

## **Body adornments and sense of beauty among various tribes and communities**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The tribal concentration of each state is different with different origin, history, economic status lifestyle, food habits, traditional dresses, jewelry etc. but the feeling, desires of looking beautiful by them is same. Each tribe has kept its unique style of body adornment and jewellery intact even now. The original format of body adornment and beautification has been preserved by ethnic tribal. It is not only beautiful, but often communicates messages about the wearer's status, wealth, spiritual beliefs, and functional habits. It also marks group affiliation, communal celebrations and individual rites of passage.

**Key Words :** Tribes, Body adornments, Sense of beauty

### **INTRODUCTION**

The tribal are an intrinsic part of our national life with their rich cultural heritage. In India more than five hundred tribal groups are residing in different parts of the country. The habit of isolation helps them to preserve their social customs, traditions and beliefs to a large extent.

For as long as human beings have existed, they have sought to adorn themselves with symbols of status, membership and beauty.

Jewelry has been worn for thousands of years, and by virtually every culture ever known. The people of India and china have been creating jewelry for at least 5000 years, and it has played an important symbolic role in every part of the world since then, Jewelry has had different significance in different times and places. It was (and is) frequently worn as a show of wealth and status. At time it was used as a from pf portable currency.

Tribal Jewelry is primarily intended to be worn as a form of beautiful adornment also acknowledged as a repository for wealth since antiquity. The tribal people are a heritage to the Indian land. Each tribe has kept its unique style of jewelry intact even now. The original format of jewelry design has been preserved by ethnic tribal. Jewelry that is made of bone,

wood, clay, shells and crude metal, by tribal, is not only attractive, but also holds a distinct rustic and earthy charm. Tribal jewelry is made of the products that are available locally.

The materials which they commonly use to prepare the wonderful pieces of jewelry are wood, shells, bone, clay and some crude metals. Sometimes they also use hairs of animals in a painted form. The shapes which they use are basic and very close to the ethnic Indian art. Various tribes in India use different types of jewelry to adorn themselves. Sometimes it is found that may be they are scantily clothed but they have ample jewelry on their bodies. Many communities use lot of grass, beads and cane to prepare their unique jewelry. Traditional ornaments made out of silver, wood, peacock feathers, glass, copper and wild flowers. They generally wear necklaces made up of rupees coin with earrings, bracelets, anklets, bangles, amulets, hairpins etc. in many parts of India. In some places they mainly use thick red coral bead necklaces and also use metals like silver, zee stones, turquoise and coral etc. Some tribal use common materials like ivory, gold, bone, brass, silver for making their beautiful pieces of ornaments also they use blue feathers from birds, green wings of beetles, beads, earrings made of glass bead, cane, reed, bamboo and wild seeds. Some tribal women use to wear heavy iron rings in their ears which are coiled several times and necklaces made from metal coins and leather belts which are heavily studded with beads and cast metal bangles to decorate their body. Some tribal men wear flowers in their ears, red being the favourite colour, green fern or other foliage in their hair knots. In early India, people handcrafted jewelry out of natural materials found in abundance all over the country. Seeds, feathers, leaves, berries, fruits, flowers, animal bones, claws and teeth; everything from nature was affectionately gathered and artistically transformed into fine body jewellery. Even today such jewellery is used by the different tribal societies in India. Excavations at Mohenjo-Daro and other sites of the Indus Valley civilization have unearthed a wealth of handmade ornaments. It appears that both men and women of that time wore jewellery made of gold, silver, copper, ivory and precious and semi-precious stones.

Each tribal group seems to emphasize some, Particular from of creative expression among their many talents, for example. The Murias of Madhya Pradesh have ornaments hair combs for- women, beautifully designed with Nature motifs, and finely fashioned wooden tobacco cases carved with geometrical symbols. The Gadabas of Orissa, the Banjaras of Rajasthan, and the rianges of Assam, have an assortment of ornate silver jewelry. The Lambadis of Andhra Pradesh have colorful embroideries with shimmering mirrors inset in patterns. Tribe groups in Bihar have indicated a special aptitude for weaving saris and shawls with chaste geometrical patterns on their borders, just as several groups in Assam and NEFA, in Nagaland and other regions of north-eastern India have colorful ensembles of woven fabrics with most original geometrical and symbolic designs, all doe by the women.

The Santhals of Bihar specialize in strong pictorial wood carving on their marriage palanquins and musical instruments, while the Juagns of Orissa and the Gonda of Madhya Pradesh carve their doors with dynamic motifs from the contemporary scene. Certain tribal women again, find joy in creating wall and flor decorations in which the motifs take picturesque ritualistic ad abstract forms. All this has given the tribal crafts as a whole a tremendous variety of theme and decorativeness. And like the fold crafts they from a very important part of the heritage of India.

Each area in tribal India not only has different designs in their jewelry and ornaments, but use different raw materials, so that the fashions in personal adornment are always refreshing. In Rajasthan for instance, the Bhils, who have a romantic background, and are renowned in the history, myth and legend of the area for their bravery, and as warriors who were once rulers of antiquity, are found of ancient pendants that spell mystery and charm. Attached to a cord-necklace. These pendants vary, some being flat and molded with nature and geometrics motifs, comprising the lion, peacock, birds, flowers, mangoes and diamond shapes, while other are ornamented with circles, diamond shapes, and trellis and leaf patterns. The solid brass anklets worn by the Bhils of Rajasthan, which fall below the anklets, but rise to a triangular point on two sides, and there are bracelet like anklets with a large designed deep and geometric pattern engraved on the entire ornament, also worn by Bhils in Rajasthan (Bharnani, 1974).

#### **The sense of beauty (Head gears):**

One of the most colorful pieces of attire occasionally worn by the hill tribe people is the head-dress of finely polished vision horns or, in their absence, of buffalo or bullock horns or other substitutes. These are conspicuous among the Bison horn Marias of Middle India, who owe their name to them and are only worn on solemn occasions, especially marriage. Unfortunately these practices are also in decay.

The valuable metals the tribal favor is silver, brass, zinc, and nickel, gold being very costly. They generally prefer these cheaper metals; and on ceremonial occasions, ornaments made of silver are often used as items of changing gifts. They do not like ornaments of very complex designs.

The most distinctive ornament of a Banjara married woman is, however, a small stick about 6 inches long made of the wood of the *khair* or *catechu*. In *Nimar* this is given to a woman by her husband at marriage, and she wears it afterwards placed upright on the top of the head, the hair being wound round it and the head-cloth draped over it in a graceful fashion. Widows leave it off, but on remarriage adopt it again. The stick is known as *chunda* by the Banjaras, but outsiders call it *singh* or horn. In Yeotmal, instead of one, the women have two little sticks fixed upright in the hair. The rank of the woman is said to be shown by the angle at which she wears this horn.

#### **Tattoos :**

One of the most popular and ancient forms of body adornment other than jewelry also originated with ancient with and tribal cultures before spreading into European society. This is the ancient practice of tattoo, in which needles are used to create a permanent design on the skin in ink. Less permanent forms of skin decoration also have cultural significance, such as the Mehndi.

The practice of tattooing dates back at least 5000 years. In fact, simple tattoos have been found on icemen from the 4th or 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC. Tattooed Egyptian mummies from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. BC have also been discovered, which shows that the practice was followed in widely separated parts of the globe.

One of the biggest reasons to have a tattoo is to indicate membership in a particular

group or subculture. It could be to indicate that a person belonged to a certain tribe and hardship. The idea of tattoo as a form of way in which the Romans used their rings to make wax seals on important letters.

According to Mishra and Nancy (2006 tattoo marks on his or her body.) The Garasia explain that if no tattooing is done during life time. God does the tattooing by using a pointed iron rod instead of a needle. Hence every person must have some protection or an amulet is a part of the custom in certain tribes in the Philippines, as well. Tattoos in that region can also be used to show rank or achievements.

Among the Gonds, both men and women were formerly much tattooed though the custom is now going out among men. Women are tattooed over a large part of the body, but not in the hips or above them to the waist. Sorcerers are tattooed with some image or symbol of their god on their chest or right shoulder, and think that the god will thus always remain with them and that any magic directed against them by an enemy will fail. A woman should be tattooed at her father's house, if possible before marriage, and if it is done after marriage her parents should pay for it. The tattooing is done with indigo in black or blue.

Body decoration is way of communicating. It is a way of saying who you are and which group you belong to. Each society has many forms of body decoration used by people at different times in their lives. A person's style of body decoration can represent their age, gender, job, status, wealth and power. Decorating the body can also make a person seem more attractive by emphasizing a particular part of their body. Decoration can be temporary or permanent, a painful or enjoyable and can be considered socially normal or socially challenging.

People in more so called primitive societies consider that decorating their bodies is of vital importance to signify their status within the tribe or to signify a rite of passage into a new era of their lives, i.e. puberty, warrior, married, elder or to wear talismans to ward off bad spirits or be used in rituals. In traditional or tribal societies, body decoration is also used as symbol of the continuity of a particular way of life.

### **Conclusion :**

When the entire country was taken over by the spirit of globalization it was the tribal of India who had preserved the ancient crafts and arts of India. One such form of ethnic Indian art was the jewellery and body adornment used by the tribes. Ornaments used by the tribes stand out in a crowd because of its rustic and earthy flavour. They make jewellery from the indigenous items that are available locally. Moreover the jewellery and body decoration they prepare exhibit their artistic skill in a profound manner. Rather it can be said that the appeal of the tribal jewellery is mainly due to its chunky and unrefined look. Tribal's live close to the forest are largely dependent on the wild biological resources for their livelihood. They utilize various plant parts like root, bark, leaves, fruits, etc. to make themselves comfortable.

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