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# FOLK CULTURE STUDIES: A COLOURFUL JOURNEY OF BANGLADESH

**Editors**

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### SPECIAL ISSUE: “FOLK CULTURE STUDIES: A COLOURFUL JOURNEY OF BANGLADESH”

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## EDITORIAL CONCEPT NOTE

# FOLK CULTURE STUDIES: A COLOURFUL JOURNEY OF BANGLADESH

The folk song of Bangladesh is an attraction of many scholars for its spirituality and mysticism. Many other forms can also be explored in art forms, songs, tales, can also explore dance, and so on. Its indigenous culture and variety of folk cultural forms attract many tourists to visit Bangladesh and are a center for scholars to explore research through anthropologic, environmentalists, economic, cultural, religious, ethnic, and other approaches. This oral tradition and carries from generation to generation.

However, this oral literature is now to some extent also can be found in written forms as folk songs have been translated into English and so on. In Bengal Renaissance, 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, many creative artists have been played a major role in Bangladeshi cultural development. Significantly, Lalon Shah is the main figure who inspired many thinkers and artists. The famous music current artists' names are Kangalini Sufiya, Fakir Alamgir, Kuddus Boyati, Momtaz, and Firoz Shai, all have a great contribution in music to develop the tradition. However, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Chhayanaut organize folk music festivals and play a great role to carry the heritage. Besides this creative part, there are other cultures, local food, Urus performances, and ritual performances that are the main content of this special issue which are covering these interesting topics.

The main aim of this special issue “**FOLK CULTURE STUDIES: A COLOURFUL JOURNEY OF BANGLADESH**” is to focus on Bangladesh-related research work—majorly, it is to cover the field of folklore studies. This Special issue contains 10 papers, all representing Bangladesh society in its colorful way. Interestingly, the topics have been covered in this as a reality of commercialization, the impact of tea garden, saint's legend (a fictitious story), evaluate the influence of tea-laborer in society, women's life in folklore materials, the idea of cultural harmony to build through folk-culture, Sundarban's goddess, Kalai Ruti traditional food and ursh of Atroshi. All these topics bring our attention to know Bangladesh and its beauty through the culture, food, and daily living life.

A short description of the selected papers, article 1 is entitled, “**The Reality of Commercialization of Different Cottage Industries in Bangladesh,**” it is written by Pinak Ray. Ray covers Bangladesh's commercial production framework, crisis, and potential of a few



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of the cottage industries. Paper 2 is “**Symposium of Saint Legends of Bengal: The Chronicles and the Anecdotes,**” this is written by Mehanz Tasnim. This paper sees how the saint legends stories became a part of Bangladeshi culture. Paper 3 is “**Evaluate the Impact of Tea Garden on the Environment and Livelihood: A Folkloric Study on Kamalganj, Sylhet of Bangladesh,**” this is written by Md. Khalid Hasan. the impact of the tea garden on the environment and the livelihood of Kamalganj.

Paper 4 is “**Evaluate the Influence of Tea-Laborer in Society and Culture of Greater Sylhet: Perspective Kamalganj Upazila, Bangladesh**” is written by Saifur Rahman Sajal. After engaging various ethnic groups to produce tea, all start living together and share their cultural and social interaction. Paper 5 is “**Guns of Barisal: A Mysterious Fable**” is covered by Most. Sayeda Mohtarema. This paper aims to know how a mysterious phenomenon rocked the southern coast of Bangladesh in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Article 6 is “**The Vent of Women's Life in Folklore Materials: 'Folk Festive', 'Folk Manners' and 'Folk Game'**” by Pinky Rani Kundu. In this article, folklore, folk tradition and the position of women in rural life have been embodied. The paper finds that there are many differences between the position and contribution of women in society. Paper 7 is “**How Cultural Harmony can Build Through Folk-Culture: Folk-Belief and Folk-Rituals Explanation,**” is written by Sauda Zaman Risha. The study is designed and carried out to explore the perception of cultural harmony and folk culture. Article 8 is “**Banabibi: The Patron Goddess of the Sundarbans**” by Syed Arafur Rahman. In this article, the origins of Banabini and some legends regarding this deity which were collected by conducting fieldwork in Mangla (Bagerhat, Khulna) have been discussed.

Next paper, 9 is “**Traditional ‘Kalai Ruti’ : Street to Restaurant**” by Sadiya Tasnim Ananna. The article highlights how folk food has become a survival tool for the livelihood of the laboring people in the city of Rajshahi and how it exists with its various limitations in the competitive market of this capitalistic society. Research paper, 10 is “**Ursh of Atroshi**” presented by Kawshikur Rahman. “Urs or Urus (literal meaning wedding), is the death anniversary of a Sufi saint and the whole performance of Urus is analyzed in this paper.

In academics, Bangladeshi and from other countries’ anthropologists also have researched deeply Bangladeshi folk culture but found its rural beauty and interesting stories of folk culture. Still, many other aspects have been untouched thus, a future scope can be explored through the



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gender or diaspora perspectives. One can also explore the music forms of Bhatiali, Baul, Murshidi, and Bhawaiya.

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