

Culture and Tradition of Chhattisgarh

Dr. Seema Dwivedi

Asst. Prof. History Dr. C. V. Raman University Kota, Bilaspur (C.G.)

ABSTRACT: *India is known for its unique different culture dance, music and life styles. Each state has its own distinct culture. The central part of India has rich and fertile land which has been a centre of people belongs to different caste and religion, that provide different culture, dance, music and life style. In heart of India there is situated new state Chhattisgarh formerly a part of Madhya Pradesh was formed on November 1st 2000 as the 26th state of union territories. Despite the cultural diversity, the state presents an interesting account of Adivasi and non-Adivasi customs and traditions. The interpenetration of the culture of the plains has been going on from time immemorial. The aim of the study is to provide information on the different religious beliefs as well as the cultural practice and diverse historical events in the life people of Chhattisgarh.*

KEYWORD: *chhattisgarh, tradition, Adivasi, kalchuris, Tripuri, chakrakotya, Nagas, Madhya Pradesh,*

I. INTRODUCTION

The new state Chhattisgarh formerly a part of Madhya Pradesh. The state abounds with hilly region and plains. Uttar Pradesh to the North, Jharkhand to the North-East, Orissa to the East, Andhar Pradesh to the South-East and south Maharashtra to the south west, Madhya Pradesh to the west and North- from its boundaries. Chhattisgarh comprises of sixteen districts. The state has three division; Raipur, Bilaspur and Bastar. It is divided into three distinct land areas. In the north are Satpura Ranges in the centre the plains of River Mahanadi and its tributaries and in the south is the plateau of Bastar. The total rainfall in the region is about 60 inches. Chhattisgarh is rich in forest resources. About 44% of the total area of the state is under forest cover. Chhattisgarh is famous in the entire country for its Sal forests. In addition, teak, bamboo, Saja, Sarai, haldi, etc are also found in large numbers. Tendu leaf which is used in beedi making is a principal forest produce of the state. Chhattisgarh produce large number of minor forest products as well. Mahanadi is the principal river of the state other major rivers are Shivnath, Hasdo, Mand, Eeb, Pairi, Jonk, Kelo, Udanti, Indrawati, Arpa and Maniyari. The climate of Chhattisgarh is mainly tropical, humid and sub-humid. The climate is hot because of its positioning on the tropic of cancer. The maximum temperature goes upto 45° c and the minimum temperature goes up to 7°c. The state is completely dependent on the monsoon for rains.

II. HISTORY:

Chhattisgarh caused out of Madhya Pradesh came into being on 1 November 2000 as the 26th state of the union. The tribals of Chhattisgarh who were waiting for a long time now their demand of separate state is fulfilled. If we see the background or the history, in ancient times the region was known as Dakshin Kausal this find mention in Ramayan and Mahabharat also. Between the sixth and twelfth centuries sarabhpurias, Panduvanshi, Somvanshi, Kalchuris and Nagvanshi rules dominated this region. Kalchuris ruled in Chhattisgarh from 980 to 1791 A.D. with the advent of Britishers in 1854 Raipur gained prominence instead of capital Ratanpur. In 1904 Sambalpur was transferred to Orissa and estates of Sarguja were transferred from Bengal to Chhattisgarh.

III. THE KALCHURIS

- [1] **The Kalchuris of Mahismate:-** The ancient capital of the Kalchuris was at Mahismati were they rose to power in the 6th century A.D. Their rulers of this dynasty were Krsnaraja, Sankaragana and Buddharaja whose copper-plate inscriptions have been found at Abhona, Sankhera, Vadnes and Sarsavini in Maharashtra and Gujarat. This Power was eclipsed by the rise of the Chalukyas of the Deccan.
- [2] **The Kalchuris of Tripuri:-** The branch of the Kalchuri, dynasty was founded by Vamaraja. Three generations after him was rulling Sankargana I, two inscriptions of whose reign have been found at Chhoti Deovi and Sagar on the basis of these two inscription the period of this rule has been placed in the middle of 8th century A.D.

- [3] **Kalachuris of Ratanpur**:-A new branch of Kalchuri dynasty ruling from Ratanpur in the Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh was founded by Kalingraja around 1000AD. He was successively followed by Kamalaraja, Ratnadeva I, Prthvideva I. Three inscriptions of Prthvideva found at Amada, Lapha and Raipur indicate that he was still ruling as a feudatory of the Kalchuris of a Tripuri. His successor was Jajalladeva I, two inscriptions of whose reign have been located at Pali and Ratanpur. The next ruler was Ratnadeva II, four inscriptions of whose rule found at Akaltara, Paragaon, Sheorinasayan and Sarkho provide details about the period of this ruler Prthvideva II, was his successor and fifteen inscriptions issued during his reign throw important light on the political and cultural history of the period. The Amoda Malhar and Sheorinarayan inscription of the reign of the next ruler Jajalladeva show that his period of rule was short and full of troubles. He was succeeded by Ratnadeva III whose two inscriptions have been located at Kharod and Pasid. The latter was succeeded by Pratapamalla, two copper plate inscriptions and coins of whose region have been found. These however do not help to reconstruct history of the period. Political history of this branch of Kalachuris is not clear after the rule of Pratapamalla.
- [4] **The Kalachuris of Raipur**:-It was around the end of the 14th century that the Ratanpur branch of the Kalachuri dynasty was divided in two. The main branch ruled at Ratanpur and a subordinate branch was founded at Raipur in Chhattisgarh. The relations of these two branches have been made clear by the inscriptions of vaharlal found at Kosgain and Ratanpur and inscriptions of Brahmadena located at Raipur and Khalari. The dynasty was ruling till 18th century A.D. when it was supplanted by the Marathas.
- [5] **The Trikalingadhipati Somavamsis**:-During 10th century A.D. a major part of South Kosala (Chhattisgarh) was ruled by the Trikalingadhipati Somavamsis rulers of Orissa. However none of their inscriptions has been located within the territorial Jurisdiction of M.P.
- [6] **The Chhindaka Nagas of chakrakoty (Bastar)**:- It was in the 11th century A.D. that a Naga dynasty known as Chhindaka Nagas established their rule over Chakrakota, now known as Bastar in Chhattisgarh. The Errakoter inscription provides details about Nripatibhosana the first ruler of this dynasty. It highlights the activities of the next ruler Dharavarsa, Jagadka-bhosana is mentioned by his Barsur, Potinar and Bhairamgarh inscriptions. He was succeeded by Madhurantakadeva, a copper plate inscription of whose reign has been located at Rajapura. The next ruler was Somesvara, political events of whose reign are known by inscriptions found at Kuruspal and Gadia. An inscription, issued by his chief queen GangaMahadevi found at Barsur and another issued by his mother Gunda Mahadevi located at Narayanpal. An inscription found at Barsur refers to a ruler Kannaradeva of this dynasty. The Jatanpal and Dantewara stone inscriptions refer to Jaga dekabhusana Maharaja Narsimhadeva of this lineage. An inscription found at Sunarpal mentions the name of Jayasimbadera and another located at Temra refers to Harischandra of this dynasty but details about the last two rulers are not available.
- [7] **The Nagas of Kawardha**:- The Nagas of Chhattisgarh established their power in 9th century A.D. and they continued their rule till the middle of 14th century as feudatories of Ratanpur. Details about this dynasty have been supplied by nine inscriptions found at Kawardha, Chhapri, Chaura, Chhapri, Pujaripali, Boria and Sahaspur.
- [8] **The Somavamsis of KanKer**:- An inscription found at KanKer in Chhattisgarh proves the existence of a Somavamsi dynasty ruling there who were subordinates of the Kalchuris of Ratanpur. Seven inscriptions of this dynasty have been located at Gurar, Tahankaper, Deokut, Sihama and KanKer.

A Punch Marked Coins:-Silver and copper punch marked coins of imperial and non-imperial series have been found in large number from all over M.P. and Chhattisgarh. The sites are Akaltara, Arang, Avra, Bayar, Bilaspur and Raipur.

In 1818 Chhattisgarh came under some sort of British control for the first time. In 1854 when the province of Nagpur lapsed to the British Government, Chhattisgarh was formed into a deputy commissionership with its Headquarters at Raipur. C.W. Wills, about Chhattisgarh presents the remarkable picture of a Hindu government continuing till modern times outside the sphere of direct Mohammadan control. The British made certain changes in the administrative and revenue system of Chhattisgarh which adversely affected the people of Chhattisgarh.

The culture of Chhattisgarh in itself is every rich and interesting. Since ancient time people in this region have been known to have strong faith in God, which gives devotional touch to this culture. However known for their modesty kindness and adjustable nature. People of this area fond of variety in dressing entertainment and way of life. They tend to follow new life style and this is prime reason behind people adopting modern life style and Chhattisgarh custom and tradition is new mostly limited to rural areas. The culture has unique style of music and dance.

Raut Nacha, Dewar Nacha, Panthi and Soowa. Padki and Pandwani are some of musical styles and dance dramas. Pandwani is a famous musical way of singing Mahabharat in this region. The particular music style has been brought in to limelight by well known Teejan Bai and young Ritu Verma colourful dresses and spice for life for women and Men of this part of country. Women are fond of Kachhora a typical manner of wearing Lugda (saree) and Polkha (blouse) with set of attractive ornaments are symbolic of tradition and heritage of Chhattisgarh. Various decorative items used by women are Bandha (necklace made of coins) and Silver necklace Suta Phuli for nose Bali and Khuntis for ears, Ainthi (of Silver worn in forearm) Palta, Chooraa (bangles) Kardhani on waist (a belt like thing made of silver) Pouchi a ring for upper arm and Bichhiya worn on toes. Men also decorate themselves with Koundhi (necklace of beads) and Kadhah (bangles) for occasion like dances. Colourful dresses and variety of ornaments are "spice of life" for women and men of this part of country. Chhattisgarh is also famous for its traditional folk songs in which sohar songs are related to marriage celebration. The main part Bihav songs are chulmati, Telmati, Maymauri, Nahdauri, Pargani, Bhadoni and other songs related to Bhanwer,

Dowery and vidai songs. Pathoni songs are related to Gauna (departure of bridegroom home) Seasonal chhattisgarhi folk songs are cherchera song (in welcome of new crops). The play songs of children are Loria, Fugdi, Kau, Mau, Khudwa (Kakdi) Dandi, Fuha etc. Dohe of Raut Nacha (Dipawali) Sua songs, Janwara songs, Bhojoli songs, Dhankul songs, songs of Nag Panchami, Mata Seva songs. Baansgeet etc. Karma dance songs are (Bamboo) found in various form. Beside traditional folk song and dance the state is famous for its unique fairs and festivals. These festivals and fairs held throughout the year and they have their own specific importance. The fairs of Chhattisgarh are – Fair of Ratanpur, Setganga fair, Sagar fair, Belpan fair held in Magh Purnima, Dushera fair, a tribal fair held in the month of October. Maa Bamleshwari Fair, held during Navratri festival on the hills of Dongargarh. Rajim fair held in the month of February and March near Mahanadi. Rajim Kumbh fair held in Magh Purnima and continue for fifteen days. Marai Fair of Baster, Fair of Shankarji held on the Mahashivaratri and continue for seven days. Khallari fair on Navratri fair of Narayanpur. Shivrinarayan fair held in the month of Magh Purnima and continue till Shivratri. Beside these there are other fairs are Sirpur fair, Kameshwar mela, Bamhani fair, Girodhuri fair, Boramdev fair, Dongpathra fair, Rudreshwar fairs, Billaimata ka mela, Kabirpanthi mela, khassaghat and shivghat ka mela, kharraghat and shivghat ka mela. Beside fairs there are many festivals like Hareli, Charta Navakhana are the harvest festival, Marai, Pola, Surhul, Chetrai, Kajare, Govardhan Puja, Bhagoria Korba Mahotsav, Dussehra (Bastar Dussehra celebrated for 75 days) Diwali, Narratri, Gaura, Teeja, Parva, Holi, Janamashtami, Rakhi, Makar sankranti and Ganesh Chaturthi celebrated by the people of this state with great pride and enthusiasm.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Chhattisgarh is endowed with a rich cultural heritage and attractive natural diversity. The wide pluralities of cultures, traditions, histories and customs existing in this region has been adopted by various tribes from many centuries has provided a unique style in the field of art, culture, music, dance, songs, fairs and festivals have combined to form a unique mixture that has fed into the development of Chhattisgarh ethos and identity.

REFERENCES:

- [1] Gajrani, s. *History, Religion and culture of India*, vol.5 chawla offset press, 2004,
- [2] Sharma, R.K. & Mishra, O.P. *Archeological Excavations in central India, Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh*, and 2002-2003,
- [3] Banerjee, D., *Criminal justice India Series Vol.19 Chhattisgarh* Allied Publishers private limited. 2005
- [4] Gopal, K. Bhargava, Bhatt, S.C. *Land and People of India States and Territories in 36 volumes* Kalpaz Publication, 2005.