



Folk and Bhugol

A Lyrical Blend of Rajasthan's Folk Music with Geography

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Abstract

Humans have adaptive cognitive knowledge and mental processes that have changed throughout time due to a variety of factors, including social interactions, community dynamics, geographic location, cultural background, and others. The key to comprehending all of these concepts is the idea of regional synthesis, which maintains that geography is not a single discipline but rather is influenced over time by several sister sciences. Although the foundations of these developed branches lay in the association of oneness of physical and human geography since neither can be fully lived in isolation, the classification of the "LOK GEET" of Rajasthan has been appropriately woven into the sub-branches of Rajasthani geography.

Key Words:

Geography, Folk music, Culture, Social interaction

1. Introduction

Lok Geet's remarks aid in revealing information about interdisciplinary disciplines that are being studied separately. The study goes into great detail regarding Rajasthani folk music, emphasizing the creative potential of grouping the music according to geographic viewpoint. It draws attention to the lyrical blending of folk music compositions and how they relate to the Rajasthan state's geographical phenomenon. It combines the dualism of human and physical geography, demonstrating how the two main divisions of geography are established in establishing the relationship, interaction, and interdependency between humans and their surroundings.

Despite the region's harsh desert topography, Rajasthan's rich and colourful folk culture blends perfectly with this land of rites and royalty's vivid and lively cultural past. Owing to the Rajasthani language's diversity and dialects, folk songs with similar topics are carried out with minor adjustments based on the setting. Among many others, these dialects include Hadoti, Dhundari, Mewari, Marwari, and Mewati. One of the most well-known American folk song researchers, Phillips Berri, has a theory on how folk songs are made that he calls the "Theory of Recreation." The perspective holds that as long as the tradition persists, the process of creation is not one that is initiated and finished by one person, but rather spans numerous people and generations.

Due to the desert and rocky terrain of the state, which have minimal external impact and allow for appropriate preservation of antiquity, Rajasthan's folk songs have a rich history spanning millions of years, from the Vedic to the present.

The pressures of technology and the influence of movie music are making it more and more difficult to comprehend this

ancient knowledge and wisdom. The state of affairs has gotten so bad that the village's sound broadcasting apparatus is playing ugly, loud tapes and recordings everywhere rather than the customary folk music, especially at major events. In this instance, the eventual extinction of traditional folk melodies also seems imminent.

1.1. Objectives:

The regional assessment of Rajasthani folk songs is the focus of the study, which also emphasizes how geographical phenomena are intertwined. The elements' combination illustrates how local phenomena impact communities' social lives.

- To classify and analyse Rajasthani folk songs based on geographical elements, including physical geography (climate, seasons, rainfall) and human geography (agriculture, economic activities, and tourism), and examine their cultural and historical significance.
- To investigate the connection between knowledge of Rajasthani folk music and demographic characteristics (ethnic background, age, gender, and occupation).
- To analyse the impact of geography on folk music preferences and variations across different regions of Rajasthan.
- To evaluate the influence of modern technology (cinema, internet, digital platforms) on the preservation and popularity of Rajasthani folk music.
- To identify the major challenges and threats to the survival of traditional Rajasthani folk music.

1.2. Hypotheses:

H1: There is no correlation between age and listening frequency of Rajasthani folk music.

H2: Gender does not influence familiarity with Rajasthani folk music.

H3: Ethnic background does not influence familiarity with Rajasthani folk music.

H4: Gender does not influence participation in a folk music community.

H5: Ethnic background does not influence participation in a folk music community.

H6: Occupation does not significantly impact familiarity with Rajasthani folk music.

2. Methodology

This paper investigates, using exploratory and descriptive research mixed, the interaction between geographical features and Rajasthani folk music. Designed to collect responses from the intended audience, a Google Form survey guarantees varied representation among age groups, occupations, and cultural backgrounds. All throughout the data-collecting process are both primary and secondary sources plentiful. Primary data came from surveys, musician interviews, cultural historians, folk artists, and other sources all of which provide firsthand knowledge of the cultural value of folk music. Full understanding of the topic was made possible in part by secondary data supplied by academic publications, historical records, and media sources. One used mixed-methods data analysis. ANOVA, Chi-Square tests, and Ccorrelation analysis were among the quantitative studies used in the evaluation of the relationships between demographic factors and experience with folk music. By means of subject and content analysis of folk song lyrics, qualitative research might be arranged spatially based on tourism, industry, and temperature. This approach offers a comprehensive and exact study of how Rajasthani folk music reflects physical and human geography.

3. Literature Review:

R. Bharucha (2007), The book showcases Rajasthan's rich cultural and musical heritage via the experiences and knowledge of Komal Kothari. The author engaged in lengthy and meandering discussions with Kothari in order to map his vast knowledge and understanding of Rajasthan's cultural and musical heritage. Drew T. (2012) A group of traditional musicians who are nearing extinction in modern-day India are followed as they journey through the desert state of Rajasthan in an enlightening BBC Imagine video. John Singh, his partners, and the annual RIFF 13 festival held in the Maharajah's fort in Jodhpur not only aid these primarily lower-caste artists obtain respect and a good living in their communities, but they also seek to introduce them to a national and international audience. Jain N. (2015) Travelers, singers, craftspeople, and other cultural seekers from other Indian states have long been drawn to Rajasthan's distinctive civilization and culture. Rajasthani culture is always unique in its food, dress, dancing, music, and folktales. Rajasthan's vibrant cultural landscape conceals a wealth of regional traditions, food, and music. M. Davis (2017), The study highlights the lack of research on the unique musical connections between the *Laṅgā* and *Māṅgaṇiyār* folk musicians and Hindustani classical music legacy. The research attempts to close this knowledge gap by situating the folk musicians' understanding of *rāga* within their own network of musical knowledge and by listening to field recordings to identify underlying melodic frameworks in their performance. In 2018, Chaturvedi S. The study includes a discussion of Rajasthani culture and its native folk music. It highlights the significance of folk songs in Rajasthani traditional culture by dividing them into four categories:

liturgical folk songs, dance-related folklore, 15 commercial caste heritage, and Bhil caste folklore. Annida (2021), The documentary reveals how the Rajasthani community is united by their shared love of music. Music plays a crucial role in these cultures since it both shapes and defines who they are. Music is a beautiful culture that has been passed down through the decades and is still very much alive among the desert dunes, and it is the lifeblood of these communities. The Thar Desert is referred to as "the Most Colourful Desert in the World" by Swami A., Rajni, and Hemrajani P. (2023) because of the people and culture of the state of Rajasthan. A vast array of traditional experiences and ideas can be found in the folk culture of the state of Rajasthan. The local cultural tradition has maintained its uniqueness to this day.

4. Lyrical Blend of Geography with The Folk Music of Rajasthan

Folk music compositions are frequently developed in the midst of the majesty and rage of nature. No matter how much humans attempt to dress themselves in modern clothing and accessories and maintain their faith in front of a mirror, nature has always acted supremely and will continue to do so. Both seesaw edges must remain balanced; otherwise, the region's ancient wisdom, which defines its essential identity, would be destroyed if one were to topple over. It is impossible to even consider traveling to the earth's core to endure the devastating temperatures and assuming or imagining mingling with the metallic elements known as nickel and iron, which form the strength. Similarly, attempts have been made to obstruct Rajasthani culture under the bright, scorching sun, which has grown more firm over time due to changes in global temperatures, and assuming mingling with the elements known as tala, raga, instrument, and vocal music, which have been built across the Thar Desert's rolling sand dunes up to the mineral-rich Hadoti Plateau. Like rolling

sand dunes, these elements have been passed down through systematic indigenous oral knowledge, unlike the preservation and conservation of the minerals analogous to folk music in Hadoti.

The following Rajasthani folk songs demonstrate a lyrical fusion of the folk composition and the geographical phenomenon. Rajasthan's dry landscape is the source of songs that combine natural elements, weather patterns, and emotions related to changing circumstances in the terrain. These songs, which highlight the close ties that the indigenous people have with their natural environment, are still very common in the state's rural areas despite their declining popularity.

Table 1: Showing Geographical Classification of Folk Songs under Physical Geography

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY			
Branch	Element	Lok Geet	Description
Climatology	Rainfall, Seasons	Hindo/Hindoliya	Sung by women while swinging on a swing during the month of July, which is known as "Shravan."
		Kurjan (Demoiselle Crane)	Song sung during the rainy season. (July-August)
		Badli (बदली)	Sung during rainy season (July-August)
		Kajli (कजली)	Sung in Bhadrapada

			Month (August)
		Phag (फागुन)	Sung in Falgun Month (February and March)
Oceanography	Water	Panihari	Songs sung by the ladies while going to fetch water from the well. It depicts loyalty of women towards their husbands.
		Indoni	It is comparable to Panhari. Indoni's cheeks are round. Constructed from cotton, coconut, and munj, and used to support a water jug on a head.
Biogeography 1)Floral Geography	Plants	Chirmi (Rosary Pea)	The folk song is sung by addressing he “Chirmi Plant”, depicting the mood of the bride while waiting for her father and brother due to

2)Faunal Geography			early age marriage.
		Jeero (Cumin)	In this song a village bride requests her husband not to sow the cumin.
	Animals	Kaga (Crow)	A woman's song to call her husband from overseas
		Kurjan (Demoiselle Crane)	An emotional song that tells the story of a woman using the Kurjan bird to write a message to her lover expressing her thoughts.
		Bichudo (Scorpion)	Famous song of Hadoti region sung when a woman is dying from scorpion bite.
		Papaiyo Common Hawk- Cuckoo	The song is sung in many parts of the state on Cuckoo (पपीहा) bird. The lady requests her

			beloved to come and meet her in garden. It is a love song
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Table 2: Showing Geographical Classification of Folk Songs under Human Geography

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY			
Branch	Element	Lok Geet	Description
Economic Geography 1)Agriculture Geography	Sowing of crops, specific crops	Jeero (Cumin)	In this song a village bride requests her husband not to sow the cumin.
		Teja Geet	A famous song of farmers sung at the time of ploughing the field while remembering the Tejaji deity.
Tourism Geography	Space, place and environmental dimensions of tourism	Gorband	Gorband is a camel's neck adornment. A well-known folk song that explains how to make a gorgeous camel string.
		Kangasiyo	In western Rajasthan, people sing an ornamental

			song called Kangasiyo, which translates to "comb."
		Moomal	An ornamental folk song from the Jaisalmer region that describes the beauty of Moomal, the princess of Lodrava.
Historical Geography	Evolution of cultural landscape, past geographies, deities.	Dhola-Marū	Illustrates the Marwar Region's Dhola and Maru tale. Performed by the Dhadhi community.
		Languriya	Kaila Devi devotees singing devotional hymns (Karauli)
		Harjas	Bhakti folk song sung by woman depicting the divine play of Ram and Krishna.
Racial Geography/ Anthropogeography	Type of Race	Sunwatiya	Sung by a woman of Bhil tribe.
Cultural and Social Geography	Social process, Social groups, Social organization Social	Parnet	Songs sung during the marriage ceremony. The word

	traditions, rituals, custom and Social wellbeing, Festivals,		"PARINAY" is the root of the term "Parnet."
		Bana-Bani	The bride and groom-themed songs.
		Olyu	Song sung by the bride side family at the time of goodbye.
		Kajaliyo	An essential component of cosmetics is kajal. While the sister-in-law (Bhabhi) applies Kajal to the bridegroom's eyes, this song is sung during the wedding.
Cultural and Social Geography		Pawna	While serving meals, women sing this song to their newlywed son-in-law when he gets to his in-laws' residence.
		Jalo/Jalal	sung during the marriage procession by the bride's side females.
	Social process,	Moriya	The unrest of a

Cultural and Social Geography	Social groups, Social organization Social traditions, rituals, custom and Social wellbeing, Festivals,		woman with whom marriage has been fixed is shown in this love ballad.
		Seethne	These are humorous, aggressive songs that women sing at marriage ceremonies.
		Chirmi	This poignant song portrays the mental anguish and sorrow of a young girl who gets married young and continues to wait for her father and brother.
		Bindola	Performed by the groom's family before to marriage.
		Ghodi	Sang during the barat procession as the groom rode off on horseback.
		Lawani	Lawani refers to making a phone call. Women sing it to express their affection. It is also sung as a devotional song to Bhartrihari

			(God) in the Alwar region.
		Hichki	Sung in remembrance of the lover. Renowned in the Mewat-Alwar region.
		Bichudo	Composed when a woman is bitten by a scorpion and, despite her death, she makes her husband remarried.
		Ghudla	Performed on the special day of Holi by the girls of the Marwar area.
Cultural and Social Geography	Social process, Social groups, Social organization Social traditions, rituals, custom and Social wellbeing, Festivals,	Hamseedo	Performed by both men and women from the Mewar Region's Bhil Community.
		Kaaman	Recited to protect the groom at the time of marriage.
		Jachcha	Sung at the time of the birth of child.
Population Geography	Migration	Sunwatiya	An emotional ballad expresses the sorrow of a Bhil woman

			writing to her husband, who has left for employment in another state. Primarily performed in the Mewar Region.
		Peepali	The wife convinces her husband not to depart her for commerce outside the state by singing an emotional song. Sung in Marwar with fame.
		Jhorwa	Sung in the Jaisalmer state by woman in grief on the travel of her husband to other state.

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5. Statistical Analysis of Rajasthani Folk Music Survey

The data was gathered from a population of thirty using a Google Form. Several statistical techniques were used to conduct thorough data analysis. Data analysis was done using a hybrid method. ANOVA, Chi-Square testing, and correlation analysis were some of the quantitative methods used to evaluate the relationships between exposure to folk music and demographic traits. The findings have been explored as follows:

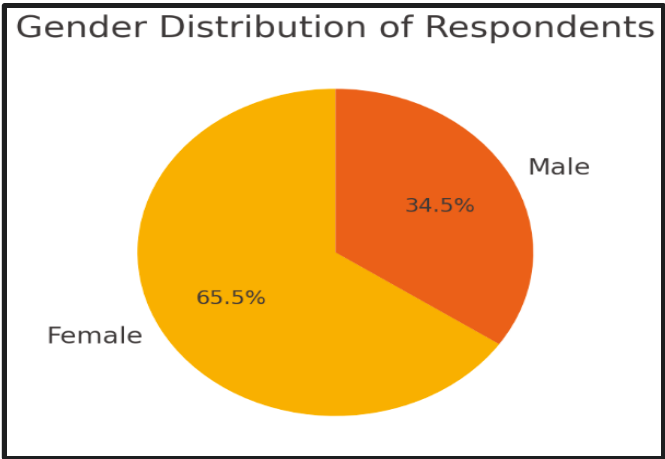


Figure 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents

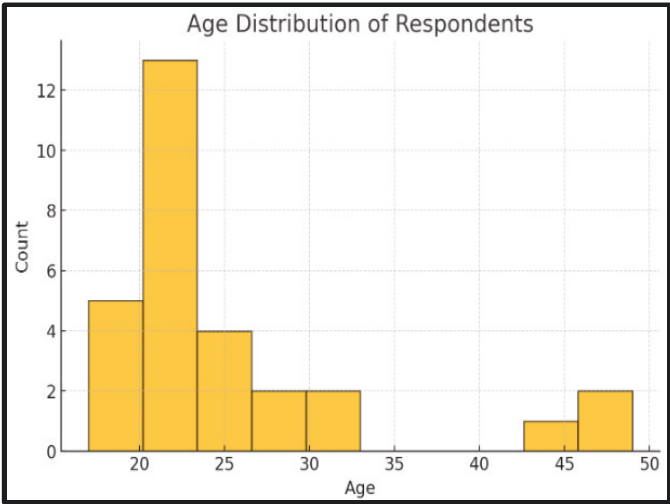


Figure 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

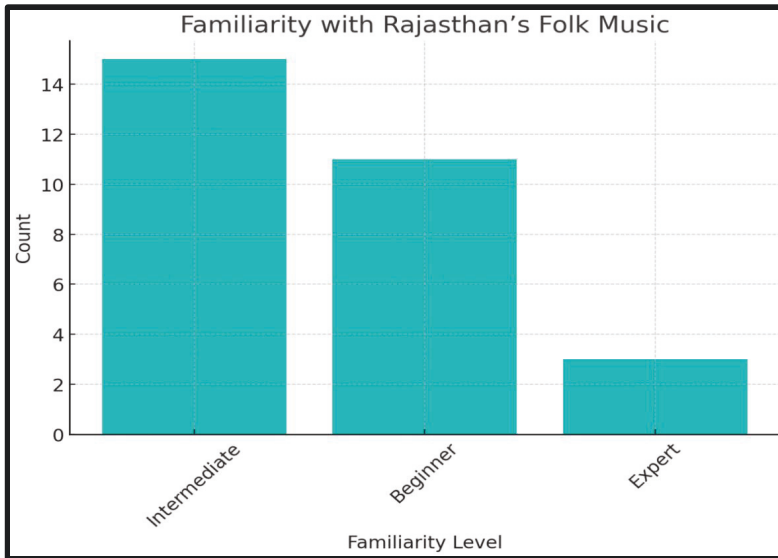


Figure 3: Familiarity with Rajasthan's Folk Music

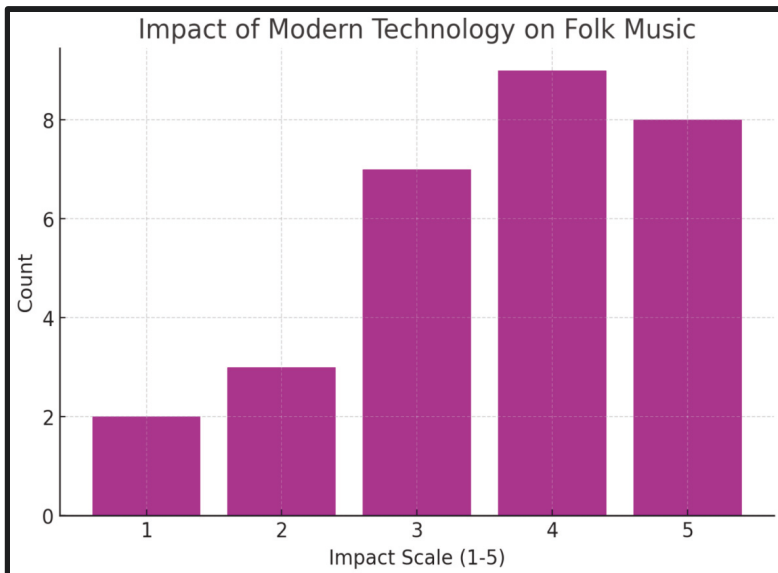


Figure 4: Impact of Modern Technology on Folk Music

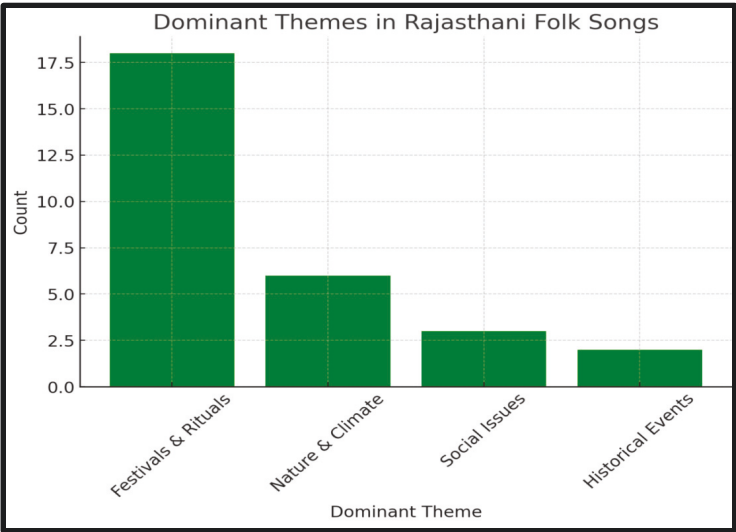


Figure 5: Dominant Themes in Rajasthani Folk Songs

5.1. Correlation Analysis applied -

To examine relationships between numerical variables such as age, familiarity with folk music, listening frequency, and perception of technology’s impact.

Formula: Pearson Correlation Coefficient (r)

$$r = \frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{(\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2 * \sum (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2)}}$$

Results:

Variable Pair		Correlation (r)	Interpretation
Age	vs.	-0.07	No significant relationship
Familiarity with Folk Music			
Age vs. Listening Frequency		-0.36	Younger respondents listen more frequently
Familiarity vs. Listening Frequency		0.46	More frequent listeners have higher familiarity

Familiarity vs. Technology Impact	0.18	Weak positive correlation
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5.2. Chi-Square Test for Independence applied -

To test if gender influences familiarity with folk music, and if ethnic background is linked to belonging to a folk music community.

Formula: Chi-Square Statistic (χ^2)

$$\chi^2 = \sum (O_i - E_i)^2 / E_i$$

Results:

Test	Chi-Square Statistic (χ^2)	P-Value	Interpretation
Gender vs. Familiarity	1.80	0.41	No significant relationship
Ethnic Background vs. Belonging to Folk Community	0.00	1.00	No significant relationship

5.3. ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) applied -

To test if occupation affects familiarity with folk music.

Formula: ANOVA F-Statistic

$$F = \text{Between-group variance} / \text{Within-group variance}$$

Results:

Test	F-Statistic	P-Value	Interpretation
Occupation vs. Familiarity with Folk Music	0.67	0.59	No significant relationship

5.4. Summary of all Analysis

Analysis	Finding
Correlation	Younger respondents tend to listen to folk music more frequently, indicating a relationship between age and listening frequency. Familiarity with folk music is also correlated with higher listening frequency.
Chi-Square Test	There is no significant relationship between gender or ethnic background and familiarity with folk music or participation in folk music communities. This suggests that folk music appreciation is not inherently linked to demographic identity.
ANOVA	The occupation of respondents does not have a significant impact on their familiarity with Rajasthani folk music, reinforcing the idea that exposure and engagement are stronger determinants than profession.

6. Conclusion

The study suggests that much of the effect of familiarity with Rajasthani folk music is determined by regular exposure instead of demographic factors like age, gender, or work. This suggests that accessibility and involvement with folk music

define more a person's knowledge and respect of it. About the impact of modern technologies, opinions still vary. While some respondents believe that technology—including movies, the internet, and digital platforms—has helped to conserve and promote folk music, others see it as a two-edged blade maybe leading to commercialization or dilution of traditional music.

The paper also underlines several threats to Rajasthani traditional music including modernism, commercialization, and cultural shifts. These components have altered public acceptance and performance of folk music, which calls for doubts about its authenticity and long-term survival.

6.1. Recommendations

- Encouraging Folk Music Education into courses at colleges and universities helps to increase appreciation and awareness among next generations.
- Planning community-based seminars, narrative events, and participatory performances helps to inspire deeper participation with traditional customs.
- Advancing Folk Music Preservation through establishing digital archives and online venues celebrating Rajasthani folk music ensures easy access for next generations.
- Encouragement of cooperation between traditional folk artists and digital media producers would help to combine modern platforms with legacy without sacrificing authenticity.
- Clarifying problems regarding commercialization planning awareness initiatives to emphasize the importance of traditional music and its contribution in preservation of cultural history.

- Creating policies or financing programs that support independent artists financially while maintaining their trade integrity.
- Encouragement of folk music tourism as a replacement income stream to help artists and preserve traditions.

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