Conservation of the Precious Heritage-Techniques and Methods for Maximum Impact

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Abstract

Artefacts of cultural significance serve as priceless community resources that serve as monuments to previous human legacies. It promotes community cohesion and social harmony by reflecting societal norms and values both now and in the future. The goals of this research are to learn more about cultural heritage conservation and the difficulties that come with it. Poor management, monitoring, and evaluation; a lack of funds and stakeholder involvement; urbanisation; settlement programmes; agricultural practise; a lack of government concern as well as professional commitment; an lack of community issue; vandalism; illicit trafficking; insufficient promotion of cultural heritage; natural disasters; and invasive intervention, cl are the primary factors affecting the preservation of heritage. Conservation initiatives need the development of conservation guidelines, management plans for historic sites, the dissemination of relevant research, the inclusion of relevant stakeholders, and active community participation. The research concludes that promoting conservation is a means to attaining economic and social sustainability, and that the two should be integrated.

Keywords : cultural heritage, conservation, intangiable,

Introduction

Heritage is everything we've inherited from the past, everything we have now, and everything we'll leave to the next generation. The natural and cultural treasures resources that are part of this are invaluable to humanity. They are the foundation upon which we build our lives and the very essence of who we are. The tangible and intangible artefacts, properties, and qualities of a group or society that have been passed down through the years, preserved in the present, and passed on to future generations are what make up that group's or society's cultural heritage. Heritage may take on a wide variety of forms, from the physical (sites, structures, landscapes) to the abstract (memories, emotions, ideals, traditions), and its applications can range from nation-building to tourism promotion. Heritage is often a phenomena inside an established historical discourse, although in recent years it has expanded to include appearances on the periphery, frequently originating from communities on the margins of that established discourse. Heritage is put to use in many contexts; it is a powerful tool that may be used for political, cultural, entrepreneurial, educational, and liberatory goals. Understanding the significance of cultural artefacts to various communities requires careful interpretation. Different theoretical perspectives and academic fields are

represented in this anthology, which discusses heritage preservation, development, and management. History, anthropology, geography, archaeology, sociology, and the preservation of cultural artefacts are all represented. The authors explore many facets of culture and legacy by using examples from a wide range of time periods and geographical regions. How is legacy understood in various local contexts? is one of the research issues that has been sought to be clarified. How do we ensure that the postmodern cultural landscape and traditional values will continue to shape our shared future? To what extent is it possible, in the present day, to synthesise the intricacy of legacy preservation with the changing nature of historic sites? Research into cultural landscape planning, heritage dynamics, and the definition of cultural values informs the elaboration of these inquiries.

Defining the aspect of heritage

The term "cultural heritage" describes how modern people value and use historical materials. National clichés and regional identities are shaped in part by contemporary and postmodern interpretations of "our cultural heritage." It's often connected with historic districts throughout Europe. It has significant associations with metropolitan parks, museums, and galleries throughout North America. It is also linked to indigenous Australian and New Zealander history, lore, and geography (Boyd & Timothy, 2003).

Heritage studies, which Carman and Srensen (2009) say grew out of David Lowenthal's seminal work The Past a Foreign Country (1985), use social scientific research methods to examine how people engage with and shape their cultural legacies. Cultural heritage is "what we choose out of the past for use in the present," whether it for political, economic, cultural, or social reasons (Khakzad 2015, p 110).

UNESCO defines cultural heritage as "the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations". This organization describes three dimensions of the cultural heritage; it is consisted of monuments, groups of buildings and sites "Tangible heritage includes buildings and historic places, monuments, artifacts, etc., which are considered worthy of preservation for the future". This refers to objects which are important in the context of architecture, archaeology and science or technology of a specific culture. Cultural heritages also include intangible heritage, i.e. "living expressions and the traditions that countless groups and communities worldwide have inherited from their ancestors and transmit to their descendants, in most cases orally.

Cultural heritage plays a strong role in both economic and social life even though the majority remains informal, without public protection and without explicit management as they are the main institutions that connect history, territory and society, defining the cultural context of social life (Barrere 2015, p 6). Other arguments relate to that heritage sites are associated with different kinds of values. Sites with a positive heritage refer to museums which illustrate advances and aesthetically appealing phenomena (free interpretations from Boyd & Timothy 2003). Sites with neutral values refer to scientific exhibitions and museum. The darker sights are embedded with negative values with relation to conflicts, epidemics, death and suffering.

That heritage is always contested and fought over by different groups for various reasons is a fact pointed out by Ashworth and Tunbridge (1996). They write: All heritage is someone's heritage and

therefore logically not someone else's: the original meaning of an inheritance [from which 'heritage' derives] implies the existence of disinheritance and by extension any creation of heritage from the past disinherits someone completely or partially, actively or potentially. This disinheritance may be unintentional, temporary, of trivial importance, limited in its effects and concealed; or it may be longterm, widespread, intentional, important and obvious (Ashworth & Tunbridge 1996). Not only the physical place of heritage but also the immaterial meaning attached to it becomes an object of struggle as different meaning (positive or negative connotations) is attached, and will eventually lead to what Ashworth and Tunbridge label canonization (turning the site into a museum or a monument) or the totally opposite stand—iconoclasm.

India's cultural heritage and, inparticular, its archaeological and built heritage is unparalleled in the world. India has one of the largest geo-political expanses and one of the greatest volume and diversity in heritage. This vast heritage repository of India is recognized globally as significant part of its unique cultural identity. Even beyond India, a number of countries across the world, house some of the best specimens of our county's heritage in their museums often narrating the glory of Indian culture along with the tales of colonial legacy; while others in south east Asia have extraordinary monuments standing as testimony to the spread of Indian culture. An initial survey indicates the total quantum of India's built heritage and archaeological remains may roughly amount to a total of 400000 plus heritage structures across the country including the centrally protected monuments, state protected monuments, heritage buildings under various religious trusts, historic cities and archaeological sites. The potential of India's unsurmountable heritage remains untapped until now – simply because it exists in myriad forms, shapes and experiences across various states and, no Single Overarching Vision for Heritage of India has guided its protection/preservation/promotion till date. Unlike other western nations, India's Cultural Heritage shows continuity since centuries where age old traditions continue to be practiced. Currently, India's Heritage is underfinanced and, a Comprehensive Vision for Heritage Budget and Planning with innovative means of financing is essential. This heritage does not just constitute the important markers of India's past but also presents a unique opportunity for generating employment and incomes through heritage tourism and local development.

Conservation according to the report of the NITI Aayog

The impact of protecting, conserving, interpreting and showcasing India's built heritage needs to be recognised at multiple levels:

a. International Level - As part of a Universal Shared Heritage to build global relations in future by connecting with stories and routes of cultural exchange through history and, learning from international practices.

b. National Level - As a tool to Nation Building, and branding of its unique cultural identity with iconic sites and magnificent monuments in each region of India including its World Heritage Sites that narrate its rich, complex and layered history.

c. Local Level - To guide sustainable development of its historic cities and sites at local level linking directly with reuse and socio-economic benefits to the community while addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the same time The Vision for India's immovable Heritage can be

stated as" "Value, protect, conserve, interpret and foster India's unique and diverse Archaeological and Built Heritage as; - a channel for continuing cross cultural linkages at the international level - a means for nation building and testimony to India's cultural identity at the national level and, - a development tool for socio-economic upliftment at the local level and sustainability for future generations, with an all-encompassing, inclusive, multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach involving the entire gamut of heritage stakeholders from the myriad custodians and range of heritage experts to the visitors as well as citizens of India."

This paper aims to examine the complete picture of protected or unprotected built heritage in India. It gives an overview of the protected and unprotected built heritage, the institutional framework and status of those involved in managing heritage, the gaps in preservation, archaeology, history management, outreach, encouraging, and marketing India's heritage, and the evaluation of various heritage initiatives under the Archaeology Departments, Tourism Departments, and Urban Development Departments. In addition, it examines prospective International partnerships for the purpose of preserving and promoting this legacy, and it evaluates the Capacity Building opportunities presented by different institutions engaged in legacy Management throughout India. There are significant preservation, upkeep, repairs, and management problems for this Indian legacy between the protected and unprotected zones.

Improving Heritage Management In India

Conial missions to work with other government & non-government institutions to exhibit our rich and varied legacy in the greatest possible light The goals of the NITI Aayog study are to raise awareness of the existing state of heritage management in India, provide a path forward, and brand India's priceless archaeological and architectural legacy appropriately. The Vision and its goals need a cross-sectoral approach, with the 'Archaeological Survey of India' serving as the focal entity in coordination with other relevant ministries, state departments, and private trusts. Key topics outlined for the PMO Working Group mandate that the execution plan widely covers include: ASI restructuring, Building a Centralised Information Repository, Establishing Human Links, Outlining Restricted and Controlled Zones in and Around Monuments, Heritage as a vehicle for development and job creation; Capacity Building for Historic Management at all levels in conjunction with international and national organisations; Support to the state government and other entities like Temple Trusts and Waqf Boards. A complete overview of the India's heritage as summarised in this report provides a fair idea of the existing gaps at various levels. Based on the gap analysis and subsequent recommendations as per this report, the Key Action Points for each section are outlined as below:

National Database and Documentation:

a) National Archaeological Database to be made. National GIS Database for monuments and sites to be authenticated and validated with ISRO.

b) Extend ongoing initiative for Archives Data to be accessible digitally and Archives to be stored as per conservation norms .

New technologies as photogrammetry and three-dimensional laser scanning should be employed for documenting, surveying, excavating, and conserving national heritage sites.

Essential components of conversation

1) ASI and State Archaeology Departments are responsible for enforcing the National Policy on Conservation (see the attached document for a copy of the policy).

2) It is recommended that a Conservation Plan be drafted for the area before any preservation efforts are initiated.

3) There should be a Work Audit provision for the preservation of nationally significant monuments.

4) Empaneling artisans on a regional basis is being considered.

5) ASI Circles, State Governments, and Other Heritage Stewards to Receive National Level Awards.

Finally improving heritage management in India

Cafes and souvenir shops may help the museum break even and provide much-needed funds for upkeep and maintenance. Marketing and revenue generating must require

1) Use PPP Schemes as a Means of Generating Income.

2) Effective and strategic use of marketing tools, including the Internet and print media

3) Separate profit centres are to be established for each ASI location.

4) Profits from ASI will be reinvested in the domain.

5) Independence for the National Culture Fund

6) Crowdfunding, community fundraising, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) will be sought after in tandem with a full-service tourist experience for all members of society and government.

Strategy for World Heritage suggestions (both National as well as Transnational) for India, including a yearly schedule for training workshops and events with the State Government, is needed to maximise the economic potential of each heritage site by attracting domestic tourists. Collaborate with other countries for Marketing of India's Heritage Sites. Through Institutional Collaborations and Skill Development

Nomenclature and Branding of ASI and India's Heritage

It is plausible that the acronym should include more than "Archaeological Survey of India" in light of ASI's expanded framework and scope. Several proposed new names are listed in the Action Plan at the end of the report. One that stands out as particularly fitting for India's enduring, eternal heritage, much of which is carved in stone, is ASHMI (Archaeological Poll and History Management of India), an acronym that means "Rock born, hard and strong" in Hindi. It includes the Hindi word for fossilised, ashmibhut. India's tourism slogan, "Incredible India," has made a big splash, and the branding slogan for India's cultural heritage should echo that. So, it needs to be a

catchphrase that can stand alone or work in tandem with the Tourism Catchphrase. The paper proposes a few possibilities, such as the "living heritage" of "Incredible India" or "Vatan-e-Virasat." The culture of India has to be shared with the world, and the best way to do so is via online platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

The Ministry of Culture/ASI needs to create the 'Heritage India' brand and work with a digital media planning and buying firm to increase both natural and unnatural traffic using techniques like SEO and ASO. Heritage Circuits, a project of the MoT, does not account for the wide range of cultural traditions that are present in India.

Since the iconic centrally safeguarded sites need to attract not just the general tourist but additionally specialised educational tours, foreign tourists who selectively visit linked sites of world heritage, historic building tours, and so on, ASI should think about packaging the sites in such circuits. All necessary official documents for carrying out the action plan are included in the report's appendices, in addition to the aforementioned key action points.

Adaptive Reuse is one of the key models in conservation to achieve sustainability with built heritage. Considering India's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 and, the country's immeasurable built and archaeological heritage, adaptive reuse would be an ideal proposition to reintegrate the past fabric in a meaningful development for the present and future heritage.

Existing State-of-the-Art Methods of Documentation Incredibly precise documentation can now be obtained using techniques like photogrammetry as well as 3D laser scanning in a fraction of the time it used to take using older, more conventional methods. These and related technologies have grown commonplace, and they are readily accessible for purchase or study at places like the IITs. While ASI has documented sites like the Rani ki Vav in the past, it has only been able to do so with the help of international organisations such as CyARK because it does not yet have access to any in-house advanced documentation techniques. Sites featuring art, murals, or other antiquated things are ideal candidates for laser scanning since they cannot be correctly recorded using conventional means like manual architectural plans. A growing number of ASI or State Archaeology sites are beginning to use the use of drones for the purpose of documenting monuments for tourist brochures. For the sake of condition evaluation and usage in interpretation centres, the technology may also be used to record inaccessible parts of monuments.

While ASI has utilised LiDAR survey for specific sites like Rani ki Vav, the organisation does not maintain its own set of high-tech surveying equipment. The archaeologists do not have access to cutting-edge tools like the drones and LiDAR surveys that are standard practise in national heritage agencies throughout the globe. The Indian state of Rajasthan has deployed a full CISCO and AutoCAD infrastructure to conduct LiDAR surveys of all state-protected sites. Both the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASI) and individual state archaeology departments may learn from this example's structure and implement something similar. The state government of Rajasthan has discovered a way to combine the state's beautiful havelis, temples, and various historical landmarks with its digital purpose. The Department of Information Technology and Communication (DoITC) of the government of Rajasthan has developed a GIS programme called Rajdharaa with the multi-faceted goals of guaranteeing sustainable growth, empowering its residents, and fostering good governance. Rajdharaa is a platform that facilitates the upkeep of standardised GIS (geographic

information system) assets throughout the state. It has been described as "a uniform gateway for a spatial decision-making system." No other state government in the United States has taken action like this before. To better obtain, process, store, disseminate, and make use of geospatial data in accordance with the standards specified by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Rajdharaa has been built as a statewide web-based geo-portal.

Conclusion

The Policy is envisioned as a living document and has been subject to periodic revisions as may be chosen by ASI as it has been implemented by the Archaeological offices and field employees since 2014.

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