



GLOBALIZATION AND TRADITIONAL TRIBAL SPORTS OF JHARKHAND

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Sports played by a particular society developed over the years depicting their way of life and became effective in maintaining the solidarity and inclusiveness in the society. Tribal communities are the parts of the indigenous culture of India's diverse cultural heritage and so the tribal traditional sports. Many traditional tribal sports which are part of many religious-village festivals like kati played by the Santhals after the harvest season are now on the verge of disappearance due to competitive globalized and harmonized era of sports. This paper is based on primary as well as secondary data to illustrate current situation of some traditional tribal sports of Jharkhand in context of its social importance. Questionnaire is taken as the tool to collect primary data from 50 respondents. The findings shows that people are more interested in playing globally recognized sports which have mass media appearance and small community level traditional sports are no more appealing to the children. However respondents accepted that playing traditional sports and games are the means staying attached to their roots. With some altered form mainly in a sophisticated version some sports like kabaddi, Archery retains their influence in this period of globalization.

Keywords: Tribal Sports, Jharkhand, Sports and Solidarity, Globalization and Traditional Sports

INTRODUCTION

Leisure, recreation, innovation and competition are some traits which are as old as human kind. Human are said to be a social animal. They love to be in group and always formed groups based on some similarities. As the time passes these groups develop their own culture. Culture is said to be that big umbrella which covers from basic food habit to the religion of the group. It includes their language, clothing style, festival, music, dance and sports. Our country India represents diversified cultural groups. Tribal society itself presents the vivid cultures showing the richness of our diversity. This paper is focused on impact of globalization on one of the important integral part of culture i.e. traditional sports and the changes occurred within the traditional sports and on their role towards society. Considering the limitation of available resources the traditional sports played by tribes of Jharkhand states are chosen to illustrate the situation of the traditional tribal sports in the regime of globalization.

Globalization

The growing interdependence or connectedness between different groups of people, regions and countries in the world in terms of social and economic relationships can be refereed as globalization. The renowned sociologist Anthony Giddens in his book "The Consequences of Modernity" defines Globalization as:

"....the intensification of world-wide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and viceversa. This is a dialectical process because such local happenings may move in an obverse direction from the very distanciated relations that shape them. Local transformation is as much a part of globalization as the lateral

extension of social connections across time and space".

Globalization is not only about global interconnections, it brings significant changes in the mode of production and communication, technological innovations, organization of labour and capital, governance way, in origin of social movements and cultural experiences. It means that globalization affects various dimensions like economical, political, social-cultural etc.

The visible impact of globalization is dominated by its economic dimensions. Many times the lustrous image shown by economic dimension of globalization undermine the social changes occurred due to the cultural and political globalization. The cultural globalization is affecting our societal norms because the role played by many social institutions has been changed due to economic globalization. Sport is an old necessary social institution which has been positively as well as negatively affected by the process of globalization. The following sections will be focused on how sports especially the tribal's traditional sports have changed due to the process of globalization.

Sports

Primarily Sport is considered as a physical activity by the scholars. Many consider sport is different from play and game. Many believe that sport is a concept originated in the industrial society with its institutional and competitive characteristics. Modern day sports have their own set of formal written rules and formal organized sports associations.

But in this paper traditional sport and game will be considered as one and used interchangeably. Because many traditional tribal sports do not have any written formal rules and many of them are on the verge of distinction. So, it is not possible for these sports to have formal organized sports associations also.

Sports as a Social Institution

Sport is an important major social activity through which culture is created and reinforced from generation to generation. They became an inseparable part of any culture. They play very significant roles as an institution of society and fulfill the following social needs within a society:

- a) By imparting the values of team - spirit, sports promote cohesiveness and brotherhood.
- b) Sport provides a strong platform for networking and in turn promotes attachment to society.
- c) Every individual connect himself/herself as a member of a society by inculcating the culture. Sport being an important cultural trait provides self-identification with others in society and so helps in building strong ethical identity.

Corporate Games are one of the best examples to project the recognition of sport's role in the globalization process. Many sports/games are used to inculcate the value of team - spirit and team work in the global corporate culture.

Traditional Sports and Games (TSG)

United Nations in its International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport mentioned in article 1.5 that

"The diversity of physical education, physical activity and sport is a basic feature of their value and appeal. Traditional and indigenous games, dances and sports, also in their modern and emerging forms, express the world's rich cultural heritage and must be protected and promoted."

United Nations (UN) mentioned in an article that TSG are at a crossroad, being a means to unveil the past to highlight the future. According to UN TSG provides a platform to express the cultural pride as well as its richness. Governments, communities and individuals can take it as a means to understand the contemporary cultural, societal and sport practices and anticipate their future evolutions. TSG also offers the solution to the growing unethical and unfair sport practices by giving an opportunity to build sustainable and ethical sport and cultural practices away from the economic aspects of sports.

The Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA) in one of its project Recall i.e. (Game of the past - sports for today) mentioned under its report 'Cultural aspects of Traditional Sports and Games' about the linkage between habitus, cultural capital and social capital. Through many scholars' articles like Mauss, Lavega, Scheuble & Wehner, Ranson etc., it is mentioned in the report that these are the building blocks of the bridge between individuals as well as individuals and community. Sport is such a perfect opening to create strong links between group members.

Habitus and Cultural Capital

In TAFISA - Recall report, Mauss (1935) talked about the relationship between society and body technique. According to Mauss, body techniques symbolic creations are close to the norms and values of the society to which they belong. Lavega (2007) explains that how "I" of each culture is projected through games. While playing, the players of traditional games are living symbols, signs and codes for the representative cultural characteristics of their society.

Social Capital

TAFISA document of 'Cultural aspects of traditional sports and games' stated that Lavega (2007), write about the links between social capital and TSG. While playing a traditional game, the player gets to know their partners, opponents belonging to their own society. It's a kind of micro - society or socio - cultural laboratory in which players learn to create bonds. Lavega said that games are the mirror of the society as Parlebas also said that "the game is a kind of emblem of a culture, for that reason the deep knowledge of playful practices is an important element to know a society".

TSG maintain a fertile soil by offering intercultural dialogue and promoting ethical values for youth empowerment and the development of peace between and within communities and societies.

Collective Memory

Scheuble & Wehner (2006) article cited in TAFISA report stated that while identifying ourselves with a society we look for tangible images or meaningful events. Certain national institutions and cultural symbols (e.g. monuments, flags, hymns, literature, and sports) are commonly-used instruments to strengthen the community identity and a feeling of togetherness.

Childhood traditional sports often provides that emotional experiences to have a common collective memory which helps a minor social group to preserve their identity. Tribes represent a group which are still struggling hard to be the part of main - stream and at the same time preserving their cultural identity.

Tribes of Jharkhand

Jharkhand state is enriched with diversified tribal culture. According to Census 2011, Jharkhand state is having a total population of 32,988,134. Out of this tribal people constitutes 8,645,042 i.e. 26.2% of the total population. There are 32 tribes in Jharkhand and out of these 8 are primitive tribes. The major tribes of Jharkhand are Santhal, Munda, Oraon, and Ho. The tribes are defined and categorized by

many anthropologists on the basis of their residence and cultural traits. D.N Majumdar, defines tribe as:

"a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous with no specialization of functions ruled by tribal officers hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes, without any social obloquy attaching to them, as it does in the caste structure, following tribal traditions, beliefs and customs, illiberal of naturalization of ideas from alien sources, above all conscious of homogeneity of ethnic and territorial integration".

Nowadays the criteria of living in an isolated hilly area are no more valid to define a tribal group. The globalization, urbanization, government policies and programs helped them to be the part of main stream. Many tribal people are now living in urban areas and doing well with the new urban way of life. They are also taking part and leading many sectors like politics, education, health and entrepreneurship/ business sector. But we must consider the fact that these tribal groups have their own social organizational structure and culture including festivals, dance, music, language, games and sports.

Sport in general is related with physical activities. Players suppose to have a good physical strength to excel in this field. Tribals of Jharkhand are well known for their strong physique. The traditional tribal sports of Jharkhand represent an immense variety of sports showing the vivid tribal culture.

Some of these survived over the years and became popular as international sports. Especially Hockey and Archery, but still Hockey is also played by many communities and it cannot be said as specific traditional tribal sports of Jharkhand. The same goes with Archery, although bow and arrow is a symbol of tribal culture but the modern archery form is different from the tribal bow and arrow, we can say that it is modern and a sophisticated version with technical equipments. Also bow and arrow is used by many communities in the past in war like times and the Archer's skills are always appraised by people.

Traditional Tribal Sports of Jharkhand

The following section is about information on some traditional tribal sports of Jharkhand like Kati, Sekkor, Chhur, Ramdel, Bahu Chor etc.. These details are collected from the web pages, documentaries as secondary sources and from answers given by primary respondents based on their childhood memories. These games do not have proper formal rules and regulation in written form, so the playing rules can vary region wise.

1. Kati

In traditional form, it is played after harvest season by Santhal. It is a game involving lot of foot work and quick reflexes. It is played between the teams each comprising of 10 members. Team members pioneered it with the skill of eye- hand-leg co-ordination. In this game every player has a kati or a semi-circular disc made of tamarind wood and a tarhi or a 6ft bamboo stick. There is a rectangular court in which all katis lie on the centre line. Players try to propel the bamboo stick with their feet to hit the opponent's kati. Every successful hit gets a score.

2. Sekkor

Traditionally, Sekkor is played by the Ho tribe. The story behind this game is that this is played between two early men and devils and eventually the early men won. The Ho tribe believes that sekkor brings rain to the region where it is played. This is a time -bound game and played between two teams.

Each team comprises of odd number players like 5-5, 7-7, 9-9, 11-11. Sekkor is made of Kusum wood in oval shape, which top is loosely attached with a string. This Egg like shaped ball is around 10 inch long and the string is about 10-15 feet long. The box made in the field is of dimension 30 x 27 feet² and it is played by hitting the sekkor of the opponent team till it goes out of a marked circle. For every hit-out of the circle team gets 5 points and the team player who puts it on the box also gets 5 points. In other words, the competition revolves around lifting and placing Sekkor from the box.

3. Chhur

This game played by tribal girls and boys in paddy fields. This is also known as chura gud or dalia Bandar. In this game players are divided into 07 members teams. Teams members are either runner or chasers/stoppers. In the field lines are scratched to demarcate sections and at each sections stoppers tried to catch the runners of opponent team. If all seven runners manage to evade the stoppers, the team earns a point. Runners are disqualified if the stoppers touch them. The total time to finish the game was 15 minutes for each team. In case none of the team acquires any points by not being able to reach the end and come back, the winners are declared based on the numbers of players disqualified as runners.

4. Bahu chor

It has been said that this game is inspired by 'Sita haran' incident mentioned in 'Ramayana'. This game is played on the principles of defence and rescue. It is played between two teams of boys or girls on a rectangular field. Each team has 07 players. The field has two circles at both ends - one in which the bahu is kept while her teammates wait in the other. Bahu tries to distract the opponent team members and her team members on a signal leave their marked area while holding their breath and spread out on the field. The aim is to get to the bahu without breaking one's breath. The opponent team members who occupy the rest of the field, on the other hand, have to stay out of reach of the advancing players and are considered to be out of game if the latter touch them.

GLOBALIZATION AND TRADITIONAL TRIBAL SPORTS

The effect of globalisation is far reaching. It affects us all but affects us differently. Similarly, many traditional tribal sports are severely negatively affected by it while some of them pave out their way to be the part of lucrative market of sports economy.

Economic Globalization and Cultural Globalization:

Some scholars are of the opinion that economic globalization promotes national sports globalization. But still this is not in favor for all.

Economic globalization is achieved through a systematic and modernized process. Under this process many local traditional games are ignored due to their lesser economic value in the global market.

The players of globally recognized sports like Hockey and Archery suppose to migrate in search of better training and life - style. It is reflected from the respondent's views that although these globalized sports provide a way for upward social mobility to the tribal players but at the same time they express their fear of losing the tribal cultural traits.

Competitive Modern Sports Vs Traditional Sports

Globalization process is pushing each and every society to be a modern society full of commercial value, utilitarian, materialism and consumerism and hedonism. This process creates a conflict with the simple society like tribal society and threatening their cultural traits. Olympic movement is also

influenced by western sports and gradually it is accepted by various countries. This is one of the reasons why western sports occupy the central space in sports development than any local traditional sports. The value of traditional tribal sports lies in its unique properties which can once again be vanished if it is modified to align with modern sports.

The competitive modern sports one side makes the sport as a career option but at the same time it ignored the social role played by sports. Out of 50 respondents 38 who have children responded that due to the current education system and competition in jobs they do not allow their children to play whenever, whatever they want. It projects that the leisure and freedom of enjoyment lies behind the traditional games are lost in modern day sports. The 27 respondents also agreed that if their children wants to play a modern day sport, it simply means extra burden on family budget because first of all the sports equipments to play these sports are costly and secondly due to urbanization they suppose to spend on transportation also just to reach the playground every day. Out of these 27 respondents 18 people spend their childhood in rural pockets of Jharkhand and shared the enjoyment they feel while playing. Although they didn't only play the traditional tribal games all the time but still they were not suppose to spend extra for playing.

Glocalisation and Harmonization of Sports

Glocalisation refers to the mixing of the global with the local. This process is neither spontaneous nor delinked with the commercial interests of globalization. So for a local cultural component to become the part of global culture it is necessary to have a commercial side. This feature affects the traditional tribal games negatively.

Globalization is concerned with having a global culture. The process of globalization brings the cultural harmonization. It means that interconnectedness affect the local as well as foreign culture and it may form a new popular culture by mixing the traits of different culture. Similarly harmonization of sport means traditionally played game developed in a systematic manner to have some formal rules and played globally. The traditional tribal games are played by small communities with locally available material. Their rules are also not written in a formal way. So outside of the tribal group very few people even heard the name of these games. In turn the audience and fan market for these sports are very less. In this way by having less commercial value, traditional tribal games are left behind in the process of glocalisation and harmonization of sports. There is not even a single company which makes the equipments for these traditional games of tribals.

In an interview one of the instructors Mr. Surinmal Sardar at Tata Kati training center replied that learning Kati means staying attached to our roots. He feared that how coming generation of urban and semi - urban areas will know about the traditional games like Kati when they are involved in playing much - hyped sports like Cricket. He specifically mentioned that in rural pockets of Jharkhand also children play football more than any traditional tribal games.

Out of 50 respondents only 02 of them answered that yes they saw children playing traditional games in rural pockets of Jharkhand in last 10 years. But none of them saw it played by the urban tribal children.

All 50 respondents said that they never saw it on market. It is only made by the old craftsmen of the rural pocket of Jharkhand. TCS also reported that even for the training centers they suppose to place an order for required wooden equipments for games like Kati and Sekkor. Normally they are not sold in the market on daily basis. Out of total 50 respondents 7 are not even aware of the fact that what is

required to play these tribal games.

Ludodiversity, Sportisation and Creolisation

The word "ludus" in Latin means 'Play'. Ludodiversity used to represent the wide diversity in games, sports, plays, physical exercises, dances and acrobatics. In the TAFISA report on 'Cultural aspects of Traditional Sports and Games' Renson (2004) connote that increasing impact of modernisation, (neo)colonisation and globalization is severely threatening the traditional sports and games and now they are like endangered species. At the same time for Digennaro (2008), the process of globalization is bringing homogeneity which is "reducing the existing diversity and, as far as ludodiversity is concerned, decreasing movement cultures and movement expressions".

Digennaro is of opinion that the process of sportisation is also facilitated by the rapid development of information and communication technology. The great appeal generated by media for a particular sport is encouraging the sporting monoculture. This monoculture is affected by the rapidly spreading import-export in sports economy.

Cultural creolisation for Spitzer (2003) means "the development of new traditions, aesthetics, and group identities out of combinations of formerly separate people and cultures".

The all 50 primary tribal respondents are of the opinion that due to the TV channels, mega sport events and International tournaments local game diversity is disappearing. They also love to watch their children participating in bigger tournament and winning prizes.

On the question of Archery 29 people responded that it is very costly for them to send their children to archery training centers and also they do not see much hope in this field in terms of economic stability for their children. It seems that Archery being a traditional tribal game lost its pleasure value and now few youths opt it as a career opportunity but do not want to only play it as a traditional sport.

Media and Sports Economy

A particular sport is produced in the form of easily consumed package for spectators by media. Media is also involved in providing important financial resources to sport in the form of broadcasting rights.

When a sport like football became a pure business and players became the "goods". The player ends up being a commodity that can be traded anywhere in the world. Then the objective behind organization of tournaments is the profit not to fulfill the needs of a society.

The modern structure of sports developed in the form of leisure rational, methodical and structured by a set of rules and a cultural code based on the honor and fair play. Initially it is adopted by the upper classes and powerful than are those with sufficient purchasing power. In a competitive sport with an economic goal it became necessary to be successful/ a winner. For this training programs and coach requirement emerged in a planned, systematic way to fulfill the needed honor and effort. Under the domination of upper class the sport for mass get converted into clubs and federations creating social inequalities and got controlled with a proper hierarchical structures and bureaucratized system throughout the world. Even the spectators for these sports are decided by upper class by tremendously commercialized and politicized organizations of the tournament.

Traditional tribal games are losing its identity in this club based modern sport culture. None of the respondents were part of any traditional tribal sports team which participated in the tournament of these sports. TCS is organizing league tournaments for preservation of these sports but the media coverage is very low. Due to this traditional tribal sports are have a long way to cross to be the part of

global sports economy.

Televised sports Vs Traditional sports: Many traditional games/sports are played by tribal community on the occasion of festivals. Many of them have a story behind them to be played at special occasion with a special function. But globalization represents sports as a lucrative business and now competitions are organized for sports. Tribals are also getting attracted towards this and it creates hindrance in conveying the social cause behind playing a particular game by a particular tribe. The traditional tribal games have no proper tournament which can be recognized even by local TV channels. The audience for these tribal games are also very less in comparison to modern sports. The new generation tribal children are also becoming the part of new audiences for televised sports. They get attracted towards the sports screened on television then playing their own local traditional games.

All 50 respondents answered that yes they watch sport tournaments of Cricket, Football, Kabaddi on television but only 3 of them said that 02 - 03 times they watch Hockey on television and none of them watched Archery competition on television. The reason they said behind this is that sports like Hockey and Archery are broadcasted very less in comparison to sports like Cricket and football.

Steps taken for Preservation of the Traditional Tribal Sports:

United Nations (UN) recognizes the importance of TSG in enhancing the intercultural dialogue and peace, in reinforcement process of youth empowerment and in promotion of ethical sport practices. For the recognition and safeguarding of TSG, Un adopted a threefold approach in year 2017. This approach was adopted by participants of third Collective Consultation on Traditional Sports and Games as an action agenda for 2017-18. The approach includes the following actions to be worked on:

- i. Elaborate Policy Guidelines on TSG on the ground of the draft Charter;
- ii. Establish an international Platform on TSG;
- iii. Develop an Online Worldwide Encyclopedia on the ground of the 2003 World Sports Encyclopedia.

Role of Government of India

On 1st December 2014, then Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram gave the information regarding govt. actions towards traditional tribal sports in a written reply in Lok Sabha as Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) are provided financial support for various activities like the conduction of cultural activities including traditional sports and taps the inherent talent of upcoming tribal folk artists, sports persons, etc. and encourages their participation at national and international events.

His reply accurately mentioned that Tribal populated state like Jharkhand has already given written order for organizing Tribal Sports competition at districts and state level which shall include traditional as well as modern games.

Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana is another scheme which focuses on Promotion of tribal sports and promotion of sports amongst tribal youths.

In Khelo India, "Promotion of Rural, Indigenous and Tribal Games" is an exclusive component to promote and develop the traditional sports.

In order to revive traditional games and for their promotion among the masses, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has also adopted the indigenous/traditional games like Kalaripayatu of Kerala, Silambam of Tamilnadu, Kabaddi of Telengana and Archery, of Jharkhand in their yearly calendar events.

Tata Steel's Tribal Cultural Society (TCS) : Set up in 1993, Tata Steel's Tribal Cultural Society (TCS) has been established in year 1993 with an objective to promote ethnic identity and tribal heritage. TCS is organizing many premier league specially for promotion and preservation of tribal sports like Sekkor premier League, Kati Premier League etc. In these events more than 1000 tribals participates to enjoy their cultural sports and also reconnecting to their roots. For these sports which are at the verge of extinctions TCS organize training camps for boys and girls with proper coach facility and also provide the payers necessary sports equipments.

Akhila Bharatiya Vanavasi Kalyana Sangha: This organization is involved promotion of sports among tribals but not particularly with traditional sports only. They organize tribal sports summit, where tribal sports person from various states came together to compete and promote the spirit of sport. In their summit more than 1 lakh tribal sports person participates. Many times some traditional tribal sport which is now well recognized at global level like Archery also became the part of these summits.

FINDINGS

Globalization make the world came together at one platform and share their culture with each other. People try to understand each other culture. When cultural traits are in written form then understanding it becomes easier for outsiders, but things like dance, music, sports cannot be understand without taking part in it. Traditional games/sports are the part of an intangible heritage forming the backbone of the community. But these TSG do not have any formal written rules and associations. So to understand these aspects of any society we should participate in the events like TSG tournaments. But as harmonization is taking place in the process of globalization many local cultural traits are now disappearing. It also have an impact on TSG, as it is losing the local regional traits due to glocalisation. United Nations also recognizes the importance of traditional games as they are an efficient means to strengthen the basic values necessary for the long -term existence of any society like solidarity, diversity, inclusiveness. These values help in development of nationalism by reflecting collective identity symbol and became an integral part of the culture. The media and economic aspects of sport decide the affective intensity of globalization on them. The TSG is different from modern day systematized and modernized sports. It seems that due to harmonization of sports we may lose our ludo-diversity.

The uneven development of our country is also visible in the field of traditional tribal sports. It points out the unbalanced approach towards the development of sports as traditional tribal sports are still not having a proper scientific system to support their development and the government spending is also not in proportion as compare to other western competitive sports. Due to the dominant western competitive sports in this globalized world school education is also ignoring value of these traditional tribal sports.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The traditional games and sports are the visible expressions of indigenous cultures and way of life. These games originated with some purpose/ a role to play in the society. Traditional games are played with local material. Players are not supposed to spend a lot of money to buy equipments as everything is locally available. People play these games with their peers where each and every one is at equal level. Here equal level means all of them have the access of necessary equipment to play a particular sport.

But in the process of globalization many of the traditional sports are trying hard to survive against harmonization of sports and some of them became a commodity for a lucrative market of sports and

losing their basic role in the society. When a sport became a business opportunity for a sector of people then, instead of building solidarity and cohesiveness in the society it starts creating division in the society. As on one side a section of people get access to the sophisticated and quality equipments for the competitive sports while others are struggling against to have an access of playground and equipments.

We do not even have the list of traditional tribal sports of Jharkhand. To promote traditional tribal sports, Government of Jharkhand can declare a year dedicated towards a particular traditional tribal sports. In the whole year tournaments and events should be organized at school, village, panchayats, blocks, district and state level for that particular sport only.

Traditional sports can provide a platform to understand tribal way of life for many researchers and development professional. By playing these games with locals they can build a good rapport with them and in turn find out the real cause behind any particular problem. So, it can be said that playing traditional tribal games can be a part of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) system for developmental works.

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