Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-50.70.2023.00094

Section-1: Identification of the element —

Heritage Location

Division

Rajshahi

District

Ch. Nawabganj

Upazila

Chapainawabganj Sadar

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

24

Geolocation(Longitude)

88

Community Category

Artists

Community

Rural

Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)

Gombhira

Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)

Gambhira is a local folk song and performance of Rajshahi region

Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)

People of Chapainawabganj

Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced

Gombhira performances are centred around Chapai Nawabganj District in Bangladesh. The tradition is also popular in the nearby districts of Rajshahi and Naogaon.

Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)

ambhira Gan a type of folk song popular in the northwestern region of Bangladesh. Gambhira songs are assumed to have originated from the worship of the god shiva, who is also known as 'Gambhir'. In ancient times, gambhira used to be celebrated as puja (worship) only. In the medieval period, most Hindu communities celebrated the puja of dharma thakur (a popular god of the Hindus) on the last three days of the Bengali year; this came to be known as the gajan of Shiva later on. In the past Shiva was imagined to be present at the performance. Gambhira Gan Initially, gambhira was

of two kinds: the primary gambhira and the narrative gambhira. The primary gambhira would address gods and goddesses and describe human joys and sorrows, and, sometimes, important events of the year. In the narrative gambhira, every character would represent a social problem. Gambhira songs originated among the Hindu community of Maldah in west bengal. After the creation of Pakistan, Chapai Nawabganj in rajshahi became the main centre of gambhira songs, which underwent major changes in theme and mode of presentation. Muslims became the custodians of this song and made it an integral part of their social life and their culture. Apart from Rajshahi, gambhira songs are also popular inNawabganj and Naogaon. At present the main characters of a gambhira are a maternal grandfather and his grandson. The performance is structured as a dialogue, interspersed with songs. Both prose and verse are used for the dialogue. The gambhira reflects contemporary social problems through witty dialogue, songs, dances and jokes. Both the actors wear lubgi. The grey-bearded grandfather wears a mathal (straw hat) on his head and holds a stick in his hand. The grandson wears a torn jersey and has a gamchha (local checked towel) tied round his waist. In the past gambhira songs were sung in the measures of ektal, trital, dadra, khemta, kaharba etc. Today the tunes are influenced by songs from popular Bangla and Hindi movies. Kutubul Alam, Rakibuddin, Biren Ghosh and Mahbubul Alam of Nawabganj have made the gambhira song popular in Bangladesh by introducing new subjects and characters and interesting and' witty dialogue.

Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- ☑ Oral Traditions and Expressions
- ☐ Performing Arts
- ☐ Social Customs and Traditions
- ☐ Knowledge and Practices related to Nature and Universe
- ☐ Traditional Craftsmanship
- ☐ Food

Section-2: Characteristics of the element —

Practitioners(s)/performer(s) directly involved in the representation or practice of the Heritage (including roles, name, age, gender, social status, and/or professional category etc.)

Babganj Qutubul Alam, Rakibuddin, Biren Ghosh, Mahbubul Alam etc. are prominent artists of Gambhira songs.

Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles))

People of the Chapainawabganj

Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved

Local language of Chapainawabganj

Associated tangible elements used (if any)

Make up such as Nana's beard is ripe on his face, he has a head, he wears a lungi; stick in hand And the grandson's clothes are torn Genji, waist towel etc.

How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage?

Women and other people are the viewers of the performance

Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage

Only male play the characters of the performance

Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any)

Gambhira Utsav has become popular around Shiva Puja. One of Shiva's names is 'Gambhir', hence Shiva's festival is Gambhira festival and Shiva's bandana song is Gambhira song.

Modes of transmission to others in the community

Community transmission

Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

Community arrangement

Section-3: State of the element (viability)

Threats to the enactment

Yes

Enactment Threats Description

No laws and policies

Threats to the transmission (if any)

No

Threat to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)

N/A

Viability of associated intangible elements (if any)

Different kinds of music of hindi songs are used in the Gambhira Gan

Have been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)

None

Section-4: Data gathering/documentation, Consent and preparation of inventory entries

Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Oral consent has been taken

Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any)

N/A

Section-5: Resource Person

Data provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)

N/A

Date of data collection

20-04-2024

Place(s) of data collection

Chapainawabganj

Section-6: Safeguarding techniques

Existing safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage

They occasionally arrange the Gambhira gan

Suggestions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community

Gambhira gan should be organized frequently and other hind music should not be incorporated into the Gambhira

performances

Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives

References to/in literature

http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Gambhira_Gan

Audiovisual materials or archives

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XAbODBjHwE&pp=ygUNZ2FtYmhpcmEgZ2Fhbg%3D%3D

Discography or archives

N/A

Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry

Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)

Anonymous

Date of Community Consent

20-04-2022

Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Yes

Present Condition of Heritage

Still maintaining

Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)

Once upon a time Gambhira songs were sung in tunes like Ektal, Trital, Dadra, Khemta, Kaharba etc. Nowadays there has been a change in tone and Hindi and Bengali film songs are dominating. Apart from this, many themes, characters and dialogues of folk dramas have also been incorporated into Gambhira songs.

Section-9: Community suggestions

Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/holders, (if any)

Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).

Section-10: Upload Document

Heritage Details Document

PDF