

AN EVOLUTIONARY STUDY OF LIVING HERITAGE WITH INTEGRATION OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

‘Living Heritage’ refers to set of values, beliefs and cultural life style that is inherited from ancestral generations---and also applicable to understand the present and future. Numerous challenges are faced by human race born after 2000 A.D., who were not aware of the customs and rituals of their native ancestors. The current work in this context examines the role of modern digital technology in preserving the ‘Living Heritage’; thereby helping the generations in understanding their past and making them aware of their true culture. It narrates and reviews the impact of evolutionary changes produced by the deployment of digital technologies in reviving the heritage sites in India. The ability to digitize and popularize through integration of Information Technology (IT) gives a new paradigm and altogether novel approach to passing the traditions from one generation to another.

Keywords: *Cultural Evolution, Cultural Heritage, Digitization, Historical Sites, IT and Living Heritage.*

INTRODUCTION: AN OVERVIEW OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural differences of people living in a society have always been different---in the same context, there are variations in designs and architectural styles of their buildings. Architectural design of buildings is a reflection of the art, historical background and rich culture. The term ‘Heritage’ refers to what contemporary society inherits and passes on to the upcoming generations. It does not represent only the past, but also the present usage of the past. Indian tradition refers ‘Heritage’ as “Dharohara” which is a combination of two terms: ‘dhara’ which signifies the ‘Divine Mother Earth’ on the other hand ‘-ihara’ means the value addition in glory through time. It is therefore a narration of memories of the glorious past and its interconnection with the places (Singh and Rana, 2016). Heritage is of two type: Tangible and Intangible heritage. Tangible heritage comprises historical monument of past including ancient, medieval, and colonial period. It also comprises of cultural buildings of modern period. The intangible heritage comprises of knowledge of traditional building skills, social life of communities, pottery making, textile art, weaving, rites and rituals, oral traditions, folklore theater (Munjeri, 2004). Both the tangible and intangible heritage should be conserved and the most important part is conserving the link between the tangible and intangible. Tangible and intangible heritage requires divergent approaches for conserving that was the motivation of the 2003 UNESCO convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ASI, 2019).

NEED FOR PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Nowadays, the preservation of cultural heritage is not just the work of museum, but the communities do play an active role in preserving the heritage in various possible ways. This preservation is necessary as these places are a platform where there exists an amalgamation of culture as well as the spirit of nature. Technology also plays an important role in the preservation of cultural heritage by digitization of manuscripts to be accessed worldwide. As a result, most of the museums now have their own e-portal or a virtual museum in addition to the main physical exposition. The most of the Indian architectures unprotected; which have been connected through various era of time and development. Some of the unique sites have been protected by the ASI, central government or non-governmental agencies. With the span of time the legacy is being eroded as a result of modernization and urbanization (ASI, 2019). Most of the unprotected historic sites are still in use, the way they are being used is living heritage of India these are not legally protected. The sites and architectural buildings are in process of destruction. The skills of how they have been made in past is also in danger, as most of the people known with the skill of traditional building techniques are lost from our society (A. Carvalho Luther, 2010). The conservation of living heritage provides the conservation of both the skill of traditional building and the buildings itself. By conserving the unprotected buildings with the help of modern technologies one can protect the culture of India. The basic purpose of this article is to understand the cultural change that had been in past with the new technology in context to the Indian heritage. The Indian civilization, among world's oldest and richest, has a strong tradition of Science and technology.

DIGITAL PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE SITES

There are many forms of digital preservation: Digital work of Art, Electronic museums, and Electronic exhibitions. These may be detailed in paragraphs to follow:

- A. Digital preservation is the necessity as to ensure the permanent access of the cultural heritage. Digital art of work has made it easy to store the artifacts in a better and presentable way for the next generation (Evens and Hauttekeete, 2011).
- B. Information technology has changed the prospective of the museum. "Virtual museum" is a result of integrated media which allows museum to be presented interdisciplinary and interrelated with the ordinance worldwide. By virtual museum the data is more presentable, access of museum with respect to the artist work, or the artifacts of the civilization has been much easy (Schweibenz, 1998).
- C. Electronic Exhibitions or exhibitions by video conferencing is the new concept of modern technology in the traditional method of presenting the work of art to the audience of different geographical areas at the same time.

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Apart from digital preservation there are many monuments of build by ancestors which have lost their living standard but the heritage is still alive. Taking the case of Rajasthan and the region near Delhi many medieval monuments have been transformed into the hotels. The heritage is preserved in a sustainable way this is possible because of modern technology. History witnessed as art has used the most advanced technologies available and the innovation. Leonardo da Vinci

invested

money as well as time in order to understand, examine the wide range of things from the paint pigment to the musical instrument (RAS, 2019). Cultural heritage was not the sphere that is untouched by numerous challenges. India's heritage faces many risks from earthquakes, floods, pollution, theft and deterioration over time. "What we have left if we do not preserve it we have to face the loss" --with only 38 sites listed as World Heritage Monuments in India by UNESCO about 3,650 to be protected by national government, more than thousand are protected by state government and many more unlisted and unprotected. Most of the monument are either not being protected or not under proper guidance (Menon, 2014). The preservation of tangible heritage through the digital technologies and the preservation of the digital cultural content is felt as a matter of the importance, as it is very much connected to the human culture. Indian heritage has impact on the society as communities connect themselves with the culture and their remains of structures. Museums in the last few decades have faced difficult challenges as the need of raising expertise about digital technologies. Modern technologies have opened the route for the international audiences. Museums which were bounded in the four walls are not limited to the boundaries of four walls. 3D reconstruction is being developed by the museum for better interpretation of the ancient architecture which help the researcher in two directions to understand the basics of the ancient monument. IT plays really important function in the preservation and passing onto generations of Cultural Heritage. The use of modern information technologies is an important part of the informational society and implementation in various projects for the preservation and passing the cultural heritage is indispensably necessary (Ramana, 2005).

KEY FINDINGS

There is rising necessity of the expertise in the field of heritage preservation as the development and digitalization has opened the new roads for the heritage to be preserved and shown to the world. There is the need of the awareness and missions to protect the cultural heritage in every possible way they can. Conservation viewpoint that focus on comprehensive traditional knowledge can be the key factor to make the preservation more and more attractive for the young youth. Technology for the development of Conservation is playing an ultimate role, by modern technologies we can not only preserve our heritage but also preserve the communities related to the traditional knowledge for plan structure of the monuments. Importance of geotechnical engineering which has given many solutions for the repairing and maintaining our historic structure and monuments is a major factor in the field of heritage preservation. Major problem is Coordination of government and expertise. Government has to take preservation as in an alarming condition.

CONCLUSION

The challenge that conservation faces is mostly because of abundance of built heritage in Indian sub-continent whereas the expertise and skill required for the conservation is not adequate. The lack of focus on preservation of cultural heritage, the lack of applied research on this subject, the lack of mass working program in the area of heritage preservation. Heritage is a mirror of an individual's skills in past. India needs a proper guideline for living monument to make them in mainstream focus as of non-permanence of material. India need a pedagogical change in education of students at school and at higher studies so the student can learn more and more

about their rich

culture and heritage, science and technology, art and architecture. This will increase the research in the field of heritage preservation.

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