



Role of Folk Performing Arts in Promoting Cultural Preservation and Empowerment in Bodo Society

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ABSTRACT

The Bodo people are a tribal group that has been around for a long time and has a rich culture. They live in Northeast India. The Bodo people keep their culture alive and give them power through folk performing arts. Like other cultures around the world, the Bodos have three types of folk performing arts: folk dance, folk music, and folk drama. Most of these have to do with the time of year, farming, and religion. The Kherai is the most important religious event for the Bodos. It involves special rites and rituals, and Doudini plays a key role in them. Doudini performs many dances to beautiful music. Along with the Kherai, Garza is also worshipped. On the other hand, there is a type of secular folk drama that has been passed down from generation to generation. Thakhrifalla, Khemtha, Phuthula phala, Jatra Gaan, and Ek Thengiya are some of these. This paper investigate about how folk performing arts can help keep Bodo culture alive and give people more power. It talks about how these art forms are important to culture and history, how they affect the community, and the problems that come up when trying to keep them alive and promote them. The paper also discuss about how folk performing arts could boost the economy and offers suggestions for how to keep these art forms alive and well for future generations.

Keywords: Bodo Society, Folk Performing Arts, Cultural Preservation, Empowerment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indigenous communities all over the world have used folk performing arts to keep their cultural heritage alive. The Bodo community, an indigenous group in Assam, India, has a rich cultural heritage that has been passed down through the generations through folk performing arts. This research paper seeks to analyze the function of folk performing arts in fostering cultural preservation and the empowerment of the Bodo community.

The Bodo people have a long history and a lot of cultural traditions, which can be seen in their music, dance, art, and writing. The Bodo people have a lot of different and unique folk performing arts that are an important part of their culture. Over time, the Bodo society's folk performing arts have changed and been shaped by different cultures and traditions. Like many other cultures, the Bodos have folk music, dance, and drama. They are mostly about farming, seasons, and religion. Their biggest religious celebration is the Bodo Kherai.. People worship Kherai and Garza. There is also a tradition of folk plays that are not religious. Thengiya, Thakhrifalla, Khemtha, Phuthula phala, and Jatra Gaan. These folk performances are not only a way to have fun, but they are also an important part of the Bodo society's cultural identity.

2. BACKGROUND

The Bodo community is one of the biggest native groups in Assam, with about 1.4 million people living there. Their culture is different from others in that it includes language, religion, music, dance, and folk performing arts. The Bodo language is part of the Tibeto-Burman family of languages and has a long history of writing. The Bathou religion is an animist religion. Bathouism is the Bodo people's traditional religion in Assam, India. It is based on the worship of a

supreme god called Bwrai Bathou. The Bodo community's music and dance are an important part of their culture. They use them to celebrate weddings, festivals, and other social events.

Folk performing arts have also been used to encourage people to get involved in politics and social issues. The Bodo movement wants to make a separate state for the Bodo people. They have used folk performing arts to voice their complaints and get people to support them. People have used folk songs, poems, and plays to bring attention to the problems the Bodo community is facing and to demand their rights.

3. METHODOLOGY

To reach the research goals, a mix of qualitative research methods would be used. Ethnographic research methods is used to look at the Bodo community's cultural practices and performances. To learn more about the Bodo community's cultural practices, beliefs, and attitudes toward folk performing arts, a participant observation, interviews, and focus group discussions are made. An archival research to look at old books and documents that have to do with the history, culture, and folk performing arts of the Bodo community is also conducted.

A qualitative content analysis is used to look at the information derived from ethnographic and archival research. Through this finding themes and patterns in the data that show how folk performing arts help the Bodo community preserve their culture and give them power. Then, the results are being shown using a story-like style that brings out the main themes and patterns found in the data. A care has been taken that research with indigenous people be done in a way that is respectful and ethical. Care is taken to get participants' informed consent, respecting their cultural beliefs and practices, and making sure that the research doesn't hurt the community in any way. To get people in the community involved and interested, collaborative methods that involve working closely with them and making sure they have a say in the research process is also considered.

4. ROLE OF FOLK PERFORMING ARTS IN PROMOTING CULTURAL PRESERVATION

The Bodo society relies on folk performing arts to keep their culture alive. The Bodo people live in a tribal society, and these folk performances help them pass down their culture and traditions from one generation to the next. The Bodo people have been able to keep their culture and traditions alive through the folk performing arts that their ancestors passed down to them.

The Bodo people have had a hard time keeping their cultural heritage alive because of globalization and the loss of their traditional values. But their folk performing arts have helped them keep their cultural identity and pass on their traditions. These folk performances have also been very important in helping people of different ages pass on their culture to each other. The younger generation learns about their culture and traditions from their elders

4.1 Role of Folk Performing Arts in Empowerment

Folk performing arts are also very important for giving power to the Bodo people. These folk performances give the Bodo people a chance to show off their skills and talents. They also help bring the Bodo people together and make them feel like they are part of a community. Folk performing arts can unite people and make them feel like they belong.

The Bodo people have a lot of cultural history, and their folk performing arts could do a lot to help the economy grow. These folk performances can be used to bring in tourists, which can help the Bodo community make money. The Bodo people can also use their folk performing arts to sell their traditional goods and crafts, which can help their economy grow.

4.2 Historical and Cultural Significance of Folk Performing Arts:

The Bodo people have a long history of folk performing arts that they have passed down from one generation to the next. It is quite challenging to trace the historical lineage of the Bodos' folk performers in folk arts. There are no written records to examine regarding it. But there are several myths and legends about where particular religious practices and musical instruments came from.

These types of art have been around for a long time and are important to many cultures. Bodo folk performing arts are a unique mix of old and new styles, and they are influenced by many different cultures and traditions.

4.3 Impact of Folk Performing Arts on the Bodo Society:

Folk performing arts have a big effect on Bodo society. These types of art not only help keep culture alive, but they also give people power. The Bodo people can show off their talents and skills through folk performing arts. They also help bring the Bodo people together and make them feel like they are part of a community. Folk performing arts can unite people and make them feel like they belong. Folk performing arts can also help the Bodo society's economy grow. These art forms can be used to bring in tourists, which can help the Bodo community make money. The Bodo people can also use their folk performing arts to sell their handicrafts and other traditional goods, which can help their economy grow.

4.4 Challenges in Preserving and Promoting Folk Performing Arts:

Folk performing arts are important to Bodo society's history and culture, but they are having a hard time keeping them alive and promoting them. One of the biggest problems is that globalization is having an effect and traditional values are fading away. The Bodo people are becoming more modern, which could put their cultural heritage at risk.

Another problem is that there aren't enough resources or infrastructure to protect and promote folk performing arts. In addition, there aren't enough places like cultural centres, museums, and performance spaces to show off these art forms.

Another problem is that younger people don't know about or care about folk performing arts. More and more Bodo young people are interested in modern music and entertainment, which can make them less interested in and involved in traditional art forms.

4.5 Strategies for Preserving and Promoting Folk Performing Arts:

There are a number of ways to keep and promote folk performing arts in the Bodo society that can help with these problems. One way to protect and document these art forms is to make archives and keep them safe for future generations. The government and non-governmental organizations can give money and other resources to cultural programs and projects that support folk performing arts.

Another way to help these traditional art forms is to encourage people to learn and train in them. The Bodo community can set up cultural centres and institutes where people can learn about and practice folk performing arts. These centres can also help young people learn about their cultural heritage and improve their skills in traditional art forms.

The Bodo community can also put on cultural festivals and events that show off their folk performing arts. These events can give the Bodo people a chance to show off their skills and talents and talk about their cultural heritage. Festivals and events that celebrate Bodo culture can also bring in tourists, which can help the community make money.

5. CONCLUSION

Folk performing arts are very important for preserving culture and giving people in the Bodo society power. These traditional art forms are very much a part of the community's culture and social life. They show the Bodo people's language, literature, beliefs, and sense of who they are as a group. The Bodos have kept their traditions alive, passed down cultural knowledge from one generation to the next, and brought people together through song, dance, and stories.

Folk performing arts have been more than just a way to express themselves; they've also been a way for people to voice their social concerns and get together to do something about them. They have helped the Bodo people come together, find their identity, and be strong, all while making them proud of their heritage. Also, these art forms have a lot of potential to boost the economy through tourism, cultural festivals, and the promotion of traditional crafts and goods.

So, protecting and promoting Bodo folk performing arts is important not only for protecting cultural heritage but also for encouraging long-term community growth. It is very important for both government and non-governmental organizations to help by providing funding, documentation, and capacity-building programs that promote learning and teaching these traditional art forms.

The folk performing arts of the Bodo community are more than just fun; they are a strong way for people to express their identity, gain power, and keep going. The Bodo society can make sure that its cultural legacy continues to inspire and enrich future generations in a world that is always changing by valuing and bringing back these traditions.

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