

Sanskriti Kala Kendra (Arts & Cultural Center)

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Abstract – India has diverse and rich background about the cultural heritage. In which Maharashtra is a large state, and shows its cultural variations through different art forms like dressing style, variety of dances, cuisines etc. This paper will focus on basic concepts and types of art & culture particularly in Maharashtra & role of the Sanskrit Kendra is to conserve and promote art and culture of that region by constructing theatres, museums, places of worship, historical sites, and libraries. The center has been working towards cultivating an environment for the preservation and development of artistic and cultural resources for the whole western Maharashtra.

Key Words: Art & culture, Cultural heritage, Sanskriti Kendra, conservation, development.

1. INTRODUCTION

As from thousands of years back history, India has diverse and rich cultural heritage. Through the diverse history, dance, theatre, visual arts and architecture art and culture of the India were reflected which continues to evolve and inspire people today. Visual arts in India included such as photography, sculpture, and craft traditions such as pottery, textiles, and jewelry. Not only present arts but also historically, Indian architecture is rich with ancient monuments like rock-cut caves of Ajanta and Ellora, and iconic Taj Mahal.

Now a days, in India the traditional art forms are not appreciated as expected due to high influence of western culture on Indian society. So, there is an extreme need to educate people and the visitors about various rich Indian art culture and simultaneously encourage the cultural development. They have high influence of the western culture so we have to educate each and every age group through various art forms.

I. Culture

Culture is representation to the standard of living of specific group of people. In easy words, culture can be defined as all the ways of life including arts, beliefs, life lessons that are passed down from generation to generation. A society's entire way of life has been referred to as its culture. It therefore encompasses belief systems as well as behavioural norms, including law and morality, and standards of conduct, including dress, language, religion, rituals, and culture.

II. Importance of culture

This data and history are preserved in the form of art to pass to the next generation which helps to study the standard of living, food, environment and all other living patterns. A community or a nation's culture represents its identity. As a result, culture plays a crucial and significant role in shaping how the community behaves, responds, and develops. When everyone speaks the same language, culture makes you feel like you belong to that community. Language is a direct

byproduct of how people communicate in a society, and it changes along with the culture. A region's or community's inhabitants are bound together by its culture.

III. Arts

A basic human tendency is to desire to impart his knowledge, insight, and feelings. When such impulse produces a stunning work, it is recognized as "art". The arts are a wide branch of culture that encompasses a variety of artistic activities and academic fields. The art includes visual arts like painting, sculpture, the performing arts like music, theatre, dance, spoken word and film, and literary arts, among others.

IV. Importance of an art

Human civilization has included art for many ages. It has been used to communicate ideas, express feelings, and pass on information from one generation to the next.

We process our emotions and ideas via art; e.g. painter creating an abstract piece to express their feelings of sadness and loneliness. The use of dark colors, flowing lines, and a sense of emptiness in the painting may symbolize the artist's inner thus, it plays a significant role in our cultural and social life. It is an essential tool for instructing, learning, and communicating. Art has a part in documenting history, and many works of art help us construct a picture of life in former generations. Since art interacts with everyone on a fundamental emotional level, it may aid in understanding cultures that might otherwise be difficult to relate to.

Types of art

Visual Art (Drik Kala):

Drik Kala's origins date back to the ancient era. It has been proven by the finding of several rock art locations worldwide. Visual art includes the disciplines of painting and sculpture.

Performing Art (Lalit Kala):

Lalit Kala is also known as 'Aangik Kala'. It includes dance, singing, drama, etc.

V. Types of traditions of Arts

Folk Art:

Since prehistoric times, folk art has been a tradition. The expression of folk art is a natural part of people's way of living. It is produced by the combined efforts of people inside a social group.

Classical Art:

Classical art is created inside a predetermined framework of dependable guidelines.

VI. Indian Traditions of Visual Arts (Drik kala):

Painting

Paintings are two dimensional, such as drawings or portraits of people, things, or nature. Paintings are drawn on different surfaces such as rocks, wallpapers, canvas of different types and earthen pots. A beautiful illustration of the painting medium is the fresco of the Bodhisattva in the Ajanta caves.

Literature

Literature is one of the best arts we have got because of this we are able to solve many historical complications with the written formats. Literature is a storytelling art form. All

written languages have literature, which spans a broad spectrum of genres poem, essays, dramas, biographies, fiction, non-fiction, satires, and more are all examples of written works.

Photography

Making images via the motion of light is the process of photography. Through a timed exposure, the light patterns that objects reflect or emit are captured on a sensitive media or storage chip. The word "photo" is an acronym; many people also refer to them as "pictures." The word "image" has started to take the role of "photograph" in digital photography. This is the best method to store memories in pictorial form and to aware the future by showing past and present.

VII. Indian Traditions of Performing Arts:

Music

The skill of creating a musical composition by combining the components of melody, harmony, rhythm, and timbre with audible sounds and vibrations is known as music. Music can be created using an instrument, a human voice, or both. Music is a type of art that is prevalent in all human communities worldwide and is culturally universal. Music is commonly employed in religious rites and has strong religious overtones. Vocal and other instrument sounds may be mixed to create beautiful expressions of emotion.

Theatre

Visual and dramatic performance are both combined in the art form of theatre. Performance art has been a part of theater's expanded concept over time. It often encompasses a variety of art genres when the artist or artists perform or exhibit their work on stage. Since the Ancient Greeks in the sixth century BC, theatre has been a component of civilization. Since then, theatre has grown in popularity as a form of entertainment. Theater, dance, music, opera, circus arts, musicals, magic or illusion, mime, spoken word, puppetry, and performance art are all included in the larger category of performing arts.

Dance

Dance is a generic term used to describe human movement, usually rhythmic and accompanied by music, that is meant to entertain an audience during a performance. Dances vary from utilitarian movement (such as folk dance) to formalized, virtuoso skills (such as ballet), depending on social, cultural, aesthetic, creative, and moral limitations. Although the desire to dance is powerful, the art of dance is how skilled dancers can transform that desire into something that is profoundly expressive and may delight observers don't experience the urge to dance themselves.

2. ART AND CULTURE OF MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra is a large state, thus its colourful inhabitants dress in a variety of ways, eat in a variety of ways, and engage in a variety of dances and musical genres depending on the physical characteristics of their region. In the past, males often wore a dhoti and pheta and ladies a choli and saree. But as times have changed, young Maharashtrians are now quickly becoming attracted to the newest imported western trends.

Various Maharashtrian cultural art forms are as below-Music

In Maharashtra, Lavani, Powada, and Tamasha are the most well-known folk melodies. Farmers in Maharashtra sing the folk tune Bhaleri. Ovi is a traditional song sung by village women in Maharashtra that describes the residence of the spouse. It is generally sung by women while grinding grains on jaata (जात) Suvasinis perform traditional music at halad

wedding rituals. In Maharashtra, Palane/Angai geet is a Lullabay. Other communal entertainment centred on folk music may be found in Maharashtra including bhajan, bharud, gondhal, kirtan, lalita, abhangas, and tumbadi singing. In the villages of Maharashtra, a folk singer named Vasudev goes from home to house in the morning, singing various abhangas as he begs for food and offers blessings. It is thought that Vasudeva tradition in Marathi culture dates back to 1,120 years.

Dance

Koli, Powada, Banjara Holi, and Lavani dance are examples of Maharashtra's indigenous music and dance. The Lavani dance style explores a wide range of themes, including romance, tragedy, politics, and society. The Marathi word Lavanya, which means lovely and beautiful, is the source of the term "Lavani." Powada dance form highlights Shivaji's accomplishments. Koli dance originated from Fisherman community of Maharashtra. Other dances are also performed, including lavani, tamasha, dindi and kala, dhangari gaja, lezim, and various folk dances.

Theatre

Beginning in the middle of the 19th century, it reached its height of popularity in the 1950s and 1960s and included genres like Tamasha and Sangeet Natak (musical theatre) (folk dance). In spite of the fact that most theatre in other regions of India has had difficulty competing with the assault of film and television, it nevertheless maintains a significant presence in the State of Maharashtra and has a devoted following. Its holdings include works by Vijay Tendulkar, P. L. Deshpande, Mahesh Elkunchwar, and Satish Alekar that have inspired theatre across India, including amusing social dramas, farces, historical plays, musicals, and plays from the 1970s onward. Bengali theatre and Marathi theatre have been in the forefront of innovations and important dramaturgy in Indian theatre throughout the post-independence era.

Cinema

The earliest type of Indian cinema is marathi. The first Marathi movie to be presented in India was Shree Pundalik, directed by Dadasaheb Torne, and it debuted on May 18, 1912, at the Coronation Cinematograph in Mumbai.

Dadasaheb Phalke is regarded as the first innovator and founder of cinema in pre-Independence India. He introduced the revolution of moving images to India with his first independently produced film Raja Harishchandra in 1913, which is regarded by IFFI and NIFD as a component of Marathi cinema because it utilized Marathi dialogues while filming and had a fully Marathi crew.

Arts and Crafts

The expertise of the artisans of Maharashtra can be seen in Mashru and Himroo's excellent textiles serve as exemplary examples of their most advanced weaving techniques. The materials that resemble golden cloth are said to be among the best of their kind. The paithani and narayan peth sarees also demonstrate the advanced weaving skills. Another popular craft in this state is bidriware. It requires a lot of expertise and planning. Kolhapuri chappals and jewellery are the two most well-known products of the Kolhapur area. Kolhapuri chappals are renowned for their high calibre, comfort, and affordability. The Mumbai Warli tribes' paintings then follow. Even famous paintings from Madhubani, Bihar, have been likened to it. Bidriware The excellent art and craft finishes demonstrate the skill of Maharashtrian craftspeople. Mashru and Himroo's excellent textiles serve as exemplary examples

of their most advanced weaving techniques. The materials that resemble golden cloth are said to be Among the best of their kind.

Kolhapuri Chappals

World-renowned Kolhapur area of Maharashtra handmade leather chappals and sandals. These are referred to as Kolhapuri chappals and are well-known for their straight forward designs, high-quality leather, and distinctive styles..

Warli

The largest tribe in Maharashtra, the Warlis, lives on the northern suburbs of Mumbai. Paintings on the mud walls of the homes are typically done by women.

Cuisines of Maharashtra

Konkan and Varadi are the two main culinary traditions of Maharashtra. A major portion of Maharashtra, which lies on the coast of the Arabian Sea, is called the Konkan, the cuisine for the interior Maharashtra or the Vidarbha area is called Varadi cuisine. The cuisine from the Konkan region is heavily spiced with coriander, red chiles, and coconut. The Vidarbha region's cuisine is heavily seasoned with garlic and red chilli powder. Mumbai's culinary offerings include vada pav, misal, and pav bhaji, all of which are hugely famous throughout India.

Costume of Maharashtra

According to the religion and programs people wear different costumes. e.g., for Dindi people wear dhoti kurta and Gandhi topi (folded cotton cap), and women wear navavari saree while Dhangari gaja people wear dhoti-kurta and ghonagada.

Attire for Festive Occasions

In Maharashtra, there is no designated attire for any particular holidays, events, or family gatherings. One can wear anything they can afford, depending on their preference and financial situation.

Jewelry

Women wear traditional jewellery from the Marathas and Peshwas since Maharashtra is the home of these two dynasties. Kolhapuri saaj, a unique style of necklace, is yet another piece of jewellery that Marathi ladies like.

Men Wear

In Maharashtra, men wear dhotis with shirts called phetas. They also wear a folded hat made of cotton, silk, or wool as a headpiece. A freshly folded turban called as a rumal, patka, or pheta can also be used. Pagadi, the prepared form of turban was also used to wear, but it is rarely used these days.

Women Wear

In Maharashtra, women dress in sarees that are nine yards long and short-sleeved blouses called as cholis. About half of the body is covered by the choli. This is often the attire of old Marathi ladies.

3. NECESSITY TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE ARTS AND CRAFTS

Art and culture play important roles in society as they reflect and shape the values, beliefs, and identity of a community. Preservation and promotion of art and culture help to maintain the diversity and richness of human expression, and also provide a sense of continuity and heritage. Additionally, art and culture can promote social cohesion, stimulate economic growth and tourism, and foster creativity and innovation. There is an extreme need to educate people and the visitors about various rich Indian art culture and simultaneously encourage the cultural development. Youth have high influence of the western culture due to lack of Indian cultural

education, not getting proper information about culture and history, and all these start from the parents, so we have to educate each and every age group through various art forms. They are forgetting about their roots; we have to only make them aware about our history and the culture. Therefore, preserving and promoting art and culture is essential for the overall well-being and development of individuals and society as a whole.

4. ROLE OF SANSKRITI KALA KENDRA (ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER)

A cultural center is a business, structure, or complex that supports the arts and culture. Cultural institutions can be administered by activists, government agencies, for-profit businesses, or local community arts organizations. Role of the Sanskrit Kendra is to enrich our society by promoting the arts, history, religion, and heritage of diverse cultures, communities, municipalities and universities invest in this enrichment by constructing theatres, museums, places of worship, historical sites, and libraries. The Sanskriti literally means the "process of cultivating", the foundation has been working towards cultivating an environment for the preservation and development of artistic and cultural resources not only of the India but of world as a whole. They provide a space for individuals and communities to come together and learn about different cultures, promoting and understanding. Cultural center encourages for development of creative ideas in supportive environment. Additionally, cultural centers can play a role in economic development by supporting local artists and businesses. Support and nurture young talents from the field of arts, crafts and museum though. It helps to create a space for the seminars and exhibition and different social gathering for the exchange off their views and ideas. In this center, artists will collaborate with each other, by interacting in design studios, art galleries and social gathering spaces.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, cultural preservation is vital. It maintains a community's members feeling unified and a sense of belonging. Consequently, the ancestors gifted the current generation with a rich cultural heritage. Cultural preservation's future is at risk. because of the demanding social obligations and hectic lifestyles of today. Protecting our cultural legacy is necessary for its preservation. The greatest way to conserve your cultural legacy is, above all, to share it. By maintaining cultural legacy, future generations may continue to uphold their ancestors' ideals. The constitution should safeguard the right to cultural heritage.

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