

**“THE HISTORICAL STUDY OF GOR BANJARA: LIFE AND CULTURE –
SPECIAL REFERENCE ON MARATHWADA REGION.”**

**MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT
(COMPLETION REPORT)**

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SUMMURY OF MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT “THE HISTORICAL STUDY OF GOR BANJARA: LIFE AND CULTURE- SPECIAL REFERENCE ON MARATHAWADA REGION”

Introduction & Pre- History of Gor Banjara:-

The main feature and unifying factor of ancient and the biggest ethnic group Banjaras of India is that they have a rich culture and age old tradition of Indian continent, which they have preserved their identity even today, in spite of onslaught of western culture invasion. Banjara origin can be traced right from sindh valley culture, that they have been doing transportation and trading on barter system on pack bullocks, mules camels and horses, even since vedic period The bonafide proof of the same is their ancient transportation routes which is well known in the history of India in the form of ‘LAMAN MARGAS’ this map has been recorded by the Britishers which dates back to 600 B.C. The pack Bullock transport system was very much used by mughal empires nizams, Marathas rajputs and also east india company used them for transportation of grains arms and ammunitions and for showing them way from their respective state capitals to battle fields. Banjara also were used as guides as well as suppliers of food grains etc.

Sir Marshall has written a big treatise on the Indus civilization. The history of Gor culture is hidden in this book and it needs to be carefully found out. The pond measuring 31 x 23 x 8 feet found near Mohenjodaro is not a bathing place but a lake built as a drinking water facility for the oxen laden with goods. The steps are built parallel so that they can easily drink the water. The tribe was engaged in trade with heavy goods laden on the back of the oxen. Once the goods were loaded it was difficult to unpack and repack them number of times.

Hence to facilitate the oxen to drink water in the laden position such ponds were built. Another find is about the grain storage found near the pond. It is 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. It was easy to store grain and then distribute again.

Hence the grain storages were built near the ponds. A 23 feet wide road was built to facilitate the easy loading and unloading of goods. The ponds and the grain storages were built away from the homes as a necessity of the trade. It means without doubt Gorvamshis had built the ponds and storages. Such types of ponds and grain storages have also been found in Harappa.

Tradition & Festival:-

In the medieval period such ponds were constructed in Afghanistan, Rajasthan and Gujarat. They are known as Banjara Bawadi. Bathing place has a different meaning, instead the ponds, which were not deep, were built for the animals. Banjara men used to especially weave the gunny bags for transporting the goods. Such types of spindles are found in the excavations. The instruments used in fabricating the gunny bags are reported to be manufactured in large numbers. Sir Marshall has given proofs in the regard. Wheat crop is considered both important and holy in Gor culture. The various food items that are offered to the gods, ancestors and saints etc. are all made from wheat. Two types of wheat might have been harvested in the Indus culture. The culinary items in a typical Gor meal include different items prepared from wheat like chapatti, puri, lapad and patali baati. made from quality wheat and chicken curry is still considered the best combination for treating the guests.

In the Teej festival the Gor girls worship the wheat saplings for 9 days. At the time of newborn ritual, Ghughari of wheat is prepared. Sir Marshall has given a list of utensils used in the house. They are still used in the Tandas. They include, handi, ghadia, chipa, ooskya, dhakani, items of clay, axe, knives, jambia etc. While the articles like, musal, mungari, dang, stick for hunting and Badakadi to store wine, which were found in the excavation, are still used in the Tanda. This is one more proof that the Indus and the Gor culture are the same

A terracotta figure in a dancing posture has been found in Harappa. The woman in the figure is shown wearing a Mungar garland and bangles made from Ivory. A Banjara woman also wears such ornaments. Also a figure is found wearing a horn and a turban on its head. All the primitive tribes in the world traditionally don a horn on their head. This symbol of honour is still donned by the Gor women. Silver ornaments were used in large numbers in the Indus basin. Today Gor Banjara women also use silver ornaments on large scale. The use of Ghaghra and head cloth, which is a symbol of Indus civilization, is in vogue in the Tandas. The houses are facing towards East and there is a square yard in the middle. The fireplace is on the right side of the house. This was the design of houses in the Indus civilization. In nutshell it can be concluded on the basis of minute study of Sir Marshall's book that Gorvamshiya are the pioneers of the Induculture. The survival of the fittest, the basic of human being that is how eminent anthropologist Sir Charles Darwin in his "Origin of Species" and Theory of Evolution says about human

being and its development .Yes it is truly said that GORs were the ancestors of human being, let us discuss about the quote as cited above.

Historical Importance of Gor World:-

The word GOR has its own meaning that is the man who goes (Gore).It is well known concern that the Man is Mortal and finite ,it shows that each and every man in the world , globe and universe is gore that is why how above sentence is quoted and it is out come of entitled topic. In the Vedanta philosophy MAN is addressed as ADAMI because in the linguistic sense each and every sounds, alphabets and words it has its own root word and morphine. In the same way the word ADAMI is derived from the first alphabet of Devnagari script is- v and v is also stands for Atma means soul. In religious concern ADAMI word is derived from the word ADAM who is known as the first man on the cosmos it is accepted by contemporary religion such as Jew Philosophy, as well as Christianity and Islam and if we consider that the ADAMI is modification of ADAM as a man, So we must know that the word MAN is derived from the GOR word MANKHYA means a MAN. And again if we gone through the words of GOR as in an actions, places, things, emotions & feelings i.e. about names the man who born on Monday is renamed as Somla for Somwar in Devnagari, Mangali for women if she born on Tuesday which mean in Parsi or Hindi Mangalwar , Thawarya if he born on Saturday in Thawar in Hebrew and about the place the dwelling place of the GORs are known as TANDO it is also mean that TAN in Hindi is(taan do) to tied DO is to do it means that the man who wants to live wherever he must do the same thing as GOR does for shelter. The word TANDA mention by a European is Ralph Fitch's in 1585: "Tanda is in the land of Gauren (GOR) Sulaiman Kararani is said to have transferred the capital from Gaur to Tanda in 1565, and it was a favourite residence of the earlier Mughal Governors of Bengal. In 1660 Shah Shuja, hard-pressed by Mir Jumla (Aurangzib's General), retreated from Rajmahal to Tanda, in the vicinity of which town was fought the decisive battle in which he was finally routed.After this date Tanda is not mentioned in history .Regarding words in GOR they are sources to English or Hindi yet it doesn't have any script of its own and hence it is written in local scripts. English,Hindi, Sanskrit, Prakrit It must have been an outcome of, converse transcription and these Apbharansh GORBOLI may have been the source of evolution of all the languages. People belongs to GOR specially from Rathod they devided into categories of their own work like Ramavat & Devsot, Karamtot & Ransot,Khetavat & Dharamsot they have co relationship with class

system in Hindus like Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya & Shudras Especially Rathod people in India are about two crore and fifty lac in population which is one of the biggest population as well as the Chavan/Chauhan they are in second of rank .About Lord Shidhartha Gautam Buddha he abandon his kingdom and went for long starvation after getting Gyan and Buddhi he started preaching to the people the first disciples were GORs .In the fifth century B.C. era of Bhagwan Mahavir the same things happened GORs became follower of Jainism this is how mentioned by the saint of Jain Baba Ramdevji -Banjariye Hari Hari Bol Tando Taro Lad Ja Si, Fourteenth century the preceptor of Sikhism Guru Nanak spread his Banis towards GOR people and told first time -Banaj Karo Banjariyo Bakhar Lehu Chalo, in the period of Tenth Guru Gobind Singhji the ninth Guru TeghBahadurji was assassinated by the Mughal Empire in that time GOR Lakhishahji was voyaging through the rivers and accidentally he was in cyclone and was escaped by the Guru and he exclaimed -Guru Labho Re Guru Labho Re Guru Teg Bahadur Labho Re, Saint Ravidasji says-Ko Banajaro Ramko Mara Tanda Ladiya Jayore. Means is there any merchant of the Lord to join me? My cargo is loaded, and now I am leaving. Ho Banjaro Ramko Sahjkarayo Byapar.I am the merchant of the Lord; I deal in spiritual wisdom .Mai Ram Naam Dhan Ladi-aa Bikh Ladee Sansaar. I have loaded the Wealth of the Lord's Name; the world has loaded poison. Now a days the high profile, super qualified peoples are use to connect relation of GOR as religion to other religion such as some people says we were Hindus some indebted educated person says we were Buddhist, somebody says about Jainism, Christians, Islamic, Sikhism and about another sect, religion.But conclusion we were nothing but are GOR and others are KOR the word KOR is specially for all religious person it suggest that defiantly there were religion as GOR

So GORs were not attached any religion in globe they have their own religion as GOR this is how GORs are not only companion to all religions but also inborn of religion.

Occupation – Trade and Commerce:-

Especially in India the second surge of the Muslim aggression began in 980 AD and lasted till 1020 AD. These Muslim invasions were led by Mohamed of Ghazni. The Rajputs ruling North India resisted further Muslim aggression. The third wave of a successful Muslim invasion led by Mohamed Shahabuddin Ghauri took place between 1191 AD and 1255 AD. This was the time the Muslims extended their occupation to Delhi. The lead role in resisting this invasion was played by Prithvi Raj Chouhan. This

Muslim surge brought East Punjab, the Ganges Valley (Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) and Bengal under Muslim Occupation. This invasion reached up to Bengal where the last Hindu Gaur Kingdom ruled by Laxman Sena was overrun by the Muslims. Panini, an ancient historian, who flourished before the second century B.C., mentions in his writings Gaurpura. Gaur, under the names of Ramavati and Lakshmanavati, was probably one of the royal capitals of the Pal and Sen Kings, but its recorded history does not begin until the Muhammadan conquest of western and Northern Bengal (Rarh and Varendra) by Muhammad-I-Bakhtiyar Khalji, the lieutenant of Qutbuddin Aibak of Delhi, in the year 599 of the Hijra, corresponding with 1202 A.D. Rai Lakshman Sen (better known as Lakhan Sen) who had renamed Gaur Lakshmanavati after his own name, was then King of Bengal, and Muhammad-I-Bakhtiyar, advancing rapidly by the south easterly road from Bihar, surprised him in his capital of Nadia on the Bhagirathi river (now represented by Nabadwip, a little to the west of Krishnagar). Munim Khan, Khan-I-Khanan, the first Viceroy of Akbar, retransferred the seat of Government from Tanda to Gaur in 1575, but the rains of that year caused an epidemic from which numberless people died and the Viceroy himself fell a victim. The seat of Government was then hurriedly taken back to Tanda. In 1595 Raja Man Singh removed the seat of Government from Tanda to Rajmahal on the other side of Ganges. Fluctuations in the river course were again probably the main cause of the transfer. After the removal of the capital, TANDA dwindled away, and was ultimately destroyed by the floods of 1826. When Islam Khan was the Subedar of Bengal the seat of Government was transferred to Dacca about 1612. The main reasons for this removal was to deal with a fresh Afghan rebellion under 'Usman, as well as to check incursions by the Arakanese. During the Viceroyalty of Prince Shah Shuja, Rajmahal became again the capital of Bengal. In 1660, Mir Jumla, the first Governor of Aurangzib, again transferred the capital to Dacca. In 1704 Murshid Quli Khan for the last time removed the capital from Dacca to Murshidabad, and this place remained the seat of Moslem rule till the battle of Plassey. After 1757, Calcutta finally became the capital of Bengal, as well as-until 1912-the capital of India. It means that GORs were history creator. Gor people are today found living in eleven countries in the cosmos and twenty-one states and union territories in India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari except in the North-Eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. In the fifteenth century Rakabganj Tanda was situated in the Delhi now the Parliament is situated. All the National Highways and state highways and Transportation roads of all India level are also founded by the GORS. They never bonded with borders and narrow considerations because their

occupation was to trade, commerce the word BANAJARA is derived from the Persian word BANAJ which also trade and the word LABHANI is derived from the LAWAN mean salt the Gors were tradesmen to provide five continent and it is proved by the CHOKOPURA the holy symbol of GORS it symbolizes the earth the earth were five continent in the time when GORS use to trade. Colonel Tod remarks of this dynasty: “The Gaur tribe was once respected in Rajasthan, though they never attained to any considerable eminence. The ancient kings of Bengal were of this race and gave their name to the capital, Lakhnauty’. It is also mean Gors were originator.

Language, Dresses, Judiciary and Tanda Culture:-

GOR use to celebrate their festivals by constructing CHOKO means with round pot having full of water in it , five lines and having leaves in the pot it shows that the earth is round and it is covered with water having oceans and have five continent GORS are living in different states in India, their traditions, culture, their dialect called “GORBOLI”, their social and religious customs and habits, their colorful dress and songs and so on are all alike. By their appearance and particularly by the colorful and gorgeous dress of their women folk, they could be easily recognized as GORS in any part of India and the whole world. At the very outset, it would be necessary to point out some of the misconceptions and discrepancies in the versions of the Gor bards and genealogists called Dhadis and Bhaats and also in the writings of several authors on Gor dynasty, its origin, spread and so on. GORS have tremendous faith in a GOR (Gor) Panchayat system. Even today it is prevalent and practiced in settling the disputes amongst themselves. GORS have typical TANDA culture (caravan camps earlier and now settled camps, known as TANDAS, which is an unique feature of GORS, with their own administrative, judiciary and executive systems, as well as for community’s social life, gatherings, and festivals etc. They have strong beliefs and meticulously follow their own GOR Panchayat Systems to settle Civil, criminal and matrimonial disputes this indicate that genuinely GORS were root to culture.

In India near about 20 languages became national languages if we consider GORBOLI as a spoken language about 9 crore people speaks this dialect. The founders of Panchayat Raaj were GORS. India was under the rule of Europeans such as Arab, Dutch, French, Portuguese & British for long period in this period people rebelled against the rulers such as Bhai Harisingh Rathod & Bhai Manisingh Pawar rebelled against Mughal empire but the rebellions were ruthlessly crushed much blood was shade and thousands of

lives were lost but at last we got independence in 15th August,1947 Rulers of free India divided country into caste ,creed, community, religion, customs, traditions and Languages and adopted constitution but yet we striving for equality and rights. Our constitution has given us right to religion so our religion is GOR; mother tongue is GORBOLI , caste & category should be one also special state as GORARASHTRA yet the governments of India have divided us into following different caste and categories.

MAHARASHTRA : Banjara, Banjari, Vanjara, Mathura Banjara, Goar Banjara, Lambada, Lambara, Lambhani, Charan Banjara, Labhan, Mathura Labhani, Kachiriwale Banjaras, Laman Banjara, Laman, Lamani, Laban, Dhali, Dhalia, Dhadi, Dhari, Singaris, Navi Banjaras, Jogi Banjaras, Banjari, Shingde Banjara, Lambade, Phanade Banjara, Sunar Banjara, Dhalya Banjara, Shingadya

In the post sixteenth century greatest sage and foreteller Sevalal born and traveled through twenty one regions in continent for trade and to preach with non violence, pity, mercy and secularism, he also emancipated the tribes and communities specially GORS from superstitions, illiteracy, greedy, envy, jeulacy and narrow considerations. He was also eminent in trade and social awareness cause if we study his sayings then we came to understand his innovative and versatile thinking. Now a days his sayings became true to check it we have Mineral Water for about 15rs, but yet we are striving for his another saying that is GOR RAAJ it means that their will be Reign of GORS in future that is how he says---

*Kariya Chori Khaya Kori, Gharemundag Ekach Mori,
Rapiya Katoro Paani Wak Jaay, Baldero Sing Sonero We Jaay,
Maayen Beta Parko Wiya, Rapiyar Tera Chana Wak Jaay,
Jana Kun Tariya, Seva Liye Avtar, Jana
Maro Gormati Rijo Gameti Chheti, Chhod Mat Penar Dhati,
Gor Keshula nahi Mor Jaay, Goruro Raaj Aaye,
Jaanjo, Chhaanjo, pachach Maanjo !!!*

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Dance of Gor Banjara.



Teej & Holi Festival of Gor Banjara.



Progress of Gor Banjara community.



Ornaments & Dresses of Gor Banjara .