

The role of women in preserving cultural heritage
A Review Article

Name of Participant:
Tahira Rezaei

Date of Submission:
June 27th, 2022

Abstract:

Women have a crucial role in the global preservation and vitality of cultural diversity and history. Their responsibilities in connection to intangible heritage are particularly important because they contain what may be called core regions and representations of cultural heritage, which are usually necessary for the maintenance of cultural identity.

Women have been one of the priority groups of cultural preservation. In Afghanistan the area we aim to study as case study and other underdeveloped nations There is no one position from which they can strengthen their efforts and promote women's roles in intangible heritage and development. Women renew and modify culture through preserving and passing on intangible culture to future generations. Furthermore, the involvement of women in the preservation of intangible assets, particularly in local cultural contexts, is critical to the preservation of cultural variety. This article stresses the need to understand the women 's position and promote culture as integral to human development on all levels.

Most cultural heritage sites around the world have traditionally been the territory of men, with minimal or no participation by women. As a result, little scholarship has examined the role of women in cultural sites and their contribution to cultural conservation. Cultural identity is necessary for healthy civilizational interaction. Individuals who have a strong sense of self-identity via culture are more inclined to communicate peacefully with people from different cultures, respecting the diversity of value systems, religious beliefs, and tangible characteristics of culture. These cultural identities may shift as various civilizations become increasingly interwoven. Culture's fluid nature may be beneficial, resulting in stronger societal structures and ideals, but it can also be destructive, resulting in the dissolution of core human values. Women make up around half of the population of any given country (Leahy and Yermish, 2003). They have played significant roles in the evolution of civilization developing countries, women account for three-quarters of all household heads (UNICEF, 2001, cited in Leahy and Yermish, 2003) According to Madumere-Obike and Ukala (2011), women are culturally conceptualized as not being equal to males, and as a result, they are required to prepare for inferior positions than men. Women are mostly responsible for the family's nurture. As mothers, they nurture their children, milk them, and teach them societal norms and values (Sani, 2001). As wives, women are responsible for the well-being of the whole home, including extended family members (Sani, 2001).

"Each culture has a dignity and value that must be maintained and conserved," according to the 1966 Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation, and "every people has the right and obligation to develop its culture" (UNESCO, 1966, Article 1) in Afghanistan, women are considered as the weaker sex and are allocated minimal tasks, resulting in their restriction to household concerns. Women often decline to do what they could do to follow the ideas of culture and tradition. According to Charles (2010), culture is created by males and hence can be managed to serve men's interests over women. Women should not be subjected to gender-specific limitations in cultural sites. Women's contributions to the transfer of intangible cultural heritage are critical in today's world. Intangible heritage, also known as immaterial legacy, refers to components of our life that are critical to the continuation and expression of cultural identity. Women's participation in intangible cultural heritage is essential and fundamental. Essential areas of culture, as well as those that are frequently necessary in preserving familial and cohesive social relationships, are examples of these spheres. Many of these key kinds of intangible heritage are transmitted and renewed intergenerationally in most cultures via the raising of children.

Gender inequality is prevalent in many cultures; hence the topic of women's empowerment and gender equality is high on everyone's mind. Gender inequality is far more prevalent in underdeveloped nations than in industrialized countries (Ahmed et al., 2001). Women are also caretakers of intangible cultural legacy, which includes the performing arts, such as music, art and Handicrafts, weaving, textiles, and the know-how for the construction of material culture, among other things. They (women) are easily accessible to play their parts, 'theatrical fashion and art craft roles,' during festivals and religious celebrations (Orjinta, 2014, p. 78).

Women frequently incorporate new forms and techniques with the traditional to preserve and pass on these kinds of intangible culture, so renewing culture. Women's creativity is also necessary for the survival and revitalization of intangible cultural manifestations. Many female artists produce works of traditional value while combining modern aspects in performance, such as theatre and dance. This is a valuable contribution that should be recognized.

Women transmit intangible legacy in ways that are adaptable to modern situations, inclusive of change, and improve cultural representations via their passion to their work. Women's creativity in utilizing intangible cultural legacy contributes significantly to many communities' economic well-being.

Reference:

- Bala, S. (n.d.). *Women-the cultural keeper of socio-cultural practices in Indian Communities Case study-Yadav community, Haryana, India.*
- Sinthumule, N. I. (2022). Gender and sacred natural sites: The role of women in sacred sites protection and management in Vhembe region, Limpopo Province of South Africa. *Global Ecology and Conservation, 35.*
- Budiningtyas, E. S., & Turgarini, D. (2019). *The Reinforcement of Women's Role in Baluwarti as Part of Gastronomic Tourism and Cultural Heritage Preservation.*
- Sibarani, R., Simanjuntak, P., & Sibarani, E. J. (2021). The role of women in preserving local wisdom Poda Na Lima 'Five Advices of Cleanliness' for the community health in Toba Batak at Lake Toba area. *Gaceta Sanitaria, 35, S533-S53*
- Bayeh, E. (2016). The role of empowering women and achieving gender equality to the sustainable development of Ethiopia. *Pacific Science Review B: Humanities and Social Sciences, 2(1), 37-42.*