

LITERATURE REVIEW

My interactions with Professor R C Mehta and my guide Dr. Rakesh Mahisuri indicated that no research on any aspect of the folk music of the Tribal area of Rajpipla has as yet been taken up. During my extensive search for the literature on the subject I have by far not come across a single work on the said subject.

Having embarked on the journey of my study, I needed to first create good acquaintance with the folk music and folk literature and the life and culture of the tribal's in general and that of the Rajpipla's tribal's in particular. For this reason my guide directed me to first go through the available literature on tribal music in the faculty library and the Hansa Mehta Library i.e. the university's main library.

Thus I went through the following works:

- 1) Loksanskruiti ni Ruprekha (લોકસંસ્કૃતિની રુપરેખા) by Krishnadev Upadhyay
- 2) Gujarati Loksahitya Mala (ગુજરાતી લોકસાહિત્ય માળા) (Volumes 1 to 4) by Gujarat Loksahitya Samiti.
- 3) Bhilo nu Bharat (ભીલોનુ ભારત) by Dr. Bhagvandaas Patel.
- 4) Raj na Aadiyaasi Chheliya (રાજના આદિવાસી છેલીયા) by Dr. Jayanand Joshi.
- 5) Svarankit Lokgeeto (સ્વરાંકિત લોકગીતો) by Madhubhai patel.
- 6) Folk songs of south Gujarat by Madhubhai Patel.
- 7) Bhilo na Holigeeto (ભીલોના હોળીગીતો) by Dr. Bhagvandaas Patel.
- 8) Leela Moriya (લીલા મોરીયા) by Dr Bhagvandaas Patel.
- 9) Vaagad na Lokgeeto (વાગડના લોકગીતો) by L.D Joshi.
- 10) Music of Eastern India by Suskmar Raj.

These books introduced me to the different facets of folk literature and the tribal culture of Gujarat. I was also introduced to the different festivals of the tribal's of Gujarat and large number of songs associated with their different festivals. Most

importantly I came across a detailed work on the tribal's of Rajpipla by Dr. Jayanand Joshi in his book "Raj na Aadivaasi Chheliya" meaning (The Songs of the Tribal's of Rajpipla). This book is a very comprehensive work on the culture and songs of the Rajpipla's tribal's. In the tribal dialect Chheliya means songs. The main theme of this book is the study of songs sung by these tribal's with a literary and linguistic perspective. The book presents a succinct description of many aspects of the tribal life and culture of this area. The book briefly describes history, geography, and origin of these tribals. It documents the mythological references and related folklore.

It also takes the reader through various facets of the tribal life like their costumes, jewelry, food and food habits, habitation, health, education, religion, Gods and Goddesses, tribal festivals, fairs, superstitions, marriage as an institution in the tribal and the tribal marriages, status of women etc. Thus the book serves as an invaluable introduction to the tribal life and culture of the region to any researcher or scholar interested in any aspect of the Tribal society of Rajpipla.

To this researcher, the book is of further importance. The title of the book, remarks *"If you want to know the true picture of my life then listen to my songs"*.

Thus the book clearly brings out the importance that these tribals attach to their songs. The author has attempted to understand the tribal society through its songs. Thus the book became an indispensable resource to my work. It describes the fairs festivals marriages in details along with the songs associated with them. It also documents numerous songs sung by these tribal's during these and many other occasions. Thus this work along with the other works served as a base for my field study. I did set out to the field with these and other songs wondering how they would be actually sung by the tribals in the field! The book "Raj na Aadivaasi Chheliya" was published in the year 1985. It was indeed a surprise to know that only a very small number of them were presently sung by the tribal's. However the book served as an insightful introduction in understanding the life, culture and Chheliya's of these tribal's. Further the same author has published 3 more books:

- 1) Holigeeto (હોળીગીતો)
- 2) Lagna Geeto Ek Swadhyay (લગ્નગીતો એક સ્વાધ્યાય)
- 3) Rajpipla Vibhag ni Aadivaasi Boli (Dhvani prakriya ane roop prakriya)
રાજપીપળા વિભાગની આદિવાસી બોલી (ધ્વનીપ્રક્રિયા અને રૂપ પ્રક્રિયા)

A study of these three books proved quite handy in understanding different aspects of the tribal songs. The first book Holi Geeto describes the songs sung by the tribal's during the Holi festival. Holi is the most important festival of these tribal's. A survey through the book helped me understand the importance of the Holi festival in the lives of these tribal's. I came across numerous songs related to the Holi festival in the book.

The second book provides detailed information on the tribal marriages and their types. It also describes the processes and rituals of the tribal marriage. It takes the reader through the entire ritual of marriage and the type of songs associated with marriages. Songs dedicated to almost all the rituals are covered documented and depicted in terms of their social import and literary beauty.

The third book entitled *Rajpipla Vibhag ni Aadivaasi Boli (Dhvani prakriya ane roop prakriya)* presents a detailed study of the linguistic and phoenetic aspect of the tribal dialects. Being a resident of the Rajpipla district, I had some understanding of the tribal dialects; however the book improved my understanding of the tribal dialects and pronunciations.

Further as per the direction of my guide Dr. Rakesh Mahisuri, I visited two libraries of the Rajpipla district. They were supposed to be huge store houses of tribal literature. I came across the following books relevant to my study in those libraries.

- 1) Aadivaasi Lokmela(આદિવાસી લોકમેળા) by Shankarbhai Tadavi
- 2) Gujarat no Sanskrutik Varso (ગુજરાતનો સાંસ્કૃતિક વારસો) by Dr Rashes Jamindar
- 3) Dubla na lokgeeto (દુબળાના લોકગીતો) by T B Nayak
- 4) Bhom Dhani Bhil (ભોમ ધણી ભીલ) by Hasu Yadnik

5) Gujarati Loksahitya(ગુજરાતી લોકસાહિત્ય) by Devilal

Again as per the direction of Professor R C Mehta and my guide Dr Rakesh Mahisuri, I visited the Bhasha Research and Publication centre in Tejgadh located near Chhota Udepur in Baroda district.

There I came across following important books related to my study:

- 1) Tadvī Lagnageeto ane Vidhio (તડવીના લોકગીતો અને વિધીઓ) By Revaben Tadvī and Shankarbhai Tadvī
- 2) Aadivaasi Loksangit (આદિવાસી લોકસંગીત) edited by Gujarat Vidhyapith
- 3) Lagnageeto Ek Swadhyay (લગ્નગીતો એક સ્વાધ્યાય) By Dr. Jayanand Joshi
- 4) Bharatiy Svatantrata Sangram Ki Aadijanak Bhil Prajati (ભારતીય સ્વાતંત્ર સંગ્રામ કી આદિજનક ભીલ પ્રજાતિ) By Devilal.
- 5) Dungari Bhilona: Gujarat no Arelo. (ડુંગરી ભીલોના — ગુજરાતનો અરેલો) By Dr. Bhagvandas Patel
- 6) Bhilo na Holigeeto (ભીલોના હોળીગીતો) By Dr. Bhagvandas Patel
- 7) Gujarat na Lagnageeto (ગુજરાતના લોકગીતો) by dr. Vinayak Raval
- 8) Aadivaasi samaj (આદિવાસી સમાજ) By Dr. Daksh Vyas and Dr. Navin modi
- 9) Aadivaasi gamit jaati ma Holi no Tehvaar tathaa Holi na Geeto (આદિવાસી ગામિત જાતિમાં હોળીનો તહેવાર તથા હોળીના ગીતો) By Father Remond A Chauhan S.J.
- 10) Harkhi (હરખી) by Arvind J Bhatt
- 11) Gujarat na Lokgeeto (ગુજરાતના લોકગીતો) by Madhubhai Patel.

My field work constituted the actual base of my research work. It was during my various field visits that I recorded the live performances of the tribal's singing their Chheliya's. These recorded songs were studied and analyzed in details.

However the study of all these books improved my knowledge and understanding of the tribal society and culture. I could appreciate and enjoy the aesthetics of the tribal music better due to my journey through these books.