



Email: editorijless@gmail.com

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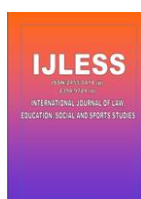


TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES
A Study among the Chenchu's of Nagarkurnool District, Telangana

PUSHPA AMULYA KALANGI

Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology
University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana State.

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ABSTRACT

Culture as a concept does not refer to behaviour itself. It deals with those patterns and abstractions that underlie behaviour or are the result of it. Radcliffe Brown (1952) stressed the point that culture should be explained through its social structure. Sports and games, games, and recreational activities form a universal and fundamental element of human culture. An important aspect to understand is what role the games, sports and games, and recreational activities played in relation to the culture as a whole. This paper discusses the various traditional sports and games that are common amongst Chenchus. It also attempts to analyse in term of gender, the differences and similarities. The power of sports and games to help make sustainable development a reality, and the United Nations' blueprint to transform the world for the benefit of all – has been explicitly recognised by a General Assembly resolution, adopted at UN Headquarters(2018). So, this paper is an attempt to document few such traditional games.

Keywords: Chenchus, Sports & Games, Traditional games, Indoor games, Outdoor games

1. Introduction

Looking at the modern children, born and brought up in urban spaces, one striking difference between the childhood that the previous generations had and the one that this generation is having is the lack of Indian or native games. In previous generations, they used to play a variety of indoor and outdoor games that were the games of this soil. A few examples could be Ashtachamma, Vaana guntalu, Nela Banda, Tokkudu Billa, Gotilata, Kabaddi, Uppu gera, Ralla aata. Not that these games are completely lost, but they sure did become a rare sight in urban areas, while in rural India the modernity has just started overtaking them. Traditional games have a rich culture and heritage value and were tools of passing on some ancestral knowledge or the other.

Traditional Games also enhance one's mathematical and observational skills, and unlike the hit and run games of the west that are uni-dimensional and strengthen only hand-eye coordination. In general, these were not just games. They were designed in such a way that one can develop skills like strategy building, logical thinking, basic mathematics, concentration, and aiming etc.

Traditional Games act as learning aids. They teach many things while playing. To develop sensory skills, count, learn to win and lose, improve motor skills, improve hand-eye coordination, identify a colour, and finally to have fun, naturally, one plays or watches a game to have fun. The values that one achieves by playing these games are more when compared to the games that are popular

nowadays. The person gets a chance to learn about culture and history regardless of age while playing traditional games. Hence, they increase the interaction between generations, and finally, they are environment-friendly as well. In most cases, the items for play are procured from nature locally.

In general, people have played traditional games for many years and generations within society. This is an activity that has characteristics such as mobility satire, and intelligence. These are found in the folk culture and collectively played in the times when we have limited options, and the possibility of entertainment is limited. This idea holds very real in the changing times when even in rural areas, where entertainment through mobiles and television have overthrown play and game.

Though the ideas of playing are changing in the rural context, one can find children engaging in these games if not regular but seldom. Some of the traditional games that children involve in both from the village and residential schools. The following games are locally played by all the communities, not specific to Chenchus. Though there is an overlap, there exists a slight difference in the kind of games girls play and the ones that boys engage themselves in. Hence, they will be discussed as two different categories.

2. Methodology

The Objective of the study was, to understand and document the different kinds of traditional games that are present in the Chenchu community

For the purpose of study and data collection, methods of observation, semi structured interviews, In-depth interview were used. Interviews from people across different age groups and genders to understand their perceptions of sports and games, and to understand role of games in socialisation were carried out. Observation was used to see what kind of games and sports are played and how. What are the different dynamics involved with respect to gender and age are keenly observed for the purpose of the study?.

3. Results/Discussion

The traditional games of Chenchus are numerous in number, it is a humble attempt to document few of them. For the purpose of simplicity in understanding, the sports and games are divided into categories of girl's games, boy's games and musical game categories.

3.1. Traditional Games of Girls

The games played by the girls can broadly group into three categories, indoor and board games, outdoor games, musical games.

3.1.1. Indoor and Board Games

The following games can be played indoors, with two or more players.

- Chittila aata
- Dots game
- Barakanta/ ashta chemma
- Achana gillalu
- Ramudu sita
- Vaana guntalu

3.1.2. Outdoor Games

Outdoor games are such games which are typically played outside in the open. A lot of outdoor games are now played even indoors in huge stadiums, this is a general classification, for the purpose of simplification and understanding

- Uppu gerra
- Pedda uppu gerra
- Pullata
- Gona billa
- Ice water
- Kunti bicha
- Kallaku ganthalu
- Cheruvu gattu
- Red-white blue
- Lingochi
- Chow aata
- Kurchilata
- Gotilaata
- Lolothu mappa

These games are played outdoors, and there is no limit on the no of participants in any of these games, more the number of players, merrier they become. These games help in developing concentration, hand-eye coordination, quickness, accuracy, improving the presence of mind, and so on.

3.1.3. Musical Games

The following games include an aspect of singing or reciting a piece as part of the play children sing these songs happily and in a playful manner while playing these games. Some of them even include formations as well.

- Palamma palu
- Abcd aata
- Alaka dabba
- Dhooli duppati
- Jalledamme jalleda
- Guriginda gummaladi
- Gadda oche kodi pillu
- Debbaku rendu draksha pallu
- Chettu kinda dayyam nakem bayyam
- Aggi petta giggi petta
- Erra gorrini tinta

- Odunna poduna o rama chilaka
- Lolothu mappa

3.2. Traditional Games of Boys

Boys are mostly engaged in outdoor games. They seldom play any musical or indoor games. These are the games that are played locally by most boys and not specific to Chenchu's alone.

3.2.1. Outdoor Games

- Jilla gona
- Kabaddi
- Ceri penta
- Chow
- Cricket
- Lingoch
- Kothi komma
- Gotilu
- Tokkudu uyyala
- Kunti bicha
- Bongaralu
- Uyyala
- Archery
- Chechu aata
- Uppu gerra
- Horse riding
- Tulladam
- Vangudu dookudu
- Mutichukune aata
- Becha aata
- Muthalata
- Pathala aata
- Dipp
- Current shock
- Lolothu mappa
- Long jump
- Peni banalu (Darts)
- Kho kho

3.3. Similarities and Differences among the Sports, Games of Girls and Boys

When one carefully observes all the games listed above, it can be noticed that a lot of games are common for both the boys and girls. These games are even played by both the boys and girls together. The skill of a girl in the ashrama school Narlapur was amazing, in playing the gotilata. It is said that she has developed such great accuracy and aim while playing the game with her brothers and even wins over them. In most villages it was found that both the girls and boys. Few games that are played by both girls and boys include

- Ceri penta
- Chow
- Dipp
- Current shock
- Lolothu mappa
- Jilla gona
- Gotilaata
- Gona billa

There are certain games and sports exclusive to either girls or boys. Looking in-depth, it can be noticed girls engage themselves in a good number of musical games than boys do. Boys generally prefer outdoor games and energy-intensive games and sports. Archery and Horse riding in the interior villages of Nallamala are restricted to only boys and girls seldom take part in them. This is because women are traditionally engaged in collecting rather than hunting.

Though there is a gendered aspect to the games and sports activities among Chenchu's, kids do play together. At the early ages, no difference is shown and they are brought up the same way.

4. Conclusions

With changing times, the idea of games and sports is fast changing as well. In today's time playing, most probably means a mobile game rather than any physical game. In such times the Chenchu's still are connected to traditional games. Their talent to convert anything that has served its purpose into a play material is extraordinary. Examples include Nune Bongaralu from empty hair oil bottles, Darts from used pens, making Balls from unused waste cloth to play Lingocho to mention a few. This can be associated with human nature interaction; they source their raw material from the sources they have and convert them to toys for playing. It can also be linked to the non-availability of material goods in villages and lack of purchasing power. As in case of city dwellers where everything is readily available as final product, children hardly make any toys. Whereas these Chenchu kids of the interiors are solely dependent on their creativity. The other games they play like Gotilata and Archery show their ability in using the natural resources around them in a very effective manner. And their skill at moulding them into a play material is mind-boggling. Though there are no clear boundaries between the games girls play and boys play, there are a few which are played either by girls or boys. For example, Archery is generally learned by boys, and the musical games are the girl's domain.

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