



মণিপুরৰ শাসন বিভাগ (শিক্ষা)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

## **CHAPTER- 16**

### **GROWTH OF REGIONAL CULTURE**

#### **NOTES:**

- India is a land of different cultures, there are many people of different language they speak, their distinctive food habits, poetry, music, dance etc. However, the identities of peoples have been evolved over time and still changing.
- Since the ancient times, regional cultures have always been strong in India and the same trend continued in the medieval times.

#### **I) GROWTH OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE:**

##### **a) SANSKRIT:**

- In the early medieval period, Sanskrit continued to be the language of literature of north India and the works of two writers in Kashmir, Somadev who wrote Katha-sarit-Sagar and Kalhana who wrote Rajatarangini were the first proper historical work in India.
- Other famous works include Geetgovinda by Jayadeva and Prithviraj Raso by Chandrabardai.
- In southern India the most important works were the philosophical commentaries of Shankara and Bihana's Vikramankadeva- charita in sanskrit.

##### **b) PERSIAN:**

- Persian was the court language of the sultanate and because of its literature, many Persian words became part of the vocabulary of Indian languages.
- In ancient India, there was no tradition of historical writing, but it was the Turks who contributed with their Arab and Persian traditions of historical writings in India and with them, we get a fairly systematic account of Indian history, beginning with the Sultanate of Delhi.

- One of the notable writing in Persian language was Ain – i- Akbari and Akbar Nama written by Abul Fazl.

**c) DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES:**

- The medieval period saw the growth of literature in the Dravidian languages also and great work of poetry in Kannada called Kavirajamarga was written by Nripatunga.
- For a few centuries, the Kannada literature was deeply influenced by Jainism.
- In Tamil, Kamban wrote the Ramayanam and in this period the composition of the great hymns of the Alvars and the Nayanars was done.
- Telugu also produced great religious and secular literature in this period.
- Bhasa Kautilyam of the twelfth century is regarded as the first important Malayalam literature.

**d) REGIONAL LANGUAGES:**

- The regional kingdoms provided a great stimulus to regional languages and literature.
- There two main forms of Hindi in this period were Bhojpuri and Awadhi.
- Anand Mangal of Bharat Chandra is one of the best literary pieces of Bengali literature in the medieval period.
- Mukundaraja of the twelfth century is regarded as the first poet of Marathi literature.
- Sant Bhattadeva (1558-1638) is regarded as the father of Asamia literature.
- Manipuri literature witnessed a momentous change during the reign of Meidingu Charairongba (Pamheiba) and his successors and the period from embracing Vaishnavism by the meitei kings upto the advent of the British is regarded as medieval period of Manipuri literature.
- Nabananda Yubaraj , eldest son of Meidingu Chingthangkhomba was one of the renowned writer from royal family and he had translated Virat Parva of Ram Krishnadas into meiteilon under the title “Virat Shathuplon”.
- The period of Delhi Sultanate saw a great advance in the growth of modern Indian languages and literature, Brajbhasa and Khari Boli forms of Hindi began to be used in literary compositions.
- One of the most significant developments during medieval period was the birth of the Urdu language.

## **II) GROWTH OF REGIONAL DANCE FORMS :**

- In the medieval period, Indian dance also developed a rich classical tradition and became the medium of expression of emotions, of telling a story and of drama.
- The story of Indian dances can be seen in the temple architecture of the medieval times.
- Some styles of Classical dances that has evolved through the centuries are Kathakali, Kuchipudi, BharatNatyam, Kathak , Manipuri and Odissi.
- All the dance forms basically use the same 'mudras' or signs of hand as common language of expression and were originally performed in the temples to entertain various Gods and Goddesses.

## **III) GROWTH OF REGIONAL MUSIC:**

- In the medieval period, the music also flourished in India and the rulers, both in the north and the south were great patrons of music.
- The musicians were a respected section of the society and the Indian classical music- both Carnatic and Hindustani reached its zenith during this period.
- New musical instruments like sitar, sarangi, tabla found place in the history of instrumental music.
- Tansen was a great musician in the court of Akbar and it was under Mughal rule that Hindustani and Persian music blended together for the first time.

## **IV) GROWTH OF PAINTINGS:**

- In the fourteenth century, the Islamic influence on traditional Hindi style of painting could be clearly seen and the traditional style remained only in the western India.
- Mewar, Ahamedabad and Jaunpur were important centres of art and painting.
- The paintings under the Delhi sultanate show the fusion of the new Persian and the Indian traditional style and out of this emerged three major styles of art – Mugh, Rajasthani and Deccan Schools of painting.

- The Mughal School of Art was essentially a court art which was amazingly Indian in character and dynamic in expression and patronized by the Mughal rulers.
- The Rajasthani paintings were decorative in composition and colour scheme.
- The Deccan style derived its forms of painting from the Vijayanagar school.
- Another tradition worth mentioning are the miniature paintings which were done on palm leaves or wood and used to illustrate Jain texts.
- Another region which attracted the miniature paintings was Himachal Pradesh and it was a result due to the migration of the Mughal artists because of Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739 and conquest of Delhi.
- They were given patronage by the rulers leading to the founding of the Kangra School of Painting.

#### **V ) BENGAL- A CASE STUDY:**

- It was during the rule of the Palas that a rich and significant cultural tradition emerged in Bengal.

#### **I )LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE:**

- Under the Palas, Bengali, Oriya and Assamese language developed to a great extent.
- A specimen of the old Bengali language can be seen in Charyapada songs and it preached the practices of Mahayana sect of Buddhism and up to 1830, it is the only evidence of Bengali literature.
- The PrakitaPaingala written in 1400 is a fine example of Bengali literature, also in 1418, Ramayana was translated into Bengali by Kritivas Ojha Mukhati.

#### **II ) PAINTINGS:**

- The earliest evidence of Bengal art goes back to the time of the Palas, Varnas, and the Chandras.
- About two dozen palm – leaf manuscripts have been found and manuscripts like Prajna- Paramita, Sadhana-Mala and Pancharksha contain miniature paintings of Buddhist deities, stupas, places of pilgrimages etc.

### III ) MUSIC:

- The first glimpse of Bengali music- the Charya songs are found in a noted Bengali treatise- Sangeetaratnakara written by Sharangadev who lived in the thirteenth century.
- The Charya and ‘GeetGovinda ‘ provide the foundation of Bengali music.
- With the passage of time, music and art in Bengal matured with the fusion of Vaishnava and Hindustani traditions.



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