

Impact of Globalisation to Traditional Games and Recreation of the Bodos

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Abstract: Culture is another most effective media of the Bodo community to express and expose their strong century old social and cultural heritage before the world community. Literary, in today's context, Bodo is a well developed language. But unlike many of the Tribal society of India, the Bodo culture is yet to be developed on pure scientific platform with a true scientific spirit. It is true that in the advent of today's Information Technology if any culture of the world is not based on scientific analysis it cannot enjoy the full benefit of Information technology in practice. From the very beginning the Bodos have some sports & games and their recreation centres with their own methods. They played them to forget their tired and to busy for next works, and to enjoy in their busy life. Some of the most important games and sports of the Bodos are highlighted on this paper. So, the main aim of this paper is to collect the traditional sports and games which is mostly related to recreations of the Bodos, analyse them in scientific way, preserve them and spread all over the world community.

Keywords: cultural, heritage, preserve, recreation, traditional.

I. Introduction

The Bodos, anthropologically, belongs to mongoloid group and linguistically Tibeto-Chinese (Sino-Tibetan) family, which is the second largest Language family of the world in terms of numbers of speakers; with approximate half the number of speakers of Indo-European. More than 400 languages are in Sino-Tibetan Language family. Many of the Scholars opined that, the original homeland of this group is the North-Western china between the head waters of the Huang Ho and Yang-tsze-Kiang rivers.¹

Sino-Tibetan falls into two groups. One, Sinitic, consists of just 14 languages, including Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese (Yue), Hakka, Northern Min, Southern Min and Gan etc. The other group, Tibeto-Burman has some 350 languages, mainly spoken in China, Nepal and India.²

Bodo is a language of Tibeto-Burman of Assam Burma group of Sino-Tibetan language family. Bodos are speaking their language as Bodo from the very beginning in North-East India. In Sino-Tibetan language family Bodo is the largest language in terms of speaker in Assam Burmese group. Today, the Bodo group of mongoloid community is scattered all over the North-East India, including adjoining areas of Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh etc. But the Bodo population is large in Assam of North-East India. According to 2001 census report Bodo inhabitants were estimated above 30 lakhs in the state of Assam, with a maximum density in B.T.A.D.

The Bodos have their own language, culture, traditional games & sports and recreations centres, Traditional Instruments and social customs and laws. They are used their language in speaking, reading, writing and every works of the society.

Key note of the Topic: Games and sports form an important part of a social life. It gives us encouragement to face all the hard challenges of life. It provides us physical strength which is always needed for doing our work. It is conducted that without games people becomes dull, boring, pessimist and failure in life. It is also a significant value in student's life. Observes Robert A. Georges-“Play is a form of expressive behaviour common among all human beings and manifested overtly in all cultures”.³ Again remarks S.N. Sarma, “sports and pastime are integral parts of a vibrant social life. A nation or a community devoid of these life-sustaining activities is physically and mentally retarded and is devoid of gusto for life”.⁴

Traditional sports and games (TSG) can form the backbone of a community, and UNESCO is driven to protect and promote these sports to further community spirit, bring peoples together and install a sense of pride in a society's cultural roots.

Traditional sports and games are part of intangible heritage and a symbol of the cultural diversity of our societies. They are also an efficient means to convey values of solidarity, diversity, inclusiveness and cultural

awareness. UNESCO works to preserve promote and develop TSG, and to ensure that they form an integral part of national and development strategies. These will all enhance our end-goal of sport for peace and development. UNESCO is currently implementing a pilot project to set up training camps in traditional wrestling sports for the youth of 22 African countries.

In the Declaration of Punta del Este adopted by the third International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials in charge of Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS III), held in December 1999, ministers emphasized the preservation and the appraisal of traditional and indigenous sports from different regional and national cultural heritages, including the establishment of a World Heritage List of Traditional Games and Sports.

Moreover, traditional games and sports reflect on different cultural expressions, and create a bridge between cultures for a better mutual comprehension.

On the occasion of MINEPS III, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 1999, the international community proposed that a significant action from UNESCO could be initiated within the framework for the promotion and preservation of traditional games and sports. In this regard, two important proposals have been made during MINEPS III. One of them is the publication of a world heritage list of traditional games and sports and the other the implementation of an incentive framework for the promotion and the preservation of these sports that should lead to the establishment of an "International Platform" for traditional games and sports.

The preservation and promotion of traditional games and sports is a fundamental contribution for the valorization of such an important and essential field for the intangible world cultural heritage.

Most of the traditional games and sports, expressions of indigenous cultures and ways of life contributing to the common identity of humanity, have already disappeared and those that are surviving are threatened of imminent disappearance and extinction under the combined effect of globalization and harmonization of the rich diversity of world sport heritage. Traditional Games and Sports then become an added value in terms of cultural comprehension and mutual tolerance both within the community of nations and between them, and therefore contribute to the edification of a culture of Peace.

MINEPS IV highlighted the importance of traditional sports and games and recommended concrete provisions for its promotion and development. The 33rd session of UNESCO's General Conference drew on these recommendations to design the Organisation's strategies regarding traditional sports and games.

As a result, the Resolution 33C/R.21 enabled the organisation of a collective consultation at UNESCO's headquarters, on 13 March 2006, aimed at creating an international platform for the promotion and development of traditional sports and games. In this meeting, a concrete roadmap and an agenda for action were adopted. It was decided that the platform would be launched on the occasion of the **International Festival of**

Traditional Wrestling, which took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in November 2006, with a followup seminar in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in December 2006.⁵

So, we must continue to preserve and encourage Traditional Games and Sports, cultural heritage of humanity, guarantee of enrichment for societies, memories of civilizations.

Aims and Objective of Paper: Culture is another most effective media of the Bodo community to express and expose their strong century old social and cultural heritage before the world community. Literary, in today's context, Boo is a well developed language. But unlike many of the Tribal society of India, the Bodo culture is yet to be developed on pure scientific platform with a true scientific spirit. It is true that in the advent of today's Information Technology if any culture of the world is not based on scientific analysis it cannot enjoy the full benefit of Information technology in practice.

The aim of this paper is to collect the traditional sports and games of the Bodos, analyse them in scientific way, preserve them and spread all over the world community.

II. Traditional Games and Recreation of the Bodos

From the very beginning the Bodos have some games & sports and recreation centres with their own methods. They played them to forget their tired and to busy for next works, and to enjoy in their busy life. There are so many sports & games in bodos which are played for their recreations. Some of them are played by the Boys, some of them are played by the Girls only and some of them are played by both the Boys and Girls and some of them are for adged male and female. Some of the most important games and sports of the Bodos are classically given bellow:

2.1 Games and sports of Boys only

Traditionally there are so many Games and Sports of the Bodos, which are played by Boys only. Some of them are: "Mongal Batha gelenay", "Mwsa mwswo gelenay", "Khob gelenay", Khilabari or Janthi gelenay",

“Hakhorni Bantha gelenay”, “Batha or Khunthiyani Bantha gelenay”, “Bala khongkha gelenay”, “Thoblolaynay gelenay”, “Dwiyaoy Hswlaynay gelenay”, “Aldm Daldum gelenay”, “Khunthiya gelenay” etc.

2.2 Games and sports of Girls only

In Bodo society traditionally some specific games and sports are played by girls only. Some of them are: “Khoror or khaori gelenay”, “Sabkhlaynay gelenay”, “Khud-Khud gelenay”, “Degaon Khonnay gelenay”, “Degaon Jwthrwnay gelenay”, “Lobondari gelenay”, “No lunay gelenay”, “Onthai gelenay” and so on.

2.3 Games and sports for both Boys and Girls

There are so many Traditional Games and sports in Bodos, which are played by both the Boys and Girls. Some of them are given here. i.e. - “Aswo Biswo gelenay”, “Hwiya-Mwiya gelenay”, “Thakhumalaynay gelenay”, “Jogleng Banaynay gelenay”, “Erswnaynay gelenay”, “Khusiya Musiya gelenay”, “Hakhor-Khikhor gelenay”, “Abwilwgw gelenay”, “Daola Swolaynay gelenay”, “Ainal gelenay”, “Aithing thwngham Kharnay gelenay”, “Songray Khndi gelenay”, “Batholjwng Daodwi Gaophrunay gelenay” etc.

2.4 Games and sports of Adults

In Bodo society some Games and Sports are played by Boys only. Traditionally there is no right the Girls players to play the gam. Such kind of games are: “Gila gelenay”, “Hamla gelenay”, “Nao Bwnay gelenay”, “Neolay gelenay” etc. Today some of these games and sports updated and recognised as a games and sports of National as well as International level. Some of these kinds of games and sports are discussed bellow.

Mongal Batha: Bodos believes that in the rainy session if there is no rain or drought then by playing this game it is rain. This game is played in a shadow of a tree of roadside. For this game playground is prepared under the shadow of the tree, which is given in fig.1.1. Traditionally black and white tarto is used for the playing materials by cutting 1 inch each piece up to $20 \times 20 = 40$ pieces. It is played by two people sitting opposite two sides of the drawing tables on road in the shadow of trees. Only one person will play for a team. And, other supporters are observed the game sitting their nearby. Traditionally this game is played by boys only. This game is played for three times. During the play who won two times is declared as the winner. The play ground preparation for this game is given in fig: 1.1

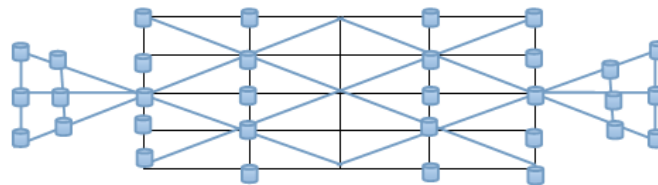


Fig: 1.1

Gila gelenay: This game is a very entertaining play for Bodos. Especially this game is played by them from magh bihu to bohag bihu. There is no specific group for this game. It is played by personally for a large number of players at a time. There is no specific place for this game. Any plain area of paddy field or plain road side is prepared for the game. Everybody comes to the play ground with their playing materials (gila seed) and the play ground is prepared drawing three lines parallelly with same distance, which is given in Fig: 1.2. By keeping the gila seeds middle line of the table from a specific distance it was targeted to hit by another gila seed (Dagil) by his finger. If you can hit out the gila seed from your targeted table, then you can wine that seed, but if the seed in your hand will stay within the target table then you must give another seed in the table as a fine. This game is continues up to end of the gila seed from the table. Playground preparation for this game is given bellow.

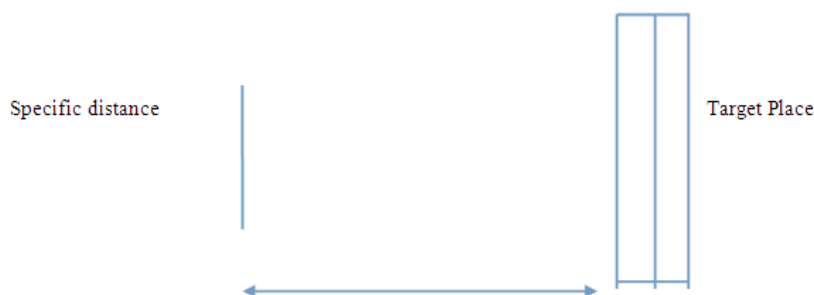


Fig: 1.2.

Gob gelenay: Gob gelenay means the distribution of seeds. For the game playground is prepared in any ground and make $5 \times 5 = 10$ hols for two players. Only one player is play for a team for two teams and other supporters are supporting within their nearby. Firstly 5 to 10 seeds or small rocks are distributed to each hols and start the game any one player by distributing the seeds or rocks from left side. At the end where end the distributing seeds or rocks then the seeds of the next hole will be start distribute. Likewise in a time if any hole will be empty then the next of that hole will be wine by the player. At the end if the all seeds will finish then they count the numbers of seeds. Who get large numbers of seeds than opponent team will be lost that number of game, which is known as that number of “*gor khanay*”, and having maximum numbers of seeds is declared as winner team.

III. Impact of Globalisation to Traditional Games and Sports of Bodos

Globalisation means the the process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture. If a society cannot update them in everywhere in the globalisation then its impact will be arise a great challenge for that society. Today more or less most of the societies are influenced by the globalisation and their impact is a great deal in that society. There are so many impacts to Traditional Games and Recreations of Bodos due to Globalisation. Some of them are discuss bellow:

3.1 Systematized and Modernized

In today maximum number of traditional games & sports and recreation centres of Bodos are systematized and modernized. The modernized arises in playing Specific place, Specific Time, Instruments and Materials etc.

There are so many traditional games and sports in Bodos. Traditionally they are played all the games and sports in all times because of their availability of time. They played all the games for their rest or recreations seasonally in any places. There was no specific place to play any kind of games. It me be the shadow of the tree in road, any places of cultivation field, tank (pond) and any play grounds without any specific time, Instruments, Materials and Times. They played all the games due to their traditional reasons till they fully enjoyed.

But today maximum numbers of games are played in a specific place. Some games are played in Indoor and some are played only in outdoors in a specific time with specific Instrument and Materials. For example:

Mongal Batha: In ancient time “mongal batha” was played by cutting black and white tarto tree as a playing materials which is I mentioned earlier. But today small pices of rocks or any other hard materials of two another colours are used as a playing materials due to globalisation.

Foot ball: In ancient times traditionally Foot ball is also played by Bodos only without any specific place and materials. They used a kind of sour lemon of big variety (Zumbrang Phithay) as a foot ball. They also played this game in the roadside of the home and any places of cultivation field without limited number of players between two groups. There was no judge system in that time. But today this game is played both the Boys and Girls due to globalisation. All the players are he/she is a judge in the time of game. They played only with a confidence and belief for their recreations.

Traditionally Bodos are played maximum number of games and sports without systematic. But today all the traditional games and sports are played in a systematic way due to impact of Globalisation. Without modernized and systematized any traditional games and sports will be the challenge in today’s globalisation.

So, most of the Traditional games and sports are standardized in a glob. For example- a specific rules and regulations, judgement system, specific numbers of players and dresses etc.

Today, Bodo peoples are also played the foot ball game using foot ball which is accepted globally in a playground only with certain rules and regulations. They have three judges (referees) for their judgement and lead them to the right direction. They follow the toss system before playing the game, different dress of two groups, and limited numbers of players in a group. After the end of the game prize money or a trophy is given to the winner team and runner-up team for the encouragement of players and financial support. But traditionally there was not any trophy and prize money is there in. They have given a duck or a cook for the symbol of their winning.

3.2 Conclusion and Expected Out-put

It is expected that the proposed study on Traditional games and Recreations of the Bodos will open a new vistas to the other ethnic culture of North-East region in particular and all other Tribal society of the Sino-Tibetan Family. The present study will pave a way to develop a co-relation between the physical and mental development of the Bodo society. This world certainly enhances the scientific way. Through this research traditional games and recreation of the Bodos will be enhanced in scientific platform. It is expected that the

propose study of Bodo culture will advocate the unique features of Bodo culture to the world community and opening a new horizon to the cultural researches.

Again it is also expected that after the completion of these research Traditional games and recreations of the Bodo will be spread to the other community of this challenging world. To develop the Traditional Games and Recreations of the Bodo society is the main aims and objectives of this research topic.

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