

Traditional Musical Instruments in Indigenous People of Tripura

Jabanika Tripura

G.L (Department of Kokborok)
GDC, LTV, Dhalai Tripura

Padmini Tripura

C.C (TRLM, R.D Department)
Govt. of Tripura

Abstract- A musical instrument is a gadget that makes melodic sounds. The historical backdrop of instruments dates to the beginning of human culture. Musical instruments play important role in the lives of indigenous people of Tripura. Singing and dancing accompanies the musical instruments at social festivities such as weddings and funerals. Traditional musical instruments announce the opening of a war or festival. They may also accompany the arrival and departure of a visitor to and from a royal palace. Musical instruments also play and important role in religious ceremonies. Musical instruments have been used since earliest times for a variety of purposes.

Keywords: Tribal musical instruments, Folk musical instrument, Sarinda, Chongpreng, Bobork dophani tammung.

Introduction:

Tripura, nestled in the scenic landscapes of Northeast India, is not only known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse traditions but also for its captivating music. The traditional music of Tripura is brought to life through a variety of indigenous musical instruments, each crafted with precision and played with skilful mastery. In this article, we delve into the enchanting world of Tripura's traditional musical instruments, exploring their unique features, cultural significance, and the soulful melodies they create. From the resonating beats of drums to the melodious tunes of flutes and string instruments, let us embark on a musical journey and discover the harmonious symphony of Tripura's traditional musical heritage.

Traditional musical instrument:

The traditional musical instruments of Tripura are a testament to the region's rich cultural heritage and artistic excellence. Crafted with meticulous craftsmanship and played with immense skill, these instruments bring the soulful melodies and rhythmic beats of Tripura's music to life. Whether it's the resonating beats of the Khamb, the soothing tones of the Sumui, or the vibrant sounds of the Chongpreng, each instrument contributes to the harmonious symphony of Tripura's musical traditions. Embrace the enchanting melodies and immerse yourself in the captivating world of Tripura's traditional musical instruments, where wood and metal unite to create an everlasting musical legacy.

Objectives:

- To know about what are the traditional musical instruments of Indigenous people of Tripura.
- To know how they make their musical instrument.
- What is needed to make musical instruments is also to be known.
- The characteristics of folk musical instrument can also be imagined.

Important of traditional musical Instruments:

- Traditional musical instruments are an important part of our history and help us to know about our ancestors.
- Traditional musical instruments are needed to protect the culture and heritage of Tripura.
- It helps to pass down the culture and traditions of people to other.
- It helps to bring unity and equality through all over the world.
- It also helps to spread good thoughts of people and learn.

Discussion of Traditional Musical Instruments:

- **Chongpereng:** The Chongpereng a type chordo phonic lute. The Chongpereng looks like Esraj and is made of bamboo. It has a hollowed block of wood and the vibrator is covered with a parchment. A wooden bridge is placed at lower one third portion of the membrane belly. The strings are hooked to the lute pins. Instrument manipulation opts. Finger tips to press the strings against the board. The tune of thechongpereng instrument are similar to the bengali musical instrument dutara and Indian classical 'Sarod'. The Chongpereng is commonly used in traditional dance performances and cultural celebrations.



- **Sarinda/Sainda:** The Sarinda is well known string instrument of Tripura. It is specially used by most the tribes of Tripura and is known as Sarinda Uakhrap. This is specially made of bamboo.



Sarinda is a primitive instrument that is used by most of the tribes and is also known as Sarinda Uakhrap. It is made of bamboo. It looks like a peacock and to some extent like a mandolin. It also has an oval shaped void wooden vibrating chamber which is covered with a thin skin. Its wider top portion is open. The waist is narrow shaped. The instrument is about 65-70 cm. The lower portion is oval. The middle portion is large and the edges are wide. The cave portion is uncovered. In the top portion three pegs are fitted in order to fasten the strings. The strings are either metal or of the thread of Muga or animals gut. Sarinda is played by a crude "bow" that is made of horse hair. By tightening or loosening the strings the tuning is done. Sarinda known as Foli instrument in the sates of Assam, Bengal, Jharkhand, Tamil, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. The Sarangi and Nepali Sarangi are similar to the Sarinda. The Bodos call it Serja or Serenja. Several ethnic groups of India, e.g. Bauls of Bengal, Punjabi people, the folk artists of Rajasthan, the Bodo of Assam, and the related Twiprasa of Tripura, use the sarinda in their traditional music and dance. It is the sole accompaniment for a soloist or group

folk singer(s).

- **Kham:** It is a popular instrument from ancient time used by all tribes of the country. The Kham is a cylindrical-shaped drum made of wood, covered with animal skin on both ends. It is played by striking the skin surfaces with wooden sticks. The rhythmic beats of the Kham form the



backbone of Tripura's traditional music, adding a pulsating energy to performances and cultural festivities.

- **Dangdu:** The Dangdu is a small rod idiophone of fine musical value which in English is called the Jew's harp or mouth harp. Though there is no resemblance to the harp at all. In Hindi Literature the instrument is also referred to as the Mukhachang. Mukha means 'mouth'. The Dangdu is one of important musical instrument in as much it a combination of both wind and percussion. It is made of iron in the sharp of small tongs measuring about 9-10cm with a single wire running between the arms. One end of the instruments is held between the teeth with lips parted as the wire is plucked the player inhales and exhales with control the twang and pitch.

- The instrument is used as part of the rhythm section in various styles of Indian folk and classical music. Most notably the Morning in the Carnatic music of South India or the *Morchang* in the lokgeet (folk music) of Rajasthan. In Nepal, one type of Jew's harp is named the *murchunga* (Nepali: मुर्चुङ्गा). It is very similar to an Indian *morsing* or *morchang* in that the tongue (or twanger) extends beyond the frame, thus giving the instrument more sustain. Dangdu made of bamboo is called Gogona by the people of Assam. The Dangdu traditional musical instrument is known by different names in different countries.



- **Sumui:** The Sumui is a traditional wind instrument resembling a flute crafted from bamboo. It consists of several finger holes and a mouthpiece, which creates melodic sounds when blown into. The Sumui is known for its soothing tones and is often played during religious ceremonies and cultural events. Flute is the least mechanical of all the instruments. Sumui are of two types: one has seven holes and the other has eight holes. Those held along the mouth and those held across the mouth Sumui is made of the hollow stem of a bamboo.

The bamboo is cut into a suitable length and thereafter put to his lips in a playing position that determines the distances of the flute. The distance becomes the standard length and on determining the position the marked areas are burned with a hot iron nail. Finally a separate mark is scratched in alliance with the stop-hole near the upper rim at a distance of one finger with for a rectangular notch, gradually sloped as per thickness of the stem. The marked area is cut with a knife. Just as remains the ends blown

its opposite direction bevelled mouth piece.



- **Lebang- Lebangti:** Lebang bumani musical instrument is very strange and very special instrument found in Tripura. It is a curious combination of bamboo clappers to which are attached miniatures and is played with claps and twangs of a wired quality. Along with other instrument 'Labangti' which is a normal parted bamboo clapper.



It is a musical instrument and musical sound to prevent rampage of crops by Lebang. The other most popular musical instrument found among the tribes of Tripura is the raps made of bamboo. Again bamboo stick is required to beat the bamboo raps. It is also used in the Lebang Bumani dance. Basically, cacophonous yet effectively rhythmical between beat intervals of the drumming Idiophonic, stridulates and rasps are one of the most popular next to membranophonic, nomenclature instruments.

- **Uakhrap:** Uakhrap is a traditional indigenous musical instrument. It is mainly made of bamboo. To make Uakhrap, first the bamboo is cut to size and then clean the bamboo skin and cut the middle part into two parts. The lower part of the latter is made in such a way that it can be grasped in the palm of the hand. Uakhrap is used while performing Mamita dance.



CONCLUSION

Musical Instruments of **Tripura** are made of materials that are available locally. The people of Tripura have a respect for the strong natural forces and try to pacify animistic spirits and the local gods. These instruments are made of bamboo, skin, wood and animal horns. It is believed that each of these musical instruments have a potential of conferring material benefits. Musical instruments of Tripura are a vital part of the traditional folk music of the region. The musician Hemanta Jamatia gained major renowned beginning in about 1979, when he became a musical representative for the separatist Tripura National Volunteers. He later on surrendered and returned to normal life, dedicating his work to the folk music of the Tripuri people. In recognition of his contributions to folk and modern music in the Tripuri language, he was awarded the highest honour in the field of music by the Government of India's Sangeet Natak Academy. Music and cultures are related due to all the folk songs and dances. So if one dies, the rest follows eventually. But the issue is that people are losing interest slowly and with the exception of few groups of people, the folk musical instruments and folk music are being diluted alongside modern music instrument.

Suggestion:

- Traditional musical instruments should be preserved so that future generation of children show interest in traditional musical instruments.
- A curriculum on traditional musical instruments needs to be developing in every school in the state of Tripura. So that all students of the school will show interest in traditional musical instruments and also shows interest in folk music.
- A nation's identity is known through its entire traditional asset. Therefore, every should act as a guide keeping in mind the next generation.
- Folk music colleges should be established. Government and private organizations should also come forward to improve them.
- The government should come forward to improve the social and cultural aspects of the Tribal of Tripura.
- With the progressive development of the modern age, the musical instruments of the tribal have to progress towards improvement.

REFERENCES:

1. Debbarma, Nanda Kumar. "Jaduni," Kokborok Music Akademi, Agartala, 2017.

2. Sutradhar, J.L., "Indigenous – Music and Culture of Tripura," Tribal Research and Cultural Institute, Govt of Tripura, Agartala, 2014.
3. https://www.indianetzone.com/55/musical_instruments_tripura.htm
4. Traditional Musical Instruments of Tripura: A Harmonious ...
5. <https://boroktimes.com/traditional-musical-instruments-of-tripura-a-harmonious-symphony-in-wood-and-metal/>

- 6.