

**Globalization of Music – Indian Context****Sangeeta Mukherjee**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, SambhuNath College

Labpur, Birbhum, West Bengal, India

Email: [sangeetamukherjee99@gmail.com](mailto:sangeetamukherjee99@gmail.com)**Received:** 30 January 2013; **Revised:** 10 February 2013; **Accepted:** 18 February 2013

---

**Abstract:** The term Globalization was used in 1980s, but the concept stretches back decades, even centuries. Globalization implies the progressive withdrawal of national boundaries. In the distant past, when there was very poor communication between the stretches of the human habitats, arts and cultures emerged around civilizations, which developed mainly the bank of rivers. Each of these civilizations music was quite different and distinct from the others. Music has been one of the most suitable term of fine arts; not only in the Indian subcontinent but all over the world. In the most of the civilizations, initially, music was considered to be a tool of the religious practice. In Indian context, the inscriptions on the walls of different temples prove this fact. The present paper is an attempt to review the positive as well as negative impacts of Globalization in the field of Music in general and music of India in particular.

**Keywords:** globalization, music, raga, sangeet parijat.

---

**Introduction**

Culture is such a vast concept that it defies definition in a compact form. It shapes our personality, we know; and has an enduring imprint on our consciousness. The roots of culture is in a mixture of eminent philosophy, tradition, religion, history, myth and legend, this type of consciousness or feelings evolved through several millennia, creating, over successive generations, a mindset, a value system and a way of life. In the distant past, when there was very poor communication between the stretches of the human habitats, arts and cultures emerged around civilizations, which developed mainly bank of rivers. Each of these civilizations music was quite different and distinct from the others. Music has been one of the most suitable term of fine arts; not only in the Indian sub-continent but all over the world.

**Objective of the present study**

The objective of the present study is an attempt to review the positive as well as negative impact of Globalization in the field of Music in general and Music of India in particular. It is one of the wonderful gift from Mother-Nature and the most important parts of our cultural heritage that the dawn of the human civilization witnessed of the very outset. In Indian context, the books of musicology- “Sangeet Parijat” suggests chiefly two objectives of music; (i) the entertainment of the masses and (ii) the freedom from the worldly matters or the spiritual up gradation. From the past of music, we find two different types of music-(a) the religious music and (b) the music as a mass-entertainer.

**Definition of Music**

The interesting question arises in this part of writing, that what is music? Music is a fine art where in, the medium of expression is the sound. However, not all sounds are used in music. Only musical sounds are permitted. In the terminology of music, the sounds that are considered musical are called ‘tones’ or ‘naada’. These tones are

expressed through musical notes. Names of these notes differ from place to place but in the present era, it is universally accepted that there are seven musical notes in one octave. These musical notes are the alphabet of music. We define music has long been the subject of debate; philosophers, musicians and more recently various social and natural scientists have argued about what constitutes music. The definition has varied through history, in different regions and within societies definitions vary as music, like art, is a subjectively perceived phenomenon. Music may be defined according to various criteria including organization, pleasantness, intent, social construction, perceptual processes and engagement, universal aspects or family resemblances and through contrast or negative definition. The word 'music' comes from the Greek mousike (tekhre) by way of the Latin musica. It is ultimately derived from mousa, the Greek word for muse. In ancient Greece, the word mousike was used to mean any of the arts or sciences governed by the Muses. Later in Rome, ars musica embraced poetry as well as instrument-oriented music. In the European Middle Ages, Musica was part of the mathematical quadrivium: arithmetics, geometry, astronomy and musica. The concept of musica was split into four major kinds by the fifth century philosopher, Boethius: musica universalis, musica humana, musica instrumentalis and musica divina. Of those, only musica instrumentalis referred to music as performed sound.

### **Cultural Globalization**

Globalization of production requires coordination of activities across different expressions of civil society, private enterprise and governmental systems. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), labour mobility and information flows link, through people and ideas, disparate geographical areas varying in culture, traditions and value systems. Consequently, there is a growing academic interest in the cultural, social and political dimensions of globalization. Cultural transformation is a dynamic process, individuals and societies undergo continuous change incorporating fast and slow process. Berger and Huntington (2002) have distinguished between strong and weak cultures and consider India to be a strong culture that is Indian culture faces a low probability of destruction.

The present era is the age of the technological advancements. Barriers are being smashed in terms of virtually everything-speed, actualization and time- in every field of physics. Computers are getting faster and more accurate, in this age of modern technologies and the trends, it is very much trouble-some, if not impossible, to keep space with all the new developments.

### **Impact of Globalization upon Music**

It is important to emphasize that the present state of music and its relation with Globalization. The impact of Islamic / Persian influences on music in the North has been palpable, but not really so on music in the South. In the South, even Thyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar, two of what we call the trinity of Karnatak music, responded to the stimuli of British rule: Thyagaraja composed a kriti with the cadences of western music, while Dikshitar composed 47 so-called nottuswaras using the Western idiom. As far as India is concerned, its culture was not replaced by alien ones; it assimilated external influences without, by and large, allowing its own prevailing cultural identity to be replaced. This mixture, among other factors, has indeed contributed to the glorious diversity of our culture and to the multicultural facet of our national life. The artist's world is much more different from that of the technocrat's world. That is why, the artists, these days; need the help of technocrats to adapt their masterpieces to the changing technological advancements. As for example, a vocalist- however he / she may be in his field – needs the support of the sound engineer in order to perform on a highly sophisticated stage, where the most modern sound system is installed. On the other hand, I am also a singer and performed so many stage performances. Here

my feelings about the programmes that good sound systems and musical instruments capable of creating fabulous atmosphere of programme and melody of singing. I perform 'Tagore Song' in different manner in English version. Thus, we see that now-a-days, more and more technology has got involved along with the arts so as to make the space of fine arts a more peaceful experience performing on the Television is different from that of performing on the Radio, stage-performances before the audience or the pre-recorded performances. Moreover, there are different streams of music- popular music, classical music, Jazz, fusion, folk music- the categorization can go endlessly.

Today, we have many television channels offering programmes like that of the MTV channel, as well as product commercials which project values and a way of life that are not consistent with Indian tradition- giving a new meaning and added strength to what is known as Globalization. These have impacted rapidly on urban children, youth and young adults.

In this age of Globalization, the primary aim of the performer, apparently, looks to be the popularity with the prosperities and possessions. Fame and the wealth have been the common desires of the human beings from the very primitive stages of the evolution of the civilization. The artistic calibre is different from the present attitude of popularity and the possession at any cost-by the means. This urge for the popularity and fame is the result of the Globalization of music. When the question arises about Globalization and music, we often blame only the so-called 'Foreign influence'. But this is not a right process. Popular Indian cinema is equally responsible for the destruction of old Indian values and their replacement with a taste for vulgarities and obscenities.

Another very harmful trend which has come with the Globalization is the motive to bring about uniformity in music. In the present era of Globalization, efforts have been made to compose a uniform kind of music so that it can be launched all over the world and thereby more money can be collected through the sale of such music. The cable TV Networks have launched some channels which are supposed to cater to the needs specifically of the so-called music lovers of the world.

The distinguishing attribute of cultural Globalization is an intensification of process of modernization started during colonization. There is much of value in traditional cultural norms that need to be proceeding and emphasized without the futile and costly 'turn the clock back' attitude. Folk music which was traditionally the simple representation of the oral tradition of the countryside has been very badly hit by the "interference" of the media. Many Albums of folk music launched not a proper manner; there is very little culture of the folk tradition in these Albums. These musics are full of western beats and synthesized tones that totally changed the meaning and traditionality of folk music. In Baul sangeet, Jhumur, Punjabi, Gujrati, Garva, Lavni in almost every folk tradition, this nasty process has become a routine exercise.

Now-a day the global cultural situation is very much affected the common people's life. Remixing process is one of the bad effects of Globalization. This newly emerging Trend is very dangerous to our culture and civilization. In the name of experiments, the previously composed music Albums is being produced in a different manner. The song "Kaanta laga" from the Movie "Samadhi" was presented with a new look. Synthesized tones and beats, coupled with a sensual video attached to it, the aim was to gained popularity in the new generation. The root of originality of the song was totally abolished for this mal-practice. But this does not mean that the Globalization only creates the problems for the musical world, yet it has done many goods too.

**Conclusion**

At present, Globalization is an expanding phenomenon in the world of music. Now-a-days an artist's has got several channels to express himself or herself. In addition that, the audio/video editing is also at one's disposal, in case of some slight errors still left. In fact it has become a static art instead of the dynamic form. Furthermore, the internet has provided the platform or opportunity for the musicians to post their video for virtually all the music world to view and comment. This is the actual path to assess the musicians or composers. To conclude, it is very much difficult to me to properly write the good as well as bad effect of Globalization. But if I get some opportunity to go-deep into this subject then I promise to my loving readers that I will trying to my best and draw a final conclusion about this phenomenon.

**References**

1. Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World, Oxford University Press, UK.
2. Chatterjee Lata, The Janus Face of Cultural Globalization in India.
3. Tomlinson, J. 1991. Globalization and Culture, Polity Press, Cambridge. UK.
4. Debabrata Saha. 2006, Ambassador Debabrata Saha's opening remarks at the seminar at Kyiv National University, "Globalization of Music".
5. Bhatnagar, R.S. 1992. Dimensions of Sufi Thought. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
6. The Bauls of Birbhum, 1961. In Census 1961, B. Ray, West Bengal: DCH Birbhum.