

## **Analyzing Kurdish music and Dancing from the viewpoint of anthropology and its Effect on Attracting Tourists**

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### ***Abstract***

*Tourism based on music is a combination of two funs activates that have many fans from around the world. Music tourism is a travel with the goal to take part in a music festival, musical concert or any kind of musical programs. It doesn't matter wheatear their destination is a big city or small village but the songs and tones will take the tourist to deferent directions. Music because of its entanglement with the human soul and body is one of the fascinations of tourism. Musical tourism which nowadays has many international fans is one the expansive branches of cultural tourism. In this branch music is the main reason for traveling and attracting tourists, and they in order to hear and experience the music's of deferent nationalities and ethnicities travel to many deferent countries. The Kurdistan providence because of its many interesting tourist attractions specially its music and folkloric dances, is one of the most important areas for attracting tourists and tourism anthropology studies, therefore the purpose of this study is to analyze and know Kurdistan's tourist attractions and dances of the people for attracting tourist from the perspective of musical anthropology. The method used in this paper is quantities and action research; tools of data collection are documental, in-depth interview and participate.*

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***Keywords: Kurdish music and Dance, Tourist, anthropology approach.***

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**Introduction and statement of the Problem:**

Music is a powerful tool with the ability to make one's soul soar and decrease the everyday struggles and sameness. Music is delightful sound that will cause a delightful feeling inside us humans. This art is an important part of the human life.

Music has many deferent benefits and functions, which attracting tourists is one of them and although music tourism is not the most profitable part of this industry, music itself is one the most fascinating attracting of traveling. In this kind of tourism, music is counted as an attraction by itself and the tourist visits many deferent locations to experience their local music.

Many of the country's indigenous areas' customs is counted as a positive for Iran's tourism industry. Kurdish music because of its originality turned that prominence into a tourist attraction. Of course not to forget that Kurdistan has many historical and ancient artifacts too, but Kurdistan is the land of songs and music and within each area hundreds of songs, music, poetry and lullabies exist with deferent rhythms that give energy to each man's heart.

We should consider Kurdistan as one of the birthplaces of Persian music because Kurdish music has a perfect and full ratio connection with the ancient music of Iran.

Kurdish music is the richest and most productive local music in Iran. Kurdish music because of its rhythm and complementary local dances is one of the most popular types of music among the Persian people. Because of that many tourists visit these rituals and events yearly.

Now considering the importance of the tourism industry and its role in sustainable development, the main purpose of this paper is to investigate the aspects of tourism and its Effect on Attracting Tourists using the viewpoint of anthropology.

**Aims and Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this paper are limited to the followings:

- To study tourist attractions of the Kurdistan province ۴

- To study deferent Kurdish folk music and dances‘
- To understand and analyze the relation between Kurdish dances and Tourist attractions in the Kurdistan province from the viewpoint of anthropology.

### **Definition of Concepts**

**Music:** Expressing the verve and arbitration of beauties are the main mark of people who have learned and performed music. Music instead of being a lone phenomenon, in performance, has many bold and eye caching values. Music gets mixed in taught or in its originality turn into speech by people (Hurndall 1980; 35).

**Anthropology:** Nowadays the thing known as Anthropology or Cultural Anthropology in social sciences is the study of knowing people. The word Anthropology complies with the more complex levels of research such as: The process of reviewing, classifying, comparing, analyzing and explaining data collected on the research ground (Fakohy, 2002; 19).

In another definition of Anthropology it is said that: Anthropology is a science and because of that it can explain, control and forecast stable relationships between human culture field impressions and the human society (Mangan and Just, 2010).

**Dance:** A human action based on movements and feelings for expressing a passionate feel, experience or understanding. A dance can be performed in a performance, spiritual or social surrounding. Dancing is one the performing arts disciplines and counts as one of the Seven Arts made of purposeful human movements. These movements have symbolic and aesthetic meaning that is known by the dancers and the audience as a phenomenon in a unique culture (Kyan 2004).

**Tourism:** The word tourism comes from Tour with the Latin root of tornare which means "to pass", and in the Longman dictionary it is described as traveling for enjoyment and fun purposes (Longman, 1989: 1712).

The word tourism means traveling and movement towards deferent goals which shows the tourist's sense of circularity, because he comes back to the place that he started from and tourism itself is a blossoming industry that can create jobs, fertile local economies and improve people's lifestyles. From the western point of view, the first

tourists were the people who travelled the world to conquer it (Nequii Sadri, 2014: 9).

**Tourism Anthropology:** Is an interdisciplinary knowledge that analyzes tourism from the viewpoint of anthropology with the help of its theories and methods (Hashemi Moghadam, 2012: 23).

#### **Methodological considerations**

Scientific research method is the full collection of tools and systematic data collection steps and its rational analyzing method to reach a certain goal. This goal is generally finding truth and because of that its general rules are the same in all fields and dependent of the field, the special methods of that field that do not contradict the general research principles will be used (Nabavi, 2003; 9).

The method used in this paper is quantities and action research and the tools of data collection are documental, in-depth interview and participate.

#### **Research hypothesis**

Based on the purpose of this study, the researchers are not trying to prove or disprove a certain theory; they want to find some results by designing some questions and answering them.

#### **Research Questions**

1. What are the tourist attractions of Kurdistan province?
2. What are the deferent kind of Kurdish folk music and dances?
3. What is the relation between Kurdish dances and Tourist attraction in the Kurdistan province?



Picture 1: Kurdish dance performances Photo by mehr News.

#### **Location of the study**

Kurdistan Province is one of the 31 provinces of Iran. The province of Kurdistan is 28,817 km in area which encompasses just one-fourth of the areas in Iran inhabited by Kurds. It is located in the west of Iran,

in Region 3, and bound by Iraq on the west, the province of Azerbaijan to its north, Zanzan to the northeast, Hamedan to the east and Kermanshah to the south. The capital of Kurdistan Province is the city of Sanandaj (Kurdish: Sinne). Other counties with their major cities are Marivan, Baneh, Saqqez, Qorveh, Piranshahr, Bijar, Kamyaran, Dehgolan, Diwandarreh and Sarvabad(hamshahri:2014).

Language and religion: The Kurdish language is categorized under the Indo-European group of languages, with a distinctive grammatical form. This language has various branches in Iran, such as the Sorani, Hewrami, Feyli, Kalhuri and Kurmanji. Majority of the people in Kurdistan province speak variants of Sorani Kurdish, sometimes called as "Ardalani" dialect. Hewrami Kurdish is also spoken around Marivan, in a region called "Hewramanî Text"(The Flat Hawraman). Most people in the province are Kurds, and the majority of them are Shafi'i Sunni Muslims, while In eastern parts of the province including Bijar and Qorveh, the majority are Shiites. An Azeri minority also exists in the villages around Qorveh ( "Kurdistan." Encyclopedia Britannica: 2009).

Economic and Social Status: This province is an important section in terms of agricultural economics and based on animal husbandry is one of the country's main livestock pillars. Industrial activities of this province are really low but generally they are divided into two mechanical and manual groups. Mechanical industries includes non-metallic mineral industry, chemical, textile and leather industries, food, electricity and electronics; and the manual industries includes carpet weaving, rug weaving, textile and etc. (Kurdistan Governor's website).

### **Tourist Attractions**

Kurdistan Province is a mountainous region that can be topographically divided into a western and an eastern section at Sanandaj. As a result of its elevation and mountains, Kurdistan province has many rivers, lakes, glaciers and caves, which render it rather picturesque. Consequently, Kurdistan has always attracted a large number of tourists and fans of mountaineering, ski and water-sports.

The Zarrineh River, 302 km long, is one of the longest rivers of this province. Its banks offer great opportunities for recreation and the

river's plentiful water renders itself ideal for water sports. This river runs northwards and ultimately pours into Lake Urmia. The Sirvan River is another prominent river in this province. It runs over a long distance, eventually to join the Tigris in Iraq. The banks of this river are remarkably attractive. The Simineh River is also an important river in this province. A large number of marine species and birds live on the banks of the province's numerous rivers which they seem to find ideal habitats.

Lake Zarivar is the most beautiful water-way of the province, which lies at the feet of high mountains, providing a delightfully picturesque sight. Its water is sparkingly fresh. The lake has a maximum depth of 50 m and an average depth of 3 m. It is surrounded by thick forests. The lake, the mountains and the forests create a scenic panorama. This lake, which has a length of 5 km and a maximum width of 1.7 km, lies to the west of Marivan. Lake Vahdat's dam, to the north of Sanandaj (Sinne), provides excellent opportunities for fishing and water-sports.

Kurdistan Province benefits from many resourceful mineral water springs. The most outstanding of these are: Govaz to the northwest of Kamyaran, Abetalkh close to Bijar and Baba Gorgor to the north of Qorveh.

Cave Kereftoo, close to Divandarreh, is a unique natural and at the same time archeological site. Inside the cave there are a number of ancient buildings known as the Temple of Heraclius, because the name of this Greek god is carved on the ceiling of one of the halls. Cave Shoovi, 267 m long, is another prominent cave, which lies near the city of Baneh.

Mount Charkhaln 3,330 m high, mount Chehelcheshmeh, 3,173 m, Mount Hossein Bak, 3,091 m, and Mount Masjede Mirza, 3,059 m, are the other large mountains of Kurdistan.

Kurdistan Province has vast forests and refuges, where many animals and birds live, safely from the harms of the human beings: the leopard, ram, wild goat, hyena, jackal, wolf, fox, sable, weasel and such birds as the partridge, wild duck, stork, parrot and eagle.

The World's Largest Open-Air Cinema in Abidar: The world's largest open-air cinema with the capacity of 10 thousand people and 25 \* 12 meters screen is placed in Sanandaj's Abidar water park. The movie

sound can be received through the radio's FM signals and the screen is positioned in a way that 10 thousand people can be placed in front of it. Kurdistan's art department screens a movie each night at 9 PM for the people at this cinema. Also some important matches like the 2010 world cup semi-final and final were played for the Sanandajy people.

**Natural Attractions of Kurdistan:** This province because of its pleasant climate and environmental characteristics was one of the important human settlements even from the prehistoric era which is shown by the Archaeological/Scientific exploration done on Kurdistan's historic sites. Around 1234 historical artifacts are found in Kurdistan which around 500 of them is recorded in the national index. Most of the province jungles are placed around Bane and Marivan and then the North's jungles are in the second level of importance. The most famous jungle trees of these areas are Oak, Pear, Walnut, Wild Apples and etc.

**Sanandaj General Mosque:** A beautiful mosque which from the art of architecture perspective is the most beautiful and elegant mosque of this province and one of the valuable samples of Islamic architecture. This mosque was built in the Qajar's ups and downs. At the time Fathali Shah was the king of Iran. This is a two porch mosque with a big 24 pillar Shabestan that are aside each other magnificently.

**Zarivar Lake:** The Zarivar lake without doubt is one of the most famous and beautiful tourist attractions of Kurdistan. This lake is placed 3 kilometers west of Marivan and there are many stories and myths surrounding its creation. One of the unique characteristics of this lake is that it has no special water supplies and its water is supplied through rain and ponds. This is why that the people of Kurdistan and Marivan see this as a Mysterious lake.

**Uraman Takht:** One of the newly famous sites of Kurdistan is the Uraman or Huraman area. This amazing mountainous area is placed at the Iran-Iraq border and many people visit it yearly. While traveling to this area you will be shocked by the magnificence of nature. Mountains that pierce the sky, meandering valleys, numerous rivers and clouds that as close to you as possible are the things that turned this area into one of the best natural tourist attractions.

#### **Some of Kurdish People's Custom**

Uraman village is a special area amongst Kurdistan villages, which

besides its magnificent natural beauty, its yearly ancient and breathtaking "Pir Shahryar" ritual adds to its tourism valuables. The Pir Shahryar shrine, A Zoroastrianism saint, is one of the most respected shrines of this area. Pir Shahryar and its ritual are remnants of the before Islam era. This rituals start at January 30 (10th of Bahman) and lasts for one week. At the beginning of summer, the people of Uraman pick the walnut trees, dry the picked fruits and store them in order of using them in the ritual. Then at the time of the ritual some kids, with the permission of the region elders, walk up to each house and collect flour and other ingredients to make a special soup and they insert some walnuts in the each house's emptied jars of the ingredients. Then they bake some bread with the collected flours and mix some crushed walnuts with the bread dough.

Usually the women bake a considerable amount of bread and give it the men for dinner and lunch. In the early morning the male chefs, put the pots on the ovens and put a large amount of sheep and bovine meet plus all the other ingredients, cook the special soup, and share that soup with the people for lunch and dinner.

On a special day, after eating lunch, the men start a spiritual dance on the top of a massive rooftop. This dance is performed as all the men put their hands on each other back and spin slowly, then a group of 3 to 8 spin in the middle of the larger group and constantly move their heads and long hairs. After finishing the dance, they all move to a house that apparently once belonged to the Pir and read poetry about him, then from a chest they pick a shoe and rosary that they believe belonged to the Pir, and hand it to each other respectfully and kiss them, and at the end put it back inside the chest.

At the ritual's last day (usually a Friday) they make some bread and yogurt and move towards the Pir's resting place. As soon as they enter the open air area of the resting place, they remove their shoes and kiss the ground and then spend their time at the resting place, and also they hang some handkerchiefs on the walls and trees for blessings. Then they spend their time eating bread and yogurts because they believe doing this action in this place is a blessing and it helps to cure diseases. At the sundown of that day the ritual ends (ZendeDel, 2008; 61 - 62).



Kurdistan Traditional Marriage Costumes: Kurdish tribes have some special interesting and unique ceremonies in their holidays and national celebrations, the following is one of them; in the old days one of the ceremonies held in the wedding celebration was the groom's strength test which was like this: The relatives of the groom and bride would all mount their horses in the square outside of the city and would slowly get closer and closer to the groom, the groom had to use his might and dexterity to escape the relatives, reach his bride, mount her on his horse and escape.

If the relatives of the bride could catch the groom, this would show the weakness of the groom and his marriage with the girl would be cancelled and prevented (Mirnya 1999; 80).

#### **Review of literature**

When we are studying and analyzing the Kurdish dances many questions bug our minds, questions such as why do people show interest in such places and why do they visit to see these dances and many other questions that researchers showed interest in these dances to find answers for them. Many Iranian researchers have studied this subject and here we will mention some of them briefly.

Mr. Seyed Ali Mirnya in a book titled "Iran's Folklore People" written in 1999 in which talks about the customs, rituals and beliefs of Iranian people.

Mr. Habib Allah Tabani Ketabi in a book titled "Kurd and Mede Ethnic Unity" written in 2001 which contains many useful information about the History of Kurdistan civilization.

Mr. Hassan Zende Del has written the book "Persian Ethnic Ceremonies" in 2008 in which he talks about subjects such as deferent provinces costumes.

Mr. Nima Kian has written the book "An Introduction to the Culture of Names and Words Selection for Ballet Categories in Farsi" at 2004 in which he talks about deferent dances and their definitions.

Also some western writes have done some work in the field of Music Anthropology such as

Marsha Hernden the writer of "The Anthropology of Music" published at 1980.

And also Jay Richards writer of "Tourism and the World of Culture and Tourism Heritage" in the year 2000 has done some useful research in this area.

### **Research Findings**

Kurdish dances are the most active, pleasant and illustrative ancient memorials of this land. Festive and Martial dances which reek of pride and vitality were not things only among the farmer and nomad people of tents and mountains; this is one the most spiritual needs of humanity which shows itself with each beat and movement. In these dances humility, sadness, desire have their own positions and such power that will never allow the human animalistic traits to show themselves, and because of that Kurdish men with all of their honor and pride allow their women to dance for hours in the hands of another man.

**Kurdish Dance Types:** We have five types of dances that are common within the Kurdish lands of Iran's west with small rhythmic and lyrical differences. Men and women or just the lone men would stand in the form of a cut circle while dancing.

1. Sheykhani Dance: This has a fast and military beat which only men dance to.
2. Three Feet Dance: Male and Female dancers put three steps forward and three steps back.
3. Cherav Ro Dance: A man and woman, based on the rhythm's order, stomp one of their feet loudly on the ground, bend their knee slightly and sing harmoniously: "Cherav Ro, Cherav Ro".
4. Memeyan Dance: The men and women hold each other little fingers, and raise their hands up to their chests twice, and then tap their right hand to left shoulder and left hand to right shoulder, and sing harmoniously "Mian Ghar Ghar Memeyan" and after they raised their hand up to their chest for several times all at the same time stomp their right feet on the ground and sing "GharGhar - Mian Har Memeyan".
5. Zarawig Dance: Zarawig is a passionate and lyrical dance. Men and Women open the 'Lavandiha' from their wrists and following the Zarna and Dahl music move their legs and feet upwards and downwards. The white Lavandiha create tangled and exciting shapes and when the dance reaches its peak, the dancers sing harmoniously:

" Hazrawig Vay Vay - Yain Che Nazok va Zarify to Vay Vay  
Jamal Jamal Chera, Chera Intori  
Dablaweed, Vay Vay Beghozar Jori Beshavad  
Dast Maji Pa Khalatavid Vay Vay Ke Dast Man Roi Sine to Basah"  
(Mirnia 19997; 126, 127).

As we know, Costumes, rituals and some folklore art of nations and tribes are an important part of spiritual heritage, identity and experiences of human life. Costumes and rituals have a substantial and structural connection with the history of ancient civilizations and nations, in a way that parts of them are far remnants of the human social life and the other are the reflection of those tribe's experiences in hunting, living and farming.



**Picture 2: Kurdish dance performances in Kermanshah's tagh e Bostan, Photo by Abdollah Moradi**

Cultural Tourism is "Visiting cultural attractions away from your home in order to collect new experiences and information to satisfy your cultural needs". These needs can be to understand your individual cultural identity by observing the culture of others.

The rituals and costumes of each tribe is a window into their beliefs, culture, history, myths and general manners which nations and tribes by developing and evolving them while keeping their own identity and cultural growth, spread their experiences to the other generations and venture into other culture and tribes and give more durability and consistency to their secrets of survival.

Getting familiar with other groups and tribes culture besides making connections with other easier and reducing tribal-cultural tensions between hosts and guests has another important function. Tourism has many deferent branches which "Cultural Tourism" is one of the most

important yet less known of them in our country. In cultural tourism spiritual and native culture aspects and also their objective crystallization as a cultural heritage are the most important parameters that have a really high economic importance and containing information that is transferred visually.

The cultural heritage that is a main goal of cultural tourism includes local habits, related customs, architectural and musical styles, local languages, religious values and religious physical crystallization in the context of sacred and holy places.

Nowadays tourism and travelling are one the stable pillars of the World Economic System and are not limited to only wealthy and rich families; and millions of people visit new locations and are mostly interested to know more about their own living places and gain new experiences. Tourism is the broadest service industry and the most important job making and employment industry in the world.

Considering its importance and its possible role is steady growth researchers are up to analyze this subject from the cultural side and with the perceptive of anthropology to analyze and discuss the connection between tourism and cultural phenomenon.

One of the achievements of the modern age is the privilege of free time and this has lead people to tourism. In the meantime music tourism has gained more interest and many deferent countries offer new and creative ways to receive its benefits. One of the more popular fields are local music and dances which has its own unique audience and is important as an huge morale boost for the local people and helps their efforts of preserving local music and costumes. Local music is a way of showing the creativity and mood of the local people. Music has always been on the most beautiful and popular types of art and nowadays still has an important and bold presence in the human life.

So music is one of the most powerful tools for attracting tourist to the different sections of Iran and it turns into a happy and unforgettable memory in the tourist's minds. Tourists as a cliché expect their presence and experiences at cultural attractions to be accompanied by some special music. Music has been one the most famous and beautiful forms of art from the past and nowadays it has a bold presence in the human life. As a result the Kurdistan province has a

high potential for expanding its cultural and musical tourism because of its rich and ancient tribal music and dances. This province besides its long running cultural and musical background has some historical and cultural tourist attractions that deserve attention.

Music is the main attraction of tourism and the tourists travel to different countries to hear and experiences different styles of music from different nation and tribes. Nowadays music has turned into an international industry that we have to continue to support. Music is one of the most powerful tools that help tourism become a strong memory in the tourist's minds.

Dancing, also like historical and cultural attractions has an important part in attracting cultural tourists.

The Kurd tribe as one the oldest Aryan tribes and because of benefiting from the Rich Iranian culture has one of the most original music and an immortal and great melody. Kurdish music has an unbreakable bond with the everyday life of the Kurdish people, and the Kurd experts believe that Kurdish music is one the must original Iranian music that saved its characteristics by general folklore throughout the centuries. The music of each nation will grow when it's paid attention to and the condition for its growth, development and resuscitation is inside the people's culture. The Kurds have great interest in their language, traditions, literature and music and because of that they had great growth in them.

Kurdish music and dances can act as an strategic marketing tool for a specific destination and act as a pull factor to create a remarkable cultural experience for the tourist and the tourists themselves are willing to expand their stay to be a part of local music festivals and they are also willing to travel even higher distances for some local joyful music festival and this shows that we can, by just music, improve the destination's picture in the tourists' mind in a way that will lead to their return, therefore it can be said that tourism and music have a two way connection which means that music has the potential to help the tourism development in a certain area, and this tourism development through music helps to protect, resurrect and expand the local music.

Therefore music has a place in all around our country. For these performance centers to become tourist attractions and invite eager guests managing musical events is necessary.

### **Epilogue**

Tourism before being an industry and economic activity is a cultural phenomenon that has an important role in making cultural changes. One of the most important factors of cultural tourism is the art of music.

Music is not just an art but also it's a tool to express and convey the culture, civilization and history of a nation and tribes mixed with artistic human emotions presented to others. So protecting and expanding each nation or tribes original music is a way to prevent the destruction of one's language, tradition and culture and leads to its cultural durability. Music just like other tools can be misused and can be turned into an anti-culture tool but original music epically tribal music because of its nature full of authenticity and value can never be turned into something vulgar. As each tribe's music is a reflection of those tribes' original culture and artistic spirit, the positive ethnic bias of artists stops their music from turning into something vulgar and inappropriate. Music as an important parts of different areas' oral heritage has always been under the special attention and interest of cultural scholars and anthropologists. Maybe part of this is because the music of each area is a full reflection of their people, in a way that by analyzing that music you can easily be familiar with their structure of life, customs, values and other features.

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