment or aesthetic enjoyment. Certain blowing tribal musical instruments are closely associated with the supernatural, and their sounds connote powerful magic.

Blowing tribal musical instruments are often among some tribal group's most important ritual objects, and in tribal communities of Kandha of Keonjhar, Kondhamal, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Koraput, Ganjam and Sundergarh, Paraja of Koraput, Kalahandi and Sundergarh, Gadaba of Koraput, Nowrangpur, and Malkangiri, Oraon of Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Gunupur, and Bonai, Bonda of Koraput and Malkangiri, Juang of Keonjhar and Dhenkanal, Santal of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, and Keonjhar and Gond of Sambalpur, Bolangir, Koraput, Kalahandi and Sundergarh they are specially venerated. The Gadaba of the Koraput district rainforest keep their traditional flutes wherein spirits are believed to dwell, in a special shrine where they are

treated as sacred objects. A variety of blowing musical instruments in traditional tribal cultures of Odishan tribes is used for personal amusement, and some are known to accompany vocal performance and dance. For example, the Desia Kandha of Koraput district, which is found across the tribal areas from southern Odisha, supplies introductions, interludes, and conclusions, as well as accompaniments for vocalists and their blowing musical instruments; it also provides intricate aural counterparts to the foot movements of dancers. Among the Didayi of Malkangiri district the blowing musical instruments traditionally depended on the age of the male performer. Boys between five and nine years of age play blowing instruments with only bamboo pipes. The sound of the Odishan tribal flute, for example, is widely associated with love magic. Among the tribes young men played the flute to serenade young women; bamboo flutes and flute music historically have been connected with rites of romantic initiation. In some tribal communities of Odisha, instrument symbolism is highly developed. In Gadaba, Paraja, Ho, Bondo, Didayi, Juang, *Dongaria Kandha, Kutia*

Kandha, Paudi Bhuiyan, Birhor, Mankirdia, Hill-Kharica, Saora, *Lanjia Saora, Chuktia, Bhunjia* tribal communities of Odisha, blowing musical instruments are used in a variety of social contexts, not least in religious ritual. In Mayurbhanj the transverse flute are played in celebrating Santal birthday. The melodic instrument in Kutia Kandha's religious rituals is the traditional bamboo flute, which is used to play preludes and interludes to the tribal chants. Blowing musical instruments play an important role in Odishan tribal music and cultures. Most tribal music for winds imitates vocal models, such as the tribal music for Dhemsā and other group dances, the love songs for bamboo flute played by tribal men, and the blowing instrumental music of Odishan primitive tribes, which usually consists of richly ornamented versions of local tribal songs. Many kinds of blowing musical instrument are found throughout tribal districts of Odisha. These vary from the very simple ones found in tribal areas. In Odishan Kandha, Saora, Paraja, Koya, Gond, Gadaba, Birhor, Didayi and Juang

tribal communities flutes are made from a bamboo and woody pipes. It is mainly performed in relation to their traditional tribal festivals, dance and rituals related to ancestral god. There are many ritualistic elements included in the performance and it is performed as worship to the family deities during marriages. The common and regular tribal festivals are those connected with agricultural operations. The Basi is a traditional wind instrument belonging to the tribal music of Odisha It is considered a tribal cultural instrument for auspicious occasion and hence, is often a part of tribal music arrangements during marriages, though it is often found in tribal dances. This is a wind flute handcrafted out of a specific bamboo. A few types of tribal music are idiomatic to blowing musical instruments. In tribal districts of Odisha, perhaps because of the proliferation of blowing musical instrument, including several basic types of flutes, tribal music is dominated by blowing instrumental tunes, most of them for dancing. The major tribal districts of Odisha are celebrating several traditional tribal festivals according to the local tribal tradition and culture with their traditional music and dance. The socio cultural life of Odishan tribal communities are connected and well related with their dance, instrumental music, and songs, and these dance music and songs are their wealth. Their songs and music related with their daily socio cultural life. For smoothness of their daily life different Odishan tribes always try to entertain among themselves during their leisure time through the use of instrumental music like drums and bamboo flutes for pleasure. Odishan tribes are living in agrarian and animist societies in which music takes on a special importance. Most of us think of music merely as a form of recreation and relaxation. For these tribal societies of Odisha, music is a heritage of expression through a variety of musical instruments including traditional blowing musical instruments. Tribal blowing instrument which can be

considered to be of the same family as, if not an improvement over time period, the tribal blowing musical instruments in Odisha.

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