IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENT ON INDIAN ART,
CULTURE AND SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT
The role of Indian Art is for existence and transmission of cultural heritage and moral values. It exists in all culture and Society. The historical overview of art reflects the impact of natural and socio-cultural environment from Prehistoric age till now. The harmonic relations of man with nature were depicted throughout in each and every era. Even if from pre-early age, the Indian mind expresses extra ordinary interest in such problems such as nature of the Universe, of the self and its relations to Godhead. According to Hindu views, the whole Universe is His form and countless are His attributes. By means of stories, epics, mythologies and awareness towards the protection of the nature are depicted in its simplest and easiest way. The concept of animism is emphasized in Indian Art. The form of Yakshis are frequently depicted with trees, holding the branch or standing with one leg and entwined around the tree trunk Vrakshika (women-and-tree), Nagas (serpents) are not merely decorative as but also as dramatis personae in the legend. This emphasize that they are fertility spirits, in Indian art and inspired by a deep sense of humanism that shows intense awareness of the unity of all life. Today when the environmental problems are explored, the role of social-scientists and artists has become more important in exploring the reality and presenting it through behavioral and artistic presentation.

Key Words: Jatak kathayen, Babar-Nama, Ragmala, Barah-masa, Nayak-nayika series, Theological Aspects, Behavioral Environment.

INTRODUCTION
Man is in harmony with nature and their fellowship is celebrated in an impressive array of sculptured and painted scenes during centuries of Indian art expressions. Thus the role of Indian art is for existence and for transmission of culture and moral values. A value makes the human life valuable. The nature has facilitated entire living creatures with various types of qualities of self. Man is special than others. There is no society or culture through out the world where art is not dominant.

Art always provides vitality to human beings. From primitive to most cultured society, man has retained art as a function of society. As we examine the role of Art throughout the history in different cultures we learn to respect diversity. It helps people to come close with one another. With the help of art a man can glorify his ideas and emotions, theories and concepts, thoughts and feelings, facts and deeds, his senses and consciousness by controlling his emotions and reactions.

Culture of any society is like a Kalideidoscope in which endless aspect of tradition and variety of beautiful coloured art forms could be seen. The word culture derived from cult which means to grow. Now-a-days the word culture is also in use for other aspects like Agriculture, sericulture, spark culture, PHs culture, and blood culture etc. In Vedic Sanskrit the word Krashi is originated from krish; means to plough. In this way the Western and the Indian aspects both are based on Agriculture which aims to produce a seed or a cell in uncountable number. So the word culture is not only used for cultivation of seeds but also the ethnicity of the soul From me to ourselves.
The powerful impact of social environment and other changes reflect itself in the development and style of art, the episodes, stories, epics mythologies are still expressed through art so that even a large portion of uneducated population could understand them. It helps to socialize and connect people together. The history and culture of many countries says that the various political and social reformers have utilized art as a device to influence the emotions of masses and derive changes when laws speeches and political stances were found inadequate to express their feelings.

Indian art in historical perspective

Indian art reflects the role of an artist played from prehistoric age till now. From the birds eye view on the history of art we find that the awareness towards the protection of nature is from the beginning. We paid homage to nature and universe by rituals in many festivals. We worship the trees, birds, animals as we feel obliged to them. In many primitive paintings we see the worship of trees by man (Fig. 1). The pottery painting of Chalcolithic age depicted the harmony of man with nature. Buddhist art narrates the stories of Jatak Kathayen in which the social and moral values of life were illustrated in painting and sculpture through the figures of animals, birds and nature.

Many great monuments such as Bharhut, Mathura, Bodhgaya, Sarnath, Nagarjunconda, Amravati and Ajanta, with impact of Buddhism arose in different part of India. Hinayana School depicts Buddha by employing symbol of Bodhi tree (Fig. 2). In Bhagwat Geeta, Lord Krishna says Of trees I am asvattha (Bodhi, or tree of wisdom). The Bodhi Vraksha is exclusively sacred symbol for Buddhism.

In fifteenth and sixteenth century the nature scenes of Babarnama reflect views of artist (Fig. 6 and Fig. 7). The nature always inspire human. Barahmasa, Ragmala and Nayak Nayika series paintings of Rajasthani and Pahadi School reflect the shades of relations with man and nature (Fig. 8). In Asia, art conveys theological aspects in form of symbol and iconography brought from nature. These scholastic thoughts with formal elements retaining their edifying values in design and compositions brought from nature.

Traditional folk paintings are pioneer of social and life values. Community life, or joint living, being more convenient to people the myths of the faith could be communicated easily through the paintings. They input these values in very simplest and easiest way in masses. In folk art the depiction of nature is in human and symbolic form. The philosophy of Tagore is circled round a kind of nature –mysticism in which ethics and aesthetics experiences shaded one into the other. Rabindra Nath’s social philosophy, his ideas on education is based on environment. The Shanti Niketan reflects these concepts.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- The main objectives of the study are
- To project the art’s cultural, social, psychological, behavioral, and eco-friendly aspect beside its artistic and expressive form.
- To study the impact of socio-environmental factor on Productivity of art.
- To project the role of art as a media to conserve the Environment.
- The role of art, in the transmission of environmental aspects and its importance as a Visual Aids.

METHODOLOGY

The function of drawing, graphics, sculpture and painting is to provide the views of visual presentation of once attitude and feeling, regarding experience on environment.

Present study relates with the art, culture and environment in historical perspective. It has interdisciplinary approach. The source of data is primary and secondary. The data was collected from Books, Journals, Visuals and websites. Visuals itself reveals many things. From prehistoric era till the modern time, one thing which is seen is that nature still inspires the artists. The paintings, sculptures and architectures are the definite examples. I was always curious to know about how the men got inspire through nature and I observed this during my educational and research tour to Rajasthan, Himachal and in Madhya Pradesh (Hoshangabad, Udaigiri and Bhimbaithika). Man took nature as a means of communication. Awareness is being created by depicting nature. Messages for conservation of
nature is also depicted in early paintings. I also got to know about the views of the artists on nature personally, during my visits to different art galleries and exhibitions of different places.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The relevant material proves that the human being along with all life has a relation with environment in which they live, and their daily activities promotes the changes of Nature’s rhythm.

Problem analysis

The physical and cultural facts are normally identifiable. Physical facts like climate, flora, and fauna are constant and long lasting (Fig. 5). Changes in physical environment takes thousand of years, while cultural facts such as movements of population, changes in social structure, modes of perception and behavior, changes in religious faith and technology human environment are not as long standing as physical.12

The environmental problems that we face today are the result of misuse of science and technology, uses of chemicals, pesticide and gases raised. Refrigerators air conditioners and high speed computer also allow the changes in complex system like weather and atmosphere12. Man accelerates changes in physical environment by its interference. Nature always inspired human. The roots of our Cultural heritage and paintings are maintaining antiquity through art. They are intimately connected with daily activities, environs, physical surroundings, its various moods and seasons.

Figure Description

From pre-historic era when man was not civilized, he knows the importance of the nature and paid homage to it. The following cave paintings are the evidence of that time.

Pre-historic era

Fig. 1 shows a flowered tree is in the centre. On one side, there is a horse figure and on another side human figure with horse face is depicted and left side portion of this figure is invisible.
Fig. 2 : Torandwar (Sanchi) I cen B.C.

Fig. 3 : Varah Avtar (Udaigir)

Fig. 4 : Vraksharopan (N.L. Bose)

Fig. 5 : Chandra Pujan (S. Shinde)
Fig. 6: Nature (Babarnama) 15 Century A.D.

Fig. 7: Tree on Wakwak Tapu Golkunda 17 Century A.D.

Fig. 8: Rgamala paintings mediaval Period
Chandra Poojan (S.Shinde)

Indian worships not only the god, but the universe also. Chandra poojan state that we give the importance to the cosmic also. (Fig. 5)

Nature (Babarnama)

Peacock, Swan, Squirrel and Fishes- are painted in Babarnama. Muslims and Indian Artists painted a series of Nature Painting. This is one of the classic of them. In this manner harmony between man and nature reflects in this art (Fig. 6).

Tree on wak vaq Pleatue (Golkunda)

The world conqueror Alexander discovered a talking tree that informed him of his impending doom. The atmosphere of this painting is appropriately ominous; slithering snake and scorpions make up the trunk, grotesque animal head and beckoning spirits adorn the branches; while smaller composite plants mysteriously sway to silent rhythms (Fig. 7).

Ragmala Painting (Medieval Period)

Artists personified the ragas (Fig. 8). Nayika express her feelings with deers and trees and in second one the Raga Vasanta is depicted.

CONCLUSION

Since last two centuries, the industrial revolution has become a major factor in changes of cultural stabilities all over the world. It upset the fundamentals of social and cultural fabric. Our new ability to magnify our comforts as impact on the planets micro organism controls the composition of the air that we breathe. Plants and tree helps to bind the top soil and modifies the climate. Every creature has an important role in nature’s mechanism. Art is a Moving mirror, reflecting its shifting reality. The artist searches for creative directions (Fig. 3). An effort can be seen in whole new vision by making a new art language. The experiments in technology have generated large dividend in visual variety. The changes of scientific environment also change the social, cultural and behavioral environment. In this way the role of art and the artist has become more significant, who explores and reflects the virtual reality and visual expression for society and environment.

REFERENCES

4. Rai Nihar Ranjan, Ibid.