

The Role of Bengali Wedding Songs in Strengthening Community Bonds: A Case Study of Rural Festivities in Ishwardi, Pabna, Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Bengali wedding songs, also known as Biyer Geet, are an essential component of Bengali culture, combining social values, tradition, and emotion. In order to preserve Bengali heritage, this study investigates the songs' cultural significance, historical significance, and evolution. Using a combination of primary and secondary research, the study looks at how wedding songs are used in different pre-wedding and wedding ceremonies like bidai, mehendi, barojatra, and gaye holud. A sense of continuity and community is fostered by these songs, which reflect religious values, social unity, respect for women, and familial ties. The study also looks into how modernization, globalization, and urbanization have affected how these songs are performed and passed down, emphasizing the distinctions between wedding traditions in rural and urban areas. The findings emphasize how these songs adapt to changing times while maintaining their cultural essence, thus continuing to play a crucial role in the emotional and social fabric of Bengali weddings. The study contributes to the ongoing conversation about cultural preservation in the face of modern influences.

Keywords: Bengali Wedding Songs, Biyer Geet, Tradition, Cultural Significance, Modernization

INTRODUCTION

Bengali wedding songs are a rich and essential component of the state's cultural fabric. These songs, which have their roots in centuries-old customs, are more than just amusement; they have deep emotional, social, and cultural meaning. Wedding songs mirror social customs, traditions, and familial values, thereby shaping the cultural identity of a nation (Charles, 1956). These songs are primarily performed by women and reflect the simplicity of rural life. They are a way to commemorate the joining of two people and incorporate themes of love, kinship ties, and peace in the community. They have been passed down through the years. These songs, which are typically sung during different pre-wedding and wedding ceremonies, capture the spirit of Bengali culture and evoke happiness and blessings. However, they have changed over time, incorporating contemporary elements with traditional melodies and lyrics, illustrating how cultural practices are ever-evolving. The contrast between rural and urban environments emphasizes even more how wedding songs change to fit various social contexts, with metropolitan celebrations adopting modern patterns while rural locations frequently maintain their folk character. Furthermore, the viewpoints of the younger generation provide insightful information about how these songs are currently interpreted and performed. Bengali wedding songs continue to be relevant because of this fusion of tradition and modernity, which connects the past and present. Bengali wedding songs are a fascinating fusion of tradition, culture, and music, serving as significant carriers of the community's identity and values. More than just melodious expressions, these songs encapsulate the joys, emotions, and customs surrounding

marriage, reflecting the deep-rooted cultural heritage of Bengali society. They are not merely a form of entertainment but a profound celebration of love, kinship, and community harmony.

We have always found Bengali wedding songs to be a fascinating fusion of custom, culture, and music. The joys, feelings, and customs connected to marriage in Bengali society are reflected in these songs, which are more than just melodic expressions; they are significant containers of cultural history. I picked this subject to investigate how these songs capture a community's identity and values, uniting generations via a common history. I also found it fascinating how Bengali wedding songs have changed over time, embracing contemporary elements while maintaining their traditional essence. A powerful story of cultural changes and the effects of industrialization is also told by the contrasts between rural and urban environments. Understanding newer generations' perspectives and how they support the continuation or modification of this legacy is another goal of this study. I can add to the conversation on cultural continuity and change by studying Bengali wedding music, which deepens our understanding of intangible cultural assets.

Rooted in centuries-old traditions, Bengali wedding songs have been passed down through generations, performed during various pre-wedding and wedding ceremonies. These songs evoke blessings, happiness, and a sense of unity, capturing the essence of Bengali culture. However, their appeal goes beyond tradition—they are living art forms that have evolved over time, blending contemporary influences with traditional melodies and lyrics.

The evolution of Bengali wedding songs tells a compelling story of cultural shifts and societal changes. The contrast between rural and urban settings highlights how these songs adapt to different social contexts. While rural communities often preserve their folk character, urban celebrations increasingly incorporate modern elements, blending traditional themes with contemporary rhythms and instrumentation. This dynamic interplay reflects the broader effects of industrialization and globalization on cultural practices.

Understanding the perspectives of newer generations adds another layer to this narrative. Young people play a crucial role in either preserving or reinterpreting these traditions, balancing respect for heritage with the desire for innovation. This fusion of tradition and modernity ensures that Bengali wedding songs remain relevant, bridging the past and the present, and uniting generations through a shared cultural history. By delving into the historical significance, evolution, and enduring charm of Bengali wedding songs, we gain insight into their role as powerful tools for preserving cultural identity in a rapidly changing world. These songs stand as a testament to the resilience of intangible cultural heritage, illustrating how traditions can adapt and thrive while maintaining their essence.

In order to clarify their function in maintaining cultural identity in a world that is always changing, this essay will go deeper into the historical significance, development, and timeless appeal of Bengali wedding songs.

Research Objectives

1. To explore the cultural and social significance of Bengali wedding songs in rural communities of Bangladesh.
2. To examine the role of Bengali wedding songs in fostering interpersonal relationships and collective identity among rural community members.
3. To identify the impact of modernization and cultural shifts on the tradition of Bengali wedding songs in rural areas.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative research design to explore the cultural and social significance of Bengali wedding songs in strengthening community bonds within rural festivities in Ishwardi, Pabna, Bangladesh. In addition, in-depth case studies of important wedding customs like gaye holud (a ceremony involving turmeric), mehendi (a ceremony involving henna), barojatra (the procession of the groom), and bidai (the farewell of the bride) were conducted. Utilizing the case study method, the research focused on gathering insights into the lived experiences, perceptions, and communal practices associated with these traditional songs. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and informal conversations with a diverse range of participants including elderly women, song performers, community elders, and younger family members involved in wedding preparations. Fieldwork was conducted in selected villages, allowing for rich contextual understanding and immersion in the social environment. Thematic analysis was applied to the data, identifying patterns and recurring themes that shed light on how wedding songs contribute to interpersonal relationships, collective identity, and cultural continuity amidst evolving social dynamics. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent and anonymity of participants, were strictly maintained throughout the research process.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study investigates the Origins, transformation and survival of folk music in South Asia, focusing on its deep integration into daily life, ritual, and festivals across the regions by the descriptive- qualitative research methodology. It reflects the collective emotions, traditions, and beliefs of rural society. Folk music in South Asia dates back to the Indus valley civilization. The Aryan civilization introduces Vedic chants and hymns, forming the foundation of Hindu musical traditions. Ancient text like the Chaaryapad and Natyashatra documented the early forms of folk and classical music (Karim, 2020). The document, examines the cultural, historical, and aesthetic journals of Bengali scroll paintings (patas), which hold a significant place in the oral and visual storytelling of Bengal. Patas served as props for patuas. The Scrolls often adopted religion elements such as the Bengali version of the Ramayana, which included unique depictions of character like Jayatu and the Goddess Durga. The 20th century saw a growing interest in patas among Nationalist intellectuals and colonial administrator. By the 1960s, Patas become part of international Museum collection (Ghosh, 2000). The oral narratives of elderly women in rural Bengal, offering a critical lens on motherhood. Sarah Lamb's research delves into the less- explored voice of elderly women, examining how the narrative reflects societal expectations, familial dynamics, and the shifting identities of women as they age. It's a recurring theme in the narrative is the sacrificial role of mothers, who devote their lives to rising children, often at great personal cost (Lamb, 1997). Boat racing has been an integral part of the cultural heritage of Assam, particularly in the hajo area. The tradition of singing boat racing songs not only enhances the competitive spirit but also fosters community bonding, unity, and cultural identity. The songs act as markers of Cultural identity for the people of Hajo, boat races and their accompanying songs often transcend religious and ethnic division. While the tradition remains strong, modernization has influenced the style and performance of these song. Electronic amplification and changes in lyrics to Suit contemporary testes have been observed (Rauf, 2023). Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* explores diasporic themes such as identity, displacement, nostalgia, and familial relationships within the Bengali community in the United States. The novel reflects the contrasting experiences of first-generation immigrants, represented by Ashima Ganguli, and the second generation, represented by Gogol Gang. Rituals like the rice ceremony and naming traditions highlight Bengali custom (Das, 2003). Sensuousness is central to Sukanta Bhattacharya's poetry, which appeals to all five senses—sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. Sukanta's use of vivid

imagery connects physical sensations to emotional and intellectual experiences. Sukanta's poetry is marked by rebel socialist thoughts, patriotism, and humanism, while still embracing romanticism. As a poet deeply influenced by Marxist ideologies, his works often critique societal inequalities and envision a better world free of hunger, war, and oppression. The study of Sukanta's poetry employs a qualitative approach, using textual and thematic analysis to uncover recurring patterns in his imagery and metaphor. Sukanta's sensory descriptions are striking in their ability to appeal to the physical senses (Alam, Islam, & Islam Khan, 2024). The study highlights the shifts in Oraon cultural expressions, particularly in songs and dances, under urban influence. The Oraons, an agriculturist tribe of Australoid origin, are predominantly located in regions like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and other parts of India. The research employs a combination of interviews, observations, case studies, and census surveys. Data were collected from two locations in North 24 Parganas, involving 528 participants across 121 families. The study employs Redfield's concepts of "Great" and "Little" traditions to understand social changes in Oraon culture. Song; Traditional Oraon songs, once performed in Sadri (a regional language), are now increasingly translated into Bengali to connect with local communities. Mixed-language compositions have emerged. Dances: Traditional dances like Sarhul and Karam persist but are performed with modifications, often incorporating Bengali or Hindi music (Biswas, 2018). Folk music has evolved through oral transmission, with contributions from various generations and communities. The influence of historical events, such as the 1971 Liberation War, has shaped the themes and patriotic nature of folk songs. The advent of mass media, technological advancements, and urbanization has significantly impacted the preservation and dissemination of folk music (Mridha, Factors influencing Folk Music in Bangladesh: An overview, 2023). These traditional Hindi songs sung by women during North Indian weddings, using pragmatic and semantic analysis to explore how language reflects and reinforces gender roles. Hindi vocabulary and grammar reflect hierarchical family structures and gender distinctions (Kathryn, 1991). Narayan's approach combines ethnographic fieldwork with literary analysis, highlighting the importance of both text and commentary. This article provides a rich ethnographic exploration of women's folksongs in Kangra, a region in North West India. The study focuses on the genre of "pakharu". The central theme of "pakharu" is the separation of husbands and wives. She highlights the lack of attention given to performers' own interpretations of their songs, a gap she addresses by incorporating singers' commentaries into her analysis (Narayan, 1997). Its unique integration with "Durga Puja", a major festival in Bengal. "Ramayan Gaan" is performed during the autumnal festival of "Navaratri", which culminates in "Dussehra", symbolizing the victory of good over evil (Mukherjee & Zakaria, 2020). The Rajbanshis have historically adapted to Aryan language, religion, and culture, while retaining their unique customs. But now it faces challenges in the modern era. The article discusses the commercialization of "Bhawaiya" music, with modern adaptations often distorting its traditional melodies and rhythm (Adhikary, 2023). Bratas maintain traditional Hindu values while underscoring the power of women to safeguard their families and husbands from misfortune. McGee suggests that bratas are a primary vehicle for women to pursue religious duties and aims, often motivated by the well-being of their families rather than personal gain. The concept of abjection offers a useful lens for understanding the ambiguous position of women in bratas, as they navigate between subversion and compliance with patriarchal norms (Chakraborty, 2017). The literature also highlights the role of women's magazines and the emerging class of educated "bhadramahila" (elite women) in perpetuating the new cultural norms, which emphasized domesticity, chastity, and refinement over the vibrant (Banerjee, 2017). The songs employ a rich tapestry of mystical imagery, particularly the concept of the "Man of the Heart" ("moner manush"), which later became central to the Baul tradition. Urban argues that the "Kartabhajas" use of economic discourse represents a form of subaltern

resistance, where the marginalized classes appropriated and transformed the language of colonial capitalism to express their spiritual and social aspirations."Bhaver Gita" offers a unique lens through which to understand the interplay between religion, economics, and subaltern resistance in colonial Bengal, challenging traditional narratives of the Bengal Renaissance and highlighting the complex ways in which marginalized groups (Urban, 2023). Burke analyzes street performances, Illustrations, and literary depictions to illustrate how common people engage with historical narratives and mythological figure. He also analyzes how individual form lower classes saw themselves and their role within society (Burke, 1978). Performed with instruments like ektara, dotara, and gopichand, accompanied by ecstatic dancing. Typically song in a group. Both traditions reject caste-based restrictions. The comparative study of Baul and Deh-bichar songs underscores the shared spiritual heritage Of Bengal and Assam (Borah, 2019). The transition from folk to pop music in Bangladesh represents a dynamic cultural evolution influenced by historical events, technological advancements, and globalization (Mridha & Begum, Continuum of Folk to Pop Music in Bangladesh a Simple Analysis, 2023). The influence of commercial music, particularly Bollywood has overshadowed traditional folk songs. Younger generations are less engaged with folk traditions, leading to the decline. The study suggested using folk music in agriculture extension programs to educate farmers about sustainable farming (Alam, Basu, & Gorai, 2021).

MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY

Increasing Social Harmony

One of the most recurrent themes that emerged from participant interviews was the role of wedding songs in fostering social cohesion within rural communities. Md. Selim Reza, a 58-year-old resident of Ishwardi in Pabna district, offered a vivid reflection on this dynamic: In our village, wedding songs do more than just entertain, he explained with a nostalgic smile. They break the ice between the bride's and groom's families. When we all sit together, singing and laughing, even strangers feel like kin. The tension just melts away. And when neighbors join in, it becomes a true community event—everyone feels included, regardless of whether they are rich or poor. These songs, with their teasing lyrics and praise, make people laugh together—and that's how bonds are built. Selim Reza's account resonates with other participants who similarly highlighted the communal nature of these performances. For instance, Sharmin Akhter, a 35-year-old homemaker from rural Natore, noted that the playful lyrics often function as a gentle mechanism for addressing underlying tensions between in-laws. Sometimes the songs are filled with teasing aimed at the groom or even the bride's side, but it's all in good humor. We laugh, we clap, and by the end of it, any formality disappears. These observations underscore how lyrical traditions embedded in wedding festivities serve as more than cultural artifacts—they are active agents of social harmony. The collective act of singing, particularly in a call-and-response format, bridges social divides and encourages interaction across generational and familial lines. Such practices, especially prevalent in rural settings, are vital for nurturing communal solidarity in an era of increasing individualism.

Symbol of Family Unity

Bengali wedding songs serve as a powerful medium for fostering family unity during wedding ceremonies in rural Bangladesh. These songs bring together family members and relatives, creating an atmosphere of joy and collaboration. The preparation and performance of these songs involve collective participation, as women from different generations gather to rehearse and sing, reinforcing intergenerational bonds. This shared experience fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens familial ties. Emotional farewell songs, sung during the bride's departure, hold deep sentimental value. These songs evoke tears and heartfelt emotions, reminding family members of their deep connections. songs act as cultural glue, reinforcing

the unity and solidarity of families in rural communities.

At 48 years old, Mr. Anwar of Ishwardi, Pabna, embodies the quiet resilience found in many rural Bangladeshi communities grappling with social and environmental transitions. Sitting cross-legged on a faded wooden bench outside his modest home, he reflected on the changes he's witnessed in both his family structure and livelihood over the decades. His words carried the weight of lived experience and a subtle critique of a world moving too fast. When I was a boy, Mr. Anwar began, eyes fixed on the horizon, "we used to live by the seasons. The land told us what to do and when. My father was a farmer, and so was I. But things are different now—not just the weather, not just the crops, but the people too.

He paused briefly, his fingers absentmindedly tracing a line on the side of his mug. The younger generation doesn't want to farm. They go to Dhaka, to Narayanganj, some even go abroad. The land no longer holds them. And honestly, sometimes I don't blame them. Everything is more expensive, and you can't rely on the rains like before. The rivers used to bless us, but now they're a curse in the monsoon and almost dry in winter. His narrative underscored more than just climate variability—it revealed an intersection of socio-economic pressures and intergenerational transformation. "My daughter, she teaches in a local school. My son is a private job holder in Rajshahi. None of them wanted to stay here. They say there's no future in farming. Maybe they're right," he added, not bitterly, but with the acceptance of a man who has watched time rearrange the landscape of his community. Mr. Anwar's reflection captures a broader sentiment among rural households in Bangladesh—an interplay between environmental degradation, cultural shift, and economic migration. His voice adds not just personal testimony but emotional depth to the statistical realities documented elsewhere in the study. In this way, qualitative interviews like his allow us to see the invisible textures of social change, to feel them, and to understand their implications beyond the numbers.

Facilitating New Relationships

Bengali wedding songs play a crucial role in fostering new relationships, particularly between the two families involved in a marriage. These songs, rich in emotion and cultural symbolism, serve as a medium for expressing goodwill and blessings for the couple. Through lyrical wishes for happiness, prosperity, and a harmonious married life, they create an atmosphere of warmth and acceptance. Moreover, wedding songs help ease the transition of forging new familial ties. The playful and often humorous nature of these songs reduces initial awkwardness, allowing family members from both sides to engage freely. Women, especially from the bride and groom's families, use these songs to express their emotions, share experiences, and establish a sense of familiarity. This musical interaction facilitates open communication, strengthening the foundation of newly formed relationships. Additionally, the collective singing experience fosters a sense of unity, making the wedding a more inclusive event. By engaging all members—young and old—the songs create shared moments of joy that leave lasting impressions. This participatory tradition not only enhances the festive spirit but also ensures that both families feel connected, setting the stage for a smooth and cordial relationship in the years to come.

Creating a Festive Environment

Bengali wedding songs play a crucial role in transforming rural wedding ceremonies into vibrant, joyous celebrations. These traditional songs, performed by family members, neighbors, and friends, enhance the festive spirit and make the event more memorable. Through rhythmic beats and playful lyrics, they evoke emotions of happiness, nostalgia, and collective joy, reinforcing the cultural significance of marriage. Beyond entertainment, these songs foster a positive and celebratory atmosphere that extends beyond the bride and groom's families. The entire community actively participates in the festivities, strengthening social cohesion. In many

cases, wedding songs are accompanied by dance and playful exchanges, further heightening the communal spirit. Women, in particular, play a leading role in singing, using their voices to express humor, blessings, and good wishes, creating an inclusive and engaging environment. Moreover, the performance of these songs often turns into an intergenerational experience, where elders share their knowledge of traditional lyrics, and younger members add their own creative elements. This dynamic interaction ensures the continuity of cultural heritage while adapting to modern influences. Ultimately, Bengali wedding songs act as cultural glue, bringing people together, dissolving social barriers, and transforming weddings into a collective celebration of unity and joy.

The Changes Seen in Wedding Songs due to Modernity

Modernity has significantly altered Bengali wedding songs, reshaping their style, themes, and cultural essence. Traditional folk songs are increasingly replaced by Bollywood, Tollywood, and remixed tracks, with DJs and professional musicians taking over live performances. Technology has facilitated the widespread dissemination of modern songs through social media and streaming platforms, diminishing the prominence of oral traditions. Themes once centered on familial emotions and cultural values now emphasize entertainment. The influence of foreign musical styles and commercialization further dilutes regional diversity. To preserve traditional wedding songs, conscious efforts are needed to balance cultural heritage with contemporary trends.

The fading away of traditional Bengali wedding songs signifies a profound cultural transformation, as articulated by Md. Forhad Hossain, a 65-year-old homemaker from Ishwardi, Pabna. His recollections paint a vivid picture of the past, where wedding ceremonies were infused with the melodious resonance of '*totini totini*' and other traditional songs, performed collectively during auspicious rituals such as the turmeric application or the bride's hair decoration. These songs were not merely performances; they embodied the warmth, unity, and emotional depth of Bengali weddings. However, in contemporary times, this cherished tradition is being eclipsed by the overpowering presence of DJs and loudspeakers, replacing the rich oral musical heritage with electronically amplified beats. Mr. Hossain attributes this shift to a lack of patience and interest among the younger generation, who no longer engage in learning or preserving these songs. His lamentation underscores a broader cultural change—one that is not limited to weddings but extends to the very essence of Bengali identity and its evolving social fabric. The loss of these traditional songs is more than just the disappearance of melodies; it represents a gradual erosion of collective memory and cultural continuity. Wedding songs once served as a bridge between generations, a medium through which stories, emotions, and traditions were passed down. Their decline signals a move towards a more commercialized and less personalized wedding experience, where the depth of cultural expression is sacrificed for modern entertainment preferences. Mr. Hossain's reflections illuminate the delicate balance between modernity and tradition. While technological advancements and changing societal preferences are inevitable, the wholesale abandonment of traditional practices poses a threat to cultural sustainability. This transformation is not merely a consequence of shifting musical tastes but is deeply tied to the evolving notions of identity, nostalgia, and community bonding.

The challenge, therefore, lies in finding ways to revive and integrate these songs within contemporary celebrations, ensuring that they remain relevant and cherished. Efforts such as documenting lyrics, encouraging community singing, and incorporating traditional performances alongside modern entertainment could play a pivotal role in preserving this invaluable heritage. Without such interventions, Bengali weddings may soon lose one of their most defining and intimate cultural elements, leaving behind echoes of a tradition that once flourished in the harmonious voices of generations past.

The Impact of Modern Technology and Media on the Wedding Song Tradition

The advent of modern technology and media has significantly impacted the traditional wedding song practices in Pabna district, Bangladesh. Platforms like YouTube, TV, and social media have facilitated the preservation and promotion of these songs, allowing them to reach wider audiences both nationally and internationally. For instance, local folk artists upload wedding songs on YouTube, helping to preserve and share the cultural heritage. However, this technological advancement has led to changes in the tradition. Live performances are being replaced by playback music, with Bollywood and Tollywood songs now commonly played during ceremonies like Gaye Holud and Bidai. While digital archives and social media increase accessibility, the regional uniqueness of Pabna's wedding songs is at risk due to the blending of foreign music styles. To safeguard this cultural tradition, it is crucial to balance modern technology with the revival of traditional performance practices, ensuring the continuity of the authentic local heritage for future generations.

Traditional Bengali wedding songs, once an inseparable part of matrimonial celebrations, are increasingly being overshadowed by modern musical preferences. The insights provided by Shuli Begum, a 75-year-old housewife from Ishwardi, Pabna, reflect a deep-seated transformation in contemporary wedding customs. Her observations highlight a stark decline in the use of traditional songs, as couples today prioritize fusion music, Bollywood tracks, and even international melodies to create what they perceive as an 'Instagram-worthy' event. The shift in musical choices within wedding ceremonies reveals a broader cultural transformation driven by digital influence and evolving aesthetic values. Social media platforms have redefined how weddings are curated, placing greater emphasis on visual and auditory appeal that aligns with global trends. As a result, time-honored Bengali wedding songs, which once carried the essence of cultural heritage, are being sidelined in favor of more contemporary compositions. Even rituals that traditionally involved music, such as dodhimanagal, are now being modified or omitted altogether to accommodate modern tastes. Shuli Begum's reflections indicate that these changes are not merely personal preferences but represent a collective shift in cultural priorities. The need to conform to popular trends outweighs the desire to preserve traditional practices, leading to the gradual erosion of heritage elements in weddings. Despite occasional efforts to reintroduce traditional music, the dominance of contemporary entertainment options suggests that Bengali wedding songs are fading from mainstream celebrations. The generational divide further accelerates this decline, as younger couples and their families often prioritize modernization over cultural continuity. This transformation signifies a crucial juncture for Bengali cultural traditions. The dwindling presence of wedding songs not only alters the sonic landscape of ceremonies but also diminishes the cultural narratives embedded within them. The question remains whether these musical traditions can be revived or if they will continue to fade into the backdrop of modernized wedding celebrations, becoming mere relics of the past.

Differences between Traditional and Modern Wedding Song Performances

Traditional and modern wedding song performances in Bangladesh differ significantly in instruments, melodies, presentation styles, and audience participation. Traditionally, folk instruments like ektara, dotara, and dhol were used, producing gentle sounds that deeply resonated with the emotional essence of the songs. In contrast, modern performances often feature electronic instruments such as keyboards and DJ sets, resulting in louder, more intense sounds. Melodies in traditional songs were simple and slow, reflecting nature and rural life, while modern songs incorporate fusion styles with faster tempos, sometimes overshadowing the emotional depth of the original melodies. Traditional performances were community-driven, with active participation from family and friends, fostering a sense of unity. Today, professional singers or DJs are hired, and pre-recorded songs often replace live performances.

Additionally, traditional wedding songs focused on human and spiritual themes, emphasizing blessings and social bonds, while modern songs tend to prioritize entertainment and humor. The shift towards passive audience participation has reduced the communal spirit and emotional depth in modern wedding celebrations.

Significant Changes in the Organization and Performance of Wedding Songs in Recent Years

In recent years, the organization and performance of Bengali wedding songs have experienced significant transformations due to modernization, technological advancements, and shifting social dynamics. One major change is the reduction in event duration. Traditionally, wedding song events spanned several days, with extended celebrations involving families and communities. Today, however, weddings are often condensed into a single day, limiting the time allocated for song performances. The number of participants has also decreased. Previously, the entire community—men and women alike—would come together to sing and celebrate, strengthening social bonds. In contrast, modern weddings often feature professional singers or DJs, with fewer family members actively involved. Additionally, the rise of digital platforms has allowed for virtual participation, reaching a larger audience through livestreams, though in-person involvement has diminished.

Technological advancements have altered the way wedding songs are performed. While traditional instruments like dhol, banshi, and dotara were once used, today's weddings feature DJ sets, sound systems, and projectors. Many events are now streamed live, further shifting the focus from traditional, intimate performances to commercialized, professional shows. These changes have also impacted social and family relationships. The communal spirit once fostered through shared participation has waned, with digital technology reducing physical interactions. While some positive aspects, such as expanded reach, exist, the essence of traditional wedding song performances has been diluted in the face of modern influences.

Preserving Tradition and Culture

Bengali wedding songs play a crucial role in preserving family traditions and cultural heritage in rural communities. These songs, often performed by women, carry historical narratives, moral lessons, and expressions of familial love, reinforcing generational ties. Through lyrical storytelling, they transmit values, customs, and community ethics, ensuring that younger generations remain connected to their cultural roots. The intergenerational transmission of these songs strengthens cultural consciousness, as elders teach them to younger family members during wedding preparations. This practice fosters a sense of belonging and shared identity among participants. Additionally, the performance of wedding songs creates a collective experience that reinforces societal unity, as neighbors and extended family members gather to celebrate. The communal nature of these songs enhances social cohesion, bridging generational gaps and fostering mutual respect. In an era of rapid modernization, Bengali wedding songs act as a resilient cultural force, resisting the erosion of traditional practices. They serve as living archives of history, emotions, and social norms, ensuring continuity in rural festivities. By keeping these musical traditions alive, communities maintain a strong cultural identity, reinforcing their bonds and preserving their intangible heritage for future generations.

Chamili Khatun, a 55-year-old folk singer from Ishwardi, Pabna, shares a poignant reflection on the fading tradition of Bengali wedding songs. Once a cherished aspect of pre-wedding rituals like aiburo bhaat and gaye holud, these songs were performed live by folk singers, creating an intimate and culturally rich ambiance. However, with the advent of modernization and digitization, families now prefer recorded music and performances by commercial artists, sidelining traditional singers. This cultural shift signifies a broader societal

transformation where younger generations perceive folk music as outdated. As a result, folk singers struggle to sustain their livelihood, threatening the survival of this invaluable cultural heritage. Traditional Bengali wedding songs, once an integral part of nuptial celebrations, are gradually fading from upper-class weddings due to evolving cultural influences. Amina Sultana, a 24-year-old upper-class bride-to-be, expresses admiration for these songs but views them as outdated, favoring Bollywood and Western music. Her reluctance to include them fully reflects a generational shift where entertainment value supersedes cultural preservation. This case study highlights how early exposure to globalized music shapes preferences, diminishing the role of traditional melodies. The fading significance of Bengali wedding songs underscores the broader challenge of preserving cultural heritage in modern celebrations.

How Wedding Songs Contribute to Strengthening Family and Social Relationships

Bengali wedding songs play a vital role in fostering family and community relationships, serving as more than just a musical tradition. These songs contribute significantly to social harmony by strengthening bonds between the bride's and groom's families, as well as involving neighbors in the festivities. The collective participation in singing cultivates a sense of unity and reinforces the interconnectedness of the community. Beyond social harmony, wedding songs act as a symbol of family unity. They provide opportunities for family members to come together, share responsibilities, and express emotions, particularly during farewell songs, which evoke deep sentimental connections. Additionally, these songs facilitate new relationships by promoting goodwill between the newly connected families, easing transitions, and fostering positive interactions.

The celebratory nature of wedding songs helps create an immersive festive environment, making wedding ceremonies more memorable and enjoyable. Their ability to uplift spirits extends beyond the immediate family, bringing together extended kin and the larger community. Furthermore, wedding songs serve as cultural artifacts, preserving traditions that have been passed down through generations. They reinforce cultural consciousness and ensure the continuity of heritage in rural festivities. Examples of this tradition can be observed in various settings. In rural Bangladesh, wedding songs, especially during ceremonies like Gaye Holud, bring women and neighbors together, strengthening collective participation in wedding preparations. In urban settings, the intergenerational involvement in singing enhances familial relationships and fosters camaraderie. Regional celebrations also showcase wedding songs as a medium of cultural expression, bridging emotional and physical distances among people. Ultimately, Bengali wedding songs transcend mere entertainment; they function as powerful social instruments that reinforce familial ties, enhance communal relationships, and safeguard cultural traditions. While deeply rooted in heritage, these songs continue to evolve, blending traditional and modern influences. Future research could further explore how these songs vary between rural and urban settings and examine generational shifts in their significance. The continued practice of Bengali wedding songs highlights their enduring relevance in shaping social cohesion and community identity.

The Kinds of Social Values and Cultural Reflections Portrayed through Wedding Songs

Bengali wedding songs are rich cultural expressions that reflect the social values and traditions of rural communities. These songs reinforce family unity, depicting deep emotional bonds between parents, siblings, and in-laws. They celebrate relationships, emphasizing respect for women and bestowing blessings for the bride's new life. Wedding songs foster social unity by involving neighbors in collective celebrations, creating a joyful and festive atmosphere. They also preserve heritage by narrating traditional customs, spiritual beliefs, and nature's beauty. By promoting harmony, tolerance, and equality, these songs serve as a bridge between generations, ensuring the continuity of Bengali cultural identity in rural festivities.

The gradual disappearance of Bengali wedding songs in rural areas signifies a profound cultural shift. Md Baddsha Mia's reflections highlight the fading communal spirit once central to wedding celebrations. Technological advancements and changing generational preferences have led to a decline in oral traditions, replacing live performances with recorded music, diminishing cultural heritage. Md Harun ur Rashid, a school teacher and cultural activist, emphasized the urgency of preserving Bengali wedding songs. He advocates for proper documentation, educational inclusion, and live performances at weddings. Raising societal awareness is crucial, ensuring these songs are not lost but cherished as an integral part of Bengali cultural heritage. Bengali wedding songs remain culturally significant but face challenges in contemporary relevance. Md Masud Rana, a young college student, emphasizes the need for modernization through remixing and contemporary beats to engage younger audiences. This perspective highlights a transformative approach, ensuring the preservation of tradition while adapting to evolving musical preferences.

The fading of traditional Bengali wedding songs reflects a broader societal transformation, marked by the clash between modernity and cultural preservation. These songs, once central to wedding ceremonies, have gradually been overshadowed by contemporary musical preferences, fueled by technological advancements and shifting generational attitudes. Interviews with individuals like Md. Forhad Hossain, Shuli Begum, and Chamily Khatun reveal a shared concern over the erosion of a once-cherished cultural practice, which was integral not only to wedding rituals but also to the collective memory of the Bengali community. As younger generations increasingly favor fusion music, Bollywood hits, and Western melodies, traditional wedding songs, like 'totini totini' and other folk tunes, are no longer considered central to the celebration. This shift is further exacerbated by the prevalence of digitized and commercialized music, which prioritizes visual appeal and entertainment over cultural depth. For many, the traditional wedding songs have become symbols of a bygone era, viewed as outdated in comparison to the globalized musical influences shaping today's wedding trends.

Impact of Modern Musical Instruments on Tradition

Abu Hena, a 57-year-old cultural enthusiast from Pabna, reflected on the evolving soundscape of rural weddings in Bangladesh: "The use of modern musical instruments in wedding songs has brought both joy and concern," he shared. "On the one hand, instruments like keyboards, guitars, and drums have injected fresh energy into our traditional performances. They've helped attract younger generations and made the songs more accessible through digital platforms. But on the other hand, our beloved folk instruments—like the *ektara* and *dotara*—are fading into the background. The raw emotion and communal spirit of traditional wedding songs are often lost amidst the synthetic sounds of modern beats." He further added, "Nowadays, the focus seems to be more on high-energy entertainment than on community participation. We're losing that familial warmth these songs used to bring. But I believe we can find a balance. Fusion music, where modern and traditional blend thoughtfully, can keep our culture alive. We also need to teach young people about our instruments, archive our music digitally, and create spaces for regional performances." Abu Hena's perspective underscores the need to preserve cultural authenticity while embracing the inevitable waves of modernization.

The Ways People in Rural Areas Preserve and Promote Traditional Wedding Songs

In rural Bangladesh, traditional wedding songs are preserved and promoted through intergenerational knowledge transfer, social participation, and cultural events. Elders play a crucial role in teaching these songs, especially during ceremonies like *gaye holud*, where younger generations learn through observation. Community gatherings and local music groups

further reinforce these traditions, while folk festivals provide platforms for wider dissemination. Efforts by cultural organizations, digital documentation, and social media have modernized preservation methods. Additionally, schools and NGOs contribute by incorporating these songs into educational and cultural programs. These collective efforts ensure the continuity of wedding songs, strengthening rural community bonds.

The gradual disappearance of these songs in both rural and urban settings represents a significant cultural loss. As reflected by individuals such as Md Harun ur Rashid, who advocates for documentation and live performances, there is a pressing need to preserve these songs through active efforts like education and cultural activism. Despite some attempts to incorporate traditional elements into modern celebrations, the overwhelming dominance of contemporary entertainment options poses a challenge to the survival of this cultural heritage. However, there are also glimmers of hope, as expressed by Md Masud Rana, who suggests a transformative approach—remixing traditional songs with contemporary beats to engage younger audiences. This fusion of old and new could ensure that Bengali wedding songs remain relevant while safeguarding their cultural essence. Ultimately, the future of these songs depends on balancing modernization with preservation, ensuring that they continue to be cherished and celebrated in a rapidly changing world.

Initiatives to Preserve the Tradition of Wedding Songs

To preserve the tradition of Bengali wedding songs, several initiatives can be implemented to ensure their continuity. Firstly, incorporating folk music education in schools and cultural institutions can help nurture young people's interest in traditional wedding songs. Establishing folk music training centers in rural and urban areas will also provide formal instruction, ensuring that the next generation is equipped to carry the tradition forward. Additionally, encouraging families to include traditional wedding songs in ceremonies and organizing local wedding song competitions can help keep the cultural practice alive. Digital preservation plays a key role in this effort. Creating a digital archive of wedding songs and promoting performances on platforms like YouTube and social media will make these songs more accessible to a wider audience. Furthermore, organizing family festivals and community events focused on wedding songs can engage local populations in preserving this cultural heritage. Awareness programs, seminars, and cultural festivals can raise awareness about the cultural significance of wedding songs, fostering respect for the tradition. Reviving traditional instruments such as the *ektara*, *dotara*, and *banshi* through workshops and supporting local artists will help maintain the authenticity of the music. Lastly, recognizing and honoring folk music artists will inspire young musicians to continue this legacy. These collective efforts at the family, community, and cultural levels are essential for preserving and strengthening the tradition of Bengali wedding songs.

Mr. Hossain's reflections illuminate the delicate balance between modernity and tradition. While technological advancements and changing societal preferences are inevitable, the wholesale abandonment of traditional practices poses a threat to cultural sustainability. This transformation is not merely a consequence of shifting musical tastes but is deeply tied to the evolving notions of identity, nostalgia, and community bonding. The challenge, therefore, lies in finding ways to revive and integrate these songs within contemporary celebrations, ensuring that they remain relevant and cherished. Efforts such as documenting lyrics, encouraging community singing, and incorporating traditional performances alongside modern entertainment could play a pivotal role in preserving this invaluable heritage. Without such interventions, Bengali weddings may soon lose one of their most defining and intimate cultural elements, leaving behind echoes of a tradition that once flourished in the harmonious voices of generations past.

The Role of the Local Community in Preserving Wedding Song Traditions

The local community plays a vital role in preserving and promoting the tradition of wedding songs in rural Bangladesh. One significant method is through cultural education, where elders, musicians, and teachers pass down knowledge about the music's structure, rhythm, and cultural significance to younger generations. Awareness campaigns, such as seminars and workshops, help raise understanding and respect for these traditions. Additionally, organizing local events like folk festivals and social gatherings provides platforms for traditional performances, involving families and strengthening community bonds. The preservation of folk instruments such as the ektara, dotara, and dhol is another crucial aspect of safeguarding these traditions. Communities can establish training centers and workshops to teach the next generation how to play these instruments. Digital recordings and online platforms further ensure the accessibility of wedding songs for future generations.

Support for local artists and musicians also fosters the continuity of wedding song traditions. By encouraging their participation in cultural events and promoting their work on social media and local TV channels, the community helps raise awareness beyond local boundaries. Inter-community collaboration through cultural exchanges also plays a role in spreading these traditions, deepening appreciation for local cultures. Through these combined efforts—cultural education, participation, preservation, encouragement, and modern technology—the local community can effectively ensure that wedding song traditions continue to thrive, strengthening social unity and cultural identity for future generations.

The Importance of the Role of Local Women in the Performance of Wedding Songs

Local women play a crucial role in performing Bengali wedding songs, serving as cultural custodians who preserve traditions across generations. Their participation enriches ceremonies by infusing warmth, joy, and vibrancy, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. These performances foster social unity, connecting different community members and strengthening communal bonds. Additionally, wedding songs provide a platform for women's artistic expression, empowering them socially and culturally. Integral to rituals like the gaye holud and mehndi, their songs uphold cultural authenticity. Through their involvement, local women ensure the continuity of this heritage while reinforcing social cohesion and fostering a shared cultural identity.

The Tradition of Wedding Songs from Generation to Generation

During a visit to Ishwardi in the Pabna district, School Teacher Aklima Akter, 38, offered a thoughtful reflection on the enduring tradition of Bengali wedding songs. Her voice, calm yet deeply rooted in cultural awareness, illuminated the subtle, generational mechanisms that sustain this folkloric practice in rural communities. In our village, she shared, wedding songs are more than just entertainment—they're a form of storytelling and emotional expression that have been passed down from our grandmothers to our mothers, and now to us. I learned them by sitting beside the older women during ceremonies, watching how they sang, when they sang, and why. Now, my own daughter hums them as she plays. According to Aklima, this intergenerational transmission occurs largely through oral tradition and active social engagement. Children absorb the lyrics and rhythms almost unconsciously—by listening, observing, and eventually participating. She emphasized the role of elder women, who often serve as informal cultural instructors during pre-wedding gatherings and ritualistic singing sessions. We don't need a textbook to learn these songs," she said with a smile. "The ceremonies themselves are our classrooms.

She also noted the subtle regional diversities embedded within the songs: "In Ishwardi, our tunes and phrases are a bit different from those in Khulna or Sylhet. The lyrics carry local dialects, historical references, and even advice for the bride and groom. It's a beautiful way our

culture adapts and stays rooted at the same time. Interestingly, Aklima observed how digital technology is playing an emerging role in preserving these traditions. “Now some families record the songs and share them on Facebook or YouTube, she said. “Even if someone moves away, they can still teach the younger generation through those videos. Her reflections underscore how cultural continuity is maintained not only through direct participation but also through evolving forms of mediation. The resilience of Bengali wedding songs, as narrated by Aklima Akter, reveals how rural communities maintain their heritage—through memory, ritual, and a shared sense of belonging.

Bengal Wedding Songs as a Means of Entertainment, Religious and Spiritual Significance

During an in-depth interview conducted in the village of Ishwardi in Pabna, Mr Ataullah Rahman, a 42-year-old cultural enthusiast and lifelong resident, reflected on the enduring cultural and spiritual essence of Bengali wedding songs. With a calm but reverent tone, he noted. These songs aren’t just about merriment or passing the time. Bengali wedding songs carry the weight of our ancestors’ blessings. Whether it’s during the Haldi ceremony, when turmeric is lovingly applied to the bride and groom, or during the emotionally charged farewell ritual, the songs act like prayers woven into melody. They invoke the divine—seeking protection, joy, and longevity for the couple. Even across religious lines, be it Hindu, Muslim, or Christian households, you’ll find songs echoing similar sentiments—asking for Allah’s barakah, Bhagwan’s blessings, or Christ’s guidance. Mr. Rahman explained how these songs draw from mythology, folklore, and religious scripture, creating a sacred atmosphere within familial celebrations. He emphasized their role in not just individual unions, but in reinforcing broader community values. They remind us that marriage is not just a contract—it’s a spiritual bond, a social covenant. Through these songs, families find common ground, neighbors feel included, and generations connect. The tune may evolve, but the soul of the song remains.

Despite the pervasive influence of modern music and the increasing use of digital soundtracks in rural weddings, Mr. Rahman believes the core spiritual and communal functions of traditional songs are still preserved. Even today, when loudspeakers and DJs come into play, there’s always a moment when someone starts humming an old melody—something their grandmother sang. And everyone joins in. It’s like we’re remembering who we are. His testimony reveals how Bengali wedding songs continue to function as both emotional anchor and cultural vessel—preserving heritage while adapting to contemporary shifts. Through Mr. Rahman’s lens, we understand that these songs serve not only as a soundtrack to rural weddings but also as a sacred script that binds communities, sanctifies unions, and sustains intergenerational continuity.

The Role of Wedding Songs in Rural Wedding Ceremonies and the Social Unity They Create

In rural Bangladesh, wedding songs play a vital role in uniting families and communities. More than just a form of entertainment, these songs create a festive atmosphere, fostering joy and emotional connection among participants. They bring family members together, blending elders’ blessings with youthful enthusiasm, reinforcing familial bonds. Additionally, these songs serve as cultural markers, preserving folk traditions, storytelling, and melodies passed down through generations. Beyond the family, wedding songs encourage collective participation, bridging social divides and strengthening community ties. Women, often leading these performances, find an avenue for expression and social cohesion. Rituals such as Haldi and Mehendi are enlivened by these songs, while farewell melodies evoke deep emotions, symbolizing love and transition. Through shared singing, rural communities cultivate harmony, mutual support, and cultural continuity, ensuring that these traditions remain a cornerstone of social unity and heritage.

Tradition of Bengali Wedding Songs

Bengali wedding songs play a vital role in enhancing community bonds, particularly in rural settings like Pubna, where they are deeply embedded in local culture. These songs reflect three main themes: celebration, emotion, and social bonding. Celebratory songs, such as those sung during the Gaye Holud ceremony, create a festive atmosphere, while farewell songs express the emotional departure of the bride. Additionally, songs of well-wishing strengthen family and societal unity. In Pubna, these songs often incorporate regional music styles like Bhatiyali and Pala, adding cultural depth. The songs are typically performed in the local dialect and emphasize simple melodies, making them accessible to all. Women, as primary performers, use these songs to showcase creativity and solidarity. Despite the influence of modernity, traditional songs remain a significant part of rural weddings, symbolizing the preservation of cultural heritage and fostering lasting social connections. These songs are more than just entertainment; they reinforce social unity and familial ties.

Changes in Language and Content of Wedding Songs Today

The language and content of wedding songs in rural Bangladesh have undergone significant changes, influenced by modern trends and external cultures. Traditional wedding songs, once deeply rooted in regional dialects and focused on social customs, have been replaced by more contemporary songs that blend Bengali with Hindi and English. The influence of Bollywood and other foreign cultures is evident, with popular songs often focusing on personal enjoyment, love, and entertainment, rather than emotional themes or social bonds. For example, old songs emphasizing the bride's emotional departure now give way to fun, lively tracks. The shift towards individual-focused lyrics, such as highlighting the bride's appearance or wealth, further emphasizes the focus on entertainment. This change is largely driven by technology, social media platforms, and the preferences of the younger generation. While these changes bring fresh energy to weddings, they risk diminishing the regional language and traditional themes. Preserving the cultural heritage alongside modern elements is essential to maintain the balance.

The Approach of Preservation Has Become Challenging: Has It Become to Preserve the Tradition of Wedding Songs Due to Modernization? What Cultural Loss Could It Lead To?

Modernization has significantly impacted the preservation of traditional Bengali wedding songs, introducing several challenges that threaten the continuity of this cultural heritage. The rise of digital culture, including pre-recorded music and DJ performances, has replaced live, community-driven wedding songs. Social media and streaming services have also shifted focus towards global music, overshadowing local traditions. Urbanization and a fast-paced lifestyle have diminished the time and space for traditional song performances, while younger generations increasingly favor Western or Bollywood music, viewing traditional songs as outdated. The commercialization of weddings further emphasizes modern entertainment over cultural preservation. These changes pose risks, including the loss of cultural identity, weakening social bonds, extinction of local dialects, and the disappearance of folk traditions. To address this, efforts such as digital preservation, educational initiatives, family involvement, and the fusion of traditional and modern music can help maintain the cultural significance of wedding songs, ensuring their survival for future generations.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study underscore the multifaceted role of traditional Bengali wedding songs in rural Bangladesh as agents of social cohesion, familial unity, intergenerational bonding, and cultural continuity. These lyrical traditions extend beyond entertainment; they serve as powerful mediums through which communities express emotions, resolve tensions, and celebrate collective identity. Testimonies from participants like Md. Selim Reza and Sharmin Akhter illustrate how wedding songs facilitate connection and inclusivity across social and economic lines, reinforcing a shared cultural experience that binds entire villages together. Similarly, Mr. Anwar's reflections reveal the subtle yet profound ways in which environmental and socio-economic transitions intersect with cultural practices, altering not only livelihoods but also the emotional fabric of community life. However, the increasing influence of modernity—marked by the dominance of DJs, remixed tracks, and foreign musical influences—poses a significant challenge to the preservation of these oral traditions. As highlighted by Md. Forhad Hossain, the fading enthusiasm among younger generations to learn and perform traditional wedding songs signals a cultural shift that threatens the sustainability of this heritage. The replacement of communal singing with commercialized entertainment diminishes the depth, intimacy, and participatory nature of rural weddings, transforming them into events more reflective of contemporary consumer culture than of deep-rooted tradition. To counter this erosion, it is imperative to document, revitalize, and re-integrate traditional wedding songs into present-day ceremonies. Community-based initiatives, intergenerational learning opportunities, and inclusive performances that blend traditional and modern elements can help sustain this cultural legacy. Ultimately, preserving Bengali wedding songs is not merely about safeguarding a musical form—it is about nurturing the social harmony, familial solidarity, and cultural richness they embody.

This study also reveals a profound transformation in the tradition of Bengali wedding songs in the Pabna district, driven largely by the growing influence of modern technology, shifting aesthetic preferences, and globalized musical trends. While digital platforms such as YouTube and social media have contributed to preserving and disseminating these songs to broader audiences, they have also inadvertently contributed to the erosion of their traditional performance contexts. The replacement of live, communal singing with recorded playback music and the growing popularity of Bollywood and Western tunes reflect a generational shift in values, where entertainment and visual appeal are often prioritized over cultural authenticity. The research also underscores the social and cultural significance of wedding songs as vital tools for intergenerational bonding, community cohesion, and the transmission of moral values and familial love. Testimonies from local folk artists, elders, and cultural advocates illustrate how these songs once fostered a shared cultural consciousness and strengthened social relationships. However, the current trend of shortening wedding events, reduced family participation, and the marginalization of folk musicians has led to a noticeable decline in the communal spirit that these songs once embodied.

Despite these challenges, there are glimmers of hope. Many community members and cultural activists recognize the urgency of safeguarding this tradition and propose innovative solutions, such as remixing traditional songs to appeal to younger generations, organizing local cultural festivals, and integrating folk music education into formal curricula. The preservation of traditional instruments and the promotion of live performances are also seen as critical to maintaining the authenticity of wedding songs. The future of Bengali wedding songs in Pabna and beyond depends on finding a balance between honoring tradition and embracing modernization. A multifaceted approach that includes education, digital archiving, community participation, and institutional support can ensure that these cherished cultural expressions not only survive but continue to enrich the social fabric of Bengali society. Through intentional and inclusive efforts, wedding songs can reclaim their role as vibrant, living traditions that

celebrate heritage while adapting to contemporary realities.

In conclusion, Bengali wedding songs continue to serve as a powerful cultural force within rural communities, particularly in places like Ishwardi and other parts of Pabna. These songs are much more than mere entertainment; they embody the spirit of community, tradition, and spiritual significance. The role of local women as custodians of these songs is indispensable, ensuring that these practices are preserved and passed down through generations. As observed in interviews with cultural experts like Aklima Akter and Ataur Rahman, these songs provide a rich, intergenerational connection that binds families and communities together, reinforcing emotional ties, social unity, and cultural identity. However, the influence of modernization, including the rise of digital media and shifting musical tastes, presents significant challenges to the preservation of these traditions. The increasing preference for contemporary music genres and external cultural influences, such as Bollywood, risks diminishing the regional dialects and the deeply rooted social and emotional themes of traditional Bengali wedding songs. Yet, there is hope in the adaptation of these songs through digital platforms and the efforts of cultural enthusiasts to keep the tradition alive, blending the old and new to ensure its relevance in the modern era. Ultimately, the continuity of Bengali wedding songs is not just a matter of preserving melodies but a way of safeguarding an important cultural heritage. If adequately supported, these songs can continue to foster social cohesion, connect generations, and celebrate the spiritual and communal essence of Bengali wedding ceremonies for years to come. The preservation of these traditions—through family involvement, community gatherings, and digital innovation—will ensure that the heart and soul of Bengali wedding songs remain vibrant and relevant, bridging the past with the future.

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