



A Study on the Objects of District Museum, Bargarh

Dr. Bhagawana Mahananda
Department of History
Barpali College, Barpali, Odisha, India

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Abstract:-

This paper highlights the various objects preserved at the District Museum, Bargarh focusing on the museum's role in safeguarding the cultural heritage of the district. Established in 1997 the museum developed slowly with significant collections spanning various eras, including archaeological objects such as Uma-Maheswara sitting bull, Brushava, Shiva-Parvati and armoury objects. The paper specifically speaks the history, culture and heritage of Bargarh district through the museum objects. It gives importance on the necessity of the district museum for the reconstruction of the history and culture of a particular district.

Keywords:- Odisha, Bargarh, Museum, History, culture heritage, archaeological objects, textile, wooden materials, ornaments, armoury objects.

Methodology:- The present work has been successful only by proper data collection through observation and interview methods. As the secondary data are not available, I only adopted primary data for the completion of this writing.

I. Introduction:-

Bargarh is one of the western most districts of Odisha. It is bounded by Chhattisgarh and a portion of Jharsuguda district on the north, Sambalpur district on the east, Sonepur and Bolangir on the south and Nuapada district on the west. The district is famous for its glorious cultural heritage. In ancient and medieval times the territory of western Odisha formed the eastern part of South Kosala. Kosala was an important Mahajanapada of Aryavarta and continued as a single unit up to the time of Mauryas. The territorial limits of South Kosala always varied depending upon the ability and power of its ruler. In the widest sense, South Kosala comprised the modern district of Raipur and Bilaspur district of Modern Chhattisgarh and Modern Sambalpur, Bargarh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi and Nuapada district of Odisha. The kingdom South Kosala was ruled by various ruling dynasties of Odisha viz. Saravapuriyas, Panduvamsis and Chauhans of Patna and Sambalpur. During their time, South Kosala was one of the strongest kingdoms of Odisha and was famous for its glorious art and architecture.

The Present Bargarh district was formed on 1st April 1993 in which two subdivisions namely Bargarh and Padampur were separated from Sambalpur district. The original name of this place was "Bagharkota" as known from an inscription of the 11th century A.D. It was named Bargarh from the time of Balaramdev, the Chauhan Raja of Sambalpur who made it for sometimes his headquarter and constructed a big fort for its protection. After the formation of the district, a museum was founded on 1st April 1997 with the initiative of Mrs. Anu Garg, the then Collector of the district in order to preserve the glorious cultural heritage of Bargarh district. The museum was started functioning in a rented house near Kalimandir Chhok adjacent to the Panchayat College Road. Now it has been shifted to Gandhi Smriti Pathagara where the museum specimens are displayed. The museum has been the tourist destination of western Odisha because the famous Nrusimhanath Temple, situated at a distance of 120 Kms from Bargarh, Kalimandir Temple, Jira river are very near to the museum. Everyday large number of visitors come to the museum from different parts of western Odisha. The number of visitors are increased during the time of Dhanuyatra which is considered to be one of the open air pendal world famous festival held in the month of Pousa every year. The District Museum Bargarh preserves different type of stone sculpture, terracotta sculpture, coins, swords, tribal ornaments, wooden toys, arms, masks etc. The collection of the museum are given below.



Archaeology:-

Archaeology gallery is famous for the image of Uma Maheswara , decorated sitting bull, Nayika which are the earliest collections of museum. The image of Brushava, Saiva with Jata, Siva-Parvati show the Saivite belief which attract the attention of the visitors. The collection of female deities are also found in the archaeology gallery. Among them the image of Parvati, women with tribhanga style , a woman carrying tree are very important.

Textile :

Bargarh is famous for its weaving of clothes . The village Barpali is situated at a distance of 20 kms from Bargarh where Gangadhara Meher , the poet of nature was born . There are large number of Meher families residing in Barapali who produce Sambalpuri sarees in their own hand and export it to the different parts of the country and abroad . The museum preserves traditional weaving instruments like Charakha , manga , wooden frame, Dungi, Varana ,Aren and many others things made of wood . The instruments are though used by the weaving community but the collections are belonged to late medieval period . These objects are showing the great traditional culture of weaving clothes in this area .

Wooden Materials :

The museum has a good collection of wooden materials . Some of the wooden materials are man riding over a horse , wooden fish , various types of toys which are beautifully displayed in a small gallery of the museum . The wooden cycle is one of the most important collections of the museum which attracts tourists and visitors .

Tribal Ornaments :

The tribal ornaments are the priceless collection of the museum . Tribal ornaments of the museum are bangles , necklace , era- stud , nose ring , pendant , waist ring etc.

Armoury Objects:

Armoury section depicting variety of ancient and medieval weapons like swords , battle axe, guns, bows and arrows speak of the military tradition of the western part of Odisha. Many freedom fighters of Bargarh district have sacrificed their life for the independence of their motherland. These swords are said to have been used by them.

Photographs:

The museum has a good collection of photographs highlighting the glorious fair festival, art and architecture of the district. Photographs of Nrusimhanath , Astasambhu , kedarnath of Ambabhana , Tridebghat , Sri Sri Shyam Bihari of Bhatli, kapildhar, photograph of Dadhibaban jio , Ratha yatra of Bhatli , Photograph of sculpture and decorative art are displayed in the museum .

Portraits :

The museum accommodates a large portrait gallery with portraits of worthy sons and freedom fighters of western Odisha who made a mark in the history of Odisha . The gallery includes portraits of Ghanashyam Panigrahi , Parvati Devi , Parvatigiri , Akekha Patra , Mahatma Gandhi , Bhagirathi Pattanaik , Veer Surendra Sai and his generals and many others .

II. Conclusion:

Thus the museum preserves the life and culture of Bargarh district. The research scholars and the students of History visit the museum. The school children from different schools of Bargarh District come to the museum with their teachers for entertainment. To attract more visitors, new display techniques are being adopted like arrangement of the objects, planning of the galleries etc. . As the museum stands near the N.H 6, the tourists and visitors easily enter into the museum during office hours. It is closed on Saturday and Govt. holidays and local holidays.

References:

- [1]. Interview with the staff of the museum.
- [2]. Observation method on all the objects of the museum.