

Abstract

In this paper the origin of Odissi dance is discussed. Odissi dance has its own identity by its own fine music and unique form of representing its story and literature. The story may be Dashavatar Stuti, Sri Jagannath's Story or may be Jayadeva's Geeta Govindam or Rasa Leela of Sri RadhaKrishna and so on. It also discusses on the Mahari or Devadasi Custom and Gotipua Dance form. As the dance form is a oldest form of dance and one of the classical dance form of India, here we discuss the beauty of this form of dance.

Introduction:

According to Indian Purana and mythology *Prajapati Brahmadeva* is the creator of this universe which is also known as *Brahmanda*. Brahmadeva is also known as

the avatar of *Nataraj* which means the supreme manifestation. According to the Mahabharata during the Gopaleela in Brindavan Bhagban Sri Krishna performs Kalia Dalana (dance on the hood of Kalia Naga) in Yamuna River.

A Review on Odissi Dance

Nandita Priyadarshini Mohanty
Pritish Kumar Mohanty

Vedapati Brahmadeva, creator of all the Vedas. The Veda is the actual source of knowledge, art, activities and other rituals. As a witness *Natya Shastra* by *Bharata Muni* concludes the statement. Also in *Natya Shastra*, *Bharata Muni* has mentioned that the *Nritya Veda* is the *Fifth Veda* of the entire universe. According to Bharat Muni the *Words* are taken from the *Rig Veda*, the *Gestures* are taken from the *Yajur Veda*, *Music* from the *Samaveda* and the *Sentiments* are taken from the *Atharva Veda*. It is mentioned in different puranas and holy scriptures of India that *Bhagaban Shiva Shankar* during the *Tandava Nritya* performs



In the dance two basic elements are present i.e. *NATYA* & *NRITYA*. *NATYA* is the story which represents through dance. *NRITYA* is the emotion through dance, mudras and expressions. Basically the form of art in which body acts as the medium of communication is known as *Dance*. Out of eight classical forms of Indian Classical Dance Odissi is one of them.

The origin of Odissi Dance:

Odissi dance is an immortal creativity of *Devi Padmabati*, who is wife of *Sri Jayadeva* the narrator of *Geeta Gobindam*.

During those days the Gajapati Maharaja of that time invited some female dancers from southern region of India known as *Kurmapataka*. Those female dancers performed dance in temple. It was originated in the temple of Odisha; Maharis were the temple dancers or *Devadasis* of Sri Jagannath temple. During the region of *Chodaganga Dev*, Maharis were employed in the temple, after his death *Gajapati Anangabhimadeva* built *Natyamandapa* in Sri Jagannath temple to perform the dance. This type of dance form is known as *Mahari Dance*.

The rulers of outside kingdom attacked the region of Odisha regularly and the kings of Odisha also submitted their one sixth part of wealth to the temple administration. Those things became the main attraction to the attackers to raid or plunder the temple. In north region *Naga Sadhus* had protected the temples from attackers. But in Odisha region the Priest community of the temple created a new form dance *Gotipua* to protect the wealth and for welfare of the temple. Normally the dancers are male candidates but they are dressed and ornamented like the females. In this form of dance from the age of two to six they learned how to

perform the dance, then they performed the dance inside the temple or on the occasion of different festivals. The *Gotipua* dance form is a fascinating dance of Raghurajpur village. They mainly perform acrobatic poses and in praise of Sri Jagannath and Sri Krishna. This form is originated during the reign of *Gajapati Prataprudradev*. The *Gotipua* dance form is the dance meant for protecting the temples.

Odissi dance is the combined form of **Mahari** and **Gotipua**. This dance form having its own Style, Rhythm, Costumes, Ornaments, fine songs. Out of eight classical dance form in India five forms are correlated to the five different elements,

- Odissi Dance form represents the Element of Water.
- Kathakali Dance form represents the Element of Sky.
- Bharat Natyam Dance form represents the Element of Fire.
- Mohini Natyam Dance form represents the Element of Air.
- Kuchipudi Dance form represents the Element of Earth.
- This dance form depicts the immortal story of different gods with their love and affection.

In Abhinaya Darpan, Nandikeshwara's famous book on dance, the act has been divided into three basic forms i.e. *Nritta*, *Natya*, and *Nritya*.

Nritta :- It means the basic dance steps, performed as per rhythm. Also devoid of any expression or mood.

Natya :- It means the dramatic representations and refers to the story that is elaborated through dance.

Nritya :- It means the sentiment and the emotion represents through dance, including mudras, various methods.

Nandikeshwara also represents the **Nayaka and Nayika** bhava. Whereas the deity of dance is seen as **Nayaka** and the devotee is seen as **Nayika**. The dance form Odissi includes both Tandava and Lasya element.

- **Lasya** means Feminine feature, bhava, rasa, and grace.
- **Tandava** means male feature and bold.

Basically the traditional dance form of the state Odisha is **Odissi Dance**. After the year 1947 this dance form got its original name. As previously Odisha was also known as **Udra Pradesh** the dance form is also recognized as **Udra Nritya**. In Bharata muni's Natya Shastra also this form is mentioned as Udra Nritya. Odisha has a rich cultural history & tradition which is evidenced from **Sri Jagannatha temple Puri, Konark Sun temple, Cave of Hatigumpha & Ranigumpha Bhubaneswar**.

When Odissi Dance was not so popular this form was known as Odia Dance. Because during that time the dance form hadn't formed its own history not even the science, also the dance form hadn't designed its costumes. Some Dance Teacher (Nritya guru) and Choreographer (Nritya Silpi) joined together to form a Community known as **Jyantika** in 1957. Initially Sri Lokanatha Mishra was the President and the editor was Nritya Guru Dayanidhi Das. Almost all the Dance lovers, Dance teachers and choreographer pledge together for reorganization of this dance form. In the year of 1955 late Kabichandra Kalicharan Pattnaik published a book in English language where he mentioned first time as **Odissi Dance**. After a long period of debates and different

conflicts this form got its identity. In 1960 Sri Dhirendranath Pattnaik researched in different temples, books and interacted with dancing professionals and published in a book. After that the Dance professionals of Odissi created some new dance creations of dance and they got the official title for the "**Odissi dance**". In this way after a long period of struggle and by different research oriented works by the dance professional the dance form got its title, identity and recognition.

References :

1. Pattnaik DN 1971: Odissi Dance, Gita Govinda And Jayadeva, pg47, 1971
2. Pattnaik Kalicharana (1981,2011) Amara Sangita Dhara, Basanta Publication, Dagarpada
3. Kothari S, Parichha A, 1990: Odissi, Indian classical dance art. Marg Publications. Pp13
4. Kuiper K, 2010: The Culture of India. The Rosen Publishing Group. Pp278
5. Das R, 2004: Odissi Sangita Parampara o Prayoga, Publisher, Koushiki Prakashani, J.M.
6. Singhanian Nitin, Indian Art and Culture 3rd edition Mc Graw Hill
7. Mohapatra S, Kar R: Know your state Odisha, Arihant Publication Ind. LTD
8. Mohanty Brajamohan: Jaha Odisha ra Taha Odissi, Utkala Pathaka Sansad, Cuttack-9

Nandita Priyadarshini Mohanty, C/o - Chittaranjan Mohanty, Narendrakona, Near Private Women's College, Puri-752001, Mob : 70083 49860, E-mail : nanditapriyadarshinimohanty@gmail.com