Original Research Article

Traditional Ornaments of Lambadi and Koya Women

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A B S T R A C T

Introduction

The history of jewellery dated back many years ago, with different uses among different cultures and regions. It abided for thousands of years and provided numerous insights, how cultures work during the time of ancestors. All over the world, India is a multi-racial country with varied traditions and unique culture. Life style has been playing a significant role in identification of India since long time and the factors of identification may include food, clothing, ornaments, accessories and languages. In India, women are fond of jewellery and they wear it not only for looks and status, but also for good health.

Eventually, ornament was a marker of social value, endowing objects with dignity as in the decoration of sacred items for use in church ritual such as papal robes scepters, altarpieces etc. According to Nelson, ‘ornament’ is defined as something meant to honour it, to give it an elevated status and to make it something special. Thus ornaments are not so aesthetic, but amoral concept that involved the impregnation of an object with not just physical beauty but virtue. Ornament was a representation for good things, which are appropriate and valuable in a social sense. (Nelson, 1993)

Materials and Methods

Tribal Jewelry is both functional and empirical. Every tribe will have their unique style of ornaments intact even now and the indigenous identity of ornament design has

Keywords

Andhra Pradesh, Lambdai, Koya, Female ornaments, Gold, Silver

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been preserved by ethnic tribal with tremendous responsibility. It is not only beautiful, but often communicates messages about the wearer's status, spiritual beliefs, functional habits and wealth. It also marks communal celebrations, group association, and individual means of access. (Dwivedi, 2016)

The present study was based on primary data collected through the documentation of costumes and textiles of Lambadi and Koya tribes and secondary data like books and museums. The Lambadi and Koya women were interrogated with different questions related to Tribal Ornaments, material used, way of wearing, and their significance.

Results and Discussion

This study is based on secondary data. Materials of this article have been taken from relevant books, journals and articles.

The methods used are descriptive and analytical. The prime focus of the present study is to analyze the significance of metals used for jewellery along with spiritual, ethnic and traditional significance of religious jewellery. The materials used have at times been drawn from the website and extreme care has been taken to be objective in approach.

Female ornaments

The females of Lambadi and Koya tribe were very fond of ornaments and had variety of ornaments for different parts of the body. Different types of metals used for the ornaments mainly include silver, gold, brass, aluminum and rolled gold. Various types of semi-precious stones were also used in traditional jewelry designs. Depending up on the creativity of the jewelers, many designs were available in each type of jewelry. The information about different types of traditional ornaments worn on different body parts was collected from the respondents of Lambadi and Koya tribes. The local names along with the general names of the ornaments are given in the Table 1 and Table 2. The photographs of ornaments are given from Figure 1 to 30. The ornaments used for various parts of the body are as follows:

Kaniya: Kaniya was also called as ghogrichotla. kaniya was a silver forehead ornament which decorates either sides of the parted hair as shown in Figure 1. A silver pendant called kunicha was attached to these chains in between the partition of hair. Few Lambadi women use kunicha alone without using kaniya as shown in Figure 2.

Bhooria: Bhooria was a pure gold nose ring worn by Lambadi women as shown in Figure 3 and 4. Lambadi women start to wear bhooria at the time of marriage and it was considered as a symbol of marital status and honour of a women.

Buli: Buli was a golden nose stud used by Lambadi women as shown in Figure 4. There were a wide range of buli which regards to its size and design. Women use to have these designs as per the availability in their local markets.

Vepakayalu: Vepakayalu were a set of three rings of pure gold worn by Koya women as shown in Figure 5.

Diddulu/ Thametlu: Diddulu were the golden ear rings worn by Lambadi women as shown in Figure 6, whereas Thametlu were the gold or rolled gold ear rings worn by Koya women as shown in Figure 7.

Har: Har was a silver coins necklace which was worn by Lambadi bride at the time of marriage and it represents the marital status of Lambadi women. The photograph of har is shown in Figure 13.
**Table 1** *Lambadi* ornaments used for different parts of the body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Name of the ornament</th>
<th>Body part</th>
<th>Metal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kaniya</td>
<td>Fore head</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kuniche</td>
<td>Fore head</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Topli</td>
<td>hair</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bhooria</td>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Buli</td>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Diddulu</td>
<td>Ear</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Har</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cheed</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kante</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hasla</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Lallihar</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Beads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nallapoosalu</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Beads and gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Waukdo</td>
<td>Ankle</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Khass</td>
<td>Ankle</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gode</td>
<td>Ankle</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mettelu</td>
<td>Toe</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Baliya</td>
<td>Upper arm</td>
<td>Ivory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Panchela</td>
<td>Lower arm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Winte</td>
<td>Fingers</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Champapinnulu</td>
<td>Hair</td>
<td>silver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2** *Koya* ornaments used for different parts of the body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Name of the ornament</th>
<th>Body part</th>
<th>Metal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Baasikam</td>
<td>Fore head</td>
<td>Rolled gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vepakayalu</td>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thametlu</td>
<td>Ear</td>
<td>Gold / brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Patteda</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Beads and gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Poosaladanda</td>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>Beads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Patteelu</td>
<td>Ankle</td>
<td>Silver / steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kallakadiyalu</td>
<td>Ankle</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mettelu</td>
<td>Toe</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gajulu</td>
<td>Arms</td>
<td>Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chethikadiyalu</td>
<td>Arms</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ungaralu</td>
<td>Fingers</td>
<td>Rolled gold / Gold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig: 1. Kaniya and Kunicha
Fig: 2. Lambadi woman wearing Kunicha
Fig: 3. Bhooriya

Fig: 4. Buli and Bhooria
Fig: 5. Vepakayalu
Fig: 6. Lambadi Diddulu

Fig: 7. Koya woman wearing Thametlu
Fig: 8. Lambadi woman wearing Kante
Fig: 9. Lambadi woman wearing Hasla

Fig: 10. Lallihar, Necklace and Nallapoosalada
Fig: 11. Koya woman wearing Patteda
Fig: 12. Koya woman wearing Pooosaladanda
Fig: 13. Lambadi Har

Fig: 14. Lambadi Cheed

Fig: 15. Lambadi woman wearing Waukdo, Khass, Gode, Mettelu

Fig: 16. Koya woman wearing KallaKadiyalu, Patteelu and Mettelu

Fig: 17. Lambadi woman wearing Baliya and Panchela

Fig: 18. Koya woman wearing Gajulu

Fig: 19. Koya woman wearing ChethiKadiyalu

Fig: 20. Lambadi Winte with silver coin

Fig: 21. Lambadi Winte with four silver petals

Fig: 22. Koya woman wearing Ungaralu
Cheed: Cheed was a group of three silver chains attached with a single hook and it was worn by Lambadi married women. The photograph of cheed is shown in Figure 14.

Kante and hasla: Kante was a stiff silver ornament worn by Lambadi women around the neck with the help of hook as shown in the Figure 8. Kante was a plain ring like structure, whereas, Haslawas also a stiff silver ornament worn around neck, but few silver chains were suspended from the ring at three regular intervals as shown in Figure 9.

Lallihar: Lallihar was worn by Lambadi married women and the design of it was shown in Figure 10. It was a type of necklace made up of beads. Various geometric forms of designs were made by using different bright colored beads.

These geometric motifs were arranged at regular intervals on a string made up of beads.

Nallapoosaladanda / Patteda: Nallapoosaladanda was a black beaded mangalasutra worn by married women of both Lambadi and Koya women. Gold coins or pendants were used in the middle of this nallapoosaladanda as shown in Figure 10 and 11. It was called as patteda by Koya women.

Poosaladanda: Poosaladanda was a colorful beaded necklace without the use of any pendants or coins. It was worn by unmarried and married females of Koya tribe. The image of poosaladanda is shown in Figure 12.

Waukdo: Waukdo were the brass anklets worn by Lambadi bride at the time of marriage. These anklets were made in scalloped shape arrangement as shown in Figure 15.

Gode and Khass: Gode and Khass were the brass anklets worn just above waukdo by Lambadi women as shown in Figure 15. Gode was worn above waukdo whereas khass was
worn above gode. Khassand gode were closed and opened with the help of screw while using.

**Patteelus and kallakadiyalu:** Patteelus and kallakadiyalu were the silver ankle ornaments worn by Koya female as shown in Figure 16. Patteelus were the flexible chain like ornaments which were arranged with jingling ghungurus, whereas kallakadiyalu were the stiff silver ornaments which can be opened and closed with the help of screw while using.

**Mettelu:** Mettelu were the toe rings worn by both Lambadi and Koya women. These are simple ring like structures but occasionally mettelu with floral patterns and with small ghugurus were also used. Most of the women use more than one mettelu as shown in Figure 15 and 16.

Baliya and Panchela: Baliya were the ivory bangles worn by Lambadi women in their upper arm to show the marital status of the women. These are nine in number and worn only by married women. Panchela were the ivory bangles worn on the fore arm. There is no limitation in number for panchela as shown Figure 17.

**Gajulu:** Gajulu were the ordinary glass bangles worn by both unmarried and married women of Koya tribe. The image of gajulu was shown in Figure 18.

**Chethikadiyalu:** Chethikadiyalu were the silver thick bangle like ornaments worn by Koya women. Various geometric designs such as lines, rhombus, pentagons, dots etc, were engraved on these chethikadiyalu as shown in Figure 19. Few women of Koya were wearing aluminum chethikadiyalu instead of silver.

**Winte:** Winte was the finger ring worn by Lambadi women. The simple ring was fixed with plain silver coin as shown in Figure 20. Four flower petals pattern was also used instead of coin as shown in Figure 21. Number of rings on each hand depends on the economic condition of the family.

**Ungaralu:** Ungaralu were the metallic finger rings worn by men and women of Koya tribe. It was a simple ring without any elaborate carved design as shown in Figure 22.

**Champapinnulu:** Champapinnulu were the hair pins or hair ornaments used by Lambadi women. These are made up of silver and semi-precious stones as shown in Figure 26. Various floral motifs and ziz-zag patterns were created on the champapinnulu using silver metal. These champapinnulu were fixed over the plaits that were hanged on both side of the head as shown in Plate 16 image C.

**Topli:** Topli were the silver hair ornaments tied at the ends of parted hair by Lambadi women as shown in Plate 16 image D. Topli was an ear ring like ornament with a big stud and bell shaped hanging. These are engraved with geometrical designs and decorated with semi-precious stones. Whereas the hanging bell was also engraved with various geometrical designs like line, zig-zag patterns, circles etc, and ghungurus were attached around the edges of the bell as shown in Figure 24.

**Hair styles of tribal women**

**Lambadi hair styles**

Lambadi hairstyle was very unique than any other tribes. Firstly, the hair in the crown portion was parted in two and it was plaited. The end of plaits was finished with fabric string having topli at the ends as shown in Figure 25. They part the hair sideways, so that the hair along with topli falls on the cheeks. The parted and hanging portion of hair was beautifully decorated with silver.
champapinnulu as shown in Figure 24. The remaining hair at the back was pleated along with topli’s fabric string. The plaite hair was called as jedu. The old Lambadi women usually make a bun at the back which was called as mudi is shown in Figure 29.

Koya hair styles

The old Koya women used to make a mudi (bun) at the back as shown in Figure 28. The younger generation of Koya make plait of their hair and decorated with forest flowers especially during ceremonies and marriage events which was called as poolajeda as shown in Figure 27.

Ornaments have been made to beautify nearly for every body part, from hairpins to toe rings. Ethics of beauty vary greatly from one tribe to another tribe, an ornament worn as a necklace could be worn on to the head by the other tribe. In the present study I explored what kinds of ornaments were worn by the ancient tribals and how they preserved till this generation in indigenous way. It was observed that, many of the Lambadi’s are selling off their silver ornaments due to their poor economic status. If Government run some welfare programme to help them in their profession, it will be helpful to improve their economic stability. So, that they will be more interested in preserving their valuables to show it to the younger generations. They can also be allowed to work on designing and making ornaments, as they have their unique form of jewelry. It is also suggested that these ornament designs can be incorporated in designing textiles like structural designing and printing.

References


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