



9

TRIBAL MUSIC AND DANCE

India has rich heritage in music and dance. There are all kinds of music and dance ranging from Indian classical Kathak dance to folk dance like Bihu of Assam. In recent years tribal music and dance is finding stage in every other concert. Various tribes have their distinct forms of music and dance such as Paravalli Kali dance from tribe of Kerala etc. Indian tribal dances are simple and are performed for personal joy and offerings to deities and God.

Music and dance are practiced all over the world. It brings colour, joy, happiness and rhythm. It is a way of expressing varied emotions at different occasions. Tribal dances have specific dress designs, typical sounds and movements and often performed in groups. Since India is a vast country having different tribes in different states. Each tribe has its own specific way of performing music and dance. Hence in this lesson only a few forms are discussed.



Notes

**OBJECTIVES**

After studying this lesson, you will be able to :

- explain tribal music and dance;
- describe the musical notes used in tribal music;
- explain the type of musical instruments used in tribal music; and
- describe some of tribal dance forms of India with few examples.

9.1 TRIBAL MUSIC

Music echoes in air. It is sung in open air. Music is a sound when heard gives you joy and also tells its purpose. The one of purposes of tribal music is the protection from the attack of wild animals particularly in night. They make typical sound by beating drum.

Tribal music and dance is a part of their daily life. It is performed to depict their culture and social values. It is passed from generation to generations. It includes all men, women, and children, young and old alike. Music and dance unite them. Tribal music and dances can be observed according to Season, Festivals and other community occasions like marriage, birth of a child.



In month of June and July of Asadh Birhor dance is performed in Odisha. In Monson season on Shravan Poornima, DomNachh is performed. In October November Sohrai and Bandhna is performed to depict the cattle wealth.

Musical notes

Origin of tribal music notes are sounds of birds and animals. They often use absurd sounds like hoo, haa, yaha etc. purring and murring sounds of animals, shrilling of animal, chirping of birds, calls and cries of birds and animals, sound of trees and water flows. Slowly they have named several music types after the typical sound from a bird, e.g. sadaja from peacock and rishabha from chetak.

Tribal music has high pitch having high and low notes. Musical sounds and silence are put in sequence so give a rhythm. The sound can be harsh and soft. Tribal music is getting popular now a days because of their beat and originality. With these few things innumerable variations are designed in music. There is some music styles used to narrate a story or epic.

Type of instruments

Musical instruments are designed by the musicians themselves. The raw material is obtained from local area. Wooden logs, sticks, bamboo, animal skin, leather, dried vegetables like gourds and



Notes



Fig. 9.1 Dhol (Drum)

pumpkin, seeds are used to make different instruments. Some of popular ones are drum, dhol, tuntuna, charchari, timki, sarangi, khartal, jaltarang etc. in Madhya Pradesh at harvest time, a buffalo-horn trumpet, the hakum is used in celebration. Other types of drums are mandri, kotoloka and kundir.

9.2 DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRIBAL DANCES

Tribal people generally perform dances in groups and wear specific dress and usually narrate a story through music and dance. They do not usually sing and dance on popular movie songs. Each tribe has special form of dance, dress code, music and instruments.

In part of country many forms are popular some of them are Gadbha, Kondh, Koya, Saora, kaadar nritham, Kurumbar nritham, Ghoomar etc. Ghoomer is dance of Bhil tribe from Rajasthan while Ghavari is a dance drama performs in chittor area of Rajasthan. Few forms of dances are described below.

Paravalli Kali : It is a popular tribal dance form of Kerala. It is done by aboriginals living in dense forest of Travancore area. Both men and women participate in this dance. The group of many dancers forms many pleasant patterns and change the position at high speed. Watching this is amazing.

Gond dance : Gond tribe lives in pockets of MP, Maharashtra and odisa. It is performed throughout the year particularly on marriage ceremony. They have special dress having colourful apron and turbans decorated with shells and mirrors. Girls wear silver jewelry. Usually 20-30 young men and women participate. Musical instruments like wooden drum are often played by boys. The steps are mostly forward bending with leg in front and soft.

Bizu dance : The Bizu Dance is a dance of the Chakma tribe of Tripura. Bizu means Chaitra Sankranti or the end of the Bengali calendar year. It is performed to welcome the New Year. It is very rhythm dance on dhol (drum), baajhi (flute), hengrang (a musical instrument made from bamboo) and dhuduk (similar to the hengrang).

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 9.1**

Fill in blanks:

1. Tribal music is used to protect us from_____
2. Musical sound of peacock is known as_____



Notes



Notes

3. Horn trumpet of Odisha is also referred as _____
4. Which dance is performed in marriage ceremonies in MP _____
5. In Travancore which dance form is practiced _____
6. Name the dance form performed in Tripura _____
7. Difference in music and sound is _____.
8. In Shravaan Purnima which dance is performed in Odisha _____.



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT

In this lesson you have learnt-

Music and dance is an integral part of tribal people. It is performed in their daily life. Sometimes it is being used to protect the tribal people from the attack of wild animals. All men, women, children and young and old alike participate in music and dance. It is associated with season, festivals and other community festivals.

Musical notes are drawn from sounds of birds, animals, tress, water flow, air, sound coming out of instruments. Drums and sarangi type instruments are popular. Instruments are locally developed by the musicians themselves. Common instruments are dhol, tuntuna, charchari, timki, sarangi, khartal,

jaltarang, trumpet, mandri, kotoloka and kundir etc. Raw material to make instruments are wooden logs, sticks, bamboo, animal skin, leather, dried vegetables like gourds and pumpkin, horns etc.

Tribal dances are typical and leave strong impact by their group dance form, fluidity of changing positions, their dress code, music and instruments. Since each part of country many has different tribes so their dance forms. Some of popular ones are Gadbha, Kondh, Koya, Saora, kaadar nritham, Kurumbar nritham, Ghoomar etc.

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. How the tribal music is related to our daily life?
2. Write any 4 characteristics of tribal musical notes.
3. Write the name of any 10 musical instruments.
4. Write brief notes on any 2 tribal dance.

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****9.1**

1. Attack of wild animals
2. Sajada
3. Hakum

**Notes**

CLASS-V



Notes

4. Gond
5. Paravalli Kali
6. Bizu
7. Rhythm
8. Doomnach (dand nachh)