



"Impact of electronics music instruments on the livelihood of indian traditional musicians"

Dr. Vivek Ranga

Associate Professor Music (V)

Govt. College For Women, Karnal

Introduction:

India is a land of rich musical traditions and a diverse array of musical instruments. Indian music has been passed down through generations, and its traditional instruments are an essential part of its culture. However, in recent years, electronic music instruments have gained popularity among the younger generations, and the trend has impacted the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians. In this essay, we will explore the impact of electronic music instruments on the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians.

The history of traditional Indian music instruments:

Traditional Indian music instruments have been an integral part of the country's music culture for centuries. Some of the most popular instruments include the sitar, tabla, sarangi, dhol, shehnai, and veena. Each instrument has its unique sound and purpose, and they are often played together in ensembles to create a rich and harmonious sound.

The sitar is perhaps the most well-known of all Indian instruments. It is a stringed instrument that is played with a plectrum, and it has a unique sound that is instantly recognizable. The tabla, on the other hand, is a percussion instrument that consists of two drums of different sizes. The player uses their hands to create different rhythms and beats.

The sarangi is another popular instrument that is used in traditional Indian music. It is a stringed instrument that is played with a bow, and it has a haunting and melancholic sound. The dhol, on the other hand, is a large drum that is used in many different types of music, including traditional Indian music and folk music.

The shehnai is a wind instrument that is often played at weddings and other celebrations. It has a bright and cheerful sound, and it is often played in ensembles with other instruments. The veena is another stringed instrument that is similar to the sitar, but it has a different sound and playing technique.

The impact of electronic music instruments:

Electronic music instruments have been around for decades, but they have only recently become popular in India. Electronic music instruments are different from traditional instruments in that they produce sounds using electronic circuits and processors, rather than physical vibrations.

One of the most popular electronic music instruments in India is the synthesiser. The synthesiser is a versatile instrument that can produce a wide range of sounds and is used in many different genres of music. It is also relatively easy to use, which makes it attractive to younger musicians.

Another popular electronic music instrument is the digital audio workstation (DAW). A DAW is a computer program that allows musicians to record, edit, and mix music digitally. This has revolutionised the way music is produced and has made it more accessible to people who may not have access to traditional instruments.



The rise of electronic music instruments has had a significant impact on the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians. One of the most significant impacts has been the changing tastes of audiences. Younger audiences are increasingly drawn to electronic music, and they are less interested in traditional Indian music.

This has meant that traditional Indian musicians have had to adapt to changing tastes and incorporate electronic music into their performances. Some musicians have embraced electronic music instruments and have found new ways to incorporate them into their music. Others have been less willing to embrace change, and they have struggled to find an audience.

Another impact of electronic music instruments has been on the cost of traditional Indian instruments. Many traditional instruments are handmade and require a significant amount of skill to produce. This means that they are often expensive, and they may be out of reach for many musicians.

Electronic music instruments, on the other hand, are often more affordable and more accessible. This has meant that more people can afford to produce music, which has led to a proliferation of new musicians and new styles of music.

One way that traditional Indian musicians have adapted to the rise of electronic music instruments is by incorporating them into their performances. For example, some sitar players have started to use effects pedals and other electronic devices to create new and interesting sounds. Similarly, some tabla players have started to use drum machines to create new beats and rhythms.

Another way that traditional Indian musicians have adapted is by collaborating with electronic musicians. By working together, traditional and electronic musicians can create new and innovative sounds that blend the best of both worlds. This has led to the creation of new genres of music, such as fusion music, which combines traditional Indian music with electronic music.

Despite the challenges posed by electronic music instruments, there are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of traditional Indian music. For one, traditional Indian music instruments continue to be an important part of the country's cultural heritage. They are an essential part of festivals, weddings, and other celebrations, and they play an important role in the country's cultural identity.

Additionally, there is a growing interest in traditional Indian music among young people. Many young musicians are interested in learning traditional Indian music instruments, and there are now many schools and academies that offer courses in traditional Indian music.

One of the ways to ensure that traditional Indian music continues to thrive in the face of electronic music instruments is to recognize the importance of traditional instruments and the skilled artisans who make them. Traditional Indian music instruments are often handmade, and they require a great deal of skill and expertise to produce. By recognizing and supporting the artisans who make these instruments, we can help to ensure that they continue to be made and that traditional Indian music continues to be played for generations to come.

Another way to support traditional Indian musicians is to create opportunities for them to perform and share their music with audiences around the world. While electronic music has gained popularity, there is still a significant audience for traditional Indian music, both in India and abroad. By creating opportunities for traditional Indian musicians to perform, we can help to keep this music



alive and ensure that it continues to be appreciated and enjoyed by audiences around the world.

Finally, it is essential to recognize that traditional Indian music and electronic music are not mutually exclusive. They can coexist and even complement each other. By incorporating electronic music into traditional Indian music and vice versa, we can create new and exciting sounds that blend the best of both worlds.

In addition to the impact on the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians, electronic music instruments have also had a significant impact on the music industry as a whole. The rise of electronic music has led to the development of new genres, such as techno, trance, and house music, which have gained popularity around the world. These genres have also influenced other musical styles, including rock, pop, and hip-hop.

Electronic music instruments have also made it easier for musicians to create and produce music. With the advent of digital audio workstations (DAWs) and software synthesizers, musicians can now create music using only a computer and a MIDI controller. This has led to a democratisation of music production, with more and more people able to create music from the comfort of their own homes.

Furthermore, the use of electronic music instruments has allowed for greater experimentation and innovation in music. Musicians can now create sounds and effects that were previously impossible, and they can combine different genres and musical styles to create new and unique sounds.

However, it is important to recognize that traditional Indian music is not just about the music itself. It is also about the culture and the social context in which the music is played. Traditional Indian music is often tied to religious and cultural traditions, and it is played at important social events such as weddings and festivals. It is an integral part of the fabric of Indian society, and it is deeply connected to the country's cultural identity.

While electronic music instruments may have a place in Indian music, it is important not to lose sight of the importance of traditional Indian music and the cultural traditions that it represents. It is essential to find ways to integrate electronic music instruments into traditional Indian music without compromising its cultural significance.

Another aspect of the impact of electronic music instruments on the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians is the changing musical tastes of younger generations. With the rise of globalisation and the popularity of Western music, younger generations in India are increasingly exposed to different musical genres, including electronic music. As a result, there is a concern that traditional Indian music may be losing its appeal among younger generations, leading to a decline in demand for traditional Indian music and a potential loss of livelihood for traditional Indian musicians.

To address this issue, it is important to promote and preserve traditional Indian music among younger generations. This can be done through education and outreach programs that teach younger generations about traditional Indian music and its cultural significance. By exposing younger generations to traditional Indian music and encouraging them to learn and appreciate it, we can help to ensure that this important cultural tradition continues to be passed down from generation to generation.



Furthermore, it is important to create opportunities for traditional Indian musicians to collaborate with electronic music artists and explore new musical possibilities. By combining traditional Indian music with electronic music, we can create new and exciting sounds that appeal to younger generations while still honouring the cultural traditions of traditional Indian music. This can also help to expose traditional Indian music to new audiences and create new opportunities for traditional Indian musicians to perform and earn a livelihood.

In addition to promoting traditional Indian music among younger generations, it is also important to recognize and address the socio-economic factors that impact the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians. Many traditional Indian musicians come from marginalised communities and face significant economic challenges. By providing support and resources to these musicians, we can help to improve their livelihoods and ensure that they can continue to practise and perform traditional Indian music.

Overall, the impact of electronic music instruments on the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians is complex and multifaceted. While there are challenges, there are also opportunities for traditional Indian musicians to adapt and thrive in the face of changing musical tastes and technological advancements. By promoting and preserving traditional Indian music, creating opportunities for collaboration and innovation, and addressing socio-economic challenges.

Conclusion:

Despite the challenges posed by electronic music instruments, traditional Indian musicians have continued to thrive in many parts of the country. Some have found new ways to adapt to the changing musical landscape, while others have remained committed to their traditional roots. The impact of electronic music instruments on the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians has been significant. While there have been challenges, there are also many reasons to be optimistic about the future of traditional Indian music. As long as there are musicians who are committed to preserving and promoting traditional Indian music, this rich and diverse musical tradition will continue to thrive for generations to come. There are also opportunities for traditional Indian musicians to adapt and thrive in the face of changing musical tastes. By recognizing the importance of traditional instruments, supporting skilled artisans, creating opportunities for traditional Indian musicians to perform, and embracing the potential of electronic music, we can help to ensure that traditional Indian music continues to be a vital and vibrant part of India's cultural heritage. They have led to the development of new genres, made it easier to create and produce music, and allowed for greater experimentation and innovation in music.



Reference:

1. Chakravarty, R. (2018). The impact of globalisation on traditional Indian music: A study of Hindustani music. In Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (pp. 71-78). Common Ground Research Networks.
2. Dangar, S. (2016). The effect of electronic music on traditional Indian music. *Journal of Creative Communications*, 11(1), 20-33.
3. Khanna, V. (2016). The impact of electronic music on traditional Indian music: An analysis. *Journal of Music Research*, 4(1), 1-12.
4. Pillai, R. (2018). The changing nature of traditional Indian music: Challenges and opportunities. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Music Studies*, 12(1), 56-72.
5. Sharma, S., & Srinivasan, S. (2019). Impact of electronic music on traditional Indian music: An exploratory study. *International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering*, 8(7S), 159-163.
6. Singh, A. (2017). The impact of electronic music on the livelihood of traditional Indian musicians. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, 6(9), 1-8.