

V. Brinda and Dr.M.A. Bhageerathi (May 2022) Selection and standardization of Indian musical instrument among children's

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Selection and standardization of Indian musical instrument among children's

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Abstract

Indian Classical Musical system has two traditions namely Hindustani and Carnatic. In addition there are folk traditions. In all these traditions, from the ancient times, Indian musicians have developed and performed with traditional and indigenous musical instruments that suited the style. The Indian Musical Instruments have been associated, not only with our God's & Goddesses but are also an indispensable part of our Indian culture and traditions since ancient times. The main aim of this research paper is to explore the knowledge of Indian musical instruments and how it can be chosen for children's according to their age. The paper is based on secondary data the review of literature gathered from books and journal.

Keywords: classification of musical instruments, music makes difference in young children's mind, choosing musical instrument for children's.

Introduction

India music is divided into two streamlines which are Indian classical which can also be said as Hindustani music in North and the other is the Carnatic of South India. Both of them are unique in their own ways. Influenced by their cultures. Musical instruments were classified into four heads from very Ancient times, such as "Tatam, Avanadham, Sushiram, and Ghanam". Musicologists like Bharata, Matanga Narada, Saranga Deva and others uphold this classification through their illustrated works. Rishi Bharat classified Indian classical music instruments into four types-

1. Thathava Vadya (Indian String Instruments)
2. Sushira Vadya (Indian Wind Instruments)
3. Avanadha Vadya (Indian Percussion Instruments)
4. Ghana Vadya

Thathava Vaadya or Stringed instruments.

Vaadya or Stringed instruments are those in which sound is produced by setting strings into vibration. Strings are made to vibrate and produce sound, by plucking them with the fingers

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or with a plectrum. Examples of this type are- Veena, Gottuvadyam, Sitar, Sarod, Guitar, Tambura, Ektar and Dotar. These may also be called as Nakhaja.

Wind Instruments or Sushira Vaadya

Vaadya or wind instruments the sound is produced by the vibration of a column of air in a tube. Example: Flute, Nagaswaram, Kombu,

Percussion Instruments or AvanadhaVaadya

Avanadha Vaadya or Percussion instruments are those in which the sound is produced by the vibration of a stretched skin or by the vibration caused by striking two solid pieces of metal or wood together. Example: Mridangam.

Ghana Vaadyas

Many kinds of cymbals made of metal or stone are also used for keeping time. Examples - Jalra, Talam, Brahmatala, Nattuva talam, ilattalam and others. Jalra is used in bhajans and kalakshepams.



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Male Tanpura

Male tanpuras stand out by their incomparable powerful, full sound rich in resonance and, equipped with standard strings, are particularly suited for low pitches around the key C. With their traditional bulbous pumpkin sound-box, long neck and an entire length of 140 – 150 cm they represent the biggest customary tanpuras.



Female Tanpura

Located between male and instrumental tanpuras in respect to their sound. The typical pitch of female tanpuras is around the key G. With their traditional bulbous pumpkin sound-box and long neck, their entire length amounts to 120 – 130 cm.



Instrumental Tanpura

With their fine silvery clear sound and a length of 95 – 115 cm, instrumental tanpuras are our smallest. Typically, they are equipped with thin strings, have a flat neck and a flat sound-box made of wood, five strings and a pitch around the key C – one octave higher than male tanpuras. Because of their subtle ethereal sound they are traditionally played to accompany sitars and other solo instruments.

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Mridangam

The classical drum of South Indian music is the mridangam. This is an indispensable accompaniment in the concerts of both the vocal and instrumental music in south India. It is also known by the name of maddal or maddalam.



Veena

Goddess Saraswati herself used to play the veena, according to Hindu Mythology. Veena is very prominent in the Southern parts of the country. It may have similarities with sitar, sarod, and star but totally is different from them in sound and notations.



Harmonium

Harmonium is one of the most traditional musical instruments in India. It is like a keyboard. Harmonium is an instrument that is played and learnt by every musician in the Indian states. Also, whatever corner they may live in India, if they learn Indian classical music then

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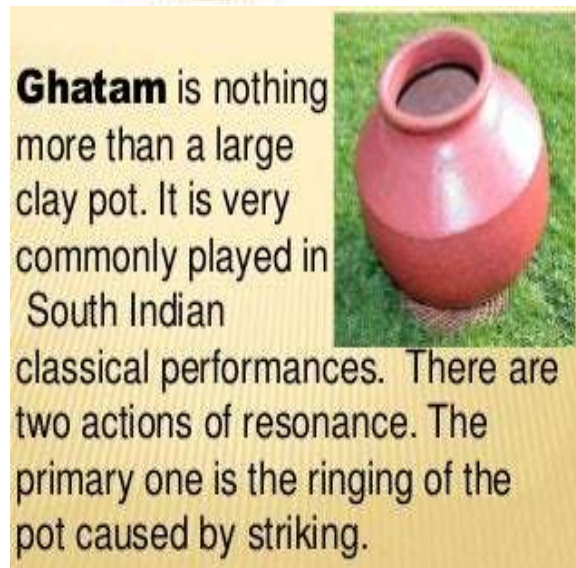
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harmonium is one of the things they learn at an early age to develop an understanding of music. One of the most used Indian musical instruments ever.

Ghatam

This instrument is very popular in the Carnatic music world; as it is an ancient percussion instrument. The word Ghatam derived from the Sanskrit word 'Ghata'; it is large, narrow-mouthed earthenware pot instrument; ancient poet Sage Valmiki first described this pot as an instrument in the poem Ramayana during 500 CE.



A Rare Musical Instrument: Panchamuka Vadhya

The instrument is made up of metal and covered with cow skin. Since it has got five faces to play on, it requires good practice to use it. Slowly this art is disappearing. Since it is very heavy, they fix it on a wooden frame with wheels, so that it can be rolled to any place. The five faces of the instrument are named after the five faces of Lord Shiva: Isanam, Satyojatam, Vamadevam, Tatpurusam, and Agoram. The instrument was made to explain the principles of Saiva Agamas. So the scholars have produced the Following Table:

Four Directions	Faces of Siva	Meaning of the Face
WEST	Satyojatham	Creation
NORTH	Vamadevam	Preservation
SOUTH	Agoram	Destruction
EAST	Tatpurusam	Concealing Grace
SKYWARD(UP)	Isanam	Revealing Grace



Panchamuka Vadhya

Consider the important things when choosing a Musical Instrument for children

- **Age** – Younger children simply don't have the motor skills to both hold an instrument and play it at the same time. Take into account their physical strength and dexterity before selecting an instrument. Additionally, some instruments are far more complex in terms of playing them and caring for them, which can be overwhelming to a young child.
- **Height** – It's important to consider the height of your child relative to the instrument they want to learn. A shorter child will not have the arm length to play a trombone or cello, for example, so children longing to play these instruments can start with a smaller, similar instrument instead.
- **Physical Strength** – Some instruments are heavy, making them difficult to hold up while playing and to transport. If your child is unable to lift an instrument, they will likely not have much success in learning to play it. While they will gain some strength as they play, certain instruments are best left for older youth or adults, such as the tuba or the bass.
- **Mouth** – Some instruments, like the flute and trumpet, will need specific mouth formations and positions to play them well. Most children can be taught these formations, but some instruments, such as the oboe and clarinet, have more complex mouth positions and techniques that younger children will struggle to master. Additionally, children with fuller lips or with braces and other orthodontic treatments may have a harder time playing instruments with thinner mouthpieces or double reeds.
- **Commitment to Learning** – Some kids only want to learn to play an instrument until they realize how much hard work and practice it takes. Others understand the effort it will require and commit wholeheartedly from the start. Gauge your child's interest and commitment level and select an instrument accordingly.
- **Personality** – Some children love the idea of loud drums whereas others are more attracted to delicate instruments of precision, such as the violin or piano. Take into account your child's personality and what instruments and sounds he or she is naturally drawn to.

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Music Makes a Difference in Growth and Development for Young Children

- **Take your child's age into consideration.**
- **Evaluate your child's body type.**
- **Talk to your child's music teacher.**
- **Consider how your child thinks.**
- **Pay attention to which parts of a song a child gravitates towards**
- **Assist your child in exploring music.**



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Conclusion

Musical instruments of today, we find that they went through a long process of evolution and development through several centuries to reach the highly developed forms that we find them in now. In the due course of time, many instruments became obscure, as new instruments suiting the need of the time developed, in terms of the playing technique, designs and their usage. According to the Natyashastra of Bharat, there are four classes of musical instruments: Tat or Tantu Vadya (string), Sushir Vadya (wind), Awanadh Vadya (percussion or drums), Ghana Vadya (bells, cymbals and gongs). Many parents these days want their children to participate in extracurricular activities and music is one such activity that kids would love to learn and indulge themselves. Music participation provides a unique opportunity for literacy preparation. Whether the children are singing, playing, or listening, teachers direct them to listen and hear in new ways which exercises their aural discrimination. A music-rich experience for children of singing, listening and moving is really bringing a very serious benefit to children as they progress into more formal learning. Considering the age, interest, physical health is important to choose good instrument.

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