

# Declining Trend of Folk Art in West Bengal

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**Abstract –** The paper basically deals with the most obsolete folk art of west Bengal, which are not possible to reestablish again either helping by government or by any N.G.O. Folk artist is nourished by a deferent kind of cultural background. They use different kind of instruments and they are getting trained by generation to generation. That important characteristic makes them different from others. Folk artist is famous and much more popular for their fineness of work and for structural beauty created by their hand can easily demand for a new creation. But in modern time we judge a architecture by its uniqueness or by the distinction of style or shine of the artist, which is not applicable to the folk artist .worldwide a huge number of creation of folk sculpture ( vaskorjo ) who made this is unknown to all .Those great artist who left their impression of art on a sandy pot,,a piece of memento of god and goddess, sandy design, wooden decorated a small piece,, a single pot art, metal designed statue, designated ancient manuscript or a book cover, or a drawing mud wall which is not unique all the time but a sample of their daily and very naturally a beautiful life style.

**Key word:** Obsolete, Potidar, Kosa and Kushi, Pottery, Cauldron, Tamrukundu, Glittering.

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## OBJECTIVES:

1. To explore and analysis the value and position of tribal folk art culture.
2. To ascertain the impact of folk art and culture and socio – economic scenario of survey area.
3. Find out the reason behind declining trend of folk art and culture of survey area.
4. Try to enhance the skill of the practitioner of traditional art and culture.
5. To discuss the roll of govt. scheme programmed to keep alive or preservation promotion of all form of culture and tribal folk art.
6. To study various categories of folk art of Bengal and their distribution and various usage with social and emotional values.
7. To suggest an alternative proposal for enhancing, promoting, encouraging tribal folk art and culture.

## FOLK DRAWING ART (POT - A CLOTH OR CANVAS FOR PAINTING ON):

Some specific kind of folk sketch are now totally vanished, as drawing oldest books, an ancient

manuscript cover made by wood which is missing now due to the incoming of modern new computerized technologies or press . Chitrakar or Potidar who are mainly responsible for drawing of such sketch who work harly and also successfully in some part of Bankura, Murshidabad, Birbhum, and Midnapore district. The artist basically use a old cloth and the use black soil or the stool of cow to make a thin cover on it, when it will completely dry then use gala on it to make it hard as well as no porous. This spicy cloth will be fitted in a frame looking rectangle with four pieces bamboo stick and then by the use of color they draw the face of god and goddess, male and female, ghost and other type of religious character and then describe oldest story of religious tell and the activity of god and goddess and emotion and saddest part of hell.

## CONVENTIONAL METAL INDUSTRY:

Metal artist are located nucleated at different part of Murshdabad, Birbhum and Midnapore district of West Bengal. They collect their raw material for their uses from local bazaar and sometimes from the market of abroad also. Once upon a time metal pot the made by brass and copper are not only use in Bengal but over the whole country. The people from Ghatal, Midnapore are engaged in bell metal business sometime import pure copper from straits settlements and chine, Japan. Hindus basically use utensils made from bell metal or of brass on the other hand the Muslim are prefer mainly copper shining with lead polish. Brass are made by mixing

of copper and lead or bell metal are the out coming product when copper are mixes with tin .Hindus think that it is pure to use copper utensils as religious purpose rather than brass that is why usage pot and plates specifically a boat shape water holding pot which called 'Kosa' and a small size alike is known as 'Kushi' use for worship. Other type of utensils used as cauldron known as ` Tamrukundu 'where an idol af god and godes bath. plate for holding of flower known as ` Puspapatrea 'and round shape bell and a convex type of bell use on the evening worship time (Arati) made of brass and a five faces specific lamb or a small patey shape pot used for holding sandal wood.

Different places in Bengal are famous at that time for decorated metal folk art for example Ghatal of Midnapore, kanchan nagar of Burdwan, Khagra of midnapore and bishnupur of Bankura . Bishnupur is famous for drawing linear or rounded design of god and geodes idol on plate and glass of brass by a small smooth numerous dots. That is vanishing rapidly due to the incoming of machinery era, today aluminum and porcelain utensils and stainless steel replace their position because it much more cheaper than that. Once upon a time many tribes female use different type of ornaments made from brass or bell metal which is beautiful and most gorgeous designated by metal artist which enhance the beauty when it glittering on their hands, neck and so many body parts.

### POTTERY OF KRISHNA NAGAR:

Another remembering folk industry of Bengal is pottery either made by hand or by a wheel. Folk artist of Bengal makes deep imprints of their finest art by their own hand rather than use any kind of machinery tools. In this sector female are much faster than male from Bengal. Basically their work represent a symbolic theme of daily life as different kind of doll or idol as woman with earthen pitcher carrying water, a woman selling fish with her bucket, a mother giving breast milk to their child, woman busy in dusting rice corn ( Dekhi), a woman use ` Kula; a plate with flat roof used for rice collecting from mixing with remnants. Other earthen idol is realistic and naturalistic representation as daily usage household needed utensils. The size of this doll or idol made from mud are ranging from 5 to 6 " and they are the most finest designated art work as different idol animal as horse which used as worship purpose in place of god, other is birds, flower, fish,fruits,hut, stoneware elephant or house decorated materials. Their hand painting and finest art skill prove their capability and the culture of their daily livelihood.

Muslims religious and hindu worship places are highly link with that industry because in that place and also in village deul of god a thousand number of earthen stoneware horse which also common in place of other hindu god and goddess as Manasha devi, Sitala devi, Dharmaraj, Chanditala . Bankura to

east Nadia and probally most of the village block of bardhaman districry are with that stoneware horse and elephant in the holy places.From the regional point of view the native of west Pancmura – Bishnupur –Bankura and then Midnapore –Hoogly-Howrah –Bardhaman to 24 Parganas and across Krishna nagar of Nadia that religios culture in the holly place we can easily observe. Pottery artist are found, observed and realize the fact, thought and culture of local people and their environment and then they represent it or show in their finest creation. That is the reason the size of stoneware are not matter but the thought in mind must be first.

In 1881 at international exhibition in Amsterdam, there is an important part is a number of linear Indian stall showing bigger size of ` potret model' made by the earthen artist of Krishna nagar. Same thing is happened in 1888 in Glasgo international exhibition where there is a seventeen huge size of idol of Indian tribal people (Adivasi), among them almost made by most popular artist Jodunath paul. Jadunath paul, his brother Rampal paul, and nephew Bokkeswar paul and their relative Rakhaldas paul and Nibarans paul are getting popularity worldwide as an earthen artist.

### WOODEN ART:

Another important folklore industry of west Bengal was wooden art which is vanishing rapidly from the memory of people. Designated wooden window, gate, bed, sindhuk and other type of household wooden room decorated material and Chandimandap( ancientsmall temple) beam and wooden pillar decorating are also included in this category. Designated wooden art by local instrument represent cultural background of ancient time. But now a day's iron and steel industry capturing their place and fiber and ply are also responsible for that too. That wooden designated holly places (mondaptala) and hut which l'd just like temple at that time is a place for village meeting, talking decision for the own development and a place for arrangement of small adivasis occasion and also other religious activities at that time. That wooden pillar and wooden beam are decorated beautifully with so many model and idol of god and goddess and other religious charactering smooth and finest wooden art as mind-blowing trees, fish, flower, birds, and poem or small religious tell. Among the two holly places (chandi mandap ) one is located in Aatpur in Hoogly district though its condition is very poor and another is in Ula – Birnangar in Nadia district which is now approximately demolished. It will be great effort if those designated wooden art are collected and make an exhibition of that wooden art surely attract the attention of worldwide people. The wooden art which is use in on that holly place (chandi mandap ) and different important household purposes are now limited to only making doll for children and other kind of toy to change the mind of child.

Present time it is not possible to replace the idol of god and geodes (Boisnab Bigraha) of Hindus made by wood by the new wooden artist compare to them. Now the local neighborhood are prefer doll, and other toy also and recreational crafts made by plastic or rubber rather than gorgeously decorated or drawing conventional wooden doll and that is why it is unavailable to the local fair also.

### **DRAWING EARTHEN POT AND UTENSIL (SORA AND TOIJASPATRA):**

Small earthen pot and stoneware designated pot are also demolished. But that kind of conventional religious activities mainly related to Geddes laxmi and due to this that culture are not totally vanish from the heart of hindus, Kalighat Soily 'a local name of `Kolkata Bazaar 'drawing similar with that kind of drawing on small earthen pot use in laxmipuja and other religious activities on late nineteenth centuries. That glittering light and deep smooth line drawing by that folk artist is now found to be rare.

#### ▪ **Alternative proposal for ensuring the preservation of folklore industrial culture from passing into amnesia**

- ▶ Conservation of the skill, inhere rent quality and that ideology behind the speechless beauty must be done at first.
- ▶ Make sure that the industry most running on some profitable way if commercialization is happened to survive this folklore cultural industry.
- ▶ Universities and colleges should start in their corresponding areas that particular folk industrial cultural studies course.
- ▶ Seminar and exhibition in various place of our country about that folk industrial beautiful creation may keep alive that culture on the mind of people.
- ▶ Established if possible district wise museum concerned with the collection of precious folk handmade valuable creation of the great artist of to that time to remember their immortal work.
- ▶ Govt. scheme should be launched about special allowance under rural development section for that folk artisans and performer Belong from poor background.
- ▶ Occasional fair in the villages of the state was popular since past so if the govt. should arranged block wise fair to show the creativity and up gradation of and operational skill of the Tribal folk artist and performers.

- ▶ The practitioner related to folk industry should upgrade themselves and try to make daily useful household material which can easily balance with the socio – economic trend of our society and fulfill the need and demand of the common people

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