



Moral Values in the Light of Purulia's Folk Culture

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ABSTRACT

Purulia has rich cultural heritage. It has the mixed culture of Bengal. The distinctiveness of those is well demonstrated with the sentiments and feelings of the population and these are marked with splash of colours and often entwined with pathos, romanticism, velour and social consciousness. In this article writers are want to discuss about human values of Purulia's Folk Culture. Folk god's, Conducted vows and festivals, Folk Song's, Folk Dances, Folk Art which has been established. The whole of Purulia district in the court of the world has been discussed in this article.

Keywords : Purulia, Folk Culture, Moral Values, Folk God's, Vows and festivals, Folk Song, Folk Dance, Folk Art

1. Purulia

Purulia is one of the oldest district in West Bengal, India and has a rich culture and heritage to boast of. Encircled by Bankura, Midnapore and Burdwan districts of West Bengal and Hazaribag, Singhbhum, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Bokaro districts of Jharkhand state, the place has undergone a lot of changes over the many years of its existence. From being a part of the country known as Vajra-bhumi to being a part of Jungle Mahals district and then Manbhum district, Purulia has seen a lot of phases in its life. Finally in 1956 Manbhum district was partitioned between Bihar and West Bengal under the States Reorganization Act and the Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Act 1956 and the present Purulia district was born on

November 1956. The district is a part of the Red Corridor.

Purulia has rich cultural heritage. It has the mixed culture of Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orrisa as it was a part of these areas for various times. From archaeological evidences to local festivals, every cultural event has got a tribal touch in it, which is the speciality of Purulia. Living mostly in rural areas and keeping intact many of their socio-cultural values, more or less in pristine forms, the rural people of Purulia have their folks to speak about many of their tenets. The distinctiveness of those is well demonstrated with the sentiments and feelings of the population and these are marked with splash of colours and often entwined with pathos, romanticism, velour and social consciousness. Purulia got a distinct folk culture of Jhumur, Tusu, Bhadu songs. It is also the birthplace of a martial dance of Bengal Chhau¹.

1. Folk Culture

Folk Culture, The word in English is synonymous with ancient customs and folklore. This issue has long been controversial. The origin of Folk-Culture word from the word of Folklore. Folk, the word is Bengali 'Lok'. Culture, the word is Bengali 'Sanskriti'. Folklore or popular knowledge is the accumulated store of what mankind has experienced, learned & practice across the ages as popular & traditional knowledge, as distinguished from so called - scientific knowledge. Folk culture is the popular knowledge that people have accumulated through popular experiences. The knowledge that he has been practicing for ages. This knowledge is based on tradition.

From these definition it is understood that folk culture is what folk society has followed, used, believed, behaved for a long time. Tradition plays an important role in folk culture. An important feature of folk culture is change. His triumph continues with the promise of change. The adornment of folk culture is openness, spontaneity. The creators of folk culture are not eager to come to the light of propaganda. Folklore is uniquely regional.

2. Moral Values

Moral values are good values such as compassion, generosity, honesty, kindness, integrity, politeness, perseverance, self control and respect. Individuals who possess these qualities are considered to be an asset to the Society. They don't only lead a disciplined life but also help in bringing out the best in those around them. Their dedication towards work, sense of self control & helping nature is appreciated by everyone. Moral values include being honest, kind, showing respect to others, helping others, having a sense of self control, treating everyone equality & imbibing other such good

¹ Profile of the district, Purulia Zila Parisad

qualities. A person possessing such qualities is known to bear a good moral character. On the other hand, those who don't possess such qualities are looked down upon by the society. Moral values are the values defined by the society based on which a person's character is judged. A person is said to be good or bad on the basis of these values. A person's choices & decisions in life are dependent to a large extent on the moral values he bears.

3. Population of Purulia

Among all the peoples found in Purulia from the history of evolution they are Brahmin, Kayastha, Baidya, Bhumij, Munda, Mahato, Saontal, Dom, Malla etc. The influence of Bengali Hindu society on the one hand and interest in primitive society on the other can be noticed in their lifestyle. Among these is the gradual and widespread spread of modern education. They still retain much of their old and original ideas in their lifestyles. Therefore, ancient cultural values can be seen in their ancient way of life.

4. Folk god's

Among the goddesses of Purulia Durga, Kali, Bishnu, Chandi, Krishna etc expansion and establishment can be seen. The influence of rural deities is still noticeable in the culture of Purulia. Banshuli, Rankini, Manasha etc all of them are occupying their respective places in the villages of Purulia. They come together in the hope of farming properly through the puja of the god of GARAM. This is a very appropriate step in maintaining the balance of the modern environment. Which indicates to the morality, the disciplined lifestyle among them. These are religious values in terms of their modern situation.

5. Conducted vows and festivals

Vows are the deeds that are performed with the intention of fulfilling the desired goal. Everyone has their own customs and vows. The people of Purulia region also have their own customs and vows. 'Bhadu-Puja' is one of the most important festivals of the people of the region of Purulia district. Vadupuja is performed in the month of 'Bhadra' according to Bengali calendar. Virgin girls participate in this worship. The music starts from evening till late night. Vadhu is usually worshiped in idols. There is no priest in this worship. As it is usually in the month of Bhadra, its name is spread like this. Vadhu is worshiped by wishing for grain and in it the desire of a virgin daughter to get motherhood is fulfilled. The Vadhu festival is basically divided into three categories, they are called as 'Agamoni', 'Sthiti', 'Visarjon'. Throughout the festival, as Vadhu is worshiped as a daughter, the idea of a human moral value prevails. In many cases, the dignity of women is being lost in modern times. The practice of showing respect to women was especially observed in the Vedic period. In the Sound of VEDA -

"Yatra naryastu puhyante ramante tatra debtah

Yatrai tastu na puhyante sarvastra falakriya"²

Humiliation of women is practiced almost all over the world. Therefore, where the custom of worshiping the daughter as a goddess is prevalent, the custom of showing respect to women must be observed. Which is a unique example of human values.

6. Folk Song's

Jhumur is a special type of dance in Purulia district. There are different types of Jhumur dance, they are Tanr jhumur, Bhaduria Jhumur, Chhou Jhumur, Nachni Jhumur, Danrshalia Jhumur etc. Jhumur is their life, blood flow, heartbeat. Social culture, rituals, leisure entertainment, love separation, hopelessness, art, creation, fame, exchange of ideas, struggle, etc. are expressed through this Jhumur song. Under the influence of Vaishnavism, the melody and feeling of Vaishnava lyric poetry entered Jhumur's song and gradually enriched him. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata are the main subjects of this song. Therefore, aspects of Indian traditions and values are beautifully propagated through this song. Promotes and propagates human values in the society by carrying the identity of ancient Indian culture and cultural values.

7. Folk Dance

The Folk dance of Purulia district has brought Purulia district to the pinnacle of fame not only in Purulia but in the whole world. Among all types of folk dances, Chhau dance has become more popular in the court of the world. The use of Purulia's Chhau mask has brought a unique dimension to this art. Dhamsa's solemn voice has given a new impetus to the audience in the manner of looking at the masked. The unique flow of Indian culture is constantly flowing through this dance. The moral, social values of the ancient tradition influence society through dance performances.

Tusu-dance is another dance of Purulia culture. All the women started dancing in groups with this Tusu song. One song after another is composed with the melody in it by composing instant timely songs. So through this dance the moral values of unity, cooperation, harmony etc. among the people of Purulia flourished.

Kathi-dance is another excellent dance of Purulia region. This dance is performed on the Ashtami and Navami day of Durga Puja. People from lower communities go from home to home to entertain people through this dance. Through this dance performance, human harmony with people is formed. Values like cooperation, love, respect etc. continue to be propagated and spread in the whole society.

Jhika dance is another part of Purulia culture. In this dance the boys play the 'Madal' and the girls stand in a semicircle. They express their daily happiness and sorrow through Jhika dance. Through this, various images of the present life came to light. The struggle for a little life and what they do in a true and just way. Such values enlighten the whole society.

² Manusmriti 3/56

8. Folk Art

Purulia district is especially rich in art all over the world. The most notable among the folk art works are the masks of Chau-nach, the light paper made of tainted paper, the tainted cloth and the masks of various characters like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Purana etc. which are appreciated by all. This type of material is made from nature-friendly materials that take our Indian classical and moral practices to the pinnacle of development of the whole society.

The antiquity of Indian civilization is still noticeable in this region rich in various art forms. Folklore is an indicator of ancient human civilization. Which, like the other edges, enriched Purulia. Therefore, in this ancient culture, human moral values must be found in the combination of human qualities. From the details given above, the researcher may conclude that Purulia's culture reflects the expression of human moral values among the people of Purulia, folk deities, conduct, vows, festivals, folk music, folk dance, folk art, etc. That value has given special status not only to Purulia but to the entire Country at the international level.

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