

The phenomenal Pahari paintings and their implications in the social life of hilly regions of Himalayas; A study on Artisan Ethnography and Community life

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Abstract: Pahari School of Paintings are unique Artistic dimension in the Indian School of Art. The illustrative nature and vibrant theme manifest these Paintings as wonder among the drawing vocation. There are several genre' of Pahari Paintings, these are very colourful and meaningful. These are Guler School, Kangra School and Basohli School of Paintings; woven very carefully and in a multi- coloured manner, these Paintings are truly mesmerising. Moreover, we also see the Garhwali School of Art which is prevalent in the hilly states of India. In the Pahari Paintings, we see the natural colours and the designs. The Radha- Krishna theme is very popular due to the unique representation of Artistic work. Moreover, Gods and Goddesses are also painted for the maintenance of stability on Earth. The Art work is phenomenal for its vibrant colours and Humanitarian aspects. The designs also reflect miniature Art work at times. These are the finest representative Art work in the History of Indian Paintings. The Artisans take up these Humanitarian themes for the purpose of devotion and sincerity. They also integrate natural traits with value Artistic work and Ethical basis.

Keywords: Artistic dimension, Illustrative, Radha- Krishna, Stability, Humanitarian, Ethical basis.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Pahari Paintings have vibrant themes; these Paintings are inspired by the colourful lifestyle of the Pahari people. The Paintings are at times miniature in nature and the ethnic designs are inspired by the traditional features. These descriptions are created for bringing stability on Earth through natural process. The colours used in Pahari Painting are Green, yellow, red and brown. Other natural colours are also used to bring equilibrium effect in the beautiful Paintings. The natural topography has been very popular in the Pahari Paintings. The accepted scenery has been brought up very well in these stunning artistic works. Let us examine, why the natural topography is crucial in determining iconic Paintings? The subjects like pond, hills and the natural gardens are really important for social integration. In the Pahari Society, we could see the harmony, co-operation and honesty among the members of the community.

There are several instances where well- known writers have described the Pahari community as a harmonious one. The writers have also described their respect for nature. The natural power like Sun, River and JwalaDevi is worshipped in the region. Moreover, the Moon and the planetary themes are also taken as a source of power in the beautiful Pahari Paintings. The artistic quality of these Paintings is so mesmerising that only a beautiful mind could admire the real beauty of the Pahari Paintings. The colourful themes have hues of nature; it also combines several social themes at times. The relationship between human and environment is truly depicted in the Pahari Paintings. The artists are the local Pahari people, who have been following the Pahari tradition since time immemorial.

Why Pahari Paintings became so popular in the representative value and Artistic genre'?

Pahari Paintings have unique style of representation for the purpose of social harmony. There are the linings; which have been designed with care and hope for well- living. The community living has been depicted; where every person has been given due importance. Moreover, traditional aspect is displayed very well in the Pahari Paintings for stability and melodious effect. These are the artistic tradition; which studies the theme at first; and the drawing are created a detailed study on the themes. The common grounds are given much importance in the Pahari School of Paintings. Meanwhile, we can also mention about the different Schools of Paintings prevalent in the Sub- Continent. The Kalighat School of Paintings are major ones; which are created for worshipping and Art work. These Paintings are thriving in the region of Bengal; which is famous for the Forests and the Deltaic region. Here, the traditional artistic value is given importance; along with the human values. We can also mention about the nature worship and Goddess worship in this School of Painting. The hues

are bright and tinge of blush is also seen for creating masterpiece. Bengal is a land of tradition and cultural events; we have known about these themes from research and literary works. The popularity of these Paintings proves that these Paintings are painted with utmost effort. Again, we can also mention about the Rajasthani Folk Paintings; these Paintings are very unique because of the style; natural themes are depicted along with community events. Again, we can also mention about our Pahari School of Paintings, where Guler School of Paintings thrive because of unique representation. The theme depicted here are natural theme and folk themes. The Guler is known for vibrant colours and balancing events; Guler School of Painting also depicts social events.

In the Guler School of Paintings; we could see the traditional effects and harmonious blend of colours. Guler Painting is famous for the excellent craftsmanship. The theme of traditional handicraft has been brought in the Guler Paintings. In the hilly regions, the Guler School of Paintings thrive with the vibrant colours and the traditional themes; which regards Gods and Goddesses.

The Kangra School of Painting is another major School of Pahari Paintings. In the Kangra School of Paintings; we find the vibrant colours, illustrating the theme of social life. Another very important aspect of Kangra Painting is the delicate use of linings and artistic features. The linings are drawn after much concentration. The artistic features are also very familiar because the Kangra School of Painting is very popular for melodious theme. In the Social Events; and religious illustration, we could see Kangra Paintings thriving in the hilly regions.

In the Kangra Paintings; we can see the Radha- Krishna theme in the rhythmic quality. Here, the natural element is very much prevailing; landscape and water bodies with lotus flower are very well- known. There is the aspect of beauty in the floral and wildlife conservation. It is said that nature dances in the tune of compassion and artistic theme for bringing balance on Earth. It means if a person or Godly human- being is kind; then sincere temperament or Prakriti dances in the tune of the nature song. This event has been brought up very well in the Kangra Painting for creating a divine aspect of artistic work. The illustrative trend of Kangra School is very fashionable because it represents the delicate and gentle basis of human life. A kind of natural balance is being created through the Kangra School of Painting; which is phenomenal in itself. In this kind of Paintings; we can see the variations like rainfall, the coming of the spring and the welcoming humanitarian works. The Kangra School of Painting is regionally well- established. In the coming years, it is perhaps the most popular artistic genre' because of stability and astonishing Art work.

In the Basohli School of Paintings; we see the vibrant use of colours for creating phenomenal Art work. The theme of Gods and Goddesses are prevalent in the Basohli School of Painting for the purpose of social harmony. The blessings of Lord Ganesha and Mahadevi are considered to be the main theme of the Basohli Painting. Lord Ganesha has been depicted very well with the divine ornamentation for the sincere and the devoted genre' of Basohli Painting. Mahadevi is also seen in the exotic design for the purpose of maintaining stability on Earth. Another very important theme of the Basohli Painting is the Glorification of royal deeds. According to the Basohli tradition; courage and dedication could find place in the exemplary Art work. In the hilly areas of Basohli, we found the phenomenal artistic genre' which is very unique in temperament and it is regarded as marvel in the history of Art work. Its popularity has been growing day by day because of the excellent craftsmanship and distinctive designs.

The impact of Pahari Paintings in illustrating the Culture and Ethics for humanitarian basis:

Culture means the way of living of living in certain part of the Globe; it has human settlement and environmental conditions. It incorporates mode of worship, dress pattern, housing pattern, food habits and Performative Art. These traits actually form after several years of sincere efforts and dedicated works. Human Civilization has seen the development of lithic composition; dwelling patterns and the development in the Artistic genre'. The social composition grew in course of time; meanwhile, we can also mention about human migration which also takes place from time to time. Now, ethical concerns are important because it is normative by nature and brings co- operation in the society. The role of ethics in Public Life is very crucial for maintaining integrity and sincerity. In some of the excellent Pahari Paintings, we can see prayer offered to Gods and Goddesses, blessing the human- race, taking care of the wildlife and royal events for security concerns. The impact of Pahari Paintings on our common lives is also very phenomenal; as it gives contentment and happiness in a very unique manner.

The socio- economy of the Pahari People and the contribution of Paintings in their lifestyle

The Paintings are a very important part of the lives of community living in the hilly regions or Pahars. Their socio- economy is dependent on forestry, producing food items, weaving for the community, and producing herbal products. Herbal products are very popular in the present times, due to their well- known ingredients. Now, the question remains why socio- economy of the Pahari People is dependent on Natural activities and Paintings? Actually, natural themes began to capture the imagination of the Pahari People and they

began to find livelihood from the minor forest produces. This is environment friendly methodology, while industrial effect could harm the environment of the forests. Therefore, caution has to be taken, in maintaining the clean surroundings of the Pahars or our forestlands. Pahari People depicted the themes of socio- economy on leaves, houses and painting papers. The history of the Pahari Painting is very unique; since we could find innumerable evidences of colourful Paintings in the Pahars and hues which could capture the imagination of any art critic. The natural colours dominated most of the themes, and human minds created several colourful events in these Paintings. It is in this scenario; we can mention about their livelihood which is dependent on the produce of the forests. As the popularity of these Paintings increased; we can find that tourists got attracted to see the Pahari lifestyle.

The images and the worshipping of Gods and Goddesses in the Pahars:

The images of Gods and Goddesses became very popular among the people of the Pahars. It is because of their tradition and believes in the superior natural power; they began to draw the images of Gods and Goddesses. It is also to be mentioned that Pahari Paintings had depiction of lotus flower and natural produce like leaves and flowers for prosperity in the Pahars. Meanwhile, we can say that these traditions are ingrained in the ethics of the Pahari People. Our society believes in the harmony and worshipping the Supreme Power; which can give blessings for agriculture and well- being of all. The natural connect with Gods and Goddesses is seen in the Paintings. The God Vishnu Deva became very prominent in some of the theme. These Paintings are authenticated, and we can find evidences in the traditional Pahari localities. The historical analysis says that it is a part of the social tradition; these Paintings give some kind of blessings to the locals. Therefore, we could know about their morality and honesty through these Paintings. Our study on Social Sciences, teaches us the connect between human and society. Human beings are artistic in nature; further they have got the potential to create drawings and Art work. The Pahari School of Painting is such modification of Art works; devoting itself to the greater service of humankind.

Pahari Paintings and the Natural elements present in the lively themes:

Man and Nature; perhaps many of the outstanding artistic genre' are created with this theme. In the Pahari Paintings, we find the colours made from the leaves of flowering plants, colours made from yellow flowers, which is very unique; and we also find the use of soil for providing bright effect. Analysis of the Pahari Paintings, say that the forestry has been a part of their lives. It is here, we can mention about afforestation efforts. Our Environment needs to be protected; and the herbal species need to be preserved. The overall understanding of these wordings has been very well understood by the Pahari Scholars. We can even find events; where there is local gathering and all of them pledge to protect the environment. A sapling when planted; needs a lot of care, and Pahari community has taught us how to take care of the same. It is this sapling, which will grow up, provide food and nutrition, gives us shade and helps in protecting the Environment. Local people also teach their children to take care of the Environment.

Pahari Paintings and the Soulful experiences of life; celebrating the value of kindness and simplicity

In some of the Pahari Paintings; we can see the care for the wildlife which is an interesting facet of kindness. Children take care of the flora and fauna of the region. These pictures are depicted in a very colourful manner. There has been artistic expression of the same. It is actually the value of compassion, protecting the wildlife and the effect of simplicity. The effect of simplicity is very unique in the Pahari Paintings and this is reason for their popularity. As said earlier; the Pahari Paintings take up the theme of common lives; but while depicting the same on artistic platform; they just create illuminating effect. The nice and joyous kind of attitude is seen in this kind of Pahari Paintings. Analyzing the theme, we can say that zeal is what is required in human life. If the community is sincere and hardworking in nature; then it will be respected by the world community.

The impact of Pahari Painting on the locals for events like birth day and marriage

As we study the Pahari Paintings; we get to know about their social life. The auspicious occasion of birth is celebrated with colourful events. It is for the well- being of the kid and the parents; certain traditional offerings are made. Again, we can say that these offerings are herbal in nature. The coconut, fruits and other offerings are made to Gods and Goddesses for prosperity of all the members of the community. The Mother and the Father prays for the success and well- being of the kid. Meanwhile, we can mention their tradition, which give importance to certain traits like valour, kindness and compassion. Therefore, tradition is very much respected in the Pahari lives. Moreover, the pictures also depict valour and the great traits like esteemed sincerity. The respected elders also come in auspicious occasion to give blessings. The respected elders also pray according to the tradition, for the well- being of all. The family members and children of the family take part with heart and soul for prosperity of all. They also pray for well- being, bringing stability and sincerity on Earth.

Social events are very interestingly illustrated in the Pahari Paintings. As we know, Pahari Paintings use vibrant themes; therefore in the events like marriage and social functions they use yellow colour and red illustration. Moreover, Green colour is also used for worshipping Mother Nature. The original Pahari theme; represents the respect of Mother Nature and the continuation of life with co- operation and ethics. The social functions are very crucial in Pahari lifestyle because of their traditional and historical basis. This kind of tradition has been carried out since ancient times. The natural elements like flowers, soil and twigs are carefully demonstrated in the marriage events. Moreover, they also offer prayer to Gods and Goddesses for the well-being of the household. All the people in the family offer prayer for prosperity and happiness. Children are also taught the moral of good behaviour and sincerity in the social events. There has been the illustration of co-operation and Ethics in this kind of social events. Overall, we can say that society and respect for the elders is very much followed as norms in Pahari Paintings and Pahari Culture.

How the colours are gotten from herbal plants, bark of trees and leaves?

In the Pahari Paintings, we find very colourful genre' of delicate designs and illustrations. The colours are naturally produced ones; their harmonious effect can be seen in the Social events. Let us discuss how the artisans prepare the colours for creating the beautiful paintings. The hilly regions are full of herbal products and shrubs. The local artisans study the herbal products and prepare green and brown colours from these naturally ingrained products. Again, we see the bark of trees at times; the artisans also use it for creating beautiful Paintings. Some of the Pahari Paintings are so phenomenal and socially illustrative that they have been well acclaimed all over the world. The leaves of the trees and shrubs are also used to prepare varied colourful genre'. The leaves in the Pahars which is also known as hilly region have varied hues. We also see the willow and other red coloured tree leaves. These are very popular for giving bright effect to the themes of Pahari Paintings. Again, Patrachitra which means leaflets prepared from trees are really famous in the Pahars. We find historical evidence of such Patrachitra; which have unique theme from the Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. Meanwhile, we can also mention about the colour industry; which means dyeing industry getting impetus from the ingredients of nature. It is because of the original Painting genre' that we find several new themes coming up for the service of humanity.

The life of the artisan community and concerns for their socio- economic development:

The life of the artisan community is so much linked with the Paintings and the Genre' that they require care and maintenance from the Government and the Civil Society. Our Culture needs to be preserved for the harmonious social structure and betterment in standard of living. With the coming of Globalization, we see different kind of trends like the modernized structure and coming of the different artistic genre'. Yet Pahari Paintings need to be preserved because of the unique theme and illustrative nature. These Paintings are done with utmost care and effort; and we can see the artisan community who have been working day and night for the creation of the phenomenal Paintings. The natural elements add beauty and aesthetic concern in these Paintings. Government and Civil Society can take up Research Project for the betterment of the community. Meanwhile, we can mention about the literary and skill among their children. This issue is very much in limelight now- a-days. The development of Pahari People is important for preserving their Culture and Ethics. The Pahari Children deserve better care and education for future perspective.

Pahari Paintings and their role in Communal Harmony and Co- operation for a prosperous Society in the Pahars:

Pahari Paintings has been culturally very eventful; and Community concerns are taken up very carefully in these Paintings. Now, the question remains why Paintings are important for maintaining Communal Harmony? A painting actually teaches us simplicity, courage and the importance of Humanity. In this paper, Humanity is taken up as a major theme because it can bring co- operation and usher social progress. Researchers and Government Officials could also help in restoration of the Pahari Paintings. The Paintings reveal the theme of integrity and perseverance for the preservation of cultural ethics. Now, the question remains, Can the Civil Society usher a new kind of determination in helping the Pahari People? The answer is simple, with goodwill and hard work; Civil Society too can bring transformative changes in the lives of the Pahari People. Their traditional ethics need to be maintained; meanwhile, the co- operative concerns of the modern culture can also be generated as skill development in the Research Projects.

How Pahari Paintings are creating happiness at localities, regional level and at the Global level?

We know that Pahari Paintings are created with colourful themes; they illustrate social events. These social events are mainly related to the human lives; and the relations between man and environment. The landscape has been given due importance due to the vibrant colours and salient features of the exquisiteness and greenery. The happiness theme is brought into forefront because these Paintings are created with much effort.

The study of the society and cultural effects is phenomenally drawn for giving bright effect in the Pahari Paintings. Hence, when a person looks at the Pahari Painting; he/ she realize the sophistication of nature and improvement in social ethics. At regional level, it has the understanding of the community and greater aspects of integrity and sincerity. The community also has certain dimension of togetherness and ethics. These could be nurtured with sincere effort and Research work dedicated for the development of Pahari People. The themes of the Pahari Paintings are vibrant and naturally blessed ones; which is playing the integrating role at regional level. Next, integrating the fabulous Pahari work in the world stage would be a kind of respect given to the great Pahari Tradition.

In Conclusion, it can be said that Pahari Paintings are phenomenal Art work for the sake of humanity, sincerity and social ethics. The colours are prepared through natural ingredients. The artisans use the yellow, red and green colour mostly. It is done to give bright effect to the illustrations which are fabulous genre' in Art work. The theme of worshipping Gods and Goddesses and the royal events are also drawn in the Pahari Paintings. The localities, where the Paintings are created still believe that these illustrations will bring harmony and stability on Earth. The sincere and hard work of the Artisans is truly appreciable since they carry the message of goodwill and value work. Again, we also got to know about the livelihood conditions of the Artisan community. Government and Civil Society can help them through planning and development activities. Sustainable efforts are required to bring success to the Pahari Community. Integrating all the Pahari social ethics and respecting their original tradition, we can say these Paintings are phenomenal work for the service of Humankind.

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