

A STUDY OF THE PREMIER ART EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF ODISHA: EXPLORING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ART EDUCATION IN THE STATE

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Abstract

Before Independence, visual art wasn't much promoted in India and limited to the imperial cities of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Delhi and Lucknow. For government purposes the British started art colleges in different cities like Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Lucknow, where the pattern of education was mostly British. Thereafter to preserve the Indian art culture an Ashram was established at Bolpur, Shantiniketan by Sri Rabrinath Tagore. After that the ashram was named as Viswabharati University. During this time art movement in Odisha was not even started, because the common people didn't even know about art and culture that was being developed throughout the country. The discussions about the rich tradition of sculpture and paintings present in the ancient temples and caves were not being done among the common people. The reason behind this fate is that the socio economic factor of Odisha was extremely poor. Some selective people like the Maharajas and Jamidars who had an enormous amount of money capital became interested in the art movement. They helped a lot in starting the art movement in Odisha. Some of them drew paintings and sculptures for their courts by the painters and sculptures of Madras and Calcutta. In Odisha the quantities of artists were able to make their stand in this Art profession. This doesn't mean that the people of Odisha didn't appreciate art. In spite of the poor condition of the artists of Odisha they didn't forget about the importance of art practice. By the financial help of the noble Jamidars and Maharajas the people of Odisha were able to improve art practice by studying in Bombay, Madras, Lucknow, Shantiniketan and Calcutta. After independence an Art School was established in Jeypore, 10 years later in the year 1957 govt started to setup art school at Khallikote and in the year 1984 B.K. College of Art and Crafts was established at Bhubaneswar. Up until 1957 one had to think a lot about how to get a job after completing art education. Firstly a post of art teacher was introduced in the Jila School and High School. Thereafter various jobs were introduced and the students studying outside were engaged in these jobs. Slowly and steadily the Art education expanded. For this reason the Art Movement improved a lot and more and more people were interested to study Fine Art.

Key Words: Art Education of Odisha, Primior Art Education of Odisha, Art College of Odisha, B. K. College of Art and Crafts, Govt. College of Art and Crafts Khalicot, Sir Vikram Dev School of Art and Crafts, Jeypore Odisha.

INTRODUCTION

Before Independence, visual art wasn't much promoted in India and limited to the imperial cities of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Delhi and Lucknow. For government purposes the British started art colleges in different cities like Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Lucknow, where the pattern of education was mostly British. Thereafter to preserve the Indian art culture an Ashram was established at Bolpur, Shantiniketan by Sri Rabrinath Tagore. After that the ashram was named as Viswabharati University.

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Art Education in Odisha

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Earlier in the late sixties, a group of creative artists under the banner of the Working Artists Association with a move to acknowledge new experiments in art and recognizing the younger generation in the field of art, began working in Bhubaneswar. They organized state and national level exhibitions, seminars, slide shows and publication of books on Odishan contemporary artists. The activities helped the Odishan art sphere develop in a new direction of Quality Art Education. This constant trial by the senior artists involved in the Association motivated the younger generation to prove their worth. I also fondly recollect the contributions of a few other art organizations which had worked to improve the situation of contemporary art in Odisha. These are the Charukala Parishad, Silpi Samsad, Ganjam Kala Parishad and Odisha Tourism Development Corporation. Chitra Vithi, the art gallery started by the Tourism Corporation was perhaps the first major attempt, which of course failed. Similarly, the attempts of Silpi Samsad to run a school of art at Bhubaneswar also failed after initial success. I like to mention the names of artists who had been involved in all these art movements. They were Ananta Panda, Kasinath Jena, D.N. Rao, Chandrasekhar Rao, Dinanath Pathy, Siba Panigrahi, Asim Basu, Asit Mukherjee, Jagdish Chandra Kanungo and others.

Government College of Art and Crafts, Khallikote, Ganjam, Odisha.

In the year 15.9.1957 GOVT of Odisha, established an art school at Khallikote in the district of Ganjam. The school being a prestigious institution of the state was inaugurated by a philosopher, educationist, noted politician and the then vice president of India Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan in the presence of the then chief minister of the state Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab, the then education minister Mr. Lingaraj Panigrahi, the then law minister Mr. Dinabandhu Sahoo and the Rajasaheb of Khallikote Ramachandra Mardaraj Deo on 13.06.1958. Before that the Govt of Odisha purchased the Khallikote Palace from the Rajasaheb Ramachandra Mardaraj Deo.



Fig.1 Govt. College of Art and Crafts, Khalicot, Ganjam, Odisha

In the initial stages of the institution Sri Sarat Chandra Debo educated from London was appointed as principal of the school Sri Gopala Kanungo educated from Govt College of Art and Crafts Calcutta as a lecturer of painting, Sri Bipra Charan Mohanty educated from Govt College of Art and Crafts Calcutta as a lecturer in sculpture, Sri Bipin Bihari Choudhury educated in London as a lecturer and Sri Rabi Narayan Nayak educated from Kala Bhavan Shantiniketan as instructor in crafts.

The above artists are the foundation of the art education of Odisha. These artists being educated from prestigious institutions in India and abroad have stated their importance in the initial art field. Let's discuss about their artwork.

Sir Vikram Dev School of Art and Crafts, Jeypore Sri Vikram School of Arts and Crafts Jeypore was established in 1946 by the late Maharaja Vikram Dev Verma. This school is now maintained by the Govt. of Odisha. Next year he started Jeypore College with 49 students on 01.07.1947 and afterwards its name is changed to Vikram Deb College Jeypore.

The State Government is working on a proposal to upgrade the six-decade-old Vikram Dev School of Art and Craft at Jeypore as a degree college from the current academic session. From now on, the school will be known as Vikram Dev College of Art and Craft. Sources in the Culture Department said. Culture Secretary Gopinath Mohanty set up a committee comprising Orissa Lalit Kala Akadami secretary Chandramani Biwal, Utkal University of Culture's officer on special duty Sri Bhawani Charan Biswal and B.K. College of Art and Craft (BKCAC) principal A.C. Sahoo, to have an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. It has recommended introduction of Bachelor's Degree programme in visual art under the Utkal University of Culture from the current academic year.

B.K. College of Art and Crafts, Bhubaneswar

B.K. College of Art & Crafts has been functioning under the administrative control of the Department of Culture, Government of Orissa Bhubaneswar since 1984.

Bhubaneswar the Capital City, synthesizes the tradition and the modern in every facets of life and culture; thus provides a backdrop of centuries old artistic creativity reflected in its great temples and monuments. 2000 years ago, Sculptural art tradition was started by the greatest emperor of Kalinga - Kharavela the Great at the foothills of Khandagiri and Udayagiri. This induces an atmosphere of incessant art activity in the city. The college of Art and Crafts is dedicated in loving memory of Late Bibhuti Kanungo, an eminent painter, graphic designer and art educationist of Orissa.



Fig.-2 B.K. College of Art and Crafts, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

The B.K. College of Art & Crafts started in a rented house at Tankapani Road ,Bhubaneswar then at K-6 B.J.B. Nagar, Bhubaneswar till 1985 then it shifted to its current building at the footsteps of Khandagiri & Udayagiri hills and Dr. Dinanath Pathy, renowned painter of India, poet, writer, visualize, art historian was appointed as the principal of this great institution. The first phases of teachers are: Sri Siba Panigrahi, Lecturer in painting, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote, Sri Baladev Maharatha, Lecturer in applied art, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote, Sri Chandra Kumar Samantray, Lecturer in sculpture educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote; after 1 year Sri Debraj Sahoo, Lecture in sculpture, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote replaced him, Sri D.N. Rao, Lecturer in graphic art, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote.

In second phase- Sri Chandramani Biswal, Lecturer in art history, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote, took over the charge of Principal, Sri Alekh Chandra Sahoo, Lecturer in art history, educated from Shantiniketan and M.S. University, Baroda took over the charge of principal after Sri Chandramani Biswal, Sri Byomakesh Mohanty, Lecturer in oil painting, educated from Banaras Hindu University, Sri Damodar Behera, Lecturer in sculpture, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote replace Sri Debraj Sahoo, Sri Jayant Kumar Das, Instructor in sculpture, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote, Sri Gajendra Sahoo, Instructor in Graphic art, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote, Sri Gajendra Padhy, Lecturer in applied art, educated from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Khallikote.

CONCLUSION

In the current times the Art Educational Institutional Products (Students) are proudly claim a lion's share of success in the field of Art in global art scenario. Lots of artists in the visual art field from this institution are well established and well placed in different universities and colleges of India and in other art fields in India and abroad and are continuing their art conquest.

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