

LAVANI LITERATURE AS A SOURCE OF SOCIO-CULTURAL HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT

History of Lavani Originated in the medieval times *lavani* continues to be a folk performance even now. Their geographical areas of movements were mainly in Maharashtra, albeit some of them went to the places like Thanjavur., some parts of present Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The *peshwas* and their *sardars* (officers) celebrated the festivals like *Holi* and *Dasahara* with grandeur and many of the *shahirs* were a part and parcel of these festivals. Peshwa period generally, the pomp and show in the celebrations of the Hindu festivals increased. The festivals like *Ganeshotsav* and *Sankranti* also came to be celebrated with pomp. In the latter Peshwa period. The *lavanis* contain various textile varieties and thereby it is possible to reconstruct the textile history of Maharashtra. The *lavanis* contain description of the palaces and gardens. Wearing the ornaments made of pearls, diamonds, rubies and emeralds was considered to be prestigious. *lavani* had been an integral part of a broader folk- performance called *tamasha*. though at times poetic fancy gets reflected in the compositions the descriptions in *lavani* do contain the picture of the life that the *shahirs* had seen and hence such descriptions are a source of history.

KEYWORDS: Specially Patronised, Performance



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