

Importance of Tribal Studies in Art Education

Research Review Journal of Social
Science | e-ISSN: 2583-2867

Double-blind peer-reviewed and
refereed online | Bi-annual Journal
4(1) 13-15, 2024

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DOI: 10.31305/rrjss.2024.v04.n01.002

<https://rrjournals.co.in/>



Date of Publication: 30 June, 2024

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Abstract: Tribal studies or the Tribal history has always gain importance in the Indian history. This area of study also becomes sensitive in nature, since tribes or the tribal communities are viewed differently or given special attention in the present-day society for many reasons such as administration and political purpose. It is important to bring the different tribal communities to highlight which enables in conserving and enhancing the history of traditions and rituals which are followed and preserved by the tribal communities. This paper titled Importance of Tribal Studies in Art Education is an attempt to emphasis the significance of imparting the tribal studies in the pedagogy and reaches the knowledge and history of tribal communities and their living style and art with ritualistic practices.

Keywords: Tribal art, Tribal studies, Art Education, Tribal Communities

1 | INTRODUCTION

India is one of those countries with having rich and diverse cultural ethos. The true essence which India as a country is holding up is the cultural and traditional practices across the country. Having different tribal communities and their art and ritual practices adds on to the enhancement of the country's cultural representation. There is a sensitive nature while addressing the tribal society, normally it is bounded with conserved and sensitive mainly because of the belief and practices they are been followed from ages, and their inseparable faith towards their ancestral practices and historical belief system. This paper titled "Importance of Tribal Studies in Art Education" attempts to bring the importance of tribal studies to mainstream and highlight the relevance and dimensionality existing in diverse tribal communities in the society. This paper is therefore an attempt to highlight the positive impact of tribal studies in art education and how it will aid in the contribution of curriculum building and the useful values of tribal communities on education sector. This paper emphasizes on holistic approach where it throws light on tribal art and form which contributes in art education.

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The question arises when introspection is put within interrogating about how inclusion of tribal studies will enhance in building curriculum in art education. It is through understanding and looking art tribal culture in different denomination. There are many facets which can be looked at within tribal culture, such as, sage of face masks, headgears, the costume worn by tribal people, body art, the ritual practices which dominate arts and crafts as part of tradition and culture, face painting, textile designing, and many more. Such holistic approach will give dimensionality.

2 | FACE MASKS IN TRIBAL ART

Mask culture is quite common and used across different tribal communities as a part of traditional and ritual practices and culture. Masks are widely used to possess the spirit or change the original personality to a supernatural character. This way the face masking culture in tribal communities communicates to their members through reflecting back to their historical narratives. It is quite debatable to trace back the origin of the mask tradition. Face masks basically overlaps the original face of a person which enables in the shift of the personality, this we it is understood that the face mask psychologically affects the protagonist. This part of tradition is used in seasonal ceremonies by the communities (Maaheshwaran, 2011).

3 | HEADGEARS

Headgears are not just attested to tribal communities, but also a cultural identity across India. Different part of states in India still uses headgear as a symbol of identity or religion, similarly; likewise, the tribal communities have their own headgears as a symbol of clan, or marking the social position of the communities. The use of headgears may different from purposes, for instance, headgears can be used for performances such as tribal dance or theatre, in other cases the headgear can be used for specific reasons such as ritual and traditional practices or for some ceremonial offerings. Headgear can be usually in the form of zoomorphic or in figurative and decorated forms.

4 | FACE PAINTING AND BODY ART

The most attractive part of tribal art/tradition is the face painting and body art, face painting becomes the attractive and eye catching, and natural pigments are used in most of the cases, the icons and the symbols on the face may indicate thematic and symbolic representations. Considering the semiotics and the thematic representation, it is understood that any forms and icons have intense meaning with values and narratives associated with them. Likewise, the body art which is what we term as tattoo culture is part of ritual practices and traditions.

5 | DISCUSSION

Considering all the aspects mentioned above, it is clear that, tribal studies are vast to consider, it has many faces and dimensionality. In spite of that, it is necessary to bring out the realm of art that exist in tribal studies. Art is everywhere, the craftsmanship involved in tribal art shows the living traditions and the legacy of past events continuing till date. This way it is important to bring it to the attention in educational institution and including it in the regular pedagogy. Since art education is practical oriented, many approaches can be implemented in curriculum building which lifts the study of tribal art and tribal society. Some of the important points which aids in the pedagogy are:

- Museum Visits
- Ethnographic studies
- Conducting experimental archaeology based on the art produced by the tribal communities
- Conducting workshops by involving members who belongs to the tribal communities
- Documentation of crafts and art works of tribal communities
- Involving and encouraging the communities

- Conducting art camps for those tribal and folk-art practitioners such as; Gond, Warli, Madhubani, Pithora, Sorai etc.
- Bringing the diverse art of various tribal communities to mainstream through conducting seminars and conferences.

6 | CONCLUSION

Tribal studies are not just documenting or knowing about their lifestyle or practices, but it is something which we need to understand about their existence. Today's tribal societies are the true face of our country who are conserving the age-old practices and traditions and those who are close to the nature. They set the best example in today's fast growing technological society that, tribal communities have close connections in understanding the science behind man and nature. These collective information are necessary to highlight and inculcate in the teacher's education and something which necessarily contributes to the uplifting of art education.

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How Cite this article?

Anupama, C. (2024). Importance of Tribal Studies in Art Education. *Research Review Journal of Social Science*, 4(1), 13-15. <https://doi.org/10.31305/rrjss.2024.v04.n01.002>