

Name of the element: Lifestyle and culture of snake charmers.

Name of the inventory: Test inventory 1

Brief Description

Snake charming is typically an inherited profession. In 1970s and even the early 1980s snake charmers used to be a common sight in Dhaka city streets. According to historical documents snake charmers have been living in this part of the world for centuries, and belong to both Muslim and Hindu communities. Currently Bangladesh has an estimated 500,000 snake charmers. Older generations of snake charmers prided themselves at being able to handle these snakes just through behavior and not handicapping the snake. The snake charmers are involved with catching snakes, training them, generating melodies using flute, making the snake dance on their melodies, entertaining people and earning their livelihood from that. So a snake charmer's life itself is a form of art.

It is a matter of great regret that, due to the poor financial condition of the snake charmers and the lack of preservation, their valuable art is on its way to extinction. New generations of the snake charmers community are choosing different profession as they are not getting the proper social respect. The society and related organizations are showing huge negligence towards snake charmers. For this reason, we are losing an art which can play an important role in flourishing our culture.

Region: Aftabnagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Photographs: Video: consent:

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