

# Bamboo: A cultural heritage of Assam

Dipan Kumar Bora

Assam is the state of North-East India, famous for its culture and tradition. A state which is gloriously flourishing its cultural values, life style and economy of the people. AS we know that Assam is rich in various resources in this regards bamboo is considered one of the best resource for the people of Assam. Bamboo is consider as an integral part of the people. Bamboo plays an important role in Assamese culture. Both are inter-dependent. We cannot separate them. Bamboo increases the traditional value of Assam. It is not only a part of culture but many people's still depend on their livelihood and household uses.

If we talk about culture and tradition we must keep the 'Bamboo' as a part of Assamese culture. Uses of bamboo always make its presence omnipotent to gratify its value. It has its socio economic importance in various ways.

## Bamboo and its development:

In Assam bamboo is used in various occasion we find its richest use in paper factories. Assam is also consider as a largest bamboo producing state in India. In the forests of areas we find various different types of Bamboos. Apart from forest areas, plenty of bamboos find in the village areas also. In various reason tribal people are preserve the bamboo and they cultivate as well. They have immense knowledge about the process of preservation and great skill to use it. Now a days, many workers from the handicraft, made by the bamboo's and they earn a good amount of money for their livelihood. In many areas of Assam bamboo has used in different purposes such as making bamboo houses, bamboo basket, etc. In the districts of Cachar, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon and Lakhimpur are mainly consider the bamboo growing areas of Assam. Bamboo has its economic value. Muli, Dalu are the height economic value and other species are mainly used for mat and basket industry.

## Bamboo and Economy :

As many as 51 species of bamboo grows in Assam and govt got the maximum profit from this big and small industries are being capable of producing the product made from bamboo's. The large amount of profit comes from paper industries i.e, Hailakandi, Jagiroad, Morigaon.

Govt of Assam encourage the bamboo sector and support the people to develop big or small pulp and paper plants. This development provide economic benefits to the people of the state.

Assamese culture and use of Bamboo :

Every culture has its own identification by specifying a symbolic representation of tradition. Same way the use of 'Bamboo' also represent the Assamese culture. Both are interdependent. People of Assam are mastered in this (making bamboo products) particular from. 'Japi' is one of the symbolic presentation of Assamese culture and this 'Japi' is made from bamboo. We have different art form in our culture like other art form many artist are always shows their keen interest to learn the art form that is making Bamboo products. Bamboo products are used in many purposes such as bamboo houses, bamboo baskets, bamboo mat, hat, walking sticks etc.

In handicrafts like toys, dolls, music instruments are crafted with bamboo. In Assam every cast and community people connected with this traditional craft. In this sense Assam is very rich in bamboo.

Literature and Bamboo :

As we know that literature is a part of our society, what we knew and what will we know ; all aspects comes from literature. In this regards I would like to particularly talks about Assamese literature. It also touches the every corner of our culture and tradition. In many books, novels, dramas, folklore we find the used of 'Bamboo' mainly in rituals ; we also find the phrase and idioms sung by the Assamese people based on this bamboo.

Conclusion :

If we talks about culture and tradition then we cannot ignore the important value of using bamboo's. It enriched the cultural value of Assam. It is a symbolic existence of Assamese people. It is also a part of social and economic development of the state.

Bibliography:

Sharma, Nabin Chandra : Bharatar uttar purbanchalar loka sanskriti

Bani Prakash pvt. Lmtd., Panbazar, 1<sup>st</sup> pub. 2000