



### 1. Introduction:

Art is a part of daily life. Folk Arts provide popular entertainment for the common folk, imparting traditional education while providing entertainment. Before going into the detailed of the topic, it is essential to know the actual meaning of Folk. According to Alaun Dendus, "The term Folk refers to any group of the people whatsoever who share at least one common factor. It does not matter what the linking factor is. It could be a common occupation, language or religion but what is important is that a group formed for whatever reason will have some traditions it calls its own." English Thesaurus defined Folk as "A common people of a society or region, identified as the representatives of a traditional way of life and especially as the originators of carriers of customs, beliefs and arts that make up a distinctive culture." Folk Life and Folk Arts are inseparably intertwined with each other. Every share of life is reflected in creative expression. The entire life is reflected in Folk Arts through Songs, Dance and Drama. The finer means of life, sorrows and pleasures, jest for life, sentiments are being expressed in folk arts. Unswerving beliefs and entire value system are shown.

### 2. Folk Music:

The natural outburst of pain and pleasure is expressed through a musical note of an utterance. A Folk Song is not after all a piece of a misty emotionalism but represents the hard commonsense facts of the case. The main characteristic of the Folk song is, It composes itself. Though a man has composed it, the author counts for nothing, and it is not by mere accident but with the best of reasons that they have come down to us anonymous. Folk song have no fixed and final form or no sole authentic version. A folk song is neither new nor old, because it is continuously taking on new life. It survives by purely oral tradition. It is traditional and is free from rigid rules of composition. It always reflects the folk mind set and project the basic, natural, unpolluted and real image of the society. The different varieties of folk songs that go with specific profession is an indication that work and pleasure seeking are inclusive of each other. In other words, people forget the troubles of their toil in song and while singing out their joys they celebrate the charms of life. Songs by women are aplenty and similarly cover the whole gamut of their social life. As the folk songs are interwoven with everyday happenings of human life, let us look at them as they reflect the life-cycle of the Indians. In India we can observe folk songs with different names in different places. In Telugu states they are called as Janapada Geethalu, in Karnataka Bhavageethe, in Maharashtra Lavani, in Assam Bihu, in Bengal Bahula, in Punjab Mahiya, in Chattisgarh Pandavani, in Gujrath Doha and so on. Whatever be the name or language Folk songs always reflects the culture and tradition of the particular society. Mainly Folk Songs can be classified into ten sections. They are

- ✓ Work Songs
- ✓ Songs for Children
- ✓ Play Songs
- ✓ Love Songs
- ✓ Marriage Songs
- ✓ Ritual Songs
- ✓ Devotional Songs
- ✓ Historical Songs
- ✓ Comedy Songs
- ✓ Tragedy Songs

**Work Songs:** It is difficult to define the origin of folk song. But one can state that the work is the main cause. As we know Early human used to make sounds to express his emotions while hunting and working. These sound transformed into songs in later stages. Work songs are sung by the folks while Hunting, working in the Agricultural fields, sailing on boats, irrigation works, weaving work, grinding etc. All of them have a refrain. Some of the songs lyrics describe the work also. Folks engage themselves with song while working, especially in the fields. Singing gives them rhythm to the work they are doing. It is also observed that when they are hunting they make rhythmic sounds imitating animals. It gives the group a solidarity. People sing these songs to enjoy their work and to forget their physical strain

**Songs for Children:** Lullabies and cajoling songs are the most popular folk songs as they sung for the new born or little babies. These are first songs heard by the human either by mother or elderly sisters. These songs lyrics consist of great human values and can be treated as the first lesson of life to the child which helps greatly in the development of a child. These songs are mainly from the Hindu epics and are the description of the Childhood of God. These songs are tuned so melodiously that even a crying child stop crying and try to listen to the music and gradually fall into sleep. Lullabies are often universalized in the feminine imagination. Each son is equated with one God or the other and each daughter is a Goddess reborn in their house.

**Play Songs:** These are the folk songs sung by the children while playing traditional games in a group. When the child attains certain age and start playing games with the elder brothers and sisters, he also learns the songs associated with the games. These songs endowed with two important qualities. One, rhythmic beat and the second, the alliteration. There is always an incremental ending, with the same word repeating at the end of the line. These songs develop socialization among the children.

**Love Songs:** Love Songs denote sentiments find a befitting opportunity for expression. Where one cannot express their emotions in words, love songs plays a vital role for the expression. Songs are delicate sentimental of love and unusual imaginary. With the

help of these songs young generation try to express their love for each other and convince other for the love. Some of the love songs are in the form of duet and some are solo.

**Marriage Songs:** Marriage and marital rituals are the occasions when songs in all hues and colours. Every moment, every ritual has a corresponding song. All reflects the customs, culture and the importance of marriage system, celebrations mood and finally when the bride is being sent to her in-law's house after wedding the sorrowful leave-taking and the songs are replete with pathos. Every ritual of the marriage right from the time of the arrival of the groom to sending bride to in-law's place, every song give the occasion a rare splendor. Each and every member of the family express their love for bride through songs and teach bride how to adjust herself at new place and which the couple for a happy life.

**Ritual Songs:** Ritual songs are sung by both men and women during social and religious rituals Like birth, cradle ceremony, birthdays, wedding, festivals etc. It is observed that these songs are interlinked with the Indian epics like Ramayana, Mahabharatha and Bhagavatha. These ritual songs express the customs and beliefs of the people. All these customs and believes are followed by generations and the are songs are being sung by all the generations.

**Devotional Songs:** There is a rich repotire of devotional songs in India. All the devotional songs are taken from the Indian epics only. They are sung at the time of festivals, in the temples, on the special occasions, at the time of prayers etc. These songs widely spread the religion and culture of the particular group. All the devotional songs spread moral values and ethics of the human life.

**Historical Songs:** These songs consists of bravery incidents from the history and are different from the other songs. Historical songs portrays different incidents from history. These are called Raso in North India, Povada in Maharashtra, Veeragathalu in Telugu states. Each song ends with a moral or message to the society.

**Comedy Songs:** The songs which are being sung to create comedy or sung at the humorous situations are called comedy songs. We find these songs rarely. These songs lyrics usually contains proverbs and riddles. Satire plays a key role in comedy songs.

**Tragedy Songs:** Tragic situations of human life inspired these songs. These songs are sung very often when bride leaves the parents at the time of wedding. Other than this, when some unfortunate things takes place in someone's life or in the society, folks sings these tragedy songs.

### **3. Conclusion:**

Folk Music can be of any type, but the ultimate goal is to protect and spread culture and tradition of our country. In this paper the common characteristics of Indian folk music have been explained on the whole irrespective of place, religion, region and language. This work of the paper helps the readers and researchers to understand the Indian cultural heritage and customs and beliefs of the Indian folks. Communal transmission, re-creation, collective unconscious and impersonal qualities of Indian folk music got wide popularity to it throughout the world.

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