

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE TRIBAL ART OF ODISHA: A CASE STUDY OF SAURA PAINTINGS

Chandrasekhar Sethi and Ranjan Kumar Mallik

Abstract

The Saura are one of the most ancient tribes of India. Frequently reference to the tribe we found in Hindu mythology and classics more often they find mention in the Sanskrit literature, the epics, the Puranas and other religious texts. They are called by various names such as Savara, Sora etc. They were widely found all over Central India comprising Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The Saura is also an oldest major tribe of Odisha, they are found all over the state but are largely concentrated in the high land of Gajapati District and Gunupur Subdivision of Rayagada District forming a contiguous territory. They are so unique among 62 different communities of tribal of Odisha.

The Sauras are very artistic people, their artistic skill we not only revealed their wall painting but also in their dance and music. They irrespective of sex cultivate the art of dancing and singing as a matter of natural habit.

Numerically the Saura constitute one of the major scheduled tribe of Odisha. They are found in mountainous territory forming a major part of the agency tracts of the Eastern Ghats in Rayagada and Gajapati Districts in southern Odisha, which can be called the Saura Country'.

Key Words: Saura Arts, Saura Painting, Tribal Painting of Odisha, Saura Icons, motifs of Saura

INTRODUCTION

The Saura are one of the most ancient tribes of India. Frequently reference to the tribe we found in Hindu mythology and classics more often they find mention in the Sanskrit literature, the epics, the Puranas and other religious texts. They are called by various names such as Savara, Sora etc. They were widely found all over Central India comprising Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The Saura is also an oldest major tribe of Odisha, they are found all over the state but are largely concentrated in the high land of Gajapati District and Gunupur Subdivision of Rayagada District forming a contiguous territory. They are so unique among 62 different communities of tribal of Odisha.

Saura Art and Culture

The Sauras are very artistic people, their artistic skill we not only revealed their wall painting but also in their dance and music. They irrespective of sex cultivate the art of dancing and singing as a matter of natural habit.

Numerically the Saura constitute one of the major scheduled tribe of Odisha. They are found in mountainous territory forming a major part of the agency tracts of the Eastern Ghats in Rayagada and Gajapati Districts in southern Odisha, which can be called the Saura Country'.



Fig no-1 Saura Painting on Cloth

Utkal University of Culture Bhubaneswar, Odisha Faculty, Deptt of Painting B.K College of Art and Crafts Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar HOD , ASFA, Amity University Gurgaon

Correspondence and Reprint Requests: Chandrasekhar Sethi

Received: June, 20 2017 | **Accepted:** July, 6 2017 | **Published Online:** August, 28 2017

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0)

Conflict of interest: None declared | **Source of funding:** Nil



Fig no-2 Saura Painting on Wall, Natural Colour

They are the believers of religious practices and dynamic Parthenon of countless deities and spirits both benevolent and malevolent as that of the Lanjia Saura, they are worshiped with fear and anxiety and offered sacrifices to provide and wellbeing of the people and religious permeates all aspects of their life.

They have no concept of a supreme deity. In different parts different Gods are considered supreme moreover there can be no standard catalogue for these Gods for the list continually changes as new ones are introduced and old ones forgotten. But all the varied aspects of their environment are associated with some God or other. The Gods differ from one another in composition, function character and nature, some are benevolent, some are natural and some malevolent.

To keep the Gods and spirits in good humor the Saura, they make their famous wall painting or icons known as italons initial, or dital inside the house. The icons which contain sketches of human beings airplanes animals, plant, hill, forest, tree, moon, sun, tiger, bird etc are very simple but difficult to understand. Icon is painted to flatter and please the Gods and ancestors so that they may spare the icons as wall painting.

In the Saura society it is incumbent on the part of Kudan to have a detailed knowledge about the supernatural beings, their characteristics, Physical features and the nature of the troubles they create for the people so he paint the right icons for exact supernatural powers and he has the social and magical power for the purpose. The Saura are very much believed on spirit of supernatural power. Most of the tribal and primitive communities simply believed on spirit but they believed that health and continuity of life are natural but disease, sickness and death are unnatural and happening by the malevolent power so they first identify the spirit by the Kudan in a specific way with necessary arrangement, the

spirit detected by the kudan and draw the necessary and required icon for same spirit to recovery from the illness. Kudan paint the drawings of icon on the wall and it is the first act of ritual divination.



Fig No-3 Saura Art, Painted Icons on Mud Wall

In Saura tradition icon play a major role from birth to till death. It has grown out of the very basic structure of Saura life and social system. It is therefore imperative to study Saura icons from textural and contextual view points. The general format of the icon is in the form of a house as like rectangular or square space is order to the size of the wall. The formats may painted horizontally or vertically enclosed by a decorated border all round rendered with hatching lines and conical wavy lines. Four corners of these borders are decorated with circular motifs resembling follower and etc.

The Saura artists paint their icon in a artistic way without any preliminary sketch. They do it in unique style and remarkable simplicity. The materials required for painting are simple and available in locality. They used red colour for background and obtained from the red clay and white from rice, chalk and lime with mixing of water. They can also used white, yellow, blue and black to heighten the visual effect.

The purpose are:

1. Adverting any mishap including illness in the family.
2. Satisfying deities and ancestral spirits.
3. Boosting a bumper crop and improving the fertility of the soil.
4. Ensuring easy delivery of child etc.

For the understanding saora art it can be divided in two category:-

1. Sacred Art, 2. Secular Art.

But as per the annual cycle of rituals it can also be categorized as:-

1. Regular Icon, 2. Situational

CONCUSSION

In research paper, the connection they paint their art in a Specific manner and style. The main significant icons (image of deities) are Uyung sum, kitam sum, Labo sum, Judi sum, Mandua sum, Gangi Sum, Rauda Sum, karaja indobai sum etc. The motifs of Saura icons are significance because of its unique style and design. It is also a creative skill of Saura to create some thing new for their willing

Reference

1. https://www.google.co.in/search?biw=1366&bih=591&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=saura+painting++of+odisha++map&oq=saura+painting++of+odisha++map&gs_l=psy-ab.12...1560699.1567085.0.1569867.15.15.0.0.0.0.289.1957.0j4j5.9.0....0...1.1.64.psy-ab..6.0.0.gFyDZEJxnk#imgrc=Ze4pW-9RI_OBFM
2. https://www.google.co.in/search?biw=1366&bih=591&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=saura+painting++of+odisha++map&oq=saura+painting++of+odisha++map&gs_l=psy-ab.12...1560699.1567085.0.1569867.15.15.0.0.0.0.289.1957.0j4j5.9.0....0...1.1.64.psy-ab..6.0.0.gFyDZEJxnk#imgrc=aTUu5D6Q0pmq2M
3. https://www.google.co.in/search?biw=1366&bih=591&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=saura+icon+of+odisha+&oq=saura+icon+of+odisha+&gs_l=psy-ab.12...144284.151032.0.153067.5.5.0.0.0.0.252.986.0j4j1.5.0....0...1.1.64.psy-ab..0.0.0.cgsAvmJa-BI#imgrc=8e57UxFdOCiiyM
4. Bebartha, Prafulla Chandra; concept of Disease and therapeutic practice Among Hill Saoras of Odisha-1959.
5. Mishra, Umesh Chandra ; Tribal painting and sculpture-1989.
6. Pathy, Dinanath; the painted icons, wall paintings of saoras of south Orissa-1996.
7. Tribal Art, Primitivism and modern relevance, WAA Odisha
8. Roy BC- Tribal of Orissa, the Changing Socio-Economic profile.
9. Singh, Bhupinder ; Saora Highlends – 1984.
10. Elwin, Verrier – the religion or an Indian tribe- 1955
The tribal act of – middle India 1995
