



## WIND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF ODISHAN TRIBES

## Arts

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## ABSTRACT

Odishan tribal music with its closed-group form of ethnicity is remarkable in the sense that it can never be studied in isolation from the social and ritual contexts of the people concerned. Tribal music possesses a well-built community basis. The fact can be comprehended in the domains of musical-socialization, kinds of ownership, levels of participation and nature of specialization. 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. 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 our state.

## KEYWORDS

Music, Instruments, Tribes, Odisha

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. Any given tribal community as a whole initiated its children in learning music, i.e., singing, drumming or dancing, from an early age. Children from the Santals tribal society are initially supplied with the small sized flutes of five to six inches in length with three to four envoys to blow and the drums of smaller size to beat.

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..

The traditions of tribal music in Odisha, is as rich as the cultural

traditions of Odisha. The tribal dances, plays and music of Odisha are considered 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 Umakote 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 tribal people. Tribal music of Odisha is a companion in 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.

When we talk about the tribal, musical instruments or about the dance art of Odishan tribe, then the name of Koraput, Kalahandi and Mayurbhanj districts comes up spontaneously to our mind. These are important places where the tribal dance forms like 'Dhemsal', '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'. From its appearance it looks like the Indian classical musical instrument called Bansuri. 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. This is called as a wind tune device or wind tune machine. This musical instrument is pulled by hand and performed. This is called as a tune device 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.

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