



Scenario of change in the life of Goan people's

Dr. Vaishali Sanjay Naik^{1*}

¹Associate Professor , Indian Language Department , Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar-Panaji- Goa 403001

Citation: Dr. Vaishali Sanjay Naik (2024), Scenario of change in the life of Goan people's , *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(11) 939 - 941

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i11.8895

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Goa also known as Gomantak, surrounded by the Sahyadri mountain ranges, is a very small land area in India. Despite being small, Goa remained under the rule of many rulers. During these different reigns, its seeds got mixed in the society and culture of Goa and a unique culture flourished. The seeds of this changing culture are still present in the social life of Goa. Goa is today world famous as a tourist destination for its natural beauty and wealth. There is a charm in every particle of Goa which is surrounded by the many beaches. In this era of technological development, many development plans are coming up in Goa, due to which the changes taking place in the entire environment are not only bringing about external but also internal changes in the life of the people of Gomantak. The parameters of social life are changing, the forms of this change can be seen in the lifestyle, food habits and even in the language of Goa. Along with the life of the people, the cultural context of Goa is also changing. In this research article, an attempt is made to introduce the impact of this changing environment on public life and the changes that have taken place in the social and cultural life of Goa.

Key words: Goa, environment, change, culture, social life

The land situated between the Sahyadri mountain ranges on the western coast of India is called. 'Goa'. This area is known by the various name such as 'Goa' or 'Gomantak', 'Gomanchal', 'Gopakpatt', 'Goapuri'. This land is also called 'Aparant' or 'Sunaparant'. The Terekhol river flows in the north of Goa state, on the other bank of which lies the city of Sawantwadi. The Sahyadri mountain peaks lie in the east, Karwar district (Karnataka) in the south and the vast Arabian Sea spreads in the west. According to scholars, in ancient times the border line of Goa was much larger than the present border line. But after the arrival of the Portuguese, the area of Goa became limited. In terms of area, the area of Goa is spread over 3,702 sq. km. From 1510 AD to 1961 AD, Goa remained under the Portuguese rule. But after Goa's liberation on 19 December 1961, Goa was separated from the Union Territory of Daman and Diu and was established as a constituent state on 31 May 1987. Goa became the 25th constituent state of the Indian Union and the city of Panaji became its capital. Goa remained under Portuguese rule for about 450 years, due to which the influence of European culture is very much felt here in social and cultural life of Goan.

Today Goa has its own distinct identity in the world. If we look at the history of Goa carefully, it is very unique and amazing. The religion of the majority of people living in Goa is Hinduism. According to the 2011 census, the population of Hindus in Goa is more than 67 percent and about 25 percent of the population is Christian. Apart from this, people of other religions also live here. Many tribes are also found in Goa like Kunbi, Gavda, Velip, Dhangar, etc. Religion, culture, language, and literature of any nation have their own distinct tradition. One special thing about Goa is that, the caste system like Hindus is also found in the Christian society here. The main castes such as Bhat, Maratha, Bhandari, etc. are found among Hindus. Christian society is also divided into castes and sub-castes. The main reason for this can also be that, during the Portuguese conversion, many Hindu families adopted Christianity. Where we can see the majority of Christian communities lived in the southern part of Goa, there is more Hindu influence is reflected in its architecture. Whereas less number of Christians lived in North Goa, Portuguese architecture is more visible here. Life of people in Goa is of peaceful nature. Which is called 'Sushegad' in Portuguese words. People of Goa are spread in districts like Madgaon, Panaji, Bardesh, Pedne etc. There is not much difference between the houses of general Hindu and Christian society. The method of building houses is simple. There is mostly similarity in food habits. Hindus and Christians eat meat and fish along with vegetarian food. People depend on the produce of the fields but gradually the agricultural business is also ending. Lands are lying barren and mall culture is flourishing. Still, to some extent, traditional food is emphasized in both the communities during festivals. The effect of changing environment is now also visible in the food habits of the people of Goa. The impact of consumer culture can be

seen on the public life here. The craze for pizza, burger, noodles, Maggi etc. is increasing among the youth. The trend of instant food has replaced traditional food items. Villages are getting urbanized.

Cultural environment

Culture is so multi-faceted and complex that no one can define it strictly and comprehensively. This is the reason why there is diversity in the interpretation of culture. Man makes his life safe, happy and more prosperous by changing the nature around him according to the progress of life, that is, by developing it. Along with this, he also makes better use of his mind, intellect and creativity. Sanskars are also performed on them, all of these can be broadly called culture. That is, culture is a traditionally developing symbol of the advanced state of the overall inner life along with religion. In culture, changes in the physical world and mental changes come together. Making a stone idol will be called a physical change, whereas seeing that idol, the thought of God arises in our mind and shaking hands with it with devotion is a mental change. Religion, ethics, art, science, law, civilization, etiquette can be called indicators of mental need and mental change. Therefore, man created gods and goddesses to protect his life. He created some religious rituals to please God. Art was created. All these traditions were formed. Every generation added something new to it. It was handed over to the next generation. Language made it even more beautiful and all these things got the name culture. Culture is that innovation which makes our life happier, more attractive, richer, healthier, more valuable. This culture which is bound by the inner threads of family, society, nature and universe and gives importance to innovation is constantly changing. Since culture is considered a social creation, it is formed by many factors. We get the wealth of culture from material traditions and associative traditions. Acceptance and coordination is the basis of culture, so it is constantly changing. Despite many types of diversity in social, religious, cultural life, a unique culture is visible in Goa. On the one hand, the present Hindu life of Goa, the Christian society here adopts a transitional lifestyle in the tireless process of globalization by assimilating European culture in accordance with the remnants of Portuguese life. When Afonso Albuquerque captured Goa in 1510, the culture of Goa was being followed as before during his reign, but no attempt was made to uproot it from its roots. Later, the Portuguese made Goa a medium for religious preaching, and then many kinds of atrocities began to be committed for religious conversion. Many people became Christians. Christianity began to be preached. Christian missionaries from Europe arrived in Goa to educate the neo-Christians. 'Mis' (prayers) began to be done in the Portuguese language, which was beyond the understanding of these neo-Christians. They understood the importance of the local language for religious preaching in Goa. Understanding the need for the local language for religious preaching, attention began to be paid to the study of the Konkani language.

In the 19th century, a new literary work was created in Goa under the influence of the Portuguese language and western music etc. In the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Christian community's 'manddo' and 'dulod' dances were created. In the same period, understanding the cultural needs of the Christian community, 'Tiatra' was started. From the cultural point of view, Goa's culture is very ancient. It is said that 1000 years ago, Goa was known as "Konkan Kashi". Although the Portuguese people made a lot of efforts to erase the traces of this culture, but the original culture here was so powerful that they could not do so. The Portuguese forcefully established Roman Catholic religion in Goa. For this, they also tried to destroy the original culture here. But even after conversion, these people could not completely abandon the customs and ideas of Hindu culture. Even today, instead of the practice of applying turmeric in Hindu community during marriages, Catholic people apply coconut juice, which is called 'ros'. Even today, people of Christian community are seen visiting temples like Mangeshi temple or Fatarpe village to get 'Kol'. People of Hindu community also light candles in front of the cross and pray. People of both the communities equally go to the festival held in Old Goa. Like Hindu women, people of Christian Gavda-Kunbi caste also celebrate Dhalo festival. Only in the songs, the names of Hindu deities are changed and references are made to Jeju, Mary Mata, Saint Anton, etc. The famous 'Musal Nritya' of Chandor village is performed by Christian community in Hindu style today. Similarly, we can see the cultural coordination of Goa in many things. Most of the rulers of East Goa were Hindus, hence their influence in the culture here is also visible in folk arts like Veerbhadra, 'Ghodemodni'. But till this second decade of twenty first century, we can see that the culture here has also been affected by globalization, consumerist culture. Due to which we can see this changing cultural scenario in the public life of Goa also.

Changing face of Goa

Panaji is the capital of Goa. Natural beauty gives Goa a wonderful look. This place is very much liked by peace loving tourists and nature lovers. Goa is a small state. There are about 40 small and big beaches here. Some of these beaches are of international standard. This is the reason why Goa has a different identity on the world tourism map. The modern markets here also attract tourists. In this city situated on the banks of the Mandovi river, tourists come to enjoy river cruise in the evening. A glimpse of Goa's culture is seen in the music and dance programs on the floating cruise on the Mandovi. Goa has seen unprecedented urbanization in its towns and villages in the last few years. Today, Goa tops all the small states with such a large percentage of population living in urban areas. According to the 2011 census data, Goa has the largest urban population among the small states of the country at 62 percent. The percentage of population living in urban areas of the state has increased significantly. As a result, Goa's economy is also getting affected. Tourism contributes nearly 40% to the state's gross domestic product (GSDP). Minerals such as iron ore, manganese, ferro-manganese, bauxite, and silica

sand are found in Goa. The iron and manganese mining industries are important to Goa's economy. Most of Goa's income tax comes from tourism and as a result, the economic interest of capitalists from Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat has increased in Goa. The dominance of non-residents in Goa's market cannot be ignored. Although Goans have benefited from higher prices by selling their ancestral lands, orchards and businesses, the increasing dependence on easy interest income from deposits and rents has severely eroded the entrepreneurial potential of Goans. Today, coastal areas like Harmal, Morji are being run by non-residents. Goa's youth, chasing easy money, is ignoring the precious heritage of their region. Goa's middle class is the biggest loser in this crisis, as they find the standard of living and living expensive and have limited options for development. Uncontrolled urban sprawl can be detrimental to coastal areas, causing irreversible damage and making valuable natural landscapes vulnerable.

This trend has significantly affected the traditional occupations of fishing and agriculture. Abroad, Catholic communities from Salcete, Bardes, Tiswadi who earlier preferred to settle in Zambia-Mozambique, Karachi, the Gulf and Portugal are now increasingly moving to the UK, Canada, Australia, Germany, while a growing number of educated youth from Hindu middle class families prefer Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad for education and IT employment opportunities. Other problems arising from increasing urbanization include conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land, large-scale deforestation, destruction of ancestral properties and over-investment in apartments etc. The desire to have a home in the city has led to investment in apartments that are not meant for living or renting and are therefore lying closed. This scale has grown to such an extent that Goa has the highest proportion of gated houses in the country. Today Goa's settlement pattern is the result of naturally developing urbanization. Goa is today one of the most urbanized states in India. In 1986, Goa implemented land zoning plans, which ensured that its agricultural land, ecosystems and historical sites were protected from the rapidly growing land market. This gave the state an alternative urbanism. Active forces are transforming the state into a hyper-urban system consisting of a large mix of large gated real estate projects and exclusive high-class tourist enclaves, linked together by a network of grand transportation networks. Apart from this, biodiversity can also be seen in Goa. Located at the origin of the Western Ghats, Goa also has many wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, such as Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir Sanctuary, Molem National Park, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahadei Wildlife Sanctuary and Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, which have become popular attractions depicting Goa's rich biodiversity. These parks and sanctuaries were a depiction of Goa's rich flora and fauna. Among them was the Dudhsagar Falls, which is the fifth highest waterfall in India. Even today many people come to experience this powerful waterfall. The bird sanctuary located on Sheraw Island - Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary is a place where people still go to see many migratory birds coming to Goa. But today this natural splendor is also being harmed in the name of road widening.

Conclusion

Talking about the present, today Goa has many schemes being implemented by the Central Government and the Government of Goa in the form of development. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a significant addition to Goa's infrastructure by dedicating a 6-lane access-controlled road. This important corridor has elevated viaducts and connects Manohar International Airport to Dhargal along NH-166S, significantly improving road connectivity in the region. Goa Chief Minister Shri Pramod Sawant announced that the state government has set a target of ensuring 100% renewable energy use in all sectors by 2050. The government has committed to produce 150 MW of green energy in the next two years, under which 100 MW solar power facilities will be built around Goa. Goa has become the country's first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified state. All 2.63 lakh rural households in Goa now have access to potable water through tap connections. In December 2022, the Prime Minister inaugurated Goa's Mopa International Airport. It has been developed at a cost of about Rs 2,870 crore. Along with this, development work is being done in all areas like solar energy, e-vehicles, digital education etc. In the coming time, the face of Goa will change and a new Goa is expected to develop. Along with these development works, the state government is also trying to preserve the cultural image of Goa through various schemes. It is hoped that the identity of Goa in this reconstruction will remain the same in the future as well.

Reference List

1. Chadha, Pawanit Singh and Mishra, Dheeraj (2024) '2 Goa ministers, local BJP, Congress leaders - see who benefits from changes in state land use law that threaten 'green areas' The Indian Express , 09 September 2024, pp. 1 and 9.
2. Dr Bhosale D.Ta., Loksanskriti: Swaroop Ani Veshesh, Padmagandha Publications, Pune, 2004
3. Khedekar Vinayak, Loksarita, Goa Marathi Academy, Goa.