



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Arts

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF ODISHAN TRIBAL MUSIC

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ABSTRACT

Some significant portions of Odisha are comprised of the several tribal communities and rural people, the original inhabitants of the land. The unique tribal and folk culture of Odisha and their hereditary traditions and socio cultural practices pervade almost all of the elements of Odishan culture. Odishan music can be classified into various categories, like classical music, semi classical music, folk music and tribal music etc. In this present research paper, attempt has been made to document significant features of Odishan tribal music. Odishan tribal music one, which acts like a companion in everyday work and which stays along with tribal community's religion, can also be a source of entertainment for those who practice music. Most of the primitive tribes of Odisha are having variety of traditional musical instruments of their own contrivance exist, with which they accompany their traditional community songs and dances.

Odishan tribal music of different tribal communities is as rich as the cultural traditions of Odisha. Odishan tribal music, dance and traditional practices are considered more entertaining than that of the other non tribal world. These arts of tribal dance, music and plays are mainly performed during tribal festivals and in other socio cultural occasion. Odishan tribal music is like the mementos which live in numerous hearts of members of different tribal communities. Odishan tribal music is meant for the community recreation and everyday entertainment of tribal society. Odishan tribal music is like a companion is ones daily routine life. 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. 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. Among the Odishan 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 musical songs. Odishan tribal music possesses a well built community basis.

Many traditional tribal musical instruments are played in every tribal dance and music. In the tribal marriage ceremony the tribal people used in lighter musical instruments that is Basi, Gani lauri and Muang lauri. But in the major tribal festivals most of the traditional tribal musical instruments are generally used. Mostly the traditional tribal musical instruments are purchased from weekly market of tribal areas of Odisha. The tribal musical instruments are especially prevalent in the Desia Kandha, Gadaba, Paraja, Didayi community of Odishan tribal society. A variety of instruments is used by tribes of Odisha; some tribes have perhaps no more than a drum, while others have quite a number, including traditional tribal blowing musical instruments. Many of the Odishan tribes have two distinct types of music, the outdoor ensemble, which is often performed by members of different tribal community with their own characteristic tribal songs. The outdoor ensemble is used at tribal marriage and on festive occasions. These tribal musical instruments vary in size and structure, depending to some extent on the affluence of the tribe. The tribal of Odisha live an eventful life interspersed with instrumental music, songs and dance. Within any tribal community of Odisha one can hear the ricocheting voices of these merry people from afar. No social activity of these tribal people is complete without music and dance. Odishan tribal music is considered to be a version of house music. The music is mostly accompanied by drum-beats and tunes through use and

application of blowing musical instruments with no presence of specific melody. The musical beats and flute tunes are based on sophisticated and synchronized drum patterns, establishing a rhythm. During an ongoing performance, there exists no prolonged synthesis sound in such music. 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 Odishan tribal cultures here implying tribal traditional communities music often serves purposes other than entertainment or aesthetic enjoyment. Odishan 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. A variety of musical instruments in traditional tribal cultures of Odishan tribes is used for personal amusement, and some are known to accompany tribal musical performance and tribal community dance. Tribal musical instruments are used in many different ways in traditional tribal music of Odisha; thus, the distinctions between folk art and tribal instruments are not always clear cut.

Although traditional tribal musical instruments are still made in irregular temperaments for traditional tribal music, many are now constructed in equal temperament for use in tribal socio cultural practices. 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 Dhemsas 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 certain primitive tribal instrumental ensembles, percussion instruments sometimes are joined by teams of flute or horn players, each of whom plays a single note whenever it occurs in the melody. In Odisha, it's quite common to find tribal dance in Adivasi areas. Tribal musical instruments every time remind the culture of our land. Tribal musical instruments especially the blowing musical instruments are usually homemade that developed and used among common tribal people. Most tribal instruments made from wood, bamboo, metal, and other natural materials. 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. 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. Most of the tribal songs are related with traditional and primitive musical instruments including use of blowing musical instrument. Especially the cultural life of the Odishan tribal communities is connected with traditional song and dance with use and application of musical instruments. Odishan tribes are living in agrarian and animist societies in which music takes on a special importance. For different tribal societies of Odisha, music is a heritage of expression through a variety of musical instruments including traditional blowing musical instruments. Instrumental music is an extension of speech in tribal way of life. There's a musical instrument for every facet of Odishan tribal life, festivals, ceremonies, for every occasion. Odishan tribals always work for their own interest which is closely related with their own culture when they get leisure time at that time they want to sing folk songs from everyday schedule from their daily life. Tribal instrumental music are very popular and a regular cultural practice among Kandha, Kutia Kandha, Dongria Kandha and Desia Kandha Savaras (Saoras), Paraja, Gadaba, Santals, Gond, Koya, Munda, Bonda, Kharia, Oraon, Kisan tribe of Odisha and most of these tribes are habituated with use and application of blowing musical instruments along with their traditional drums and string instruments. Their music is represented in a variety of blowing, string and percussion instruments. Different traditional instrumental music embodies their tradition, culture and history. Every facet of tribal life is recounted in music, harvest, hunt, phases of life and seasons. The traditional tribal musical instruments among different tribes of Odisha serve a variety of roles some may be confined to religious or ceremonial occasions; others are used in a more secular fashion for entertainment. Odishan tribal music scenario also possesses its aboriginal restrictions as well. Music amongst tribals is not conceived as exclusive property of its individual members, but of the community as a whole. For this very reason, tribal music even if framed by individual composers remains anonymous. Tribal musician of different Odishan tribal communities, like other members of the community, also works in the fields during the rainy season, and always plays the traditional musical instrument during the festivals that mark harvest, and celebrate the farming seasons. Odishan tribal music can be treated as social manifestation that represents characteristic aspects of a tribal society and that can be understood by different aspects of analysis. In Odisha there are many kinds of tribal music and music, and many ways of conceptualizing of them. The concepts associated with what Odia speakers recognize as tribal music.

In some tribal communities of Odisha there are no general terms for tribal music and music, but rather spacious names for different performances that involve tribal music. Many Odishan tribal musicians with no education in literacy tend to think of words as just one part of the exchange between people engaged in communication. 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. Tribal music as a popular tribal recreation has recently expressed the spirit and character of the people of the Odisha. Odishan tribal music today regardless of form has many functions. Tribal music performances are held in many shrines in the tribal areas of Odisha. Odishan tribal music is an integral part of most of traditional drama which is performed daily or nightly wherever there is a feast or a fair. Odishan tribal music is an important means for their cultural identity. Odishan tribal music has even become more significant since

it is an indispensable part of instrumental music. The role of tribal village artists and musicians is important but their socio economic development is poor. A comprehensive survey of major problems of tribal village artists and musicians should be conducted to enhance their socio cultural and economic status.

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