

# IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC



## Abstract:-

### Objective -

This article is an attempt to present some recent developments of Indian classical music. The article is concentrated on globalization and its impacts on the Indian music. This includes musical migrations, adaptations, promotions, teaching system and usage of the technology in the Indian classical music.



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## Keywords:

Globalization , Indian Classical Music  
, music professionals , communication.



## RESEARCH METHOD

Five categories of music professionals from the field of Hindustani classical music were selected and interviewed.

1. Traditional musicians and performers
2. Classical Hindustani Music teachers
3. Professional and amateur Hindustani Music students
4. Tabala, Harmonium and Tanpura accompanists
5. Musical instrument manufactures

A total number of respondents were twenty-five members; it was further divided into five member units with the above said category and interviewed during the period of January and February of the year 2014. The survey includes Bengaluru, Dharwad and Belgaum cities of Karnataka. This also includes skype interviews with a total number of five respondents who reside abroad.

## INTRODUCTION

As we know that we are living in a global village, which has been continuously changing. The process of globalization is become very familiar for all of us today. Each society and its culture have integrated through global network of communication and technology. We can say globalization is not only effecting trade, transportation and business, but also made vast remarkable changes in all social fields from Agriculture to Arts. Indian classical music is also affected by the globalization. Today anyone can find, browse and listen any type of music anywhere and anytime. In result, the time for waiting to listen the classical music in front of radio and TV is falling trend. This article is an attempt to find out the impacts of technology development and globalization along with its merits, demerits on Indian classical music.

## THE GLOBALIZATION

As per dictionary meaning the term 'Globalization' means 'a process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture'. Advancement of technology has flourished in recent years and it has played a major role in globalization. Communication technology has made revolutionary changes in information and communication. The Internet is playing a very important role in connecting people all over the world via email, chats and through audio-visual calls. This connectivity is helping people for various purposes. In the same time, it has enhanced the mixing of cultures of different countries. The globalization also includes transportation of physical objects, transformation of knowledge from one to another country or across the globe.

## WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION IN MUSIC?

Musically, the term 'globalization' means to,

1. Movement of any music form from one country to another or worldwide
2. Migration of musical instruments of one country to another or worldwide
3. Cross genre music manifestation together.
4. Adopting the musical ideology of different musical styles into one musical form
5. Use of technological equipment in performance and teaching
6. Adopting the teaching methods suitable for modern lifestyle

## GLOBALIZATION AND INDIAN MUSIC

Globalization in Indian music is quite old, it started since vedic period. But historically we can found the evidences that in 13th century well known sufi mentor and musicologist Amir khusro brought and formed Persian instrument and Persian language influenced music culture. That resulted in new music styles like Qawali, Gazal and later as Khayal. Our music has borrowed musical instruments like Tambur, Rabab, Khemancha from South-East countries which later turned into Indian versions such as Sitar, Sarod, Dilrubal. Our music has also received instruments like Violin and Harmonium from western countries centuries ago. These became the most important instruments in Indian classical music. Both these instruments are surviving in their original versions. In another way we can see that very recently the Hawaiian guitar<sup>2</sup> entered into Indian music and rapidly it has become a popular instrument in Indian Hindustani style music. But it is and suitably modified in body structure and tuning system. Few more instruments are to be noted which made no changes in their shapes. Italian instrument-Mandolin<sup>3</sup> is a popular instrument in Carnatic music nowadays. Blowing instruments like Clarinet<sup>4</sup> and Saxophone<sup>5</sup> are also adopted in Indian music. Indian musical instruments like Sitar, Sarod, Santoor etc are spread worldwide since 20th century. The musical instruments migrated from India have kept their original link

with the Indian music and continued performing the same in abroad too, but the foreign instrument which came to India are completely left behind their original music here and totally adopted to Indian music.

Not only the instruments but the music making has a great role in globalizing the Indian music. This has two ways;

1. Indian classical music in its original form attracted listeners and learners worldwide through performances, teachings, and media.
2. Cross-genre music which has again two ways known as classical and fusion. This includes again two forms known as Jugalbandi and Fusion.

'Jugalbandi' is a classical duet of vocal or instrumental or a cross between vocal and instrumental. This sometimes includes more members of different instrumental or vocal. But this is not like a group or orchestral type music. Here we can find again two varieties. First is intra-genre performance which includes duet-thrift of different instruments or vocals within same music form i.e. Hindustani music. Second is a cross-genre type that includes Hindustani and Carnatic music styles. Sometimes this also may include Indian and Afghan or Persian music. It is because these musical styles are similar ones. But another type of cross genre music which is known as 'fusion', is the mixture of the music of two or more entirely different cultures. This is an Indo-western music which is a mix of any music genres like Carnatic, Hindustani, Jazz, African, Chinese etc. This type of music is becoming very popular nowadays. This also includes both vocal and instrumental version. Some of the famous music albums like 'East meets West' by Ravi Shankar-Yehudi Menuhin, 'Supreme' by Ali Akbar Khan-John Handy, 'Shakti' by Ustad Zakir Hussain, L. Shankar, John McLaughlin Vinayakram, 'Music of the Mountains' by Shivakumar Sharma are few examples of cross genre fusion music and played a big role in globalizing the Indian music. Till today, the Indian musicians are promoting the Indian music worldwide through many ways including performances and teaching. They are adopting all the modern methods and technologies in performances and teachings that are the requirements of globalization.

#### IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN MUSIC

**Adaptations:** It is early said that a number of abroad instruments like violin, Harmonium, Mandolin and Hawaiian Guitar were adopted in Indian music. These instruments are slightly altered in their shapes, string arrangements, tuning and holding positions to suit for Indian music. This adaptation is the result of globalized knowledge transfers and transportations of musical instrument manufacturing technology.

**Migrations:** Indian instruments like Sitar, Sarod, Santoor, Veena etc were migrated to abroad countries. But these instruments kept their original shapes, tunings etc and they are still performed in Indian music style even in abroad also, but they are never adopted into other musical genres such like Western classical or others.

**Promotions:** Some Indian instruments like Surbahar, Rudraveena, Sarangi and Dilruba were kept in the rare class till a few years ago due to lack of interest in learners and listeners among Indians. There were only few teachers and performers we could find and these instruments were almost in extinct situation. That was happened due to an earlier reverse impact of globalization which led the generation to enjoy the modern music forms like filmy or pop-rock etc. But again the impact of globalization brought change in the view towards the greatness of the rare instruments and music forms. According to Dilruba and Surbahar artist Dr. Aranyakumar 'the modern equipments like high quality sound recording systems were able to reproduce the height of the music that can be performed on these instruments, which has a very interesting to abroad listeners and many of them intend to listen and learn these instruments'. In result, slowly the interest of people has changed and now it can be observed in many people among Indians. Still there is large number of fans of filmy music. Even the filmy music uses these instruments to reach audience. In some extent, this is an impact due to globalization. This has happened not only with few rare instruments but also with music forms like Dhrupad and Dhamar etc. Unfortunately there are only few performers and teachers of these rare instruments and music forms in India.

**Teaching system:** In the earlier days Indian music was an art which was learnt through face to face sitting in front of a Guru for many years. This was known to as Guru-Shishya Parampara. A similar system was also exists under the title Gharana. These are still an appreciated way to learn Indian music and most of the learners still prefer it. But due to the impact of globalization, livelihood has become competitive and needs a lot of efforts to sustain and grow. This made the human life very congested and timeless. In result, people are finding easy and money saving methods to learn anything of their interest. This naturally applies to learning Indian music also. At this step the modern technology entered the music field. Internet has become an affordable way to learn the music. Teachers are now establishing themselves as 'Web Gurus' on internet and video calls are becoming platform to teach the music. Students who stay in remote cities or abroad, nowadays wish to learn music lessons through Internet. Students like Bidisha Sen and Nora Tay who stay

abroad are few of examples for this. An online Flute teacher Mr. Venugopal of Dharwad says that 'however, this cannot substitute for the real impact of face to face learning but it gives an opportunity to learn a medium level standard of music'. But an intelligent student can use this for a good level development. Young generation Gharana artists who opened themselves to the globalization have got a high status in teaching and performance.

**Musical devices:** Most of the technological innovations in the field of music have witnessed radical changes. The technology gave space to electronic products that are becoming substitute to the Tanpura, Tabla, Lehra, Swaramandal, Harmonium instruments. There are affordable, as computers and smart phones now have the software of above mentioned electronic instruments. There are several advantages of these things and such use is not to be discouraged. However, electronic Tabla and Lehra are only can be used for practice and this made the practice of music at affordable cost because it is not easy to find and call an accompanist for daily practice. Tabla artist Prof. R S Hiremath of Dharwad says that 'the electronic musical devices sometimes seem to create unemployment and musical poorness'. For instance Tanpura is very essential instrument in Indian music, but nowadays most of the musicians are using electronic Tanpura which overtakes the manual Tanpura. In this case musicians may lose the skill of tuning Tanpura. Mr. Gous Ahmadsaheb Sitarmaker of Miraj says that 'the electronic musical equipments reduce the employment of Tanpura manufacturers and sellers'. Other way the factories of electronic musical devices may create some employment but that can't be equalize with the loss of skilled artwork. This can be mentioned only in relation with Tanpura and Swaramandal. However, no electronic device can be substitute for any other instruments like sitar, sarod etc.

Another important impact of global technology on Indian instrumental music is the usage of sound technology. Various microphones, sound pick-ups, condenser unites, sound processors etc are invented to produce high quality sound which is essential to the success of any musical performance. We can see that a sound pick-up microphone has become compulsory for those instruments having delicate sound like Veena and Rudraveena. Also no performances will be held without microphones. According to sitarists Sanjay Deshpande of Belgaum and Nikhil Joshi of Hubli who uses sound pick-up and possessor in performance 'through using these electronic unites several improvements are taking place in music performance like smoothness in plucking, improved performance techniques'. Vocalist Vijaykumar Patil feels that 'microphone concentrated voice culture is a must need for every singer nowadays'. Earlier habits of practicing Indian music needed force and stresses on hands and voice. Sound processors are most commonly used in fusion music performances.

## SUMMARY

According to global requirements following implements are found presently in Indian music. It can be stated that these are the impact of globalization on Indian music.

1. Internet and video conference teachings of Indian music
2. Scripting the Indian music in a foreign language like English
3. Publishing audio-video CD's worldwide through Internet
4. Publishing the musical books worldwide through Internet
5. Booking artists for concerts worldwide through Internet
6. Using a number of modern technological devices in music performances
7. Using electronic musical devices
8. Musicians are intend to avail global connectivity through websites, facebook etc.
9. Sound technology related inventions help improving the performance level.
10. Opportunities of performance and teaching are increased.

## CONCLUSION

It is said that music is the universal language and have no boundaries. But at the same time, music represents the culture of particular geographical areas or countries or states where that belongs to or born from. Thus it is always concentrated over the place and the culture of its origin. There is no doubt that Indian music is impacted by tremendous technological changes. Every technology has advantages and disadvantages, but it is our choice to accept only good things. World famous Tabla Maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain says; "change is inevitable, but it is for us to decide what we are going to do with globalization." These words indicate to the unchangeable part of Indian music that is the depth of improvising methods of music and the unique traditional knowledge. This should not be affected through the global changes. However, Indian musicians are more concentrated on the traditional way of music making and it is likely to prevail. It is true to say that traditional artists and audience have little fear about globalization and they feel that fusion may exploit traditional music.



#### NOTES

- 1.Read; Sitar and Sarod in 18th and 19th centuries in India. Author: Miner Allyn 1997
- 2.It is said that Hawaiian guitar is modified to Indian version by Radhika Mohan Maitra (1917-1981). (Article by Anubrata Deb Blink 19-04-2014) Pt. Vishwamohan Bhat further refined and developed a sophisticated Hindustani performance style on it.
- 3.Mandolin is originally an Italian instrument. Pt. U.Shrinivas carried it into Karnatic music and Ud.Nasar Sajjad is one among the Hindustani performance on Mandolin.
- 4.Pt. Narasimhalu Wadawati is a well known Hindustani performer of Clarinet.
- 5.Saxophone is becoming popular classical instrument. Pt.Kadri Gopalnath brought it into Karnatic music.

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