
Role Of Music In Farmers' Protest: A Study

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Abstract: Music is considered as one of the oldest forms of expression. It is a universal language which is always used by the educators, students, activists as a way of community protest against the governments or the authorities. Protesting through the music has become one of the media where people chooses musical notes as a way be vocal and loud for the oppression. A way of reaching people at large and where people can be educated, informed, motivated and to raise consciousness both emotionally and intellectually. The music is a way of bringing social change and social justice to the society at large. The paper aims to understand the ability of the music in the on going farmer's protest in Delhi against the Centre Government for the New Agriculture bill.

Keywords: Music, Protest, Medium, Delhi, Government, Farmers

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Beethoven, "Music can change the world." There is something magical about the music and something supernatural. The music is universal which does not require any boundry. It is beyond the nation and world. It is a powerful expression where one is out of words the music palys its magic. It has ability to speak from the soul and connects the soul with supernatural powers.[1] On the other hand music is way to encountered the oppressor. There is an undeniable power in music. In every culture around the globe the music is the essential part of the daily life whether its political, religious, cultural or entertainment. This is worth mentioning that in every era music evolves according to political, social, cultural and economic changes. Over the decade's music has become a tool of social change and social justice. The Greek people were among the first who understand the power of music and they used it as a weapon of protest against the authority. The greatest of all scholars like Pluto believed in the power of music to affect and move the masses and suggested using it to inform and inspire people.

Protest Music in India

Music has always been important part of Indian Culture. Indian culture and heritage are deeply rooted in its traditions and gives much importance. A country like India with a population of over billion people, the cultural activism has become the strongest weapon to gather the large crowd and to instil the power to protest through a unique way. Over the time it is seen that how people are growing resentment towards the government and how the people and artist are showing their anger or solidary through the various versions of protest music.

Protest songs and music inspired and impact the society. [2]The bond of music is inseparable and effective. Music is so powerful that it can override the people minds and emotions and this can be used as a tool to influence the people. The recent examples of protest music can be seen at the Shaheen Bagh where the students and activist were protesting against the

Anti—CAA. Faiz Ahmad Faiz famous poem “ Hum Dekhenge’ became a National Anthem for the protestors. It actually brought a new wave in the protest around the world. Many of the artists took the protest music as a tool to motivate people and to show resentment against the government.

Recent Farmers Protest and Music

As the farmers’ agitation still continues against the New Bill passed by the Centre Government, many songs of resistance are going viral on the different online platforms like YouTube, WhatsApp and Instagram. Punjabi singers and artists are vocal about the New Bill and they are giving the support to the farmers by participating and writing a note on the present situation of the protest against the government. The leading Punjabi singers have raised their voices through the protest songs and music when the New Bill was passed in September, 2020 by Centre Government. The music has become the anthem of Farmers’ protest. From Babbu Mann to Harsimran, From Diljit Dosanjh to Gurdas Maan. The celebrities are coming up in support of ongoing protest through their musical notes. Every day a new song is released on YouTube channels in support of the Farmer’s Protest.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In the book “Music as Political Communication The Oxford Handbook of Political Communication.

It discusses the ways in which music serves as political communication and plays a major role in politics. [3]It notes that the current analysis of political communication has tended to ignore the role played by sound and offers an account of the forms in which music through protest, propaganda, and rebellion has been associated with political communication.

In the research paper “Can Music Teaching Be a Powerful Tool for Social Justice? The Oxford Handbook of Social Justice in Music Education explains that how practitioners can deal differently with issues of social justice in music education based on their personal and professional priorities. The relative merits to the micro-and macro-approaches of social justice in music are debated. It is argued that the aims of social justice are especially closely linked to the production and promotion of musical cultures that are sustainable beyond specific educational contexts and that are rooted in the broader society.[4]

In the book “ The Oxford Handbook of Social Justice in Music Education” provides a wide and systematic survey of social justice in music education. Contributors from around the world are questioning the nuanced, multidimensional and sometimes divisive existence of social justice and music education from a range of philosophical, political, social and cultural perspectives.

While several chapters take as their starting point an overview of how prevailing political, educational and musical philosophies serve to create and perpetuate inequities and undemocratic practices, writers often describe practices that aim to encourage socially just pedagogy and approaches to music education.[5]

Significance of the study

The study is significant to know the effectiveness of the music as a tool of protest and to influence the people against the unconstitutional acts of the Governments and authorities. The study is done through the content analysis of taking 10 musical songs that how they deal with

protest and how they motivating and influencing the public at large. the study is also significant that how the Punjabi singers and artists are taking active part in the protest and giving their support to the Farmers' protest. The study is important in a way that how music has become a weapon, a tool to show resistance against the unlawful system.

3. OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the medium used for the release of the protest music.
2. To find out the language of the music used in the song
3. To study the effectiveness of the content of the music/ song.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is that the specific procedures or techniques want to determine, select, process, and analyze information about a topic. In a very analysis paper, the methodology section permits the reader to critically assess a study's overall validity and dependability. Researcher carried out content analysis. It is a technique of learning and analyzing communication in a very systematic, objective procedure for the aim of measure variables.

Data Interpretation

Table No:1

Name of the song	Punjab Bolda
Singer	Ranjit Bawa
Medium	Youtube
Content	The content of the music is motivating and inspiring.
Language	Punjabi
Duration	05:11

Interpretation: This song was released on Youtube on 08 Decemebr, 2020. The song is written and sung by Ranjit Bawa who is the one of the leading Punajbi Singer. It has 13,760,795 views on YouTube. The song was relased when Bollywood Actor “ Kangna Rauant” commented on Punjab as Uda Punjab. This song is dedicated to on going Farmers’s Protest at the Delhi Borders. The content os the song is ispiring and motivating where the lyrics of the song talks about the rich heritage and culture of Punjab. And talks about the prominent personalities of Punjab.

Table No: 2

Name of the song	Kisan Anthem
Singer	Mankirt Aulakh, Jass Bajwa, Jordan Sandhu, Fazilpuria, Dilpreet Dhillon, Nishawn bhullar, Dj Flow, Shree

	Brar, Afsana Khan, Bobby Sandhu
Medium	Youtube
Content	The content is all about the Farmer protest. The song is about that how the people of Punjab from different sections of the society are participating.
Language	Punjabi/ Haryanvi
Duration	07:13

Interpretation: This song was released on 14 December, 2020. It has 103,768 views so far on Youtube. The lyrics are dedicated to the farmer's protest. The song is about that how the people of the Punjab are all together taking part in the on going protest at Delhi. The song has also targeted the Indian Media who is biased towards the protest and labelled the protesters as "Khalistani"

Table No:3

Name of the song	Jatta Takda Hoja
Singer	Jass Bajwa
Medium	Youtube
Content	The content of the song is about the unconstitutional bill passed by the Centre Government. The lyrics are devoted to the privatization of the agriculture.
Language	Punjabi
Duration	04:54

Interpretation: the song is sung by famous Punjabi Singer Jas Bajwa, who is also taking part in the on-going farmers' protest. It has 5,025,429 views. The song was released on 19 September, 2020. The song was released when the centre government passed the New Agriculture bill which resulted a protest by the Punjab Farmers. The lyrics of the song is target on the unconstitutional agriculture law and making agriculture a private entity.

Table No:4

Name of the song	Peecha
Singer	Kanwar Grewal, Harf Cheema

Medium	Youtube
Content	The content of the song is informative.
Language	Punjabi
Duration	04:37

Interpretation: the song was released on 21 November, 2020. The song is sung by Kanwar Grewal and Harf Cheema who is well known artist of Punjab. The song has 6,840,585 views. The lyrics of the song is motivating and informing as in the last of the song the singers are urging to the people of Punjab to march towards the Delhi on 26 November, 2020.

Table No:5

Name of the song	Sun Dilliye
Singer	Rajvir Jwanda
Medium	Youtube
Content	The content of the song is motivating
Language	Punjabi
Duration	02:58

Interpretation: the song was released by Punjabi Singer Rajvir Jwanda. The lyrics are about the Rights of the farmers's. The singer in the song is addressing "Delhi" means he is addressing the Centre government that the Farmers and Punjab will take their rights. The song is motivating and thrilling in its lyrics as it also mentioned about the 1984 Delhi Riots atrocities on the Sikhs .

Table No:6

Name of the song	Assi Vaddange
Singer	Himmat Sandhu
Medium	Youtube
Content	The content is provocative
Language	Punjabi
Duration	02:58

Interpretation: The song is sung by Punjabi Singer Himmat Sandhu. It was released on the 24 September, 2020 on Youtube. It has 9,435,974 views so far on Youtube channel. The lyrics of the song is inspiring as it talks about the Framers Rights. The lyrics of the song is provocative as it's a warning to the centre government if the law will not be taken back then the consequences will be very dangerous.

Table No:7

Name of the song	Le Sun Kangana (Reply to Kangna)
Singer	Harsimran
Medium	Youtube
Content	The content of the song is informing
Language	Punjabi
Duration	02:55

Interpretation: The lyrics of the song is informative in its content and warning to the Bollywood Actor J”Kangna Raunat” who calls the Farmers as “Terrorists” who are taking part in the protest. The song is 02:55 min duration. The song was released on 01 December, 2020. It has 1,685,071 views on the Youtube. The lyrics of the song also provocative in a manner where the song is targeting the actor by telling her that she would be in Afghanistan if the Sikhs Gurus would had not protected the Hindus.

Table No:8

Name of the song	Kisaan VS Delhi
Singer	Ninja
Medium	Youtube
Content	The content of the song is inspiring
Language	Punjabi
Duration	03:07

Interpretation: The song is sung by Punjabi Singer Ninja. The lyrics of the song is inspiring where it talks about that how the farmers are moving towards the Delhi for peaceful protest. The song was released on 03 December, 2020. It has 2,684,469 views on Youtube channel.

Table No:9

Name of the song	KISAAN SUN DE
Singer	G. Sidhu
Medium	Punjabi
Content	The Content is inspiring
Language	Punjabi
Duration	02:39

Interpretation: the song is sung by International Punjabi Singer G. Sidhu. The lyrics of the song is inspiring where it talks about the farmers rights. The song has not mentioned about the farmers of Punjab but the lyrics have mention of UP, Kerala, Haryana farmers. the song is inspiring as it explains that how the whole community worldwide is together with the Farmers's who are protesting for the last three months. The song was released on 06 Dec, 2020. The song has 30,086 views on youtube channel.

Table No:10

Name of the song	Zaalam Sarkaran (I am with Farmers)
Singer	Gippy Grewal
Medium	Punjabi
Content	The Content is motivating
Language	Punjabi
Duration	03:02

Interpretation: the song is sung by famous Punjabi singer and actor Gippy Grewal. The song was released on 03 Dec, 2020. The song has 1,786,929 views on Youtube Channel. The song is a satire on the Government where the singer has addressed the present Government "Zaalam" which means Merciless. The lyrics are inspiring in a way where the singer explains that in order to protect rights in Democratic country when has to be vocal against the merciless government.

5. CONCLUSION:

Music as of now is not just the source of entertainment rather it has become a medium through which people shows their solidary and anger for the unconstitutional or unlawful activities of the Governments and authorities. Over the years in various countries people have taken the help of music to protest. there is no doubt that technology has shaped the way of communication and through the online media the people can be reached easily and accessible.[6]

The study has found that best platform which is used for the release of the music and song is YouTube as people has wide reach. The people around the globe are easy to reach and accessible. Most of the Punjabi singers are using the YouTube platform for the release of their songs and it is easier for them even to reach Punjabi NRI.

The study found out that the language of the song is chosen Punjabi. The reason for it is as the Punjab was the first state which showed their resistance to the New Bill and the farmers of Punjab was demonstration in the state since the passing of the bill in September. Secondly Punjab is an agrarian state and Punjab generates it maximum revenue from the agriculture.

In the study it is found the content which is used in the music for Framers' protest is motivating and influencing. The Punjabi artists where were seen talking about women and

weapons in their latest musical albums are talking about the Centre Government New Bill. The songs are a way to show their support to the farmer's protest.

6. REFERENCES

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