

CHAPTER - III

THE OUT LINE OF THE RESEARCH

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CHAPTER - III

THE OUTLINE OF THE RESEARCH

1. Introduction :

The Chapter I presented the various aspects of folk songs and Chapter II presented the review of related literature which helped in defining the present study and its methodology. The present study deals with the specific folk songs as stated in the next chapter IV under caption "Presentation of Data on Bengali Folk Song". This study is a survey in the documents in terms of printed materials relating to the selected folk songs. Careful analyses had been made for finding out the place of origin and the period of development of each of the folk songs, their specific characteristics, musical instruments and dresses used by the singers, the popular artists in the folk songs and in identifying the musical measures which are useably used in different folk songs.

The present Chapter III deals with the captions viz, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, the need of the study and the methodology of the study.

2. Statement of the Problem :

The statement of the present research study reads as, "A Study of Folksongs in Bangladesh".

3. Objectives of the Study :

1. To determine the place of origin and the period of development of folksongs.
2. To identify the musical instruments and dresses used in folksongs.
3. To analyse the content of the folksongs.
4. To identify the popular artists in folksongs.
5. To identify the musical measures which are used in different folksongs.
6. To analyse the relationship between folksongs and scriptural songs.

4. The Need of the Study :

Folkculture is the picturesque of life in any human society. In otherwords the philosophy of life has been reflected very nicely through the folksongs. So there is tremendous need for scientific investigation of the folksongs in Bengali literature.

Bangladesh is mainly a very big village. Though town-centred civilization has been originated since mid-century yet Bangladesh has not fully been flourished in this regard. As a result, till today the culture of Bangladesh indicate

rural centred culture. Therefore, there is no other alternative to study folksongs other than the folk tradition. The natural environment of folksongs completely based on rural society. For these reasons this type of investigation is not only purposive but it is the investigation of our national tradition.

The Bangladeshies have expressed their thoughts through different songs. So, to express the Bangladeshies tradition and culture the need of folksongs are much. There are various reasons to investigate on folksongs of our country.

From a far past, many tribes and nations used to come to Bengal and gradually they permanently settled their habitation here. Among them the Drabirs, Aryans, Mungals, Tibbetans, Barnees, Australoids and Negrotos are main. Later they came to association with the Arab, the Pathan, the Turkish, the British, the France, and the Dutch. As a result the cultures of different races combinedly created a mixed culture in Bengali. So it will be possible to present the history of our culture through such an investigation. Different religions also entered into our country from outside of Bengal. Among these religions Jain, Budha, Hindu and Islam are main. How these religions have spread their influences in different regions of Bengal its account cannot be determined with the research done on it. Only there is a good way to evaluate the influences of religions through an investigation on the folkcultures.

Now in Bangladesh a state plan has been taken for the regional development through regional plans. In this regard two types of survey are needed as a precondition for a regional plan. The surveys are : (i) National data survey and (ii) Cultural data survey. There is a scope for the collection of data regarding folksongs. As folksongs are the picturesque of a specific region hence the behaviour, attitudes etc. of people of that regions flourished through the folksongs. For a regional plan the data which are needed may be obtained from such a study. So an investigation on folksongs has a sufficient need in country. In this regard the role of folksongs is much important to promote our national plans, such as, publicity about family planning, eradication of illiteracy, green revolution, etc. So to conduct a research on folksongs not only have a theoretical value but also have a pragmatic value. This piece of study is the pioneer work in its approach in Bangladesh hence it may be expected that this study will be helpful to fill up some of the gaps in the field of research on folksongs. It may be mentioned here that this study was kept limited within the political periphery of Bangladesh.

5. Methods of the Study :

According to the objectives the procedures which have been used in the present study are discussed with following heads :

a. Data Collection :

A survey has been made for the collection of relevant data with regard to folksongs from different books, journals, available in different libraries. It is worth mentioning here that no research study was found specially done on Bengali folksongs. But a good number of books and articles were found regarding Bengali folksongs, folkliterature and folkculture from where most of the data were collected. From these sources it was very difficult to collect sufficient data for the explanation of folksongs satisfactorily. For the purpose, the researcher had to discuss with experts, artists and some eminent scholar devotees in folksongs.

Most of the data were found in the libraries of following organisations; such as, Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Folklore Research Institute, Lalou Academy, Shanti Niketon, Dhaka University, the M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda Music College. Beyond these from different public book stalls and private collections of some personnel data were collected through personal contact with the researchers.

In some cases the researcher had to take the opinions from the collections, singers and analysts of folksongs. There are about hundred types of Bengali

folksongs in Bangladesh. From these different types of folksongs the researcher had selected only nineteen types which are most popular for investigation. The selected types of folksongs are :

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|---------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ 1. Bhaoiya | 11. Marami * |
| 2. Malshi | 12. Bhava x |
| ✓ 3. Gambhira | 13. Kabi |
| 4. Barasay | 14. Jari |
| 5. Pala | 15. Kirton |
| ✓ 6. Boul | 16. Lalongiti |
| 7. Bhatiali | 17. Alkap * |
| 8. Murshidi | 18. Maijbhandari |
| 9. Marfati | 19. Sari song of Boat race. |
| 10. Mayeli | |

Among the above selected folksongs the Bhaoiya, Gambhira, Malshi, Bhatiali, Barasay, Mayeli, Alkap and Sari song of Boatrace is considered as regional as well as very rural type in nature. Yet these songs are sung out of their own region where they have been originated. On the otherhand, the Murshidi, Marfati, Marami, Lalongiti, Boul and Maijbhandari songs are not rural songs at all but religious as well as spiritual type in nature. Kabi songs are competitive while Jari, Kirton etc. are religiously based songs. For these reason, these songs have been selected for investigation. It is worth mentioning :

here that Murshidi, Marfati, Majbhandari, Gambhira, Lalongiti and Bhaoliya songs are called the representative folksongs of the following districts, such as, Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Rangpur of Bangladesh. These songs have been cited as the base songs of folk literature in Bengali.

b. Data Analysis :

The collected data were qualitatively analysed according to the objectives of the study. Beyond this, the following techniques of data analyses had been adopted for the :

1. Determination of the place of origin and the period of development of folksongs :

After proper analysis of the data the place of origin and the period of development of the folksongs were determined. Later the similarities of these data had been crosschecked and similarized with the data found in different books and other authentic documents.

2. Identification of musical instruments, dresses, scales and notation used in singing the songs :

For this purpose, the researcher visited different places and observed and recorded how the singers sing these songs and what type of dresses they wear and what type of musical instruments they use while singing these songs in gatherings and functions of different festivals. In this regard photographs were taken in some possible cases to make it more authentic. The related photographs posted in the different plates viz. plate No. 1, 2, 3..... etc. under each of the folksongs has been presented in Chapter IV.

3. Analyses of the content of the folksongs :

As the characteristics of different folksongs are different so the researcher analysed the different characteristics very critically.

4. Identification of the popular folksong singers :

In these regard the researcher analysed the documents and marked the name of eminent singers of respective folksongs.

5. To identify the musical measures which are used in different folksongs :

In this regard attempt has been made through the citations of each of the selected folksongs as presented in Chapter IV.

6. Determination of the relations between folksongs and scriptural songs :

For the purpose, the content of the selected songs were analysed with the help of the techniques of content analysis and then effort had been made to find out the similarities as well as dissimilarities between these songs.

Thus the efforts had been made to achieve the objectives of the present study. In chapter IV the data with regard to the selected folksongs has been presented and discussed to arrive at the conclusions and to put forward some recommendations for further research studies as well as for the improvement in general of the folksongs.