

PREFACE

Since my childhood I have liking for arts, whether it is painting, dancing or music. I appeared for S.S.C. Examination with Art as one of the subjects. After my marriage I completed the course 'Art Teacher's Diploma' in the year 1960 through 'Kala Niketan' Kolhapur, where I was fortunate to study art under the able guidance of the eminent artists like Shri Ravindra Mistry and Shri R.S. Gosavi. After having completed the above course successfully I started my academic career, with the encouragement of my husband. I completed the degree of Master of Arts with Sociology as the Principal subject. Thus I was influenced by two main subjects, Art and Sociology.

For more than twenty years I am living in the city of Kolhapur which possesses, rich archeological, mythological, historical and cultural background. Kolhapur has got its own tradition in the field of different arts such as painting, music, dance, drama, sculpture and architecture. It is a birth place of Marathi Cine Film Industry. Cine Industry involves almost all different artists, technicians, engineers, skilled workers, talented persons, and many other versatile intelligent persons, and Kolhapur had provided these above persons. Some described it as the "Hollywood of India".

Kolhapurians have developed their own distinctive style of living. They are resourceful but yet they are traditional. They do not accept new ideas at once. They give rigid test for

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acceptance which generally requires a longer time. They are industrious but slow and steady in progress. Many are lacking in their financial management but are contented and happy in their own ways. Artists of Kolhapur have contributed much to enrich the city and illuminated the minds of the people by their arts. They are happy with their creation. In spite of their precious creations they remained financially poor.

Thus, for my M. Phil. research work, I wanted to find answers to questions like : Has art reached the common man's life in Kolhapur ? Have the people developed an eye for beauty ? Do they appreciate arts ? Have they given the touch of art in their house decoration ? Is art a means of friendship, socialization and harmonious social relationship ? What are the problems in home decoration ? If so how can they be solved ?

These are some of the questions and broad areas of investigation in my present research work. 'Sociology of Arts' is comparatively a new and interesting field of research, which needs to be given more and more attention by Sociologists. I believe that the development of a distinctive or artistic way of living is as important as is the development of Science and Technology for the happiness, welfare and stability of Society. Further, Art brings people closer to each other and may help to foster human relations. Hence the importance of the present study entitled "A Sociological Study of Art and Home Decoration in Kolhapur city". I wish to carry forward my research in the field of "Sociology of Art".