Visual Document of Folk Artists : Bhawaiya Song of North Bengal

Bhawaiya is one among the predominating genre of folk song of North Bengal and adjoining Assam, mostly sung by the people belonging to Indo-Mongoloid ethnic stock. Most of the times the performers remained unrecognized. This presentation is designed to uphold some of the performers of Bhawaiya like - singers (male and female), Dotora player and Theoretician along with their photographs.

1. Abhay Roy

Abhay Roy (Residence: 147 Votbari, Changrabandha, Coochbehar). He works in the Health Department, Government of West Bengal.

Abhay Roy is famous for singing different types of Bhawaiya songs (vocalist) at the same time he is a very good Dotora player. He is recognized as a Radio Artist. Dotora is a folk instrument (string instrument) essential for singing Bhawaiya. In this picture we find Abhay Roy with his Dotora.
Kameswar Roy (Residence: Singimari, Moinaguri, Jalpaiguri). **Kameswar Roy** is a performer of Bhawaiya and a good *Dotora* player. But he is more known as a Theirotician of Bhawaiya song. He has written many write ups on the technical aspects of Bhawaiya song and the techniques of playing *Dotora*.

Folk songs contain some specific regional techniques of singing and playing any musical instrument. **Kameswar Roy** is the competent person to illustrate the uniqueness of Bhawaiya along with theoretical note and performance.
3. Gopal Roy

Gopal Roy (Residence: 147 Votbari, Changrabandha, Coochbehar). Gopal Roy is purely an instrumentalist. He plays Dotora. In spite of having enough potentiality and skill in playing the instrument, he remained in the dark. He is a daily labour and works hard for reuuning the family. But his love and dedication for song made him an exceptional performer.
Among the female performers of Bhawaiya, **Aloka Roy** (Residence: 147 Votbari, Changrabandha, Coochbehar) deserves to be mentioned. She is basically a vocal performer and has beautiful voice with energetic skills of singing Bhawaiya song. Good numbers of female Bhawaiya singers are there in North Bengal. Aloka Roy is one among the young performers. Aloka Roy sings song for sustenance. She has no other source of income excepting singing song. She lives in a very miserable financial condition.
5. Sachimohan Barman

Sachimohan Barman (Residence: 147 Votbari, Changrabandha, Coochbehar). He is a respectable teacher by profession but more than that he is a vocalist and instrumentalist. Apart from all his qualities as performer, he is a good organizer and a researcher of Bhawaiya. He is the founder secretary of "Muktachinta Sahitya Anushilan Kendra" where researches and documentation relating to Bhawaiya song are being carried out.