

17. Sanskrit Village in India

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ABSTRACT

The Sanskrit villages found in India portray a great endeavor towards rediscovering and maintaining one of the oldest and most complex languages in the world by means of the daily communication. These villages can be listed as a form of living laboratory of linguistic and cultural maintenance like Mattur in Karnataka, Jhiri in Madhya Pradesh and Ganoda in Rajasthan. Sanskrit is not used only in ritual or academic activity in these communities and is used in everyday communication, education and government. The program depicts an overall trend of the outsourcing country, India, engaging in a search towards its cultural heritage while supporting language diversity. Local organizations and educational institutions are very instrumental since they plan Sanskrit in school curriculum and social programs. The villages demonstrate that the old language can be used by the contemporary life and enhance cultural identity, unity, and awareness of heritage. In addition to the linguistic revival, these Sanskrit-speaking groups represent the efforts by India to seal its historical heritage with the modern one making Sanskrit not a historical relic but a dynamic way of expression and continuity.

KEYWORDS

SEVEN INDIAN VILLAGES WHERE PEOPLE CAN SPEAK IN SANSKRIT

MATTUR KARNATAKA

JHIRI MADHYAPRADESH

SASANA ORISSA

BAGHUVAR MADHYAPRADESH

GANODA RAJASTHAN

MOHAD MADHYAPRADESH

HOSALLI KARNATAKA

INTRODUCTION

The Sanskrit, which is also called the language of the gods, holds a very high stature in the history of humans. The Sanskrit language as the ancient writings of Hindu texts, Vedas, epics and Puranas has had a central role in the shaping and development of the linguistic and cultural India and Southeast Asia. It has influence in the field of literature but it provides in depth understanding of ancient

languages, mathematics, sciences, yoga, and medicine. A good example where Sanskrit is a living language is Mattur, a famous location in India dubbed as The Sanskrit Village.

Mattur: The Sanskrit Village

The village called Mattur, located on the banks of Tunga river in Karnataka is famous as the Sanskrit Village of India. Sanketi Brahmins of Mattur, which is only 8 kilometers away, Shivamogga, is a community that had migrated to Karnataka 800 years ago.

It is the only community that has a Sanketi dialect which is a mixture of Sanskrit, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

Mattur along with the adjacent village of Hosahalli was donated by the King Krishna Devaraya to the Sanketi Brahmins to maintain the Sanskrit language. It is thought that this splendid act of the royalty cemented Mattur as a capital of Sanskrit. The language commitment in the village was enhanced further in 1981 after an organization called Samskrita Bharathi, which aimed to promote Sanskrit as a language, held a workshop in the village and the interest in the language was revived.

Surprisingly, the human settlements of Mattur are also given to Sanskrit in addition to their mother tongue of Sanketi. Sanketi, a infrequent of Kannada, Tamil, Sanskrit and Telugu, portrays the prosperous linguistic background of the community.

In Mattur, Sanskrit is not restricted to classrooms or temples but it is the language of normal life. The Sanskrit language is used by the villagers as a mode of greetings, conferences, education and even in business dealings. Even normal communication like kthN asti bhvaan? Some of the phrases used very often in the street, stores, and houses are: how are you? or ahN kushlo'smi that is, I am fine.

Children also learn to speak Sanskrit as their language of first language. They are exposed to Sanskrit letterings, words, and communication since their childhood education. Primary education instruction in local schools is in mathematics, science and history in Sanskrit medium. Mattur In the same cultural mission, the Sanskrit Pathashala (traditional school) educates the children and adults in spoken Sanskrit, Vedic chanting and the study of traditional literature.

The temples and the religious rituals in the village take place purely in Sanskrit which strengthens the usage of the language in spiritual and social living. The posters, street signs, even the name plates of households are written in Sanskrit and it creates the linguistic environment of immersion.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

CULTURE

Sanskrit is not a simple language it is an attitude of life in Mattur. The Sanskrit is viewed by the people of the village as a principle as well as a cultural rule. They hold an opinion that Vedas are not merely religious books, but a lifestyle that can guide them to the right direction. Since children are brought up in Mattur, they learn Sanskrit and the Vedas since early age and, as a result, these old teachings have been part of their life.

The festival and events in Mattur are observed with a lot of zeal and glory. An example, however, is Navratri that is celebrated without concealed effort or care about the rituals, during ten days, such as the repetition of mantras during the pujas which a local woman has mentioned. The village further celebrates an annual event which uniquely presents the Sankti community hence their one community identity.

GAMAKA ART

Gamaka which incorporates the art of narration and singing is one of the greatest cultural manifestations in Mattur. The gamaka is a potent cultural and traditional expression which provides information into the rich cultural weaving of Mattur. This art form that combines story telling along with musical rhythms and melodies does not only become the provider of the aura of the sacred texts, but is also a form of emotional and cultural release among the artist. Gamaka is a master that is attained through intense practice because the art of Gamaka needs accuracy in memorizing and reciting and tonality and the manner of delivering the verses carry a key concern in telling the story. The verses or sloka have two lines of syllables, with 16 syllables in each line, with each word related to a particular raga also known as a combination of traditional tunes and rhythms.

Education

Sanskrit is regarded a significant component of the education System in all the schools visited in Mattur.

The impact of the traditions and ideologies of Sanskrit is very noticeable in the schools where the main accent is made on the values. Children start a day by reciting Sanskrit shlokas and cross their classrooms without their shoes. The Sanskrit popularization is not merely stimulated during everyday communication, but it is also obligatory at preschool level up to the 10th grade. Sanskrit is given much attention at any grade of education.

In Mattur, Sanskrit is the language of everyday life, that is not confined to age, sex, literacy, and religion. Sanskrit is spoken with ease by men, women as well as children alike, a situation that creates its own language culture. In the village, Muslim families are conversant in the Sanskrit language even more so than their Hindu counterparts. The shouts of kids reciting the Sanskrit shlokas are heard on the streets of Mattur and even in any games of cricket or other disputes, Sanskrit is the language of choice. Sanskrit is a lively language indeed that this wonderful village has preserved and lived to portray.

METHODOLOGY

The current paper will be an attempt to understand the linguistic, social and cultural aspects of Mattur, which is commonly known as India Sanskrit-speaking village. The research approach will be structured in a way that it explores the role of Sanskrit in the daily life of Mattur in systematic studying and analysis of factors that are likely to sustain its use and passing on.

The study is based on qualitative ethnographic approach with quantitative aspects to investigate the prevalence and the sphere of Sanskrit use. This multifaceted methodology gives the possibility to not only get the deep cultural analysis but also solid linguistic evidence.

DISCUSSION

Integration of Modernization and Technology.

Although the Sanskrit in Mattur is traditional, the community is flexible to the contemporary times. Smartphones, digital dictionaries and YouTube lessons are some of the ways that many residents learn and teach Sanskrit. There are Sanskrit blogs and websites that the youth in the locality are using to facilitate the spread of the Sanskrit language among a wider audience the world over.

The examples given indicate that Sanskrit does not have to be opposed to digital culture, which fits into the idea of technological indigenization, - that is, the preservation of traditional languages with the help of modern means. This online interaction also leads to a break between the generations as Sanskrit becomes appealing and happy to the younger learners.

Nonetheless, there are still difficulties: even the supply of the modern educational material in Sanskrit (as applied to science, technology, or trade) is sparse. To make it sustainable in the long run, more Sanskrit has to be involved in modern academic and technological spheres.

CONCLUSION

Mattur is one of the most glowing success stories of how a language can be preserved in the modern times just in case of determination, an education and an understanding about what it means to be attached to the culture. It shows that the language that people may consider to be used in the past (Sanskrit) can be used to motivate and bring the communities together now.

Community involvement, conscious effort and institutional reinforcement have helped Mattur to change Sanskrit as a language of scripture to a living voice of life. The village is a reminder to India and the world that cultural heritage is not something one looks into the museums and to some cultures and hopes that it is being replicated there but rather it should be practiced, spoken, and lived.

In a world where globalization is the trend, and language is being homogenized, Mattur delivers a lesson with a forceful impact, that one does not need to forget about his origins to move forward. Rather it reveals that the real road to advancement is to continue the tradition but not to forget the past but maintain it by creating the future..

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