

Talking threads: dresses of folk dances of Haryana

PREETI SODHI AND JATINDER SOHI

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See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

PREETI SODHI

Govt. Home Science College
CHANDIGARH (U.T.) INDIA

Email: preetisodhi22@gmail.com

■ **ABSTRACT** : A solitary endeavour altogether changed the people's look towards folk dances. And celebrating Republic Day or any such other event without Haryanvi dances is like having cake without icing. Haryana is the soil of folk dances; folk music, festivals, fairs and theatre are the mirror of cultural history of this land. Saangs and Raginis are woven into the very fabric of Haryana's folk tradition. Khorias, Phags and Dhamaals are the three major folk dances of Haryana. These folk dances are repositories of traditions handed down from generation to generation with the package of dance tunes and traditional dresses as well. Realizing the need to explore more on this issue, the present paper jotted few objectives –to excavate folk dances of Haryana, to know the dresses worn by folk dancers while performing these dances as well as changes seen in them over the years.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Folk dances, Dresses, Changes

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Man cannot live without communication and art. Art is a communication of deepest and most lasting level. Amongst the art, dance was a once the most primitive and most sophisticated. Dancing is an independent art and can exist without audible accomplishment. India has a very rich tradition of folk dances (Hall, 1980). Every region manifests different cultural feature. From Kashmir to Kerala and Gujarat to Manipur, the whole rural India throbs with varied dance rhythms in their respective traditional costumes and dresses.

Dr. Iqbal Singh Saund (1998) has given a sound and elaborate definition of folk dance as follows- "Folk dance is a collective human dance based entirely on frantic joy which is performed spontaneously. This dance form admits no hard and first rules, restrictions of attire, properties, make-up and place."

The folk dances of India reveal not only the individual talents of our people, but the collective tradition of each part of our country side, the characteristic of the community, and a love for rhythms almost as atmosphere have brought about a great variety of rhythms, of musical compositions, of costumes and dance styles (Marg Publications, 1963). And Haryanvi dances too fulfill all the features which have been

mentioned in the former lines. Haryana, one of the youngest and the smallest states of the Indian Union has a chequered history right from antiquity. Haryana is essentially an agricultural tract but it excelled in spiritual development and traditions too. In this land of saints, sages, martyrs, and toiling tillers folk dances and folk songs be fitting all occasions have been composed and continuously practised. Though straight forwards, the deep emotions of Haryana populace find expressions in their folklore (Chibb, 1977). Haryana vividly depicts life in its variegated colour with joys and sorrow, ups and downs in melodious tunes and fascinating ways. It has a wide variety of folk songs for birth, marriage, separation, changing seasons, harvest, rain, fairs and festivals and the folk dances of Haryana, not only provide recreation and amusement to participants and spectators, but also physical exercise to participants and thrill to spectators (Gupta, 2009). The present paper has been taken up with a view to know about the variety of folk dances performed in Haryana and dresses worn while performing them. The study would be giving information regarding the changes seen over the years about these dresses.