

How Folk Theatre (Swang) is Important for youngsters

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ABSTRACT

Haryanavi land has cultivated a well known folk culture. Though today its folk culture and folk theatres lost all its charms and artistic talent, which were seen some 35-40 years ago. Some folk cultures have altered their shapes and forms and some are in a more critical situation. Hence, the folk cultural form, swang, which is representative of Haryanavi folk culture, is in a deteriorating or decaying position. In present era, swang culture which entertained people at nights on open platforms with the mythological, historical or love themes and performed with dancing, singing, music and acting. And through this swang culture, older generation passed its theatrical cultural heritage to the younger generation. But, now this folk system is gradually dying away.

WHY FOLK THEATRE IS THE NEED OF SOCIETY?

When you imagine an evening with folk theatre, you probably picture an entertaining night out spent relaxing and watching a story unfold, taking you away from reality for a few hours. What you may not realize is that theatre is more than entertainment. Theatre is a unique, immersive learning experience for audiences of any age.

Today, an increasing number of communities are realizing how important theatre is to our society development. The number of Folk theatres catering to youth across India is increasing, and the professional quality of many groups has shown patrons that Folk theatres for young audiences are worthy of respect. Taking your family to see a show is certainly an exciting, memorable experience, but being exposed to the arts is beneficial in many other ways. We have compiled a list of reasons illustrating why taking our youth to a live performance is so important.

Studies by neuroscientists have shown that both the left and right hemispheres of the brain need to be fully stimulated in order for the brain to utilize its true potential. This means that it is just as important to immerse Youth in creative activities that exercise the right brain, as it is to immerse them in scientific and analytic activities for the left-brain. If youngsters are exposed to additional performance arts, they will actually be working toward more effective thought processes.

Creativity: Performing arts teach youngsters how to think creatively through imagination. Creative thinking skills are critical in the world of business leaders, where the ability to create solutions to problems is a necessary and valued asset. Robert A. Iger, Chairman and CEO of the Walt Disney Company, has said that the heart and soul is creativity and innovation. Without creativity, there is nothing that makes an organization unique. Creative skills are one of the most important skills needed to be successful in any industry.

Culture: Through folk theatre, audiences are immersed in stories about characters from every background imaginable. Live shows teach youngsters how to appreciate people of all kinds and how to respect other points of view. At The REP, each production brings a story with a unique viewpoint, Additionally, characters from historic time periods give viewers a chance to learn about events and people from the past. Not only is it important to learn about different kinds of people and aspects of life, but these shows also give a glimpse into other people's lives. Theatre allows you to step into someone else's shoes and see life from their point of view. This teaches young people lessons of empathy and cultural relativity.

Patience: Bringing your child to a folk theatre performance for the first time may be a challenging experience. youngsters may not realize how different live theatre is from sitting in front of a TV or even the movie screen. Watching television has become an extremely popular form of entertainment in youngsters. Because of how frequently young generation watch TV, they are not used to focusing on one thing for an hour and a half. Folk Theatre helps our youngsters adjust to not seeing a new image every 3-4 seconds, and to realize that something can be entertaining and engaging without a constant change of scenery. They will learn how to sit quietly, respect others, and pay attention.

Morals: Our folk stories has given many lessons. For example, in Ranbir Padmavat by Pt. Lakhmich and told us about the beauty of true love In this folktale he compares love with Nature and in Kichak Draupdi samvad he told us about the respect and regard of women. We can say theatre is a safe way to expose youngsters to difficult situations and show them firsthand how to handle these situations.

Communication: Folk Theatre exposes young people to new vocabulary and ways of communicating. Through the arts of dance, acting, and music, young generation learns how to communicate in a difficult situation to safe unique ways. Folk stories that illustrates how to communicate, how to communicate with society. While watching performers express themselves through song and dance is a one-of-a-kind learning experience.

Imagination Young generation need imagination to grow, create, think, and play. Folk theatre is the single most valuable place where youngsters can explore the endless possibilities of their imaginations and what they can do creativity.. And show that exemplifies how important it is to celebrate your imagination. Without folk theatre, children not only miss out on an amazing artistic experience, but they lose the chance to experience an endless amount of learning opportunities. With exposure that not only raises school performance, but also encourages creativity, culture, communication, patience, morals, and imagination, an afternoon at the theatre is something that cannot be overlooked.

Today's, consumerist and materialist approach has made us passive towards our folk opera swang and traditional arts. But this attitude of ours is dangerous for us and our traditions. We will have to take interest in our culture and folk arts. We should feel proud our culture. Importance must be given to culture, traditions and folk arts. In this way, our culture will flourish and it will become a medium of our inner expression or emotions and then, will develop the cultural awakening of our society.

Today's consumerist culture is shadowing down acting, drama and folk theatre. In this culture only materialistic and physical thirst. If we try to find out the causes behind it, we find following:

- 1) Artist is being satisfied on the name of identity.
- 2) New facets of human busyness are growing in this materialistic culture. The treasure of folk culture of man and society is gradually deteriorating. In this materialistic era, luxury and affluence has definitely increased. If there is something that has decayed, is the condition of swangs.
- 3) The inflation and unemployment has badly affected the merry lives of artists . This bitter and deceitful experience has diverted their attention from holy rituals and traditions, that is why, they are not interested in any kind of theatrical entertainment. Thus, we are required to sustain our happiness.
- 4) Very charming plots on mythological, historical, religious and social themes have been presented in Indian cultures. Even after this, we require new plots and new experiments, so that, work can be done for the betterment and regeneration of our folk opera swang.
- 5) Cinema has also badly affected the folk opera swang and traditional culture and it has become a serious problem today. A proper consideration must be given to it.
- 6) Folk Theatre should be organized by the government. Cultural institutions and theatre groups can do a very helpful work for swang. Government must organize training camps for folk artists.
- 7) In the past, folk opera swang, which is the representative of our theatrical genre, its performances continued for whole nights, but this characteristic of swang does not suit the present times, so, swangs should be mould in such a way that their performances can be completed within three hours.
- 8) In Swang female characters are also played by males. females were not included in these performances ,So that vulgarity is being the part of these performances. so female participation should be increased in these folk performance . But there were some female troupes too. The leaders of these troupes were Saradari of Kalyat (Jind), Natni of Gangaru and Bali of Indri (Karnal). and Dr. Sandhya Sharma from hisar.

Prof. Satyawan Malik is right to opine "Unfortunately, the gamut of life-songs as ragnis, kissa and swangs by Pt. Lakhmi Chand, Baje Bhagat, Mange Ram, Dhanpat Saangi, Mehar Singh et al, are being fast replaced by seemingly vulgar pop songs that are far removed from the fundamental life's complexities about which Dada Lakhmi Chand always dispassionately swang".

CONCLUSION

Folk opera is an inseparable part of whole folk theatre. Swang has a well known position among the whole theatrical genre and in all folk theatre forms. Hence, it is important to do experimental work on folk opera swang, so that, it can regain its creative and imaginative power and this can be done by balancing its traditional forms and modernity. In this whirlpool of Western culture, it becomes important to introduce traditional culture to the younger generation by swang performances. If we want to set older values in present society, we have to revive and reinvent our folk opera swang. So, swang must maintain its popularity among theatrical genre. We have to acknowledge the cultural value of swangs and swang performances need new energy and new experiments. we want to give swang, its earlier position and fame, we have to use new theatrical techniques like new stage settings, light and sound effects, acting, makeup, dialogues, dance, music etc. Along with these new techniques, we have to present a swang in such a way that it can suit the demands of the present time, atmosphere, happenings and folk artists. Role of Folk Theatre and Development suggested the integration of folk Theatre forms with Mass Media for quicker transmission of information as it was motivating the rural audience. We have still to do much more for swangs using new techniques and experimental themes of theatre and drama.

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