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Costumes of ghoomar folk dance of Rajasthan

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Abstract

Dance is found among all the men and women, whether in primitive or advanced societies. Its functions vary in these societies from religious to pure entertainment. So, in all probability, dance goes back as far as man himself, but its styles and forms are many, some very new or at least seemingly so, and others of great antiquity. The music and dances of Rajasthan are so appealing and soothing that it matches so well with the strange and wondrous land. The state of Rajasthan has a very vibrant, highly evolved, tradition of performing arts carefully nurtured and sustained over the centuries. The art of folk music and dance is popular amongst the tribal people of Rajasthan. This spectacular beauty of the land of Rajasthan is eluted with the folk music and dances performed by the native people.

Keywords: Folk, tzut, uttariya, antariya

Introduction

India has always been known for its rich culture. India is one of the countries of world where arts forms have flourished to their maximum. Most important among the arts are music, dance, poetry and literature. Among the arts, dance is the most primitive and the most sophisticated mode of representation of act. There is no civilization or culture in the world where human bodily movements as a vehicle of expression of joy or sorrow are not recognized.

Dance is rhythmic physical movements prompted by inner feelings and emotions. The rhythmical movements are also spontaneous in many animals as in the case of human beings. The peacock dances to the clouds in rainy season, elephant dances to attract his mate; the snake and the bear dance to music. In fact, every human being and animal dances to express his inner most passion. It can be said that there is natural instinct to dance in every living being.

The term "folk" includes all those persons residents of either village, town or cities or of all of them with in a given area- who are conscious of a common cultural heritage and have constant traits; whose behavioural knowledge is based on the word of mouth (oral tradition) and not on written scriptures; more simple, more natural, less systematic and less specialized.

The words "dance" and "dancing" come from an old German word *damson* which means "to stretch". All dancing is made up of stretching and relaxing. The muscles are tensed for leaping and then relaxed as we make what we hope will be a gentle and graceful landing. But clearly dancing must be something, organized and not merely jumping around in a state of temper, hunger or excitement. Dancing is expressing one's emotions through movement disciplined by rhythm.

Rajasthan was known as Rajwara or Rajputana (country of Rajputs), its name well as the "Land of Rajas". The land is full of contrasts with its lakes, jungles, valleys, desert and fields. The music and dances of Rajasthan are so appealing and soothing that it matches so well with this strange and wondrous land. The state of Rajasthan has a very vibrant, highly evolved, tradition of performing arts carefully nurtured and sustained over the centuries. The art of folk music and dance is popular amongst the Tribal people of Rajasthan. This spectacular beauty of the land of Rajasthan is eluted with the folk music and dances performed by the native people.

Today, Rajasthan has a number of folk dances, some of which are performed by men, some by women and some by both together. Apparel from these, it has also a rich tradition of rural dance- dramas. The characteristic colourfulness of the land and the peoples love for action and rhythm are amply reflected in these dances.

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Ghoomar, kalbelia, chari, terah-taali, chakri, gair. Fire dance, drum dance, bam or rasiya, bhavai, kachhi ghodi and chang-DHUF are the twelve major folk dances of Rajasthan.

The Ghoomar is described as a national dance of Rajasthan. It is performed only by women, on all occasion of happiness. Kalbelia is one of the sensuous dance forms of Rajasthan. It is performed by the Kalbelias, the snake-charms community, on Naag Panchami. Chari dance is performed by females on marriages and birth of a male child. Terah-taali is a devotional dance form performed by the women in honor of their folk hero Baba Ramdev. Chakri is a group dance performs during festive- season by females. Gair dance is performed by men of the Bhil tribe and is mainly performed before and after the Holi festival. Fire dance is performed by males on Ratri Jagran. Drum dance is a profession dance in which minimum five men participated at a time. The Bam or Rasiya dance is performed by males on agricultural success Bhavai dance is performed by both male and female on the marriage ceremonies and festivals. Kachhi-Ghodi dance is performed by both male and female on marriage ceremonies. Chang-Dhuf dance is also performed by both male and female on the Holi festival.

The Ghoomar is an important dance and has been described as the national dance of Rajasthan. It is performed only by women, on all occasions of happiness but in particular during the festivals of Navratri and Gangaur.

Ghoomar is a traditional women's folk dance of Rajasthan, which was developed by the Bhil tribe and was adopted by the Rajputs. It is performed by groups of women in swirling robes and accompanied by men and women singing together. Ghoomar word is derived from the word Ghoomna (pirouette) this is a very simple dance where the ladies move gently and gracefully in circles. Women dance together in front of the statue of Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati. Today it is a popular folk dance performed at wedding and festivals and often danced into the late hours of night. Both young and old women participate in Ghoomar dance, which continues for hours into the night. According to national rituals, a bride is expected to dance Ghoomar on being welcome to her husband's home.

The women twirl in circles, both in clockwise and in anti-clockwise directions. This is an elegant group dance employing beautiful hand gestures and gentle hip movement.



Dresses of Ghoomar Dancers

Kurti Kanchali (Tunic): Kurti Kanchali, a kind of tunic is a upper garment of female costume. Kurti, a long sleeveless blouse coming upto the waist and Kanchali (a short blouse with sleeves) together make an upper garment. The tunic worn by Yasoda was found in the Deogarh in the 8th century A.D. (Gupta period). It was mid-thigh length tunic with left opening and bordered edge all around, had long sleeves and a four painted hem. Gradually by the 11th -13th century A.D. the upper garment choli was adopted all over India, mainly due to Islamic rulers who ruled India for a long period of time.

Ghaghra (Skirt)

This is a lower garment of female costume. This is too wide in circumference and need high amount of fabric and skill to prepare it. The primitive people used to wear wraparound skirt or refajo by Guatemalan Indian women in the warm climate and in the cold climate fur skirt was used. Antariya was a lower garment which was stitched on one side become tubular and worn gathered together at the waist and held by a girdle. This was one of the earliest forms of clumsy stitched skirt and used in the early Broze period. A heavily gathered

skirt an elaboration on the Ghaghri was mainly used by the dancers so that the swirling effect was enhanced by its many folds which have been gored.

Odhni (Scarf)

Odhni is a headdress of female costume. The primitive people used tzut as their headdress. Tzut was a square piece of fabric folded diagonally and worn as headdress by Guatemalan Indians. Earlier, in India women used to wear turban but gradually it was replaced by the uttariya i.e. the headdress worn by Donor figure in Bhabrut in Mauryan and Sunga period (321-72 B.C.). In the beginning of the 16th century A.D. the headdress increased in its length and become a more important piece of dress with longer length in the 17th century A.D. So, the odhni covering the head hanging down, tucked into the waistband and gathered in front of the skirt.

Leggings

This is also a lower garment which is worn under the shirt or Ghaghra. This garment has no flare. It covers the legs with proper fitting so that when women move in circles it covers the lower body part of the dancers.

Table 1: Materials used for preparing dresses with its cost

Sr. No.	Garment	Type of Fabric	Colour	Print/ Plain	Decoration	Fabric Required	Rate of Fabric (Rs/mts)	Cost of Fabric (Rs)	Stitching Charges (Rs)	Cost of Decoration (Rs)	Total Cost (Rs)
1.	Kurti Kanchali	Cotton Poplin	Red, Yellow, Blue Majenta	Plain	Silver or Golden Gota	1 ½ mts.	45-50	70-75	200	100	370-375
2.	Ghaghra	Cotton Poplin	Red, Yellow, Blue Majenta	Printed	Gota, Piping	5 mts.	45-50	225-250	350	150	725- 750
3.	Odhni	Cotton Voile	Red, Yellow, Blue Majenta	Printed or Plain	Gota, Sequins	2 ½ mts.	40	100	-	200	300
4.	Leggings	Cotton Rubia	Black/ White	Plain	-	2 mts.	40-50	80-100	100	-	180-200

The above table shows the following garments of Ghoomar dancer:

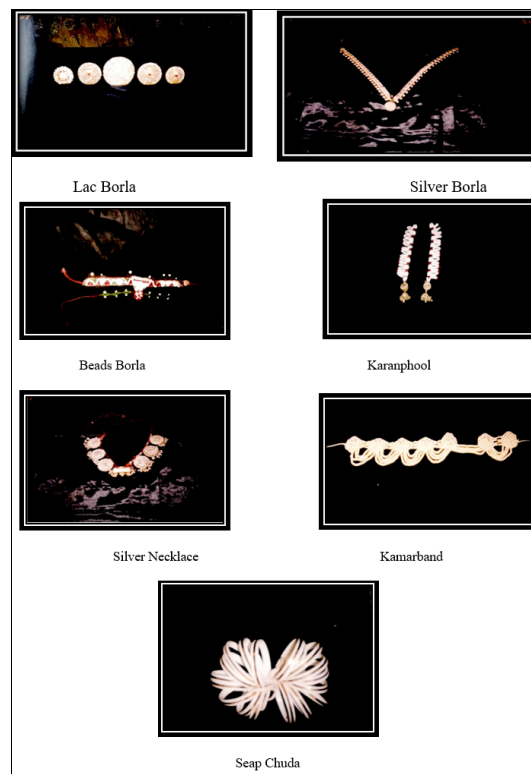
- Kurti-Kanchali was made of plain, cotton poplin, in Red, Yellow, Blue Majenta colour. 1 ½ meters of fabric was required and was decorated with golden or silver gota. Total cost of the garment with stitching and decoration ranged between Rs. 370-375.
- Ghaghra was made of printed, cotton poplin. 5 meters of fabric was required and decorated with gota and piping. Total cost of the garment with stitching and decoration ranged between Rs. 725-750.
- Odhni was made of printed or plain, cotton voile. 2 ½ meters fabric was required and was decorated with gota and sequins. Total cost of odhni with decoration approximately Rs. 300.
- Legging was made of plain, cotton Rubia. 2 meters of fabric was used and the total cost ranged between Rs. 180-200.

The total cost of the Ghoomar dance dress ranged between Rs. 1575-1625.



Jewellery

Various jewellery worn by Ghoomar dancers during performing like- Borla and Teeka worn as forehead ornament, Koka and Nath used as nose ornaments, Karanphool as ear ornaments. They used Haar to adorn her neck, rings on fingers. Seap Chuda used as forearm ornament while glass bangles used as wrist ornaments. The ornaments are made up of beads, gold, silver, lac, plastic and seap. They used Kamarband on waist to setup the odhni.



Conclusion

Ghoomar dance was developed by Bhil tribe and was adopted by Rajputs. This dance is performed by women on the occasion of happiness but particularly during the festivals of Navratri and Gangour. Female dancers wear Kurti-Kanchali, ghaghra and odhni during performance. Dresses are made up of cotton material in vibrant colours which is decorated by different gota embellishments. The jewellery worn by female dancers are Borla. Teeka, Nath, Karanphool, Haar. Seap Chuda, glass bangles, kamarband etc which are made up of silver, gold, beads and plastic.

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