

Central Modern College Of Education

B-Ed 2nd Semester

Course: EPC-2

Subject: MUSIC

Q1. What is Folk Music?

Ans: Folk Music songs and music of a community, uninfluenced by any sophisticated musical rules or any standard **MUSIC** styles. Folk music may be described as that type of ancient music which springs from the heart of a community, based on their natural style of expression uninfluenced by the rules of classical music and modern popular songs. Any mode or form created by the combination of tune, voice and dance may be described as music. Thus, the combination of folk song, folk dance, and folk tune may be called folk music. For example, *Baul* songs are a combination of tune, music and dance.

Q2. What are the characteristics of Folk Music?

Ans: Folk music has the following characteristics:

- (i) It is composed by rural folk on the basis of ancient rules transmitted orally;
- (ii) These ancient rules of music have not been influenced by classical or modern music;
- (iii) Folk songs may be sung in groups or individually;
- (iv) No regular practice is required for folk music;
- (v) It is composed and performed by illiterate or semi-literate people;
- (vi) It is a spontaneous expression in easy language, local dialect, and simple tune;
- (vii) Both words and tune are appealing;
- (viii) Despite its universal appeal it uses local dialect;
- (ix) It depends upon nature and the rural environment;
- (x) It is an explicit manifestation of the joys and sorrows of daily life;
- (xi) It uses simple and natural rhythms;
- (xii) It contains a strong emotive expression of human love and separation.

Q3. Write a short note on Folk Music of Bengal:

Ans: The folk literature and music of Bengal consist mainly of songs. There is a lot of discussion and material on folk-literature, but the music is generally spoken of less. Tunes are generally limited to the notes of half an octave, sometimes pentatonic or else confined to two to four notes only.

The impact of various religious thoughts produced folk cult of different types. The Vaishnava cult including *keertan*, has influenced many folk songs. There is also a remarkable influence of *Sakta* music, *Ram prasadi*, *Agamani*, etc. Islamic faith has also produced quite a number of songs in the villages of East Bengal. *Baul* is a special musical type which is a mixture of Vaishnavism and Sufism. The two Bengals (East and West) are regions where folk music composition had multi forms, the ideas and patterns of tunes being mostly distributed and exchanged at different levels.

The other remarkable feature is the individual developments of *Bhatiali*, a type of folk music free from religious and sectarian bias. This particular type of music influenced the various groups of songs of the eastern and northern sectors of Bengal. The original musical melody of the riverine districts of the then East Bengal was spontaneous and melancholic in nature. *Bhatiali* slowly captured the hearts of the people and spread all over Bengal and even outside. Besides these, devotional songs of various religious sects, songs of folk parties, work-songs and narratives, ceremonial or seasonal community songs, dance and tribal songs are prevalent.

The Folk songs of Bengal may be classified as being:

- Emotional and Secular
 - Religious or Sectarian like *Baul*, *Vaishnava* and *Sakta*
 - Occasional, ceremonial and occupational, like festival songs (*Parvageeta*), marriage songs, etc.
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