

Research Note :

TRADITIONAL COSTUMES OF MUSALMAN RAJPUT COMMUNITY IN WESTERN RAJASTHAN, INDIA

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Traditional costume has been of great importance as an expression of the tradition and culture of the people. Traditional costumes signify, more than identity, a nation, an ethnic group or an individual whose function it represents to society in specialized way. Such styles of costume have developed over hundreds of years. Many of the traditional costumes are still worn as every day dress, particularly in rural areas. India is a vast country, which is inhabited by various castes and communities, which have their own culture, customs and traditions (Raman *et al.* 1992; Dwivedi and Luniya, 2007). The Musalman Rajput community is found in Marwar, the western Rajasthan (Singh, 1993). This community, is made of Sindhi-Sepahis and Kaim-Khanis and were originated from Bhatias and Chohans tribes of Rajput community respectively. Present study deals with daily wear garments of different age groups of Sindhi-Sepahis, a Musalman Rajput community found in Jodhpur district of western Rajasthan and changes in their traditional costumes and ornaments due to urbanization and education.

Intensive survey and study was conducted during the year 2005 and 2006 in 168 villages of seven tehsils (Bhopalgarh, 21; Bilara, 18; Jodhpur 28;

Luni, 25; Osian, 25; Phalodi, 21 and Shergarh, 30) of Jodhpur district. Systematic random sampling method was followed. Twenty five families belonging to lower, middle and upper income classes of the community were interviewed for 142 questions from each tehsil. Observations were recorded for men, women, unmarried girls, unmarried boys, old men, old women and children. Data obtained were expressed in mean, frequency and percentage.

Traditional (men : Safa, Kurta, Bandi, Lungi; women: Odhana, Kurati, Kanchli, Ghaghra, Sarara; unmarried girls:- Puthia, Jamphar, Jangadi, Soonthal; children:- Kurta, Jangia, Jhabla, Ghaghari, Angarkhio, Potadiyo, Topaliyo and modern (men: Shirt, T-shirt, Kurata, Pyajama, Pant, Jeans, Baniyan Underwear, Moja; unmarried girls:- Kurta, Salwar, Dupatta, Frock, Shirt-Blouse etc.; children:- Bushirt, Shirt, T-shirt, Chola, Payjama, Frock, Topi, Cap etc.) garments were recorded.

It was recorded after data analysis that 85.27 and 14.73 per cent of Sindhi-Sepahi (Musalman Rajput) community wear traditional and modern costumes, respectively (Table 1). Men, women unmarried girls, unmarried boys, old men, old women and children wear 89.77,

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Table 1 :Traditional and modern garments used daily by Sindhi-Sepahis in Jodhpur

Sl.No.	Age groups	A(%)	B(%)
1.	Men	89.77	10.67
2.	Women	100.00	00.00
3.	Unmarried girls	98.00	00.00
4.	Unmarried boys	54.33	45.67
5.	Old aged men	97.67	02.33
6.	Old aged women	100.00	00.00
7.	Children	57.09	42.91
8.	Total community	85.27	14.73

A: Traditional garments, B: Modern garment

100.00, 98.00, 54.33, 97.67, 100.00 and 57.09 per cent traditional cloths, respectively in their daily use. Maximum (100.00%) and minimum (54.33%) daily use of traditional garments were recorded for women, old aged women and unmarried boys, respectively.

The family members who work in town or city and students of school, college and university like to wear modern garments under the influence of urbanization and modernization. But in rural areas women, old men, old women and unmarried girls wear mostly traditional garments in their daily life. The old men and women of the community said that the wearing of traditional costumes is their graceful identity. In spite of modern effect and fast spreading fashion, they mostly wear their traditional garments.

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