

A Study of Chhattisgarh Clothing and its Impact on Society

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Abstract

This paper presents a study of the traditional clothing of Chhattisgarh, a state in India, and its impact on society. An analysis of literature and interviews conducted with local people reveals that the traditional clothing is an important part of cultural identity and also reflects the economic and social status of individuals in the region. It is found that traditional clothing plays an important role in shaping the identity of people by representing the geographical, cultural and religious values of the region. The clothing also serves as a source of livelihood for many small-scale producers, as well as a source of symbolic capital for individuals in their social and economic lives. The paper concludes that the traditional clothing has a positive impact on social and economic development in Chhattisgarh and should be preserved to ensure that it continues to serve as an important part of regional identity.

Key Words- clothing, fashion, culture, tradition, identity, traditional weaves, modern trends,

Introduction

Chhattisgarh is a state of India . It was formed on 1 November 2000 and is the 26th state of India . Earlier it was under Madhya Pradesh . According to Dr. Hiralal, Chhattisgarh can be a corruption of ' Chedishgarh ' . It is said that there were 36 forts in this area at one time, that is why it got its name Chhattisgarh. But there was no change in the name even after the increase in the number of forts, Chhattisgarh is such a state of India which has been given the status of 'Mahtari' (Mother). There are two regions in India whose name changed due to special reasons - one is ' Magadha ' which became " Bihar " due to abundance of Buddhist Viharas and the other is ' Dakshin Kaushal '!' Which became "Chhattisgarh" because of keeping Chhattisgarh in itself. But both these regions have been making India proud since

very ancient times. "Chhattisgarh" has been the center of development of various cultures since Vedic and mythological times. The ancient temples here and their ruins indicate that Vaishnava , Shaiva , Shakta , Buddhist cultures have had influence here in different times. A resource-rich state, it is a source of electricity and steel for the country, producing 15% of the total steel. Chhattisgarh is one of the fastest developing states in India.

Chhattisgarh is bordered by Uttar Pradesh to the north and Shahdol division of Madhya Pradesh to the northwest , Orissa and Jharkhand to the northeast, Telangana to the south , Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to the west . This state is surrounded by high and low mountain ranges with dense forests. Here sal , teak , saja and beea and bamboo trees abound. Most mixed forest is found here. Some advanced varieties of teak are also found in the forests of Chhattisgarh. Mahanadi in the middle of Chhattisgarh region And its tributaries form a vast and fertile plain, which is about 80 km wide and 322 km long. This plain is about 300 meters above sea level. To the west of this plain is the Doab of Mahanadi and Shivnath . Within this plain region are Raipur , Durg and the southern part of Bilaspur district. It is also called the rice bowl because of the abundance of paddy production. To the north of the plains is the Maikal mountain range . The highest land of Surguja is in the northeast. In the east there are small hills of Orissa and in the southeast are the mountain horns of Sihawa . Bastar in the south is also full of hills. There are three natural divisions of Chhattisgarh: In the north The Satpuras , the plains of the Mahanadi and its tributaries in the centre, and the Bastar Plateau in the south. The major rivers of the state are Mahanadi , Shivnath , Kharun, Sondhur, Arpa, Pari and Indravati river .

Clothing is reflective of one's identity in a particular region, not just in terms of physical appearance but also in one's social and economic identity. Traditional clothing is a part of a region's cultural identity, and it serves to integrate local communities. This is especially true for Chhattisgarh, a state in central India, where traditional clothing is highly visible and rooted deeply in the culture. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the traditional clothing of Chhattisgarh, its impact on local communities, and what implications it has on economic and social development in the region.

Literature Review

Traditional clothing in Chhattisgarh is an important part of cultural identity, as it is deeply rooted in the culture of the region. Studies have shown that traditional clothing serves as a source of symbolic capital and identity, in that it demonstrates the social and economic status

of an individual (Chaudhuri and Akhtar, 2011). It is also a source of livelihood for people in the region, as production and sale of traditional clothing is a thriving economic sector (Khan, 2017). However, traditional clothing is also seen as a source of community cohesion, as it helps to integrate members of different communities and reinforce shared cultural values (Garg and Kolhatkar, 2014).

In addition to its role in providing symbolic capital and community cohesion, traditional clothing also plays an important role in preserving local cultural heritage. Studies have shown that traditional clothing provides a link between the past, present, and future of a region, allowing individuals to express their core beliefs and values (Jain, 2016). This is important for societies in transition, as traditional clothing is a symbol of the collective identity of the community and is seen as a form of resistance to those forces that attempt to suppress local culture (Kumar and Santhosh, 2017).

Methodology

In order to understand the impact that traditional clothing has on society, this research conducted semi-structured interviews with sixteen people living in Chhattisgarh. The study included people from a variety of backgrounds, including those with a local, regional, and national perspective. Interviewees were asked about their opinions on the traditional clothing of Chhattisgarh and how it reflects their identity in the region. In addition, the research looked at literature from academic journals, books, reports, and other sources to gain a further understanding of the effects of traditional clothing.

Results and Discussion

Chhattisgarh, the 10th largest state of India is rich in culture, heritage, and immense diversity of various ethnic groups. The widespread forests and distinct geographical features are some of the prime attractions inherent to this region. However, what truly adds to the cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh is the presence of several tribal and ethnic groups, especially their creative and unique take on fabrics and apparels. The women of Chhattisgarh are famous for wearing 'Lugda' (sari) and 'Polkha' (blouse) along with attractive ornaments and jewels which was also an integral part of the culture and heritage. Another prominent fabric making technique which is used worldwide today is Batik, a gift from the heritage of Chhattisgarh

The results of this research revealed that traditional clothing of Chhattisgarh is an important part of the identity of locals in the state. It is seen as a source of pride and

connection to the local culture, as well as a source of symbolic capital for those who are able to wear it. The study also found that traditional clothing plays an important role in the economic life of the region, as it serves as a source of livelihood for many small-scale producers. Additionally, the research highlighted that traditional clothing is a source of community cohesion, as it helps to integrate members of different communities and reinforces shared cultural values.

Conclusion

The traditional clothing of Chhattisgarh plays an important role in the region's social and economic development. It is an important part of cultural identity, as it serves to reinforce the collective identity of the community and is seen as an important means of protecting local culture. In addition, traditional clothing is also a source of livelihood for many small-scale producers and is an important source of symbolic capital for those who are able to wear it. This research has demonstrated that traditional clothing has a positive impact on social and economic development in Chhattisgarh and should be preserved in order to ensure that it continues to serve as an important part of regional identity.

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