

1. INTRODUCTION

“BHAND-MARASI”

A Folk-Form of Punjabi theatre

Bhand-Marasi is a Folk-Form of Punjabi theatre. My project is based on Punjabi folk-forms. I am unable to work on all the existing folk-forms of Punjab because of limited budget & time span. By taking in concern the current situation of the Punjabi folk theatre, I together with my whole group, strongly feel that we should put some effort in preventing this particular folk-form from being extinct. Bhand-Marasi had been one of the chief folk-form of celebration in Punjabi culture. Nowadays, people don't have much time to plan longer celebrations at homes since the concept of marriage palaces & banquet halls has arrived & is in vogue these days to celebrate any occasion in the family. Earlier, these Bhand-Marasis used to reach people's home after they would get the wind of any auspicious tiding & perform in their courtyard; singing holy song, dancing, mimic, becoming characters of the host family & making or enacting funny stories about these family members & to wind up they would pray for the family's well-being. But in the present era, their job of entertaining the people has been seized by the local orchestra people. Thus, the successors of these Bhand-Marasis are forced to look for other jobs for their living.

2. OBJECTIVE

At present, we feel the need of “Data- Creation” of this Folk Theatre-Form of Punjab. Three regions of Punjab Majha, Malwa & Doaba differ in dialect, accent & in the folk-culture as well & this leads to the visible difference in the folk-forms of these regions. On the basis of these three regions, we will schedule our survey on “Bhand-Marasi” in the whole Punjab & finally we will reach our objective of Data- Creation. Every region will be surveyed for fifteen days. During this survey we will speak to the family elders to get into the roots of this form. We will converse with them & try to figure out what is hindering them to take this legacy forward.

3. SURVEY AREA

Punjab is divided into three parts; Majha, Malwa & Doaba. Majha is the part which falls on the west side of the Satluj & Beas Rivers, Like: Beas, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Batala, Tarantaaran etc. While Malwa includes the region between the Satluj & Beas Rivers which are Ferozepur, Faridkot, Bathinda, Mansa, Patiala ect. Doaba is the part which falls on the east side of the Satluj & Beas Rivers like: Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Fatehgarh sahib etc. We would try to cover the maximum area of Punjab.

4. IMPLIMENTATION

During the first Fifteen days we will access or survey various cities & villages of majha region and try to find out those who have been into this profession for many generations. Our focus will also remain on their current socio-economical conditions. We will converse with them & try to figure out what is hindering them to take this legacy forward. During this survey we will speak to the family

elders to get into the roots of this form. Since I belong to the Majha region of Punjab, so I would like to start this project by surveying Majha regions first as I believe that this will provide us a strong base.

Next Fifteen days are planned to survey the Doaba region of Punjab. Like we will survey the Majha region, here also we will try to gather all sort of information about the existing "Bhand-Marasi" form and its artists; the present condition of the rich folk-form Bhand-Marasi, their present side-business which they had to adopt to earn their living, their ancestral histories regarding the folk-form i.e. how it travelled from one generation to the next, how public used to enjoy it earlier, how important these Bhand-Marasi used to be during the time of a child birth, marriages, festivals or any auspicious occasion as compared to the present era . Every region of Punjab differs from each other in terms of dialect, accent & ethos. Such details will clearly be seen in our work as well. These details or nuances of a region would bring variation in our work.

Next Fifteen days will be scheduled to survey the Malwa region of Punjab. Interestingly, this is the region where one can still savour the original or pure taste of Punjabi Language and Culture. This is the region which in spite of all sort of developments or urbanisation, has still managed to save its originality & did not let the development affect the purity of its culture, dialect and even the nature & dealings of its inhabitants. Therefore, in a way the possibilities of finding a much more original form of Bahand-Marasi are higher in this region.

5. CONCLUSION

In the final session, we will create a database by putting together all the information, facts and footage regarding Bhand-Marasi form. After the survey, we will conclude by creating database & on behalf of this database we will plan our further steps to be taken in this direction. Our main objective is to preserve our folk-forms and take our rich Punjabi folk-culture amongst the Punjabi youth, providing resources and opportunities to these folk-artists so that they could come up confidently and could make an effort or be able to struggle for their own survival. This need not to be mentioned that their survival means the survival of our rich folk- culture; our folk-art forms.

6. DATES

The survey will be commenced from 15th July 2014 to 15th September 2014.

Dastak Bal Sabha

17-C, Officer Colony, Cantt. Road,

Near Army Recruitment Office,

Amritsar-143001, PUNJAB.

Ph. No. +919878176873