Role of Doordarshan Libraries in preserving Indian Classical Music (A study of Doordarshan Centres of Gujarat)

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Abstract

From the very beginning, DD (Doordarshan) is playing a very important role in preservation & propagation of Indian Classical Music in India. DD libraries have a rich collection of classical music preserved at all centers & at Central archival unit. The Libraries at Doordarshan Centres of Gujarat are observed here as a case study to find out the role of Doordarshan Libraries in preservation of Indian Classical Music. How the libraries manage and preserve the Indian heritage of classical music is observed and outcome is discussed here.

Key Words: Classical Music, Doordarshan, Indian Heritage, Library, Music

Introduction:

Public Service broadcasting is an important instrument in preserving a cultural heritage for any country. India is a multi cultural, multilingual country with the diverse heritage of various fields like classical music, various forms of classical dance, arts and crafts, folk Music and Folk dance etc. The developing countries like India have a special vision to utilize the capabilities of two main entities of public broadcasting i.e. all India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (Television).

All India radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (Television) (DD) are working under Prasar Bharati as a public service broadcaster under the ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The libraries at all the studio centres of AIR and Doordarshan are preserving the recordings of classical music - the performance, the interviews, life sketches, documentaries etc. of eminent personalities.

Television is a strong media to convey any message to the public. It impacts the mass very easily and very strongly. Television was started under All India radio on 15, September, 1959.

India is a country with a large cultural heritage from the ancient times and the population more than 1.2 billion speaking different languages and dialects. To reach up to everyone, Doordarshan has established network of 67 studio centres and 644 transmitter's trough out the nation (Prasar Bharati). To provide a service of broadcasting covering the

diverse public and a vast landscape of areas, as a public service broadcaster, is the main aim of Prasar Bharati.

> "It was on 15th September, 1959, that an experimental television station under the overall charge of AIR was inaugurated in Delhi and with this the Television came to India." (Doordarshan Manual, 1987, p.1)

From very beginning of it, AIR & DD are playing a vital role in preservation & propagation of Hindustani Classical Music in India.

AIR & DD libraries are having a huge collection of classical music preserved at all centers & at Central archival unit. AIR & DD are fundamental in preserving the Indian heritage of classical music and playing an important role in preservation & propagation of this heritage.

They are the ultimate solution for any person curious about Indian classical music. It is the matter of pride for AIR & DD that the treasure they have, is not with any other electronic Media. They have very rare Audio & Audio visual recordings of maestros in this field.

Today, when Hindustani Classical Music has crossed the boundaries of India and has become popular in foreign countries, it is also a duty of AIR & DD to record, preserve & enhance the collection of Hindustani Classical Music.

Methodology

1. ***Research Methodology***

   The research is based on the case study of libraries at DD Centres of Gujarat. The programmes related to Classical Music, available in particular library, method of preservation & maintenance of records & Meta Data in particular library is examined in detail.

2. ***Selection of Area:***

   Gujarat is a fast developing state of the nation and also having a notable heritage of classical music. There are AIRs & DDKs producing & preserving classical music programmes on regular basis. *Tana riri sangeet Mahotsav* & *Saptak Sangeet Samaroh* are very popular music concerts in music lovers. A *Hanumant award* given by *Sh. Moraribapu* is also considered very much prestigious among maestros of this field. So the area is selected for research.

3. ***Objective:***

   The aim of this work is to discuss how DD libraries are playing a role in preservation & propagation of Hindustani classical music.

- ✓ To investigate the preservation system of the libraries at DD centers of Gujarat.

- ✓ To determine how the centers can play an important role in development of treasure of Hindustani Classical Music.
- ✓ To aware the public towards archival materials preserved in DD libraries.
- ✓ To get better understandings what the DD have contributed & what they can contribute in preservation & propagation of Hindustani Classical Music.

4. ***Tools and Techniques***

   The systems of the libraries are observed. Interviews with the librarians and programme officials dealing with Music programmes are conducted telephonically. Where needed personal visits of the centres are also arranged to collect further data. A Structured and unstructured interviews are conducted with the librarians & other programme staff. Various aspects are revealed of the library system: how they preserve the recordings of Classical Music and Meta Data of all these materials.

5. ***Procedure of Data Collection***

   Data are collected through personal visit of libraries & interviews of librarian, programme staff and producers of Music programmes.

6. ***Data Analysis and Interpretation***

   Data collected, are discussed with descriptive method.

Indian classical Music

"The Music of India is perhaps one of the oldest in the world. It is also a major system of music that is essentially melodic." (Deva, 1990)

Indian classical music has roots in the Vedic times. The saints were singing the *Richas*, and *Suktas* from *Vedas*. In ancient times music was performed in devotion to God in temples. The classical music was nurtured in aegis of temple and become famous.

In the middle age, it was protected by royal families. But at that time it was attainable only for high society.

In Mughal era also this music got a high level respect in royal courts.

But in British era, it reached up to the mass from the class.

After independence it became accessible for all. The way of performance and presentation is changed. The institutions and colleges are established in all over the country for training and education of classical Music.

The people in India and abroad are attracted to this divine Music. The Indian maestros of this Music are settling abroad for propagation of this Indian heritage.

With invent of Medias; print and electronic, Indian Classical music has spread rapidly.

After introduction of Doordarshan (Television) in India, it reached up to our drawing rooms. This music was taught personally one to one by the maestros to the students in *Guru Shishya Parampara.* Now it reached from one to many simultaneously. It is very much romantic for the people watching their ideals singing or playing music in their own drawing room.

It is very much exciting to see the maestros performing live through television that we lost even before our birth. This credit goes to Doordarshan libraries. They have a rich collection of these types of recordings of the voices which never return.

Indian classical Music gives the eternal peace to the performer and the listeners too. It creates positive vibrations in human mind and body.

It is instrumental for divine experience.

Doordarshan Centres in India:

Total 67 Programme production centres of Doordarshan are established in India as shown in Table 1.

(Table 1)

Doordarshan Studio Centres

Major Studio Centres	**19**
Regional Production Centres	2
Other Studio Centres	46
Total	**67**

(Source: Prasarbharati Annual Report 2018-19)

Doordarshan Centres in Gujarat:

Gujarat is a land of cultural heritage. The history of Gujarat can be traced from the ancient times. The classical Music specifically, Hindustani Classical Music is very much popular from the medieval times.

Centres of Akhil Bharatiya Gandharv Mahavidyalay and Brihad Gujarat Sangeet Samiti are established in various cities and so many students satisfy their passion for classical music. Gujarat Rajya Sangeet Natak Academy has also established the centres all over the state.

Performing art colleges are also started in universities including Music departments. People from all around the world interested, study here.

There are two centres of Doordarshan in Gujarat.

- ✓ **Ahmedabad**

✓ **Rajkot**

DD Gujarati (Now DD Girnar) launched in 1994, is a popular channel of Doordarshan. It covers 87% of the population of Gujarat and broadcasts popular Gujarati serials, news and current affairs, Classical Music, informative and public service related programmes, Government flagship programmes and educational programmes. DD Girnar is also popular among the Guajarati population residing outside the state. The channel is supported by the studios at Ahmedabad and Rajkot.

- **DDK, Ahmedabad**

Ahmedabad is the business capital of Gujarat. The city is well known for its progressive and enterprising qualities. The industrious people of the city have put the state as a leading centre on the map of business and industries of the country. The ***Saptak -*** event of classical Music organized yearly in the city is a high prestigious event among Music lovers.

DDK, Ahmedabad is established in 1987. DD Girnar is a state channel telecasting programmes 24*7 in Gujarati language operated by DDK, Ahmedabad.

Also the programmes of national network are relayed by the centre.

> " Doordarshan Ahmedabad has recorded so many Music maestros like Pt. Jasraj, N. Rajam, Brijbhushan Kabra, Manilal Nag, Pt. Kishan Maharaj, Atul Desai, Ustad Ali Ahmed (Shahenai), Pt. Vidyadhar Vyas, Vitthaldas Bapodara, Krishnkant Parikh, Manju Mehta, Nandan Mehta etc. All the recordings are available in Archival Section of Ahmedabad DDK, which are telecast time to time. This is musical heritage, preserved by DDK, Ahmedabad. It is a vital role of DDK, Ahmedabad to the nation as preserved this heritage. It is also under digitization to maintain audio video quality". (Vora, Shwetketu).

- **DDK, Rajkot**

Saurashtra is a separate province of Gujarat, Which occupies a specific identity.

Historic places of tourist attractions like Junagadh, pilgrimage like Somnath and Dwarika, Girnar are some landmarks which attract people from the globe. Rajkot is a capital centre of Saurashtra.

Centre of *Akhil Bharatiya Gandharv Mahavidyalay* established at Rashtriya shala, Rajkot is famous for music classes. Also the centre of *Gujarat Rajya Sangeet Natak Academy* and some private institutes play an important role in teaching and training of the classical music.

Saptsangeeti is also a yearly event organized in the city, very much popular event in music lovers and music maestros.

DDK, Rajkot is established in 1984 to cover the Saurashtra region and telecast Area Specific Programmes. It also contributes for DD Girnar Channel.

> "DDK, Rajkot established in 1984 as cultural hub of saurashtra. Indeed, it has a wide collection of Indian Classical Music recorded. Sh. Gulam Kadir Khan, Pt. Gajendra Baxi, Pt. Harikant sevak, Arunkant Sevak, Smt. Piyu Sarkhel, Smt. Sharda Rao, Pt. Laxmikant Doshi, (Sarod), Pt. Amubhai Doshi (Sarod), Ustad Majidkhan (Sarangi), Sh. Ramesh Pandya(Sitar), Ustad Happukhan (Violin), Ustad Ata Mohamad Khan (Sitar), Sh. Chimanbhai Padiya(vocal) and many other B high grade artists are recorded and the programmes are preserved in library. Alongwith local artists, DDK, Rajkot has a wide range of collection regarding visiting celebrities like Sh. Pawar Bandhu for Dhrupad, Ustad Sultan Khan for Sarangi, Pt. Kalpak Baxi for sitar, etc. DDK, Rajkot has also contributed Classical Vocal as well as Instrumental Music in fold back-outdoor locality. DDK, Rajkot contributed by justifying its geographical position – as cultural hub of Saurashtra-Rajkot". (Oza, Sunil)

Both the stations have a special chunk for classical music in their telecast schedules. So the producers are producing the music programmes regularly. The Artists all over the region are invited and recorded at studio centres and also at their places. Some music concerts are also organized at special occasions and the programmes like *Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan* are recorded and telecast live for the audience.

The life stories/documentary and interviews of the maestros, The performances of various ragas, The Vocal and instrumental like Sitar, Sarod, flute, Sarangi, Shahenai, Harmonium, Tabla solo, etc. and also Folk music and folk instrumental programmes are recorded, telecast and preserved at both the stations.

Doordarshan Libraries

Doordarshan Libraries are contenting of two libraries.

- ✓ Book Library
- ✓ Tape Library

Tape Libraries/Audio-Visual Libraries

All Doordarshan Libraries have the audio-visual library, mostly known as Tape library. The libraries have a rich collection of audio-visual materials. All the recordings and programmes of Classical Music, recorded in studio premises or outdoors, are stored and managed in Tape library. The procedure for maintenance of Tape Library is very important for fast retrieving of the content. Doordarshan has been producing large number of programs of classical music which have high marketing value in terms of its content and sometimes for study and research also (Patel, 2011). The Libraries are preserving the programmes related to

Classical music for ever. If the technology changes and the equipments are got obsolete, then the programmes are transferred into new format.

Management of these libraries is far different from other audio-visual libraries and also from other TV media libraries.

- **Content management**

The content in the tape is a very important part of the library. Once a tape containing the recordings or the master version of programme is deposited in library, it is the responsibility of a librarian to keep it safe from any damages or any mischief.

Dope-sheets are put in the tape cover with the details like tape no., programme title, producer, name of artists, date of recording, date of telecast etc. which shows that the particular tape carries so and so programme.

The details are also managed in registers or computers in libraries and in Music programme section also.

- **Computerization**

Computers are provided in both the libraries under the study. The Meta data of Archival programmes related to Classical Music is maintained in computers.

At DDK, Ahmedabad Archival programmes related to Classical Music are preserved in computers.

At DDK, Rajkot Archival programmes related to Classical Music are preserved in Blue ray Discs and the Meta data is maintained in computers.

- **Digitization**

Digitization is now a part of library activities to save the important materials.

The important programmes from legacy formats are being digitized at both the stations.

DDK, Ahmedabad has digitized approximate 238 programmes of Classical music and saved in computers. (Tarpara, Chirag)

Aprox. 75 programmes of Classical music are digitized and preserved from legacy formats at DDK, Rajkot and Aprox. 30 programmes are born digital.

- **Archival management**

Archives of Doordarshan are a treasure house of many memorable performances of the great artists who have contributed to India's rich music and dance heritage. The Archives endeavors to bring before a larger audience some of the exquisite and rare performance of enduring beauty. Doordarshan Archives have released over 25 titles covering Hindustani Music, Carnatic Music, Ghazal and all the classical dance forms. Doordarshan Archives announced the release of 'Bharat Ek Khoj' – a prestigious serial based on 'Discovery of India' by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru directed by internationally

renowned Film Director Sh. Shyam Benegal. The Archives have planned for digitalizing all its holdings on analogue video tapes as this technology is phasing out (Jayakumar, 2010).

The tape library at DDKs has the treasure of important recordings. Some important recordings like interview of VIP and VVIP personalities, important events, sports events, legendary performances of Dance and music specifically, classical vocal and instrumental, folk Music, documentaries and serials, are preserved at the centres under archival section and metadata are maintained in computers.



(https://prasarbharati.gov.in/pb-archives)

The Central Archives has specified 39 categories under which the programmes are to be grouped (Barman, 2010). The information regarding archival materials is sought by central archives regularly from the centres. The Central Archives have planned for the Zonal Archives to have fibre optic broadband links with Media Asset Management (MAM) set up which in turn should be accessible from any of the Zonal Archives or the Central Archives. (Barman, 2010)

Prasar Bharati Archives is a treasure trove of not only the memorable performances of the great artistes, who have contributed to India's rich cultural, music and dance heritage but also a collection of rare media assets related to important events like Independence Day celebrations, Republic Day Parades, address to the nation by Prime Ministers, Presidents etc. as well as other important broadcasts since the advent of broadcasting in our country. These rare assets are in the form of sound recordings and a/v footage in the all genres like music, dance, drama, interviews, short films, documentaries, feature films etc. (https://prasarbharati.gov.in/pb-archives) Anyone interested in Classical Music can get information regarding the collection of Archival materials on the website of Prasar Bharati Archives.



(https://prasarbharati.gov.in/pb-archives)

At DDK, Ahmedabad CR2 software and at Rajkot, Library Management Software (locally developed) is used for archival material metadata.

Prasar Bharati Achieves has released CDs and DVDs of maestros from its collection available at Doordarshan Archival Counters.

Discussion of Results and Implications of the Study:

With the Data collected from Librarians and ex- librarians, the programme staff and retired producers, dealing with, music programmes, it is learnt that the libraries of DD centres have really a great collection of Indian classical music programmes. The producers have the vision & view for making their station rich with the valuable assets of the music programmes.

The study reveals that the tape libraries are really a treasure of Audio-visual programmes of Indian Classical Music. The libraries keep the records of the valuable materials for future use. The materials containing the archival value programmes are preserved and the Meta data is maintained.

The library is an ever-growing institution. DD libraries deal with the day to day inclusion of the programmes related to Classical Music is explored in this study. The DD libraries are playing an important role in preservation of music programmes, and the archival materials. How the librarians manage the libraries, is better understood with the results.

As a result, we can get a view that the libraries have a rich collection of recordings of Classical Music & the most important is that they keep the records of the valuable materials for future use. The materials containing the archival value programmes of classical music are preserved permanently.

With the Data collected from programme staff dealing with Classical music, we can get the better idea about their aspect & view for making their station rich with the valuable asset of classical music.

The study has been conducted for the libraries of Doordarshan centres in one state. It explored that all other centres in India have also the collection of programmes related to Classical Music. The role of DD libraries in preservation of Hindustani Classical Music is better understood with the results.

The students and the experts of the field and the persons interested in Hindustani classical Music will be aware of the treasure at Doordarshan libraries with these implications. They can also purchase the CDs and DVDs of the maestros from the Archival unit and make their collection rich.

Conclusion:

The study has explored that the libraries with audio-visual materials at DDKs of Gujarat as well as all over the country are very rich in collection of Classical Music programmes. The programmes preserved and archived are of much importance for the documentations of important music events. The live performance of legendary personalities of Music, the interviews of eminent personalities (Vocal as well as instrumental) and the recordings of various Ragas are the treasure of these libraries and the Meta data are also well-maintained to retrieve the programmes for future use. These libraries are really instrumental for the researchers and the persons interested in classical music.

Suggestion for further studies:

Upcoming researchers may find out the collection of Hindustani Classical music at other centres of AIR and DD and they can explore new ways of preservation & propagation of Hindustani classical music.

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