

A Lost Tradition: Reflections towards Select Tribal Songs of Odisha

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Abstract : The paper aims at examining the oral tradition of the Kondh and Oroan people of Odisha. Highlighting the translated versions of Kondh and Oroan songs—chiefly highlighting issues on agriculture—we argue that the relevance of these songs have fallen apart in the recent decades with the advancement of modern knowledge and thinking. What remains instead is a faint voice in the oral tradition that sings the past indigenous knowledge in the form of oral literature. Though there have been few attempts to document the rich cultural tradition by some individuals—Sitakant Mahapatra's can be cited as an example—the need to document the tradition remains ever arching. In short, the thesis examines Kondh and Oroan "songs" and argues for a need to document the tradition. It also shows a comparative study on both the tribes on Agriculture which shows their cultural identity and a diversification of both the tribes in nature and how these tribal groups are associated with nature and the cycle of it.

Keywords : oral tradition, Meriah, folklore, karma, Oroan

Conference Title : ICNST 2015 : International Conference on Nano Science and Technology

Conference Location : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Conference Dates : February 12-13, 2015