

Natural resource based traditional Folk art of Purba Medinipur, On the way to extinction day by day

Anima Dash¹

1(Former Guest Lecturer of Geography Department, Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya/India)

ABSTRACT :Every region of the world have its own culture and its expressed by various type of art forms. Folk Art one of the unique artform which expressed the regional traditional culture. It rooted in tradition of our society that come form community and culture. This art also expressed our cultural values and aesthetic. Like other region of the world there are certain folk artforms of Purba Medinipur district such as pats (Scroll painting , Bamboo art, Dokra art, shoal art etc.). After independence, the government took various step to protect these artform. Currently there is a concern, use of advancetechnology and globalization as well as our negligence towards culture narrowed down our district heritage folk art.

KEYWORDS– Folk Art, Purba Medinipur, Dokra art, Globalization, Scroll painting, Culture,Heritage.

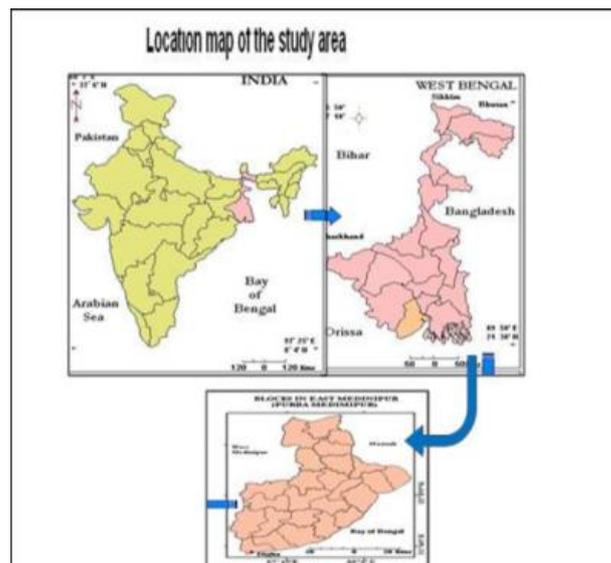
I. INTRODUCTION

Purba Medinipur district is one of the notable district of West Bengal for high literacy rate and it's famous Seabeach. This district of 4713 sq.km. area hasbeen associated with various type of heritage folk art since ancient period. Native villegers of various block (Moyna, Patash Pur, Tamluk, Pingla, Sabang etc.)under Purba Medinipur districtuse mainly localized natural resources for their creativity.

Natural resource based various type of art express our traditional cultural and also shared community values and aesthetics. But the present situation is very pathetic. Those prestigious folkart of Purba Medinipur has been dwindling due to lack of demand and publicity, on the other hand competition on global market. If it is continue in the near future we will lost all our regional traditional folk art.

II. ABOUT STUDY AREA

Irregular quadrilateral shape district Purba Medinipur is located in the southern part of West Bengal. Undivided Medinipur was the largest district of West Bengal in India.



It was bifurcated into two administrative units on January 1st 2002. Purba Medinipur district has 4 subdivision (Tamluk, Haldia, Contai and Egra), 25 community development (C.D) Block, all are under study area. The study area is geographically situated between 21^o38' N to 22^o 31' N Latitude and 87^o 27' E to 88^o 12' E Longitude.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify different types of natural resources of the study area which are used for folk art.
2. To promote localized resource based small folk art like Madur, Patachitra etc.
3. To highlighting the factor how people utilized natural resources for their livelihood generation.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This study has been done on the basis of literature review and secondary data also based on field observation. Secondary data to this topic has been collected from different published books, journals and websites etc.

V. VARIOUS TYPE OF FAMOUS FOLK ART OF PURBA MEDINIPUR

Purba medinipur district is associated with several notable folkart, but most of the art are now closed to shut down. Here are some of the important folk art –

1. Patachitra (Scroll Painting)

Medinipur is the specialized area of patachitra, a ancient folk art of Bengal. The word “pata” derived from the Sanskrit word ‘Patta’ means cloth. The painters are locally known as *patuas*. (Monadal, K 2017) It is not a just paint, it is a unique art from where painting and song combined together. Patuas showcased their art before audience with song. The theme of painting are wide variety ranging from traditional mythological tales to modern Indian history and contemporary issues. Patuas generally use natural colours which they procure from various trees, leaves, flower and clays. The style of painting is similar to the cave painting of Mohenjo-daro, Harappa and Ajanta. The main character of patuas is they are believes in both Hindu and Muslim religion. In Purba Medinipur district patachitra art and patuas family found in Nandakumar, Chandipur, Puyada, Amdabad, Chaitanya pur, Deulpota, Ranghunathbari etc. villages.



2. Gahana Bori

Gahana Bori is a specific fine art was born 500 years ago and still now it is a common art of Purba Medinipur. Women of various region in Tamluk, Mahisadal, Sutahata, Nandigram, Bhagwanpur, Moyna are engaged with this art. Its popularity had much to do with its eye catching designs as well as crisp taste. Mainly gahanabori is designed inform of different ornaments, flowers, animal motifs etc. However, the way gahanabori was praised by Rabindranath Tagore, his nephew Abanindranath Tagore and famous artist Nandalal Basu. It is a product which yielded ultimate aesthetic pleasure and needed to be preserved.



3. Madur (Mat art)

The word 'Madur' is a generic for floor mats in Bengal. From the time of Indus valley civilization mat weaving in India is coming by generation. In medieval period the mat industry was developed in Medinipur by local Muslim rulers. The raw material used in this craft, Cyperus tegetem or Cyperus pangorei, locally known as madurkathi grows in this area.

The craftsman or Mahishyas of Panskura, Pataspur, Ramnagar, Egra, Monglamaro, Bhagwanpur regions make three types of mat –

- Ak- rokha
- Dui-rakha
- Masland



Dorokha is relatively more superior than ak-rokha. The Masland is the finest product made by superior quality madurkathi with optimum accuracy and experience of artist. Beside of Madur local people made Hansati by Hansati ghas (one type of grass) and also made shetalpati by date palm three leaves.

4. Shola art

Shola is one type of shrub mainly grows in shallow waterbody in Bengal. The soft porous, light and swple pith of the shola stem used for various decorative work. The Artisan are mainly 'malakar community. Pataspur, Tamluk, Ramnagar, Bhagwanpur (Gopinathpur, Bhimeswari, Kalaberia) Chandipur, Nandigram, Mahisadal, etc. Villages are famous for shola art.



5. Jute Art

Jute is 2nd most important cultivating crop of Purba Medinipur. Local residents have done work based on jute. Bedkalla villege of Nandakumar is famous for Jute art, Gouranga Quilla of Rangi Basan Villege got national award from president for this work.



6. Lac doll (Gala Putul)

Lac is a Natural Resource has been cultivated in abundance since ancient times. In Bengal it was mainly cultivated in district of Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum and Medinipur. Lac doll are mainly made by some hindu female artisan of Egra, Pataspur block. Lacdoll are made by Burned clay which is not fragile and coloured by wated resistancelac or gala colour. Artisan are mainly made various type of divinites idol, animal motif etc.



7. Dhokra Art

Dhokra art is based on 'lost wax' method a special method of casting to from different idols of God, Goddess and animal, mostly collected as show piece in our room. In recent dokra art also used for ornament making. Dokra art of Medinipur district is larger than other places in its size. Sitala Ghat is famous for Dhokra art. Kalyanpur villege of Pataspur -II is also famous for dhokra art.



8. Bamboo Art

In Purba Medinipur district Panskura, Chandipur, Bhagwanpur blocks are famous for bamboo art. It is another striking folk art of Purba Medinipur. The gender based attitude is totally absent in bamboo art both men and women are involved in this work. They are making kula (Winnowing Basket) Chupri (Wicker basket), showpiece, penstand etc.



9. Marin product basket art

Conch, Conch shell, snail, oyster, cockle are mostly used for crafts purpose in Purba Medinipur district villagers of Ramnagar, Contai, Pataspur are engaged with this type of art. Artisan are made various type of showpiece for room decoration, women's fashion jewellery etc.



VI. PROBLEMS ARE FACED BY FOLK ART IN PRESENT CONTEXT:

Now the folk art faces some problems. Those are –

1. Lack of capital to invest for those art.
2. There is a insufficiency of folk art raw material.
3. In the absence of demand in market, hereditary folk art lost now.
4. Lack of publicity, new generation can not known about our traditional folk art.

VII. RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. Running a campaign about these ancient folk art form.
2. State and central both government assistance will be provide.
3. The product should be produced as per present societies demand.
4. Folkart museum should be established in every tourist spot of Purba Medinipur district.
5. Government should identify the folk artisan family and provide them grand by which they can safe their hereditary art.

VIII. SUMMERY

On the basis of above discussion it can be said that, from a livelihood and cultural perspective, the role of folk art in the study area is highly important. Totally natural resource based eco-friendly folk art are very much important for our society and culture. In present context govt. try to preserve some reputable folk art such as Patachitra, Madur etc. but handfan art, Musk making art, Ramsinga, Bisan art etc. has been lost now. In the era of globalization those Folk art are belong in the darker part of our society, in this circumstance we should try to protect those artfor our future generation.

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