

A REVIEW ON TRIBAL ORNAMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DONGRIA KONDH

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ABSTRACT

There are as many as 62 tribes in Odisha having different styles of living. It is seen that the women folk of the most of the tribes, wear typical ornaments made out of brass/ bell metal/ silver/ white metals made by a particular section of artisans mainly found in Rayagada, Phulbani, Gajapati, Koraput, Nawarangpur and Dhenkanal districts. The significance of this community is that they make varieties of items as per the necessity, design and motif of each ethnic group. Tribal jewellery is made by indigenous tribal artisans using local materials to create objects of adornment that contains significant cultural meaning for the wearer. With design intervention the artisans could make wide range of fashion jewellery for the modern society.

Keywords: Tribes, Ornaments, Tribal Jewellery, Artisans, Design, Motif.

Introduction

Since time immemorial, making of ornaments and adornment constitute to be an integral part of art and aesthetics of tribal life. The original format of jewellery that is made out of bone, wood, clay, shells, and crude metal, by tribals, is not only attractive, but also holds a distinct rustic and earthy charm.

Tribals live close to forest are largely dependent on the wild biological resources for their livelihood. The indigenous traditional ornaments are now not only in great demand among the cross section of people in country but worldwide.

Man's Fascination for jewellery dates back to pre-historic days. In the Museum of Tribal Arts and Artifacts, SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar, an attempt has been made to display the traditional ornaments and costumes of the tribes in general and Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) in particular to preserve & document the vanishing crafts.

The Dongria Kondh community is a section of the Kondh community of Odisha. They are identified as a Primitive Tribal Group of Odisha. The Dongria Kondhs live in villages located in Niyamgiri hill ranges to Eastern Ghats particularly in Rayagada district. They live in about 120 villages which are situated on hill slopes, spurs and valley in Bissamcuttack Block and Muniguda Block of Gunupur Sub-division and Kalyansingpur Block of Rayagada Sub-division. Shifting cultivation with horticulture is their main stay.

Aims & Objective of the Paper

- (i) This paper is based on the district observation made on different ornaments of the Dongria Kondhs displayed in the Tribal Museum at SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar.
- (ii) The design and style for adornment of Dongria Kondhs reflect their ethnic identity.
- (iii) The present forms and designs of the tribal jewellery have a great demand within the countryside, in the metropolis as well as in the global market.

Men & Women Adornment

The female folk are more inclined to adorn themselves than their male counterpart. Women especially young ones deck themselves with various kinds of ornaments worn on different bodily parts such as head, neck, ear, nose, hand, finger, waist ankle and toe.

The statement below furnishes the traditional adornments of Dongria men and women.

Women Ornamant:

(Local name with English equivalent)

Sipna (Hair Pin)
 Chipna (Hair Clip)
 Aska (Small Knife)
 Murma (Nose / Earring)
 Nanguli (Earring)
 Kagudika (Neck Band)
 Mekadika (Bead Necklace)
 Taka Mekadika (Coin Necklace)
 Ata Suta (Waist Chain)
 Tuduapaja (Falt Bangle)
 Kajapaja (Thick Bangle)
 Milapaja (Thin Bangle)
 Andu (Anklet)
 Puyumudi (Finger Ring)
 Kendukali (Toe Ring)

Men Ornamant:

(Local name with English equivalent)

Sireni (Mini Comb)
 Murma (Nose / Earring)
 Kagudika (Neckband)
 Ata Suta (Waist Chain)
 Singidisapa (Finger Ring)

(Source: Bulletin Tribal Museum, SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar)

Material used by Dongria Kondh

Atop the head down to the toe of the foot, every where the Dongria Kondhs use ornaments and jewellery. They have used the material like Iron, Brass, Aluminum, Cotton thread, beads, copper, gold, silver, wood etc. the use of materials and natural objects derived from the forests. The use of flowers, on special occasions like dancing or marriage ceremony is also noticed.

The following give an account of different ornaments used by the Dongria Kondhs starting from the head down up to the toe.

(1) Hair Clips:

Beauty conscious Dongria Kondhs have their distinctive hairstyle. They make their hairstyle more beautiful by using different hair clips and silver pins.

- Jatpuri and deta hair clips are made of iron, brass, copper or silver

- Tinmodena, a silver pin, is struck so that hair twist at the vback remains in a fixed position.
- Sipna, is a kind of scissor like hairpin made of aluminum.

(2) Nose Rings:

- Mungeli Murma, is a nose ring worn by Dongria Kondh women, which is made of brass or gold.
- It is identified as a matter of pride.

(3) Ear Rings:

- The Dongria use about 16 earrings in thin ear and its is called Murma.
- In the ear the women use Nanguli, which is twisted to look like a snake.
- The Kiyu Murmas are small rings made of Gold and silver.
- Kute (Ear Bolt) which is made of gold or brass.

(4) Necklace:

- Mekadika is a kind of glass beads necklace with different colours like red, yellow, blue and black, and a Kondh Boy generally wear five to six to prove his economic status.
- They use many types of Mekadikas such as Pitda, Kala, Kambiti, Murmanga, Hinga etc.
- Ahali Hana is a Necklace for girl which is made out of different coins.
- Necklace like Kagudi on Khagala made of iron, silver and aluminum.
- Kambiti, a bead Necklace made of small glass use by girls.
- Kainbcha Mali also used tied around the neck.

(5) Ornaments used on Hands:

The Dongria women use more than 25 Bangles and Khadus, which have much social value.

- Pajan or Kayumla is a kind of bangle worn by “Dongria Kondh” women. It is made of brass and aluminum. A young woman normally puts on 15 to 25 bangles on her arms and hands.
- Tedwa is a very thick and heavy, prominent one weighing about 250 gms.

(6) Finger Rings:

They use different kinds of finger rings (mudi) made of metals like silver, bronze, brass and copper.

- The Puyu ring is put on thumb and on forefinger.
- Tamba ring on middle finger and a coiled ring.
- Baras and springs on ring finger.
- Muya on the little finger.
- Rasa mudi is made of silver and put on ring finger.
- The ‘Singri Sapa’ ring is made of brass and silver, the middle part of which is crafted with beautiful flowers.

(7) Waist Chain:

- The Dhagadas use Ata Suta (waist thread) and the Dhagidis use waist dory.

(8) Foot Ornaments:

Usually they adorn their feet with anklets and toe rings.

- Anklet (Andu) is a specially made foot bangle made of brass. It is about one kilogram and worn by some matured girls.
- The Dongria use toe ring (Kada Mudi or Amta Mudi) and other finger rings of the foot. Dhangedies of ten years old or more than that start wearing the rings.

The Ornament Makers

The Ornaments of the Dongrias are the products of ingenious creation of the village artists like Dom/Ghasi, Mulli, Thatani, Kansari, bania etc., in neighboring villages.

Some of the traditional ornaments of the Dongrias under the force of modernization are losing their significance and meaning to the young ones. The interruption of modern trend has reduced the quantity of ornaments used by the tribals to some extent. GOs and NGOs are now coming forward to extend help and support for promotion of making and marketing tribal ornaments with a view to generate employment and earning among the tribal artisans and entrepreneurs. Tribal people have preserved ancient arts and crafts in their indigenous forms. We should help them to bring their traditional ornaments in light and get right pay for it so they can also live better life. Each ethnic community has its beautiful traditional character which can be save if some important steps taken by Government strictly. Basic raw materials which they need for their jewellery should be provided them free of cost by this way they will concentrate more and more on their design and pattern and can discover new decorative articles.

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Some photos of Tribal Jewellery belongs to Dongria Kondhs are mentioned below:

(1)



A woman of Dongria] ^{Pic 1}

(2)



A baby girl of Dongia Kondh use Mungeli Murma (Nose Ring) which is made out of gold.

(3)



Pic 3

A women of Dongria

4)



A women of Dongria Kondh use Necklace (Mekadika) on her neck.

(5)



Pic 5

A women of Dongria Kondh put on 20-25 Bangles (Pajan) in her hand.

(6)



Pic 6

A women of Dongria Kondh put on Finger Rings (Puyu and Baras) on her finger.

(7)



Pic 7

A women of Dongria Kondh use Waist Chain (Ata Suta) which increase her beauty.