CHAPTER VI

LIFESTYLE OF TAMASHA
KALAVANTHS (ARTISTS)
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60 — INTRODUCTION

The Kalavanths of Tamasha theatre are mostly from the villages. There is employment problem in many of the interior villages. There is no work for the villagers during a greater part of the year. In remote villages, the employment problem is the same for both educated and uneducated people. If anybody gives an opportunity to work, the villagers accept the offer without any hesitation. The main reason is poverty and illiteracy.

The Tamasha organisers, for booking the Kalavanths, visit various villages. Those who have relationship with Tamasha form earlier or who are eager to join the Tamasha phads are generally attracted and they are from the downtrodden classes.

The Vag Natya proprietors book these Kalavanths with payment of rupees six thousand to seven thousand per annum in addition to free food and shelter. The experienced Vag Kalavanths are paid a little more, which will range between rupees ten thousand to twelve thousand per year. During rainy seasons, there are no Tamasha performances and hence, for Tamasha phads, a year means only eight months.

The poorest downtrodden Kalavanths, irrespective of their gender, work as per the directions of the Vag Natya phad owner. The Kalavanths who were in poverty in the past accompany the phad owners with the intention of getting some source of income. The Kalavanths do not even know about the happenings at present and have no chance of thinking of their future life. Their lifestyle is very poor. The Kalavanth who enacts the role of a queen by wearing rich costumes like silk sarees are seen in torn and old sarees in their real lives. The main reason for this is their family problems, family burdens, low wages, and they are unable to do other works because of their dedication to Tamasha are the main reasons of their poverty. The lifestyle of the Tamasha Kalavanths is in a very poor state. The girls are unmarried till a late age, because of their association with Tamasha phads, because of staying away from their homes, the blind dedication of their lives to the Tamasha phads is also the reason for their poverty. There are less than five percent of Tamasha kalavanths who are financially sound. Moreover, one who joins the
Tamasha phad becomes an addict to Tamasha Vag and becomes its permanent member. If at all they happen to leave the phad, because of frustration, they return back to the same profession very soon.

The present educated society is enjoying and getting entertainment by witnessing the Tamasha Kalavanths on the stage but the same Kalavanths in their real life, at their leisure periods, during holidays, who wish to move in society, are facing insults and difficulties in the society. Moreover, it is very difficult for them to perform the marriage of their children. To mingle with society, they have to face much difficulties. That is why all the Tamasha kalavanths have formed into a group and are living together.

Even today, the children of these kalavanths are uneducated. They have no property of their own, no pensionary benefits in their old age, and hence the lives of the old artists are in drastic condition. By knowing all these things and having no other way to go, the kalavanths work for Tamasha companies and settle permanently in the Tamasha phads as kalavanths. Such kalavanths can be seen in almost all of the Tamasha phads.

The Tamasha kalavanths are generous-minded people. They give full cooperation to their owners and work with dedication. Though they have several problems, and if they become ill they cannot stop giving performances, because of these reasons, until the completion of their contract, they will not leave a company and are faithful to their owners.

The kalavanths who participate in Gan, Goulan, Lavni and also the other workers, musicians, all work with great care to avoid any further consequences and thereby get acclaimed by the audience.

Some of the kalavanths become ill now and then. To them, the Tamasha phad owner provides medical assistance. They fulfill the needs of their dependents by paying advances. There is a majority of Hindus in the Tamasha phads compared to Muslim and Christians, as their participation is very less. Even still, they work unitedly. By following national integration, with love, dedication, they live together. During the times of fairs and festivals, they wear new clothes and enjoy themselves. Depending on the needs of the kalavanths, the phad owner enhances the salaries occasionally.
I had the opportunity of meeting some of the kalavanths, technical persons and musicians, during my visit to those Tamasha phads, as part of my field work and on enquiry. I came to know about their lifestyle very closely and very deeply.

6.1 - TAMASHA PHADS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF MAHARASHTRA
There are about five hundred Tamasha phads in Maharashtra Situated in Dhule and Jalgaon areas in Khandesh and in the southern regions of Maharashtra, i.e., in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions. Day by day, the Tamasha companies entered into all corners of Maharashtra with their cheap popularity.

They present Cinematic productions in all styles of Tamasha production like social vag natya, mythological vag natya, historical vag natya, and folk style vag natya.

Most of the artists have separated from the earlier phads and have formed new phads. But these associations are not functioning effectively, and financially also. The owners are getting very low profits, after meeting all types of expenditure and making payments to kalavanths, maintenance of lighting, sound systems, maintenance of transport vehicles, etc.

6.1.1 — ADDRESSES OF TAMASHA ASSOCIATIONS
During my visit to Naraingaon village, Junnar Taluq, Pune District, I met some of the Tamasha Associations there.

The particulars of the Associations which I visited were:

1) Chandrakant Dhawalpurikar
   Lok Natya Tamasha
   Naraingaon Village
   Junnar Taluq
   Pune Dist.
2) V. Ganpatrao Mane Chichneekar
   and Akkatai Karadkar
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Centre - 423, Karad
   Dist Satara

3) Smt Vandana Chahurwadikar
   Bahurangi Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Jatnandur
   Patoda Taluq
   Dist Beed (Phone 518)

4) Malati Inamdar
   D/o Vithabhai Bhau Mang Naraingaonkar
   (recipient of President of India Gold Medal)
   Naraingaon Village
   Junnar Taluq
   Pune Dist (Phone 42255)

5) M. Ramachandra Wadekar
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal

6) Smt. Kunda Patil Pimpleekar
   D/o Vag Samrat Jagtap Patil Pimipleekar

7) M. Manikrao Outhi Rajurikar
   M. Dadu Jadhav Gunadhkar
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Naraingaon Village
   Junnar Taluq
   Pune Dist
8) Smt Lata Punekar
   D/o Shri Kondiba Taklikar
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Survey No 19, Plot No 4
   Hinghne Home Colony
   Karve Nagar
   Pune
   Contact Address: Jai Bhavani Kala Mandir Theatre
                    Shivaji Stadium
                    Mangalwarpet
                    Pune 411002 (Phone 27430)

9) Nrityachandrika Smt Lata Koulapurkar
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Naraingaon Village
   Junnar Taluq
   Pune Dist.

10) M Nivruthi Gaokwad
    M Vinod Samrat Anthony Dosheend Lahwarkar
    Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal (Mumbai)
    Naraingaon Village
    Junnar Taluq
    Pune Dist.

11) M Bai Alahat Netwadkar
    Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
    Naraingaon Village
    Junnar Taluq
    Pune Dist.
12) Vag Samragni Smt Nanda Patil Pimpilekar
   D/o Jagtap Patil Pimpilekar
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Village - Moshi
   Taluq - Haveli
   Dist - Pune

13) Anand Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Sanjay Mahajan Nagar Sevak
   Jalgaon Nagar Parishad
   Khandesh

14) M. Aman Tambe Poonekar
   Saraswatibhai Kolhapurkar
   Bahurangi Tamasha
   Aryabhushan Tamasha Theatre
   400, Ganeshpet
   Pune 411002 (Phone 27944)

15) Kalu-Balu
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Koulapur
   Sangli
   Kalu-Balu
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal
   Post - Koulapur
   Taluq - Meeraj
   Dist. - Sangli (Phone 364242)
16) Sri Shankarrao V. Mane Chinchneekar  
   Lok Natya Tamasha Mandal  
   L V Mane Construction  
   Post - Chinchni  
   Taluq - Tasgaon  
   Dist - Sangli

6.1.2 — **Addresses of Tamasha Artists (Kalavanths)**
In addition to the above associations, the most popular and famous Tamasha theatre artists (Kalavanths) are:

1) Late Shiva Sambha Koulapurkar  
   Dist - Koulapur, Sangli  
   (Contemporary of Kolhapur Shahu Maharaj)

2) Late Rama Nama Lavalekar  
   Village - Lavala, Dist - Pune

3) Leela Bai Manjrekar  
   Village: Manjre, Dist Pune

4) Nagu Bhagu Mali  
   Village: Nirmudgav, Dist Pune

5) Rasool Bhai Pinjari  
   Khandesh

6) Dagdu Amrapurkar  
   Aurangabad
7) Namdev Ghivarwadekar  
    Aurangabad

8) Late Jagtap Patil Pimpleekar  
    Village: Pimple, Dist Pune (Cine Dancer)

9) Nanda Patil Pimplckar, D/o Late Jagtap Patil Pimplckar  
    Village: Pimple, Dist Pune

10) Soubhagyavathi Mandapatikar  
    Village: Pimple, Dist Pune

11) Kunda Patil Pimplekar, D/o Late Jagtap Patil Pimplckar  
    Village: Pimple, Dist Pune

12) Late Shankar Rao Ausrikar  
    Village: Ausrigaon  
    Dist: Pune

13) Uma Chandolikar  
    Village: Chandoli, Dist Pune

6.1.3—PRESENT - NARAINGAON TAMASHA PHAD ARTISTS (KALAVANTHIS)

1) Dathoba Jadhav Dawnikar  
    Organiser: Age: 32 years  
    Chandrakanth Dhwalpurikar Tamasha Mandal  
    Naraingaon Village, Junnar Taluq, Pune Dist.
2) Thika Bhika Sangveerkar
   Village: Sanghvi, Dist Duliya

3) Shiv Ram Veergaonkar Sahabu Borgaonkar
   Village: Borgaonkar, Tq Chikodi, Dist Bolgaon

4) Pyaran Karodkar
   Village: Karad, Dist Satara

5) Prabhakar Sindhya Ahnekar
   Bombaywala Servicewala
   Thatwadi, Ghatkopar, Mumbai

6) Latha Punekar
   Village: Karve Nagar, Hingne Kalni, Dist Pune

7) Soubhagyavathi Vandana Chahurwadikar
   Village: Chahurwadi, Dist Satara

8) Manik Rao Authi Rajurikar
   Village: Rajuree, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune

9) Ramchandra Wadekar
   Village: Manjarwadi, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune

10) Ganpath V. Mane
    Saha Akthath Karadekar
    Village: Karad, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune
11) Malathi Inamdar Naraingaonkar  
   Village: Naraingaon, Tq. Junnar, Dist Pune

12) Raghuveer Khedkar, S/o Tukaram Khedkar  
   Village: Sangmaner, Dist Ahmednagar

13) Nanda Patil Pimplekar  
   Village: Munshigaon, Tq. Haveli, Dist Pune

14) Mangala Bansode Karodikar  
   Village: Kakhedi, Tq Karad, Dist Satara

15) Kalu-Balu (Twins), S/o Shiva Shambhu  
   Village: Kawalpur, Tq. Meeraj, Dist Sangh

16) Latha Kawalapurkar  
   Village: Kawalapur, Kamgarputhlur, Shivajinagar, Pune

17) Manda Kawalapurkar  
   Village: Hanumanwadi, Tq Haveli, Dist Pune

18) Bala Allat Nethwadkar  
   Village: Nethwad, Tq. Junnar, Dist Pune

19) Vinayak Thambe  
   Post: Shiroli, Tq. Junnar, Dist Pune
20) Anand Rao Mahajan  
    Anand Lok Natya Mandal  
    Village: Jalgaon, Dist Jalgaon

21) Sandhya Mane Solapurkar  
    Village: Solapur, Dist Rajwada

22) Aman Thambe Punekar  
    Saha Saraswathi Bai Kolhapurkar  
    H.No.400, Aryabhushan Theatre, Pune

23) Hari Bhau Badenagarkar  
    Village: Kotugaon, Dist Ahmednagar

24) Pandurang Mule Manjarwadikar  
    Village: Naraingaon, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune

25) Datha Mahadik Punekar  
    Village: Bela, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune

26) Tulsiram Shivram Jadhav  
    Chandrakanth Tamasha Mandal  
    Naraingaon, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune

27) Sheik Akhthar, Manager  
    Village: Naraongaon, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune
TAMASHA FOLK THEATRE OF MAHARASHTRA

28) Babaan Lalu Dalvi, Manager & Generator Mechanic, Sound System In-charge
   Opp Police Station
   Village: Naraingaon, Tq Junnar, Dist Pune

29) Madhukar Seth Mirale
   Tamasha Kalavanth Kalavikas Mandal
   New Hanuman Theatre, Lal Bagh
   VT to Chichpokli Railway Station
   Industrial Estate, Mumbai 400012 (Phone 4411 50)

6 1 4 — FAMOUS TAMASHGIRS
1) Patthe Bapurao (1890-1920), famous Tamashgir, a teacher to most of the Tamashgirs
2) Ranganath Dada Lohar (1910-1920), famous Tamashgir, Khandesh
3) Dagdu Sali, Dist Nagar, famous Tamashgir and Songadia
4) Rajdhar Bua Mahanubhav, famous Tamashgir, Khandesh
5) Rama Kumbhar Vardhanghadkar, famous Tamashgir in the entire Maharashtra, equal to Patthe Bapurao
6) Sawlaram Aurangpurkar, best Songdia, a disciple of Dagdu Sali, Tamashgir equal to Patthe Bapurao
7) Bapurao Kupwadkar, a disciple of Patthe Bapurao, famous Tamashgir in South Maharashtra
8) Bapurao Punekar, expert Dholki player in South Maharashtra
9) Siva, Sambha Koulapurkar (brothers), experts in Table and Harmonium
10) Pandurang Kurkumbhkar (a disciple of Patthe Bapurao), famous presenter of Vag in Drama Style and Radio Singer
11) Namdev Lavlekar (very famous Tamashgir Poet)
12) Kashinath Shakatkar (famous Songadia around Pune)
13) Shankar Ausareekar (expert dhoiki player in Pune area)
14) Gangaram Satarkar (expert in Tamasha music)
15) Bhau Bapu Naraingaonkar (a disciple of Patthe Bapurao), very famous in the areas of Kolhapur, Satara and Mumbai
16) Damaji Korgaonkar, famous Tamashgir around Pune
17) Manohar Godhli (a contemporary of Rama Kumbhar), expert in music
18) Nayaku Kamerikar, very famous Tamashgir
19) Ganpathrao Patil, talented Tamashgir
20) Baburao Kurankar, a disciple of Patthe Bapurao, best singer and actor
21) Tukaram Khedkar, famous poet and singer
22) Madhav Nagarkar, famous in Mumbai, Satar and Nagar areas in dhoiki playing, Tamashgir and very talented actor
23) Dadu Indurikar, very famous Tamashgir in Mumbai area, famous Songadia, recipient of President of India Award for Tamasha

5.1.5 - Tamashgirs of Nagpur & Vidarbha Areas
1) Bharathi Bua Jhadiwale, Ghazal artist, Vidarbha, Tamashgir, best Songadia, singer and best actor
2) Balwantrao Krishnarao Dhuge, dhoiki player
3) Chandbhai Musalman, Tamashgir, Akola, tried for Hindu-Muslim unity
4) Bhikabhai Tamashgir, best dholki player and famous Tamashgir
5) Yashwantha Nahvi, presented a number of Tamasha performances in Vidarbha area
6) Pipya Mahar, famous Tamashgir
7) Bhujaalderkar Mahar, famous Tamashgir
8) Rama Tayde Modshee, famous Tamashgir
9) Anandrao Patil Cikhalgaonkar, Ghazal singer and Tamashgir
10) Ghushya Rambha Mahar, Ghazal singer
11) Thaku Punwalkar, Tamashgir
12) Anandswami and Pandari Sitaram Patil, famous Tamashgirs
13) Gulabrao, Tamashgir, Amravathi, Dt. Mangrool
14) Dastageer, Javleel, Naigaon
15) Chighle bua Kale, Pipalgaon, Dt. Buldana

616 — LIST OF FAMOUS SINGERS
1) Kausalya Kopargaonkar
2) Godavari Punekar
3) Bakula Islampurkar
4) Shevantha Jejurikar
5) Yashoda Vaikar
6) Yamuna Vaikar
7) Tara Vaikar
8) Bhama Pandarpurkar
9) Baban Khedkar
10) Chandra Punekar
11) Leela Manjrekar
12) Uttam Targaonkar
13) Anasuya Jejurikar
14) Changuna Jejurikar
15) Pushpa Jejurikar
16) Paru Jejurikar
17) Tara Khadkikar
18) Chabu Nagarkar
19) Harna Ghodandikar
20) Tara Velapurkar
21) Gangubai Mali
22) Kalu Bhalerao
23) Tarabai Kaldonkar
24) Baban Pandarpurkar
25) Lalan Jharekar
26) Anasuya Khaptekar
27) Saru Satarkar
28) Kashibai Kouthekar
29) Chandraprabha Satarkar
30) Anasuya Gadagkar
31) Ausa Kolhapurkar
32) Sulochana Satarkar
33) Gulab Sangmanerkar
34) Johra Jadgaonkar
35) Kamla Jangaonkar
36) Kamla Patardekar
37) Kamla Naigaonkar
38) Kamal Kopargaonkar

6 1 7 — LIST OF FAMOUS SINGERS OF VIDARBHA AREA

1) Vasantha Jalgaonkar
2) Kamla Patroderkar
3) Manorama, Sulochana Pathrodkar
4) Kamla Selukar
5) Meenakshi Gadkar
6) Vaaru Kouthekar
7) Chabu Shirodkar
8) Manorama Jejurikar
6 1 8 — LIST OF FAMOUS SONGADAS

1) Dagdu Sali Siroli
2) Gunaji Aabaji Borude
3) Popat Sahebrao Nagarkar
4) Baburao Bhairubhonkar
5) Anantharao Vithoba Moharkar
6) Lakshman Jadhav
7) Aanaji Gurav
8) Babaji Gurav
9) Ankkal Khopcha Thad
10) Chotubhan Songadia
11) Jayavanth Kukwadkar
12) Nana Manwekar
13) Shamu Shavaljekar
14) Kashinath Nararigaonkar
15) Luma Kodalikar
16) Dadu Indurikar

6.1.9 — LIST OF FAMOUS SHAHIRS AND TAMASHGIRS

1) Tatya Sawaljekar
2) Aaba Sawaljekar
3) Patthe Bapurao
4) Bhau Phakkad
5) Lahri Hyder
6) Baburao Kupwadkar
7) Eashwara Retrekar
8) Shiva Sambha Koulapurkar
9) Kambhau Wardhanghadkar
10) Shankar Ausareekar
11) Shankar Apsingkar
12) Nayaku Kamereekar
13) Shiva Medekar
14) Babu Kouthekar
15) Savla Aurangapurkar
16) Dada Aurangapurkar
17) Raaghu Indurikar
18) Kochru Longwadikar
19) Gopinath Chambhar
20) Eashwara Retrekar
21) Sakharam Malekar
22) Manohar Gondhali
23) Nana Manvekar
24) Pandurang Kalamwadikar
25) Gulabrao Aanewadikar
26) Vishnu Gondhali Shivtarkar
27) Sitaram Tendulkar
28) Sheku Shiva Ghatnandrekar
29) Ananda Umaji Chanolikar
30) Savla Mahagaonkar
31) Vaidya Mastar
32) Divekar Mastar
33) Aawasaheb Maruthi Shivtarkar
34) Baburao Punekar
35) Lakshman Ganjekar
36) Dattoba Sali Shirolikar
37) Bhau, Bapu Naraingaonkar
38) Bhau Anklekar
39) Pandurang Kurkumbhkar
40) Damaji Koregaonkar
41) Madhav Nagarkar
42) Jagtap Pjimplekar
43) Shivram Tasgaonkar
44) Tukaram Khedkar
45) Manaapa Karaganeekar
46) Ramchandra Kohleewale, Nagpur
47) Ramji Motghare, Nagpur
48) Keshav Dhok
49) Venkat Meshray, Nagpur

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3. Chandrakant Dhawalpurikar Chandrakanth Dhawalpurikar Lok Natya Mandal Naraingaon Tq Junnar Dt Pune
4. ibidem.
5. ibidem
6. ibidem
7. Dattoba Jadhav Dawrikar Chandrakanth Dhawalpurikar Lok Natya Mandal Naraingaon Tq Junnar Dt Pune
8. ibidem.
9. ibidem.
10. ibidem.
11. ibidem.
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12 Marathicha Lok Natya Tamashakala am Sahitya p 1%
13 ibidem p 197
14 ibidem p 198
15 ibidem p 198
16 ibidem p 199