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ANALYTICAL STUDY OF CONTRIBUTION OF MARATHI SUGAM SANGEET IN MARATHI FILM INDUSTRY

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Abstract: This study explores the influence of **Marathi Sugam Sangeet**- light or popular Marathi music, on the evolution and vibrancy of the Marathi film industry. It delves into its historical roots, artistic characteristics, notable contributors, and enduring legacy, highlighting how Sugam Sangeet has shaped cinematic narratives, audience engagement, and cultural identity throughout Marathi film industry.

Index Terms: Marathi Sugam sangeet, film industry, Contribution

I. INTRODUCTION

Sugam Sangeet (music), a genre of music which is melodious and accessible. It bridges the gap between classical traditional music and popular culture in music. In spite of its strong roots in Marathi folk sangeet, Natya Sangeet, and Bhav Geet, it also plays a significant role in shaping popular and cinematic musical expressions. This paper aims to analyse the irrefutable contribution of Sugam Sangeet in the success and progress of Marathi film industry's musical, cultural, and commercial foundation.

II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT & EVOLUTION

2.1 Origins and Heritage

Marathi Sugam Sangeet draws from traditions such as Natya Sangeet, devotional (bhav) songs, and folk music, carrying a lineage over approximately 150 years. It mixes strong emotions with clear melodies and emerged as a new genre with balance and clarity.

2.2 Early Marathi Cinema & Music Integration

Marathi cinema began with sound in **Ayodhyecha Raja** (1932), produced by Prabhat Film Company. Alongside cinematic narrative evolution—e.g., high emotional dramas like *Shyamchi Aai* (1953) and *Pinjra* (1972)—music became central to storytelling and cultural resonance.

III. KEY CONTRIBUTORS OF SUGAM SANGEET IN MARATHI FILM

3.1 Sudhir Phadke

A legendary figure in Marathi Sugam Sangeet and film music, Sudhir Phadke's five-decade career shaped the genre, especially through creations like *Geet Ramayan*—a sequence of 56 songs broadcast weekly starting April 1, 1955.

3.2 G. D. Madgulkar (Ga. Di. Ma.)

A prolific poet and lyricist, Madgulkar penned over 2,000 songs and 157 screenplays, including the lyrics for *Geet Ramayan*. His poetic flair enriched Marathi cinema's musical narratives.

3.3 Ashok Patki

Though primarily recognized for works like "Mile Sur Mera Tumhara," Ashok Patki founded **Sanchari Gurukul** in Pune (2013) to teach Sugam Sangeet in traditional guru-shishya style, ensuring preservation and transfer of musical values to future generations.

3.4 Other Notable Composers

- **Bhaskar Chandavarkar**, while rooted in classical and Western blends, contributed innovatively to Marathi film soundtracks—winning a National Film Award for the short film *Chaitra* (2002).
- **Bhimrao Panchale**, renowned for Marathi ghazals, began his musical journey through Sugam Sangeet, performing extensively across Maharashtra.

IV. STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF SUGAM SANGEET

Sugam Sangeet is characterized by:

- **Melodic clarity and emotional directness:** Crafted compositions that rely on tune and feeling rather than technical complexity.
- **Accessibility:** Unlike classical forms requiring rigorous training, Sugam Sangeet is performable by a wider range of artists and is audience-friendly.

These traits made it a natural fit for cinema, where emotional immediacy and broad appeal are essential.

V. CULTURAL AND INDUSTRY SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 Democratizing Music

Sugam Sangeet's accessible structure allowed participation by artists from diverse backgrounds, broadening the talent pool and audience reach in Marathi films.

5.2 Cultural Continuity

By adapting traditional forms like Natya Sangeet and Bhav Geet into film, Sugam Sangeet helped preserve cultural music while keeping it relevant to modern tastes.

5.3 Educational & Pedagogical Role

Institutions like **Sanchari Gurukul** highlight the continuing pedagogical value of Sugam Sangeet in nurturing future artists and maintaining quality standards.

IV. CASE STUDY EXAMPLES

While specific Sugam Sangeet film-song analyses require deeper archival research, notable examples include:

- *Geet Ramayan* as a cultural phenomenon.
- Sugam Sangeet-infused works by Phadke and Madgulkar across classic films.
- The influence of institutions like Sanchari Gurukul on contemporary film composers.

VII. CONCLUSION & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Marathi Sugam Sangeet has been instrumental in shaping film music by:

- Embodying emotional accessibility and melodic clarity.
- Facilitating talent democratization and cultural continuity.
- Anchoring major contributions by legendary composers and lyricists.

LOOKING FORWARD:

- **Further scholarly work** is needed to analyze specific films and songs.
- **Revitalizing Sugam Sangeet** in contemporary cinema could meet audiences' desire for melody-rich, meaningful music.
- **Supportive industry frameworks**—fair compensation, recognition, and creative freedom—are essential for sustaining this tradition.

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