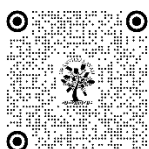


INDIA'S TRIBES: THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT VIA ART

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ABSTRACT

The guardians of nature are the tribes. Most of India's tribal population—92 per cent—lives in arid, hilly, or wooded regions. Their main sources of nutrition are minor forest products and agriculture. The primary areas of India where the tribal population resides are the central region, the middle belt, and the northeastern states. India's tribal arts are steeped in history and have developed unique methods and traits. Many people acknowledge various tribes as autonomous creative forms with unique visual value. Everything that contributes to a creative creation's uniqueness, such as composition, line, colour, texture, and rhythm. This study paper examines in-depth the socioeconomic growth of Indian tribes via art. The Indian government need to devise a unique strategy with the primary goal of encouraging the overall development of tribes being the preservation and integration of these ethnic communities.

Keywords: Tribes, socioeconomic, Art, primary goal, Preservation and Integration

1. INTRODUCTION

The word "tribe" in English comes from the Latin word "tribus," which denotes a certain kind of shared organization that is consistent with communities.[1] There are indigenous individuals in practically every region of India. Indian tribes rely heavily on the forest for their daily necessities, such as food, shelter, and medical supplies. The guardians of nature are the tribes. In India, 92 per cent of the tribal population resides in arid, hilly, or wooded areas. Their main sources of nutrition are agriculture and minor forest products. The primary adobe of tribal communities in India is found in the central region, the middle belt, and the northeastern provinces. [2] To maintain their traditional way of life, tribal people who live in remote places and are dependent on abundant biological resources have long been keen to learn about the local plant life. Indigenous peoples' visual art and material culture is known as tribal art. These arts are frequently ceremonial or religious, and occasionally they serve as a means of subsistence in hills or forests. Tribal arts play a vital role in tribal life and are not created just for artistic sake. Their cultural and religious surroundings are reflected in these artistic creations. Thus, these arts and their accompanying traditions, such as music, theatre, and dance, are intricately intertwined. They doodle on the walls, regardless of the ceremony. Dancing and singing are happening at the same time as everything is joyful and celebratory, which is instantly mirrored in the picture.[1]

2. OBJECTIVE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

- This research paper aims to investigate the religious practices and customs of Indian tribes utilizing their artistic creations.
- The necessity for preserving tribal cultures, customs, and artwork gives rise to the importance of this paper.
- The tribal art of several states, including Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, was studied to conduct this study.

3. ADVANCEMENT OF THE ECONOMY VIA ART

The finest development model is the tribal economy, which should be implemented across the nation. Therefore, it is necessary to reform the traditional knowledge system by holding conferences to which experts in these many traditional skills are invited. handicrafts, community-and rural-based businesses, and subsistence spending. It will be acknowledged that the traditional pursuits of the affected people, such as fishing and MFP collection, are crucial to the preservation and advancement of their cultures. In the event of environmental deterioration, such as periodic droughts of forest products, sand casting, floods, and illnesses like infections and vector-borne diseases, the government should make sure that tribal people have the resources they need to deal with emergencies and disasters. Support prices for small amounts of lentils and millets grown in the tribal belt to promote the continued development of such crops, Encourage small-scale, environmentally friendly, sustainable bioenergy projects that focus on enhancing rural people's quality of life and resilience to climate change while having no detrimental effects on food production or the environment. [2]

4. TRIBAL ART HIGHLIGHTS

In the lap of nature, tribal art has developed and flourished on its roots. Therefore, the indigenous people's way of life is still simple and undeveloped. However, a civilized person has been embroiled in artificial life, mechanization, and pseudoculture—all of which are utterly devoid of true human sensitivity. Tribal traditions and beliefs are the foundation of tribal art, which has developed its unique style. Thus, life is shown in tribal art in its most raw and pure form. For this reason, it is given a respected place in the art world.

5. FEATURES OF INDIAN TRIBAL ART

Indian tribes are found in woods; they coexist with extreme poverty; they all have a common belief in nature worship, rustic magic, illiteracy, and backwardness. They are half-naked and live in huts. They cultivate crops in the cleared forests, and they eat the readily accessible natural resources. Their naive, uncomplicated, and unsophisticated religious ideas are nearly the same. Common beliefs that are expressed differently depending on the situation include seeking solace from disease, worshipping spirits, gods, and goddesses, and calling forth the divine to fulfil wants. Indian tribes produce art for a variety of functions, such as marriage ceremonies, funeral pyres, illness prevention, crisis relief, and agricultural prosperity. In addition, they paint their homes only for aesthetic purposes. [3]

Of course, a variety of occurrences and items that acquire symbolic meaning are shown in their artwork. All items are also drawn in a decorative manner, including flowers, foliage, animals, and so on. Therefore, it's possible that tribal crafts' aesthetics are drawn from both the emotions they arouse and man's natural need for beauty. Technique is not given as much thought as symbols and styles, which are developed independently. For this reason, light and shade are completely absent from indigenous artwork. Realistic effect takes a backseat as it somewhat simplifies the painting process. [3] Figures in modern art do not overlap one another. Every object in the picture is rendered fully and at the same level, like a child's work. His wall paintings are unframed and have no borders. A single artwork can include a multitude of narratives, occurrences, and a lack of perspective. Symbolic embellishment is used to produce paintings. (Jain, 1984) Human figures are frequently depicted with lines that resemble border designs or decorations. Facial emotions and details are replaced with geometric embellishments that are easy to create and extremely basic.[4]

The actual size and shape of the things in a painting rely more on the available space than on how proportionately large or small the objects are. For this reason, it frequently occurs that an elephant's depicted form is smaller than that of a human. The size of the birds or sparrows perched atop a home is sometimes greater than that of the building. Real life is unimportant to tribal artists. therefore, compositional guidelines, light and shadow utilization, and perspective. Colour blending is not acceptable. Tribal artist uses simple yet evocative language to convey their inner sentiments, emotions, and tales. Expression of emotions, beliefs, and rituals gave rise to tribal art. However, when a modern artist creates a picture, he divides space as best he can, using his own viewpoint, unique forms, and colour tones.

Influence of Ribes Art on Contemporary Art: The early 19th century saw the advent of modern art, coinciding with the near end of the realistic art movement. Using a camera to depict the exterior manifestation of the world has become simple. The roots of contemporary art were sowed as a result of artists' growing disinterest in realistic painting as the commodities were now given by mechanical instruments.

There were two primary areas in which modern art grew. Firstly, some artists began painting only to portray their inner selves, rather than the realistic outside world. Thus emerged surrealism, impressionism, and expressionism. The principles of art, such as colour, line, shape, texture, solidity, and composition, were given more weight in the second direction. More people paid attention to the composition than the subject. Lines were treated as lines and not as components of a form, and colours were employed for their own purpose. Cubism and abstract art were therefore born.[5]

However, a deeper look at the evolution of modern Indian art prior to independence shows that many early modernists deliberately included symbols and ideas from tribal art into their works, drawing heavily from Indian mythology and religion.[6]

They abandoned the natural in favour of the abstract or geometric, striving for extreme simplifications and drawing influence from tribal art forms. They disregarded perspective, freely deformed and altered the human form, and employed colour for its own sake or for symbolic ones. Artists like Nandlal Bose created a spiritualistic juxtaposition of classical material with traditional art.[7]

The sculptor Ramkinkar Baij, on the other hand, improved aspects of Santhal tribal art and living by knowing Western expressionism. While Ganesh Pyne's eerie visions transport viewers to fantastical settings where myth, history, and folklore collide, Lalu Prasad Shaw and Jamini Roy found inspiration in Kalighat Pat and Santhal, frequently capturing serene and happy moments from their own lives. The zeitgeist of current painting and traditional iconography were skillfully combined by Logen Chowdhury. [8]

A lot of other modern painters, such as Almelker, Gulam M. Seikh, and J. Swaminathan, have included tribal elements in their works. The art of the Indian tribes has influenced many well-known and up-and-coming artists, and their creations exhibit the splendour and reflection of tribal arts. Indian painters were so fortunate to be able to see and study tribal art because the country has always treasured its distinctive indigenous folk art. Some painters are naturally saturated with the colours of the primitive painting, having grown up surrounded by tribal people. [9] They have occasionally drawn influence from the tribals' rhythm, colour scheme, dancing style, music, sculptures, and paintings in a variety of styles.[1] To put it briefly, modern art has introduced spontaneity and simplicity to painting. As a result, mathematical shapes that were previously present in tribal art were incorporated along with a disarray of forms. As mentioned previously, tribal art has served as a source of inspiration for many contemporary artists. An illustration of it is Madhvi Parekh. That explains why there are similarities between the two. The artists' attempt to break free from convention and support the free flow of ideas and thoughts was the most important factor in the development of modern art.[10]

6. CONSERVATION OF TRIBAL ART

First and foremost, it is important to maintain and promote tribal art in order to guarantee the artists' acknowledgement. Many artists never had the opportunity to shine, and when they do, their artistic expertise will also pass away. To promote the arts, events like cultural exchanges and exhibitions can be held, allowing people to share and preserve their own cultures while also learning about those of others. It is important to conserve tribal art through many forms of documentation, such as pictures and audio-visual materials like coloured slides and short films. Museums and art galleries ought to host the works of artists and artisans.[11]

The Tribal Museum of M.P. Art and Crafts is founded in Madhya Pradesh. There should be tribal museums showcasing the state's indigenous art in each state. Indian tribal arts should be taught at UG and PG colleges, universities, and design, fashion, and textile institutes. There are now a lot of books about Indian tribal arts, but more should be published about them, especially state-by-state. The public and students should be able to purchase books, cards, and monographs from art galleries and museums. Thus, these are the few actions that may be done to guarantee the tribal people from different regions of India's history and culture are preserved. [12]

7. TRIBAL ART BEING COMMERCIALIZED

Indian tribal art appears to have a lot of promise in the global market due to its authenticity and traditional aesthetic sense. The unique, colourful designs of the tribal paintings are embellished with mystical and religious themes. Tribal art encompasses not just paintings but also many artistic mediums such as ceramics, jewellery, textiles, home décor, and

much more. However, tribal art is not given enough credit in India. The sole source of income for tribal artists is their artwork. As a result, their family, advancement, and growth cannot be supported by the lower price of their art. Additionally, the lower price deters people from enjoying the artwork. To enable them to live peacefully with their family, it should be agreed upon to pay them genuine worth for their labour. [13]

8. CONCLUSION

The Indian government ought to have developed a unique strategy with the preservation and integration of tribes as its main goals for the overall development of those tribes. The Draft National Policy on Tribal should be changed as soon as possible because of its numerous shortcomings. A new National Tribal Policy should be meaningful and followed, and other departments and ministries' policies, such as those pertaining to certain parts of the economic policy, may need to be revised.[2]

India's rich traditional legacy is reflected in the wide variety of art forms that the nation has to offer. However, the survival of Indian tribal art is a concern because of the issues tribal populations confront, such as land loss and absorption into mainstream culture. Due to the decline and neglect of tribal traditional culture, the number of artists is decreasing. Thankfully, there are efforts being made to conserve and promote indigenous art by the Indian government and other groups. The existence of tribal art depends on commercialization, yet as commercialization grows, tribal art will inevitably lose its soul and life and become little more than an artefact rather than a creative art form. Indigenous art serves as a significant inspiration for modern artists, both Indian and Western. Its uniqueness, simplicity, and expressive power are what make it so inspirational. India's tribal art is incredibly colourful and brilliant, despite being quite basic and ethnic. It speaks volumes about the rich history of the country.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None

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None

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