



Social dances: A medium to celebrate life

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Abstract

Introduction: There is a phrase that says: “The tribe that dances never dies”. Thus, a person celebrates the life through social dance forms prevalent in India. Nandikeshwar in Abhinaya Darpana mentions that *Nātya* and *Nritta* should be performed particularly at the time of festival as those who wish good luck should perform dance of occasions such as coronation celebration of kings, a religious festival, a procession with an image of a god, a marriage ceremony, reception of a friend, entry in to a new town or house and the birth of a son: *Sage Bharata in Natyashastra mentions that dance also as being the source of amusement should be performed on the occasions of marriage, child-birth, and reception of a son-in-law, general festivity and attainment of prosperity*

In this paper the researcher would like to give examples of two social dances performed on the occasions of childbirth and marriage like Chari Dance, Hudo Dance, etc.

Conclusion: One can see here that dance in India has become an integral part of one's life. One need not have to find any reason for dancing.

Researcher's View: According to the researcher, under the interdisciplinary training there should be a mandatory training for social dance forms during the school education.

Keywords: natya, nritta, natyashastra, chari, hudo

Introduction

One can notice that one's life is visible itself in rhythm. One of the best examples is man's heartbeat, which has a specific rhythm, which makes a person alive. To remain alive, a person engages himself with art. Social Dances are one of the mediums where a person can engage him or herself easily and can know the rhythm. There is a phrase that says: “The tribe that dances never dies”. Thus, a person celebrates the life through social dance forms prevalent in India ^[1]. Nandikeshwar in Abhinaya Darpana mentions that *Nātya* and *Nritta* should be performed particularly at the time of festival. Those who wish good luck should perform dance of occasions such as coronation celebration of kings, a religious festival, a procession with an image of a god, a marriage ceremony, reception of a friend, entry in to a new town or house and the birth of a son: द्रस्तव्ये नाट्यनृत्ये च पर्वकाले विशेषतः ॥ १२ ॥ नृत्तं तत्र नरेन्द्रानामभिषेके महोत्सवे । यात्रायां देवयात्रायां विवाहे प्रियसंगमे ॥ १३ ॥ नगरानामगाराणां प्रवेशे पुत्रजन्मनि । शुभार्थिभिः प्रयोक्तव्यं माङ्गल्यं सर्वकर्मभिः ॥ १४ ॥ ^[2] Sage Bharata in Natyashastra mentions that dance also as being the source of amusement should be performed on the occasions of marriage, child-birth, and reception of a son-in-law, general festivity and attainment of prosperity: मन्त्रालयमिति कृत्वा च नृत्तमेतत्प्रकीर्तितं ॥ २६५ ॥ विवाहप्रसवावाहप्रमोदभ्युदयादिषु । विनोदकरणं चेति नृत्तमेतत्प्रवर्तितं ॥ २६७ ॥—नाट्यशास्त्र, अध्याय ४ ^[3].

Social Dances of India

Dance and celebration goes together in the society. One celebrates social occasions like birth of a child or a marriage

ceremony through dance performances. Here the researcher gives examples of two social dances performed on the occasions of childbirth and marriage.

1. Chari Dance

This dance belongs to Rajasthan, which is performed by women on the birth of a child. Rajasthan is a desert where women walk for many miles to collect water for their families. They use to collect this water in brass pots known as ‘Chari’. The dance celebrates this lifelong ritual of collecting water. During the dance, women balance this brass pitcher on their heads and on the top of this pitcher is kept a small bowl of fire. Dancers dance very gracefully and even take many spins also during the dance. However, they see that neither the pitcher nor the fire bowl falls down from their head, which suggests the skill and concentration of these dancers.

2. Hudo Dance

This dance belongs to Saurashtra region of Gujarat, which is performed during the famous *Tarnetar* fair known as “*Tarnetar No Melo*”. During the fair the girls choose their life partners. Girls and Boys come in very traditional attire. The young man holds a colourful umbrella with him. After the girl chooses their partner, they take part in the *Hudo* dance. They form two parallel lines one of boys and another of girls and bang their palms with each other and dance merrily. This dance is connected with the famous story of ‘*Draupadi Swayamvar*’ in Mahabharat as here Draupadi chooses Arjun after he proves him the best in archery.

Conclusion

One can see here that dance in India has become an integral part of one's life. One need not has to find any reason for dancing. Every social function we see there is a performance of dance. These performances vary according to the type of the dance. One can see the variations in language, music, costume and ornaments also.

Researcher's View

According to the researcher, under the interdisciplinary training there should be a mandatory training for social dance forms during the school education. As the children will learn the subject of social science more effectively exploring these dance forms.

References

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