

**ROLE OF INDIAN MUSICAL TRADITION IN UPHOLDING HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM**

**Dr. Ramachandran T.S.**

Assistant Professor in English,

Bhatratheya Vidya Nikethan college of Teacher Education Kallekkad, Palakkad.

**ABSTRACT**

The musical tradition of India, with all its diversities and depth, has played an unquestionable role in ensuring the harmonious development of Indian Knowledge System – IKS. This study explores how far the Indian musical tradition could contribute to enrich and empower IKS in its ideological, philosophical, spiritual, aesthetic and educational dimensions. The powerful blend of melody (Raga) and Rythm (Thala) of Indian musical system is found to be reflecting cosmic harmony, which truly symbolizes the unity of human consciousness with the universe in its genuine spirit. Moreover, the power of Indian music in enhancing cognitive, emotive and spiritual development is also discuss in view of Yoga and Meditation. The musical knowledge of India could play a vital role in preserving, transforming and popularizing our cultural legacy, any at resilience of traditional wisdom and world peace. The findings suggest that integration of India’s musical tradition into our general educational practices could ensure a balanced and culturally enriched knowledge system during the days to come.

**Definitions of keywords:**

- Musical tradition: A set of musical practices, beliefs, instruments and stylistic elements preserved within a culture or community over time.
- Harmonious development: The way the inherited powers and ability are developed simultaneously, that to in a balanced way.

**Introduction**

India is popular not only for its diversity in geographical, cultural or social aspects, but for the unique and pioneering contributions to the world of knowledge. This begins from the Vedic period and moves ahead with the same charm and spirit in all areas of human civilization till date. The cultural identity is evolved and made distinctly perfect out of continuous observation, experimentation, refinement, contemplation and dedication over years. Since this platform provide sufficient space for all faculties of knowledge, our culture is considered as the confluence of knowledge and wisdom of all ages as well.

**Need and significance of study**

Each of the citizens of India is supposed to have a general and deep awareness regarding the rich cultural heritage of the nation. Students, teachers, writers, artists, journalists and researchers need to know more of it, especially the contributions of art, music and literary forms in the acculturation process. The close and deep awareness helps to analyse history in its genuine perspectives and also to initiate promoting our culture through innovation, improvisation and creativity. This will also provide pathways for strengthening the nation with power, vigour, self esteem and wisdom.

In this circumstance the researcher intends to explore the musical tradition of India in the process of strengthening the unique culture leading to harmonious development of Indian Knowledge System – IKS.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To know the unique features and the identity of the cultural background of India.
2. To explore the history of Indian musical tradition which attained popularity across the globe over years.
3. To identify the unique features of various musical system and musical instruments which acted as impetus to the later musical culture in India.
4. To know more about the contributors who dedicated their lives for enriching and popularizing music by way of innovations and improvisations.
5. To develop a sense of emotional respect and adoration towards the rich cultural heritage of India.

### **Method followed**

Descriptive analysis

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

Indian musical tradition and the contribution towards the knowledge system of the nation is remarkable and prestigious. Indian folk music is the form of regional folk tradition with immense charm and sweetness, which later contributed to melodies. Vedas, especially Samaveda which is dedicated to music carries melodies and religious chanting has put the foundation of classical music (1200 – 600 BCE) of the present. Vedas introduced the concept of swara system or musical notes which are the backbone of Indian classical music which later located 'Ragas'. Chanting of mantras and hymns along with rhythmic pattern and beats were treated as the early form of music. Vedas with its rich literary and musical effects paved the foundation of Indian music. Emotive and intricate use of ragas which is the configuration of swaras along with musical scales had warm reception in the world of music.

India is the birth place of spiritual and meditative musical forms. Bhajans, kirtans, Sufis and quavali musical form acquired universal appeal and could invite huge number of audiences. Indian classical music spreads across Karnatic and Hindustani branches. Musical instruments in India are the highlight of our tradition. This include traditional Rudra veena (by lord Siva), Veena (Narada muni) along with sitar, flute, tabla, sarod, sahnai, sarangi, mridangam, violin etc. Rudra veena is the king of Indian instruments where as Saraswathi veena, the national instrument.

Traditional Indian dance forms like bharatanatyam, kuchippudi, mohiniyattam, kathakali, kathak etc., have influenced contemporary dance and choreography across the globe. Pioneering institutions which promoted Indian art forms including music are Santhinikethan, Kalakshethra, Kerala kalamandalam and Pune film institute. Tansen, Pandit Ravisankar, Pandit Bismillahkhan, Lalgudi Jayaraman, Amjat Alikhan, Hariprasad Chourasya, M.S. Subhalakshmi, Pandit Jasraj and Bhim Sen Joshi are some among the contributors to Indian music. Contributions of Syama Sasthrikal, Deekshithar and Puranthara Das to Karnatic music are remarkable.

The film world is indebted to Satyajith Ray, R.D. Barman, Latha Mankeshkar, S.P.Balasubrahmaniam, Dr.K.J.Yesudas, Ilayaraja and A.R.Rahman for their invaluable contributions for popularizing Indian version of music. Instrumental fusion is another innovation that comes as a part of this system. Contributions and innovative improvisation of innumerable musicians also make the knowledge system of India rich and popular. It is found that the richness and identity of Indian Knowledge System by and large is indebted to the musical tradition of India.

### **Findings and conclusion**

Indian Knowledge System is deep, wide, dense and rich as it encompasses diversified fields of knowledge namely art, music, literature, philosophy, mathematics, science, architecture, astronomy, ayurveda and the like. Hence it is a confluence of ancient texts like the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads which discuss and explore even abstract concepts like Dharma(duty), Karma(action and consequences) and Moksha(liberation). IKS is unique and outstanding as it integrates various strategies for acquiring knowledge such as empirical observation, logical reasoning and spiritual insight. At the same time Indian musical system is also unique in the sense that both the folk and classical music are deep rooted in ancient works like Natyasastra and other diverse regional traditions. The system emphasises and highlights the concepts like raga (melodic framework), tala (rhythmic cycle) and laya or tempo. Hence pace of performance and separation of sounds by time get prominence in the presentations. All these together transmit not only the emotions but the celestial pleasure to both the listeners and the performers. This is how Indian musical system incorporates elements of spirituality and rituals with music for achieving transcendence.

The craft of upholding human experience, emotions, thoughts, creativity and reverence towards nature-within and around-is really supreme, powerful and also challenging. The under currents in IKS and Indian musical tradition highlights a holistic approach for understanding the universe and human experience along with its strength and limitations in a noble, ideal and aesthetic spirit. Indian music and knowledge system are interwined with musical compositions. This always reflects philosophical ideas and knowledge principles which influences musical theory and practices.

### **References**

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