



Study of Maharashtra Tribal Architecture

¹Poonam K. Thakur, ²Prof. Palash Agrawal

^{1,2}Department of Architecture, P. R. Pote College of Architecture, Amravati, Maharashtra, India

¹thakurpoonam1510@gmail.com, ²ar.palashagrawal@gmail.com

Article History

Received on: 15 April 2022

Revised on: 28 April 2022

Accepted on: 31 May 2022

Keywords: Keyword:
Tribal Community,
Resource Use,
Environmental Friendly
Art, Environmental
Conservation

ABSTRACT

Today, a world in a state of environmental degradation where a thought with its step is welcome to make usage of appropriate materials and related technology/is. Tribal is a community of people at the world's level who are contributing major in terms of appropriate materials usage and technology thereof helping in environmental protection. Gonds are the Tribal from the Gadchiroli region of Vidarbha, Maharashtra belonging to the central zone of India. Gond Tribal is continuing its specific type of Art, Culture, and Architecture related to materials available locally along with the usage of its appropriate technology. This paper is an attempt to study the Vidarbha's Tribal Art, Culture, and Architecture in terms of appropriateness to the level of being Environment-Friendly Art and Architecture.

e-ISSN: 2455-6491

**Production and hosted
by**

www.garph.org

©2021|All right reserved.

1. INTRODUCTION

The literal meaning of 'tradition' is handing down beliefs, legends, customs, and information, from generation to generation. Traditional architecture is a much wider term that encompasses vernacular, tribal, indigenous, primitive, popular, anonymous, and polite architecture. In its most basic sense, 'tradition' also means something that is transmitted. It is the process of transmission that maintains the tradition. To understand the transmission of traditional architecture in today's context, a case method was undertaken. Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India (Constitution of India, 1950) refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, that are scheduled in accordance

with Article 332 of the Constitution. This article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes. There may be other tribes in India but all statistical data is available only for the scheduled tribes. The inclusion of a community as a Scheduled Tribe is an ongoing process.

The bhils constitute one of the largest tribal groups of the Indian peninsula. the bulk of the bhil population is concentrated in the contiguous area of Maharashtra Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. the bhils are spread over the central uplands of peninsular

India. they are found scattered over a vast territory stretching across four distinct linguistic areas of Marathi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Hindi According to the 1961 census, Maharashtra state contains 5,75,022 bhils in the districts of west khandesh Dhulia, East khandesh, Nashik, and Marathwada. dhulia district alone has a bhil population of 3,00,999. Bhil is the most numerous scheduled tribe constituting 24% of the total scheduled tribal population in Maharashtra state. Today, akalkuwa, akkranimahar Nandurbar, and navapur are predominantly bhil areas of Maharashtra state. West khandesh Maharashtra is a mountainous area tapti is the principal river in that area. it is divided into a southern portion made up of tapi valley and a northern portion including the parts of satpura ranges. The present study is based on the author's fieldwork carried out in jamana and Dhadgoan villages of akalkuwa and akkranimahar during November and December.

The reason behind the research of this paper is to aware people globally of the Maharashtrian tribe's rich culture, their living style, and their art and architecture.

2. BACKGROUND

The scheduled tribes of Vidarbha have very less opportunities for income generation and are shy of urban people and urbanized society. The growth of these tribes is affected by Naxalite activities. They have traditional knowledge and skills about utilizing the available resources effectively. They follow principles of sustainability in everyday living. Urban society may learn from these tribes the principles of sustainability in coherence with the natural habitat. Taking into consideration skill-based workshops have been conducted by various NGOs and social workers. The government of Maharashtra's Tribal Research and Training Institute has been proven a successful effort toward tribal development by crossing the barriers. Today work of social worker late Baba Amte and Magsaysay award winner for his exceptional devotion to the betterment of the Madia Gond tribes of Gadchiroli is world-renowned. Gonds are further divided into five sub-tribes of Raj-Gonds, Madia-Gonds (or Maria Gonds), Dhurve Gonds, Khatuar/Khatole Gonds, and Naik Gonds. Madia Gonds (Gadchiroli District) have been notified as Primitive Tribes by the Government of India.

3. ART AND CULTURE OF MAHARASHTRA TRIBE

Traditional handicrafts from locally available wood and bamboo are done by the Gonds. Figure 1 represents the traditional practices of the Gond tribals. The traditional value of the tribals in the Mundha pillar as a mark of marriage pillar also shows their traditional techniques with the

spectacular wood carving done in the pillar. The pillar is carved out from the locally available wood in their habitat. We can term it Vernacular architecture.



Figure 1: Picture showing the Marriage pillar in central courtyard



Figure 2: Embark on worship of deities and Tribal paintings

Figure 2 shows tribal gond paintings and is heritage today. They have a typical painting style that cannot be seen elsewhere in the country. Apart from painting on paper, people of this tribe engage themselves in wall painting and floor paintings as well. These paintings serve ritualistic purposes as well as keep the surroundings harmonious and pure.

A. Tribal dances, the Demas and Gondi dances

The Gonds and the Kolam's (and also the Pradhan's) sing the Dhammas which are rituals' songs narrating the tales about their tribe, forefathers, deities, etc. Traditionally 16 Demas songs are sung when the community celebrates.



Figure 3: Gondi Dance

At a festival, they dance and sing songs. In the Hindu month of poush, on a full moon day, the ritual is performed. All the men and women dance for pleasing god Persapen. The Dhol of big size is the main instrument for this dance. One person who is the leader of this dancing group takes the initiative and holds a flag at the loft of a long stick. Two Dhol beaters beat the Dhol with sticks. The movements and footsteps are very soft and rhythmic. The men and women put on typical dresses. The women wear saree up to the knees and keep the part above the waist (bosom) uncovered. They put on profuse silver ornaments and flowers and ribbons on their head. Musical bells are put on, around the feet, i.e., in the form of anklets, around the waist, etc. The men folk put on a loin cloth or a short dhoti and take gond (Tassels) in their hands. The chief dancer puts on a crown of peacock feathers on his head, has musical bells around his waist, and garlands of flowers around the neck. The rhythmic movement of the hands and feet of all the dancers is most thrilling. Duff, is a typical type of instrument.

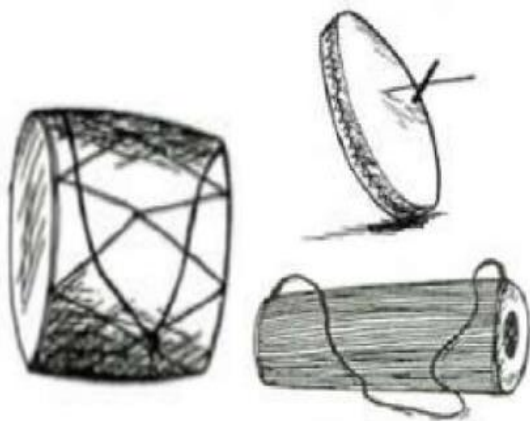


Figure 4: Duff/Daf and Pagai

Kingri, a typical instrument simulating violin is used by the Gonds and Kolams but particularly by the Pardhans who are called the minstrels oh the Gonds. The Pardhans who plays a Thoti. He sings songs about their forefathers while playing this instrument. Wind instruments like blowpipes or their modifications may also be added at the time of a dance. The Relaas is a dance of the Madia Gonds and is also very famous.

B. Life Style

The lifestyle of the Gond Tribals This tribe is classified as a primitive tribe category. They still lead the primitive way of life. People belonging to this are mainly dependent on their day-to-day needs such as firewood, small timbers, grass, etc. In the forest. They are mainly organized into small villages. A chief heads the tribe, and a committee of elders leads each village. The chief serves as a judge of all tribal disputes, while the elders have legal authority over their villages. Gond kingship is patriarchal and the line of descent is traced patrilineally.



Figure 4: Madia Gond tribes, Gadchiroli

C. Housing Type

Typical housing patterns of the Gonds in Gadchiroli, Mendha Lekha, Dhanora, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. Typical Spatial analysis of houses in Mendha Lekha Ghotul is a typical space to gather the people of the village, purposefully for the main head of the village to take out decisions with the people. Another purpose is to have cultural folk dances and events which is a peculiar dance form of the Gond tribals, especially the Madias. At a big dance, the trained band occupies the inner ring round the fire, while the common folk men and maids in separate rings move round in great circles in opposite ways. All are dressed for the occasion in their best, bearing in their hands, weird ornaments of wickerwork, with garlands of flowers. A media dance is a spectacular dance in the Ghotul.

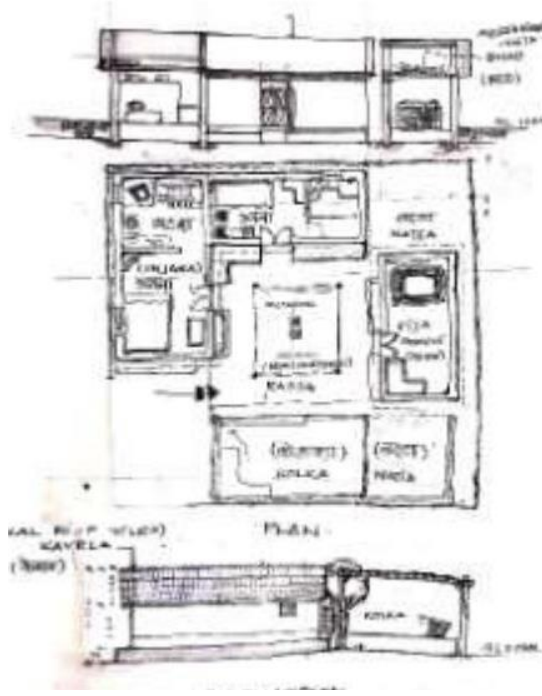


Figure 5: Housing Type 1 Darro Family (Sketch by Author)



Figure 6: Roof patterns in traditional Gond tribals

The photographs of the traditional wall designs and roof constructions depict the tribals' close connectivity with nature. The floral designs are seen in the windows of the buildings. The roof is constructed from the locally available wood and bamboo in their vicinity. The clay tiles are used as roofing patterns and are constructed in mud.

IV. MAHARASHTRA ARCHITECTURE

A. Cave Architecture

Designing will be based on the lifestyle of the particular village with vernacular architecture and sustainable implementing development.

- The use of local materials to maintain nature. Maharashtra is famous for its caves and rock-cut architecture.

- Hindu cave temples at Ellora and Ajanta became the finest designs of human art.
- Some of India's oldest wall paintings can be seen here.
- Maharashtra's famous rock-cut caves have several distinct design elements; even though sculptures of the time are regarded to be so stiff and unmoving.
- The Buddhist caves particularly the older ones are either temples (Chaityas) or monasteries (Viharas).

B. Rock Cut Architecture

- Rock-cut architectures are also found in the countries like Egypt, Assyria, Persia, and Greece, but not so wide as the kinds of Maharashtra's caves.
- In this type, the visualized final product is carved from a huge rock.
- Elephanta and Ellora are the best examples of cave architectures.

V. MAHARASHTRA ART & CRAFTS

Maharashtra handicrafts are rich in variety and selection. Maharashtra handicraft industry produces many unique and interesting crafts of Maharashtra that are used for daily needs.

- A standout contribution from the city of Aurangabad to the sphere of art, the Bidriwar is created by a careful mixture of copper and zinc.



Figure 7: Bidriwar

- These are also garnished by the use of silver
- In earlier days, these items served as Hookahs or Paan Daans for the royals and the wealthy.

Kolhapuri Chappals: The city of Kolhapur also has a huge tradition of arts. These are also garnished by the use of silver. One such great contribution of the city to art is the Kolhapuri chappals. Crafted out of fine leather, these chappals are extremely comfortable and classy to wear. All of these are specially crafted by hand.



Figure 8: Kolhapuri Chapples

Hand-made leather chappals and sandals of the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra are world-famous.

Kolhapuri Jewellery: Kolhapur is famous for its special type of necklace called Kolhapuri saaj. This jewellery is very much special for Maharashtrian women. Har and malas, mohanmal, bormal, chaplahar, kolhapuri saaj, pohehar, and putlihar are the jewellerys that are made in Kolhapur.



Figure 9: Kolhapuri Jewellery

These names are derived from the peculiar shapes Of the jewellerys. Thushi, a choker with closely bound tiny gold beads, is very popular in Kolhapur.

Paithani Saris: Hailing from the wealthy region Paithan region, the Paithani Saree is a form of garment worn by traditional women there. These sarees are one of the most expensive in the world as they are made out of the highest grade of silk which is specially woven by hand. This tradition too is with them for more than 2000 years.



Figure 10: Paithani Saris

Warli Painting: Warli paintings are the tribal wall paintings of the warli tribes of Maharashtra. Warlis are the largest tribes of Maharashtra and live on the northern outskirts of Mumbai.

- Women folks mainly do the paintings on the mud walls of the houses. Warli painting, which is compared similarly to the famous Madhubani paintings of Bihar
- Warli paintings generally show the normal life-like images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life.
- White is the only colour used in creating these paintings, with occasional dots in red and yellow. This colour is prepared by grounding rice into a white powder.



Figure 11: Warli Painting

C. Architectural Elements in Craft



Figure 12: Jalis



Figure 13: Diya's



Figure 13: Seating arrangement for public use

CONCLUSION

The art and architecture of Gond Tribals are endogenous. Their rituals and practices continued them to follow biodiversity in nature. The use of local materials for construction and practices used for daily livelihood are environmentally friendly. Today, these tribals are on the list of endangered species especially in Gadchiroli due to Naxal activities. A need has to be observed to embark on these heritage tribes and their art and cultural traditional activities to sustain nature.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

FUNDING SUPPORT

The author declares that they have no funding support for this study.

REFERENCES

- [1] Constitution of India . (1950). In D. B. India, Constitution of India .ignca.nic.in,Utsavpedia. (n.d.).
- [2] India, G. O. (n.d.). (Source: <http://gadchiroli.nic.in>).
- [3] INDIA, G. O. (2011). Census 2011. GADCHIROLI. India, G. o. (2013). 6. Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013, by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statistical Division, .
- [4] INTERNET. (n.d.). <http://gadchiroli.gov.in> accessed on. (2017). Gadchiroli. (Source book: sampada) . (n.d.).
- [5] S G Deogaonkar. (Jan 2008). Traditional handicrafts of the Gond tribes of Vidarbha, Maharashtra. NISCAIR online periodical Volume no 7(1), pp53-554.
- [6] Ms. Aboli S. Hiwarkar, Mrs. Kalpana R. Thakare, "EnvironmentFriendlyArt and Architecture practices by Gond Tribals of Gadchiroli District, Vidarbha", IOSR Journal of Engineering (IOSRJEN), International Conference on Innovation & Research in Engineering, Science & Technology, PP 82-959