

PREFACE

NEED FOR THE RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC :

Kathak is a representative dance style of Northern India and has an ancient and primitive history. Till now many renowned authors and historians have written and mentioned about the origin and history of Kathak, the three Gharanas, its characteristics, their exponents and many other aspects of Kathak dance. The need to do the research on the topic “The traditional legacy of Jaipur Gharana – Kathak” arised, as still there were certain hidden facts in reference to history and origin of Kathak, formation of Gharana, characteristics of Individual Guru and certain names of those masters and Gurus who tremendously contributed in the development of Jaipur Gharana, Kathak, at every pace of time but never got mentioned in the well known books by renowned authors and historians. Today whatever status Jaipur Gharana has is because of the contribution of such masters and gurus in the past. The present researcher has tried to mention about those families whose more than 5 generations have contributed in the area of dance – Kathak. Besides this the royal patrons who themselves were knowledgeable, they by giving support, protection, respect and honor to the top class artistes had done an unparallel work. The present researcher could found this information by visiting the Archive department of Bikaner. Thereafter in 17th and 18th century in Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Alwar and Bikaner the institutes like Gunijankhana, Gandharvashala, Rangshala were constructed and these masters and gurus gave their services in these royal courts. Such information needs to get highlighted. Hence it is essential to provide such authentic information to the young generation that will motivate and inspire them as dance practitioners.

HYPOTHESIS :

Through this research work the present researcher had tried to bring into limelight the names of certain immortal Gurus like Nayak Natthulal, Pt. Shivnarayan, Pt. Sukhdevprasad, Pt. Hanumanprasad, Pt. Prataplal and Pt. Pyarelal, Pt. Bhishanlal, Pt. Shankarlal, Pt. Shivilal, Pt. Panchulal and many others. It was an attempt to mention the fact that the artistes of Jaipur Gharana were having great

command in expressing abhinaya anga. Such artiste and gurus also possessed the knowledge of literature, mythology and philosophy and for their excellencies in varied art forms they were awarded the different degrees like Nayak, Pandit, Gandharva, Guni Gandharva, Kathak and many more. All these gurus though belong to Jaipur Gharana their bandishes differ in the aspects like bol baat, abhinaya and grammar and every bandish was having the signature of particular guru i.e. the style of using the particular bol for composing the bandish.

It was an attempt to provide such real facts that are not known and mentioned so far.

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY:

The information like the historic origin, patronage given by the patrons, how many artistes were appointed in the court, which were the instruments used etc, all such information was collected from the archive department of Bikaner. The information about these Gurus and artistes, data regarding the legacy of Jaipur Gharana was collected by personal talks with eminent artistes and scholars and by referring few books.

Apart from this the information on the characteristics of Gharana and Guru's specialization in every art form, is seen in the various bandishes that are mentioned here. The bandishes were collected from the researcher's guru himself, from eminent artistes and from few books. There will be an attempt to get the rare pictures of such Gurus that are collected from several books and few from the eminent artistes who preserved these photographs.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

The collected data, statistics and facts about the subject are reviewed. The data which was found accurate for the thesis is been included and rest of it has been omitted. The other books are also referred to collect the required data.

OBJECTIVES :

The historic origin of Indian classical dance Kathak, is mentioned in many books. Till now the information about such stalwarts and gurus is either not mentioned or it is mentioned in brief. The aim and objective was to mention about the certain hidden facts in historic area and to provide the information of these great masters and gurus whose contribution has made the greater history of Legacy in Kathak dance. The researcher has tried to give the detail genealogy of such families who contributed in the area of Kathak dance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND PLANNING :

The historic evidences that are provided in this thesis are done by the analytical method. The scientific approach is also followed in the data collection. The information on the characteristics of Gharana and family tree structure is mentioned with a new approach. The information is presented in a very simple way so that everyone can understand it.

The research is done on the basis of the historical descriptive qualitative method.