



A Descriptive Study of Folk Tourism Elements in Purulia District

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ABSTRACT:

Bengal has traditionally been the adobe of Folk culture in India. On the basis of Folk culture a most attractive Tourism developed now a days. This type of Tourism develop have great opportunity in the western part of Bengal. Purulia has rich cultural heritage. It has the mixed culture of Bengal. In this article writer is want to discuss about Folk tourism elements and suggest how the elements can play an important role in tourism.

KEYWORDS: Folk Culture, Folk Tourism, Cultural Heritage, Elements

INTRODUCTION:

Folk culture is the most important ancient culture which is not only original but also kind of recreation help us to understand the socio-economic status. Purulia has rich cultural heritage. It has the mixed culture of Bengal, Jharkhand, Orrisa as it was a part of these areas for various times. In ancient time people believed nature as a God and they prayed and worshipped the nature. For worshiped the nature as a God, different types of activities like song, dance are performed. These activities now a days known as folk culture. Purulia got a distinct folk culture of Jhumur, Tusu, Bhadu songs. It is also the birth place of a martial dance oh Bengal 'Chhau'. On the basic of these cultures a most attractive tourism developed called Folk custom festival. It is growing rapidly by attracting more and more tourist with its unique charm of folk custom culture.

PEOPLE ARE ENJOING FOLK FESTIVALS BECAUSE:

1. It has been exciting.

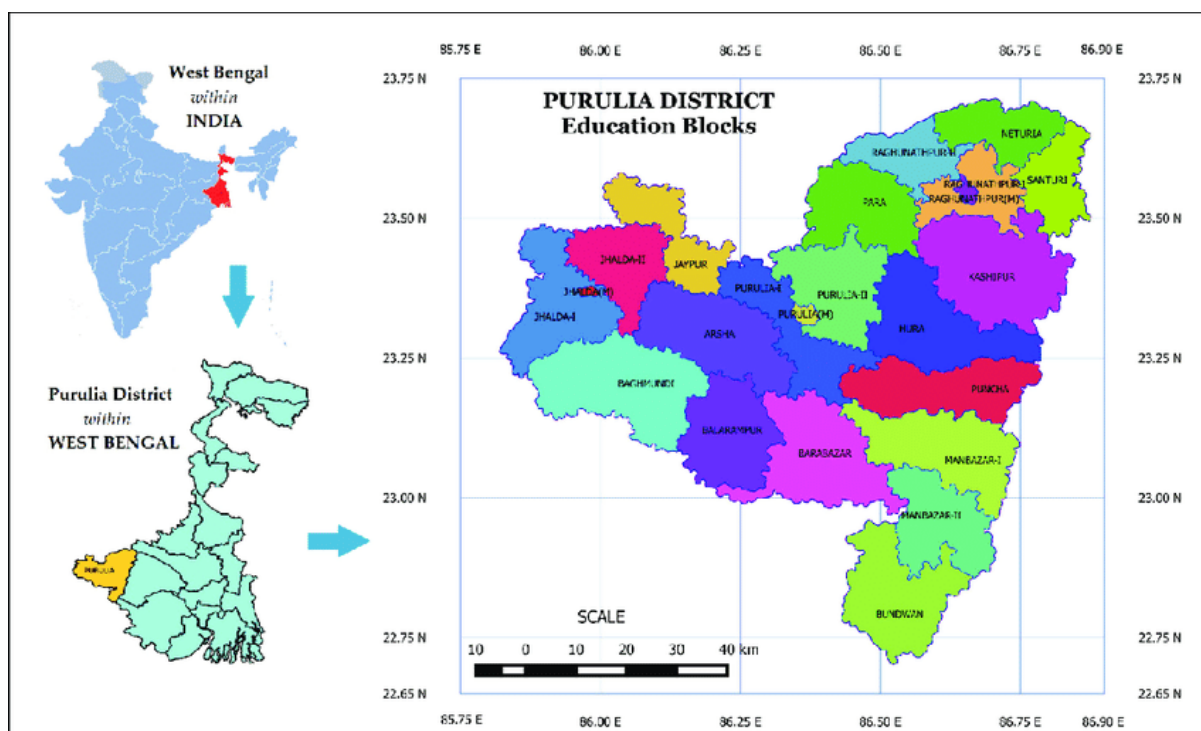
2. The key interest of the tourist participating in the tourism is to enjoy the experience of relaxation.

To know about the socio-economic status of our primitive ancestors.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF FOLK TOURISM:

The characteristics of cultural tourism include preserving cultural values, revitalizing urban environment, increasing employment opportunities and expanding knowledge of cultural values.

LOCATION OF PURULIA DISTRICT:



FOLK TOURISM ELEMENTS OF PURULIA DISTRICT:

Purulia is one of the oldest district in West Bengal. India Purulia has rich culture heritage. It has the mixed culture of Bengal, Jharkhand, Orrisa as it was a part of these areas for various times. Purulia got a distinct folk culture of Jhumur, Bhadu, Tusu songs. It is also the birth place of a martial dance of Bengal 'Chhau'.

BHADU SONG

Bhadu song is a most popular devi of western part of Bengal (Manbhum region). It is a folk Goddess worshipped in the month of Bhadra. It is mainly an agricultural festival. The main attraction of Bhadu festival is Bhadu song which is sung by rural woman.

This song reveals the social, political, economic situation including labour movement, farmer's movement, land reform etc. of the respective region.

TUSU SONG

Tusu is the Goddess of agriculture. She looks like a female doll. Her crown is made of tin-foil and cloth of blue or red paper. She is worshipped by singing song during the whole month of paush in Purulia district.

All the women started dancing in groups with this Tusu song. One song after another is composed with the melody in it by composing instant timely songs. The entire Tusu dance has traditional folk assence attached to song. The dance is performed by men as well, when it is known as "Bhaduriya saila". In tusu dance man move in clock wise direction and women move in anti-clock wise direction.

JHUMUR SONG

Jhumur is a special type of dance in Purulia district. There are different types of jhumur dance, they are Tanr jhumur, Bhaduria jhumur, chou jhumur, Nachni jhumur, Danrshailia jhumur etc. Jhumur is their life, blood flow, heartbeat. Social culture, rituals, leisure entertainment, love, separation, hopelessness, art, creation, fame, exchange of ideas, struggle etc are expressed through this jhumur song. The performers dance with "Ghungru" on their feet. The sound which reciprocated through it created a strong impact on the mind of audience and hence the art get its name as "jhumur".

In the past time jhumur was a troop based art, with a singer and musician. The theme was based on the internal love stories of 'Radha and Krishna' and 'The beauty of Nature'.

But now days, songs are written of Ramayana, Mahabharata and Contemporary issues. The artists usually sing keeping in mind of socio-economic, geographical conditions of his or her locality and the tests of the people of his oe her region.

KATHI DANCE

Kathi dance is another excellent dance of Purulia region. The dance is performed on the Ashtami and Navami day of Durga puja. People from lower communities go from home to home to entertain people through this dance. The dance is noted for its beautiful hand and leg coordination. The dance earlier served as the revival of Bengal culture but now it is celebrated for mere amusement and joy of the performers and the audiences.

It is usually performed by men in a group and the songs bear the stories of the daily occupations of villagers. The dance exhibits the skilful exposition of the rhythmic foot-work which is accompanied by the beating of sticks by the performers. These dances are repetitive in nature and the rhythm of the dance is maintained by performing for long period.

The performers of this dance dress themselves in shirts made out of leopard skin and dhotis. They also adorn their legs with heavy anklets. These anklets emit a rhythmic sound which goes well with the folk songs, drums and sticks.

JHIKA DANCE

Jhika dance is another part of Purulia culture. In this dance the boys play the 'Madal' the girls stand in a semicircle. They express their daily happiness and sorrow through jhika dance. Through this, various images of the present life came to light. The struggle for a little life and what they do in a true and just way.

CHHAU DANCE

Chhau dance is a semi classical Indian dance with martial and folk tradition. The type of regional mask dance of West Bengal that earned international reputation during last couple of decades is chhau dance. It is found in three styles named after the location where they are performed, the Purulia chhau of West Bengal, the Seraikella chhau of Jharkhand and the Mayurbhanj chhau of Odisha. The dance ranges from celebrating martial arts, acrobatics and athletics performed on the occasion of Sun festival. The traditional theme of the art form was taken from epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata and various other Puranas. The music of chhau dance is less significantly vocal and more significantly instrumental. Major contributing instruments are nupurs, nakra, Sanai, dhol, bheri, singa etc. There is absolutely no scope for facial expression since the entire face is covered with mask but it is compensated with the movement made by the character. Use of shoulder, limbs and other physical parts make the dance form so attractive. The dance brings together people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds in a festive and religious spirit.

SHIBER GAJAN FESTIVAL

It is one of the longest and most famous festivals held at Purulia from the middle of March to the end of the May. The local Santhals calls it Shiber Gajan while the other notable tribesmen like the Kurmi and Korhas name it as Chait Puja and

Charak Puja. The festival marks the divinity of Lord Shiva and the tribal people dressed as Shiva and his other devotees involved in Jatra or Nataks.

DISUM SENDRA

This is also known as ‘Shikar Parab’. The festival primarily involves hunting wild animals who reside in the jungles of Ayodhya Hills. The tribes say that it is a means to complete the cycle of life and pay tribute to Mother Nature. The hunting is accompanied by drum rolls and dances around the hunt.

ROHINI UTSAV

It is one of the most beautiful festivals celebrated by all the tribes of Purulia in unison. On the 13th Jaishtha of every year, it is said the God of Harvest and a new season comes down to Earth for blessing the cultivation. So, all the farmers and cultivators get together and show seeds on this occasion. Another form of Rohini Utsav is the Erok Sim festival which is celebrated in the month of Asad.

KARAM PUJA

After the hard labour of cultivators bears the crops, it’s time for the harvest season. The farmers of Purulia celebrate the harvest with Karam Parab festival. With a burning dhuni and drum rolls, farmers, clad in white, give their offering to the harvest before cutting it off.

BHEJABINDHA

Purulia hails for the famous Bhejabindha festival or the cockfighting festival. There was surely some uproar regarding this, but the festival continues to attract foreigners to witness the battle. It is primarily the celebrations of the santhals tribe in Purulia. As per rules, the defeated animal becomes the property of the winner.

FOLK ART (Painting):

Folk art reflect the cultural life of a community. The art form encompasses the expressive culture associated with the fields of folklore and cultural heritage. Purulia is famous for Deoal Chitro.

DEOAL CHITRO

. Since the pre-historic era, long before mankind found a way of expression through scripts, Wall painting were the only medium of expressing thoughts and ideas. In this context, the tribal wall art of the ‘santhal’ community dwelling in the Birbhum, Mednipur, Purulia districts of West Bengal has been an example of this amazing tradition. The main creators of these paintings express numerous

ideas ranging from womanhood to harvesting or social life, implying a strong bonding with mother nature. Present time, with rapid modernization or economic constraints, this beautiful form is fast losing its originality.

SUGGESTION OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN PURULIA DISTRICT BY USING THESE ELEMENTS:

❖ Suggestion for Folk music and dance –

- ❖ The existence of these kinds of songs and dance should be kept alive.
- ❖ The villagers must be insisted to promote these cultural events frequently rather than doing it only on a specific occasion.
- ❖ Purulia sadar may be used as a cultural hub gathering various types of folk culture of the district.
- ❖ Music and dance of this district should be advertisement at tourism resources.
- ❖ Music and dance festivals should be arranged in regular interval.

❖ Suggestion for Folk festival –

1. Ensure that the festival is inclusive and accessible to all members of the community, regardless of their age, ethnicity, religion or ability.
2. Provide opportunities for people to learn about different cultures, customs and traditions and make sure that education materials and resource are readily available.
3. Provide high-quality entertainment that appeals to broad audience such as live music, theatre performances or circus etc.
4. Encourage community involvement and participation and seek out partnerships with local businesses, artists and community organizations.
5. Ensure that the festival is safe for all attendees with appropriate measures in place for security, crowd control and emergency preparedness.

❖ Suggestion for painting –

- Open a museum specially for painting.

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