

Tattoo Culture: Beauty and its Problems

Dr. Sugureshwar R. M.

Assistant Professor of sociology

Government First Grade College Afzalpur 585301

Abstract:

The study tries to explore how tattoo culture adds to the beautification of one's body and its associated problems. Getting a variety of tattoos on the parts of the body has been in practice in different cultures for a long time. Today with modern technology there is an increase in decorated tattooing as a body art among teenagers and young adults. There is a mushrooming of tattoo centers in not only big cities but also in small towns. Variety in design and coloring is added attraction to the youth to get tattoos on their body. The point of interest in the present study is to understand how tattooing is shaped by the culture and fashion trends of society. The research also focuses on the motivation for getting tattooed and the risks it is associated with. Especially physical injury to the skin, viral and bacterial infections, and other complications like viral diseases, impetigo tumors, and psychosocial complications. This study draws on the in-depth interview of 30 participants who had either small or many tattoos on their body parts. The study area was Davangere City in Karnataka state.

Keywords: Tattoo, Disease, Health risks, Culture, and Fashion.

Introduction

Tattoos: The concept of tattoo is understood as society has undergone a remarkable transformation regarding our views on tattoos. Those of us born in the 1980s or before have likely noticed this-tattoos were once a taboo here in America. They were hidden from parents. They had to be concealed from potential bosses. If you had any aspirations of an upper-class lifestyle, a visible tattoo would have served as a potential barrier to entry. What is truly incredible is how different cultures view tattoos around the world. While we in America have a complicated history with them, in many cultures they are seen as a symbol of purity. They can be a rite of passage, ensuring societal acceptance. They may be the only means of being viewed as beautiful. They may also represent a religious ritual. Tattoo culture around the world holds plenty of surprises for those who have grown up with the American interpretation. Here is how tattoos are viewed in different parts of the globe.

Indian Tattoos -History, in Growth and origin:

Tattooing has been common for many centuries in tribes scattered across the vastness of the Indian subcontinent. The tribes would view the tattoos as unstealable jewelry, or as a means to make young women seem unattractive to neighboring tribes

who might otherwise steal them. In the northeast, headhunters would bear facial tattoos that recounted how many lives they had taken. In the intoxicating heat of southern India, permanent tattoos have long been a tradition. Referred to as *pachakutharathu*, they only ceased being popular around 1980. The tattoo artists would travel around creating tattoos of labyrinth-like snares on people's bodies so that they could ward off evil. The Indian subcontinent is home to such a long and complex history of inhabitants that it is impossible to recount all the tattoo traditions present. In some cultures, tattoos were a means of marking those in lower castes so as to keep them down in society. Today, tattoos have begun to take a similar form as in western culture, with young people getting them as a fashion statement. This represents the opportunity for Indians to keep their histories alive in body art while moving into the country's fast-developing future.

The History of tattoos discussed by German ethnologist in terms of three phases:

A tattoo is defined as an indelible mark fixed upon the body by inserting pigment under the skin, and the earliest evidence of tattoo art dates from 5000 BCE. Across time and cultures, tattoos have many different forms and meanings. The phenomenon of tattooing was once widespread. In 'The Descent of Man' (1871) Charles Darwin wrote that there was no

country in the world that did not practice tattooing or some other form of permanent body decoration.

The 19th-century German ethnologist and explorer Karl von den Steinen believed that tattooing in South America evolved from the custom of decorating the body with scars. Plant sap rubbed into the wounds to prevent bleeding caused discolouration of the scar. The resulting decoration could be regarded as a tattoo.

In his book 'Missionary Travels and Research in South Africa' (1857), David Livingstone wrote that many Africans tattooed themselves by introducing a black substance under the skin to cause a raised scar. North-American Apache and Comanche warriors rubbed earth into battle wounds to make scarring more visible and flaunt them within the tribe, while the pygmies of New Guinea treated infections by rubbing herbs into incisions in the skin, causing permanent scarring. Such tales suggest that tattooing probably arose at various locations through bloodletting practices, scarification rituals, medical treatment or by chance. The popular assumption that tattooing had a single origin is discredited. Charles Darwin wrote that there was no country in the world that did not practice tattooing or some other form of permanent body decoration.

Modern Day Tattoo the tattoo guns that are used today came from more humble beginnings in 1891. The first electric tattoo machine was patented by Samuel O'Reilly. The design was based on a modified version of the electric pen, created by Thomas Edison. The arrival of the electric tattoo machine saw a steady increase in the popularity of tattoos. Inks used in the guns were created using geological or mineral sources. Black ink was made using iron oxide or carbon, and cinnabar was used to make red. Different shades of orange, red, and yellow were made using different cadmium compounds. Recent, modern technology has seen a shift away from mineral-based pigments. Organic pigments are now more commonly used. Modern-day inks also contain a variety of fillers, binding agents and preservatives.

Early and ethnographic tattoos

The earliest evidence of tattoo art comes in the form of clay figurines that had their faces painted or engraved to represent tattoo marks. The oldest figures

of this kind have been recovered from tombs in Japan dating to 5000 BCE or older.

In terms of actual tattoos, the oldest known human to have tattoos preserved upon his mummified skin is a Bronze-Age man from around 3300 BCE. Found in a glacier of the Otztal Alps, near the border between Austria and Italy, 'Otzi the Iceman' had 57 tattoos.

Many were located on or near acupuncture points coinciding with the modern points that would be used to treat symptoms of diseases that he seems to have suffered from, including arthritis. Some scientists believe that these tattoos indicate an early type of acupuncture. Although it is not known how Otzi's tattoos were made, they seem to be made of soot. Other early examples of tattoos can be traced back to the Middle Kingdom period of ancient Egypt. Several mummies exhibiting tattoos have been recovered that date to around that time (2160–1994 BCE).

In early Greek and Roman times (eighth to sixth century BCE) tattooing was associated with barbarians. The Greeks learned tattooing from the Persians, and used it to mark slaves and criminals so they could be identified if they tried to escape. The Romans in turn adopted this practice from the Greeks.

Review of Literature

The Meaning of Style' Dick Hebdige (1979). The book has a strong focus on Britain's post-war youth subculture styles by explaining that they are forms of resistance. Within this publication Hebdige outlines a model which can be used for analyzing these youth subcultures. Hebdige notes that historical, class, race, social and economical conditions that surround the formation of each subculture. Some of the subcultures which Hebdige focuses are noted below, alongside with a more detailed explanation on the following slides: Teddy boys, Mods, Rockers, Skinheads and Punks tattoo also Subculture others etc,

Symbolic interaction theory is a way of thinking about the mind, self, and society. George Herbert Mead (Morissan, 2009: 75) states that meaning arises as a result of interactions between humans, both verbally and nonverbally. Through the actions and responses that occur, we put meaning into

words or actions, and because of this we can understand events in certain ways. The fundamental thing in this theory is the importance of meaning in human behavior, the importance of self-concept, and the relationship between individuals and society. Mead (Ayun, 2015) suggests three important concepts in this theory, namely.

Society: In light of symbolic interaction theory, society consists of mutually cooperating behaviour among its members. Mead explains that society is manifested or formed by the presence of symbols in the form of signals from the body. With the existence the human ability to pronounce symbols and act and respond to what is produced, human will empathize or take their role. Here, the community means a network of social interactions wherein the members give meaning to their own actions and the actions of others by using symbols. The important concept contained in this theory is interplay between responding to others and responding to oneself.

Self: Individuals interact with other individuals to produce a certain idea about them. It is a theory that reveals about self and how experiences interact with others. This theory consists of elements which consist of three dimensions. "The first dimension is the dimension of showing (display), regarding whether an aspect of the self can be shown to outsiders (public) or is it a private one. The second dimension is the realization or source, namely the level or degree in a certain part or area of the self which is believed to come from internal or external. The self-element that is believed to come from internal is called individually realized, while the element of the self that is believed to come from the person's relationship with the group is called collectively realized. The third dimension or so called the agent, is the degree or level of the active force generated by the self. The active element is an action taken by people, while the passive element is the opposite"(Morissan, Wardhani, & U, 2010: 136-137).

In the Tahitian language, tattoos are called "tatau" which means sign. Tattoos it is a series of body art with various themes, which are manifested in the forms of images, symbols, writings, and even photo replicas that are expressed and displayed on the surface of a person's body skin. For the owner, tattoo images are works of art that express their own pride

and have certain meanings. For the creator, it becomes a work exhibited and collected as a step towards its fame (Pradita, 2013: 3).

Tattoos are images or symbols on the skin of the body that are engraved using a needle-like tool and decorated with colorful pigments. Even though it's just an image, there are various functions of tattoos. Some are just a symbol of masculinity, to beautify one self, a sign of fertility and so on. In ancient times, people still used manual techniques and traditional materials to make tattoos. Nowadays, tattoos are made using modern tools. The tools for tattooing include tattoo machines, adapters and pattern making equipment, needles, gloves, ink containers, daubers, and other supporting tools such as alcohol, antiseptic ointments, tissues, designs, and photographic works (Liga, 2015: 3).

The presence of tattoos in modern society has experienced a change in meaning. Currently, tattoo has developed into popular culture or counter-culture which is considered by adolescents as a symbol of freedom and diversity. On the other hand, the elderly saw it as wild and very negative symbol. Thus the meaning of tattoo will depend on three contexts, namely historical events, the location of the text, and cultural formations. Previously, tattoos were originally part of culture or traditional ethnic rituals. But currently, they are developed into a part of popular culture. At a time when traditional tattoos are threatened with extinction, tattoos that have become part of pop culture are increasingly emblazoned on the bodies of modern humans and are increasingly favored, especially among teenagers. If someone has a tattoo, it is considered the same as rebellion. But it is precisely this term of rebellion attached to body art that makes this rebellious style popular and sought after by young people. There are several reasons that underlie why the younger generation is one of the objects in cultural transformation.

First, the younger generation exists and becomes the actor in a process of finding identity so that they are easily influenced by attractive values. Second, the younger generation is very sensitive to environmental conditions and easy to make changes. Third, the consumption pattern of the younger generation is longer so that it needs empowerment to maintain consumption pattern. Usually, people who are marginalized by society have tattoos as a symbol

of rebellion and self-existence, while children who are excluded by their families have tattoos as a symbol of liberation (Liga, 2015: 4).

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the nature and extent of driftnet body modification of tattoos
2. To understand and analysis the impact of tattoos on among teenagers and young adults health problems

Methodology

The research also focuses on the motivation for getting tattooed and the risks it is associated with. Especially physical injury to the skin, viral and bacterial infections, and other complications like viral diseases. The present paper is a micro level study based on both primary as well secondary data collected from the published and unpublished records and reports. For the primary data interview schedule was administered. This study draws on the in-depth interview of 30 participants who had either small or many tattoos on their body parts. The study area was Davangere City in Karnataka state.

Limitations of the study

This Research article is mainly focused on primary as well secondary information. The research also focuses on the motivation for getting tattooed and the risks it is associated with. Especially physical injury to the skin, viral and bacterial infections, and other complications like viral diseases, impetigo tumors, and psychosocial complications. Understand their background and problems. But the study has limitation as the number of teenagers and young adults considered and the area covered is limited in size.

Discussion and Analysis

This study examines the point of view of informants who interpreted themselves from the actions of others. In Indian the tattoos factions technology industry was valued at nearly now, tattoos adorn the skin of around 40% of all Indians between the ages of 26 and 40. It is no surprise to see them on our bosses or our school teachers. Tattoos are now seen as a form of expression that is as valid as pierced ears or hairstyle. Just like pierced ears and hair, certain tattoos can still cause alarm, but they are

far less likely to inspire a startled gasp than they once were. Davanage city has rapid growth of small or many tattoos on their body parts industry and a huge mushrooming of tattoos factions everywhere. This study tries to analyze the among teenagers and young adults conditions and health problems of the in smart cities like Davanagere. As the scope of this study is limited to small proportion of youths in tattoos factions industries in davanagere it is found that the youths in these industries out of 36 respondents nearly 21 respondents are youths making it up to 77 % of total respondents which reveals that many people's bacterial infections of the respondents shows 70% physical injury to the skin others problems.

Conclusion:

Finally the above discussions show that the sample respondents belong to the younger generation and the number of adults. What is interesting in this study is that these kinds of professions are becoming more commonly accepted by all classes and communities without any bias based on caste and religion. The study also shows the limitation of Tattoos is an inherent part of some cultures. In the Western world, it has taken time for decorative ink to become socially acceptable. It's really only in the last fifty years that tattoos have become popular and mainstream. The evidence of tattooing in ancient civilizations is fascinating. Tattoos from these past civilizations tended to have links to medical healing, as opposed to the cosmetic value that they have today. There is still so much waiting to be discovered and found out about tattoos throughout history.

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