



Musical Frequencies: A Smart System to Develop Consciousness

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Abstract

In their deep meditative state, our rishis explored the potential of sound, the power of sound to absorb the mind deeply while repeating harmonious sound frequencies in the form of mantras. In the meditation process, they experienced the power of harmonious frequencies, which could reverse the negative effects of the negative thoughts programmed in our subconscious. Hence, they developed a system called Nada Yoga, mainly to practice focused meditation. The yogis found that musical frequencies are not just a source of entertainment rather, they inherit higher purposes that can be achieved with the help of these frequencies in the state of Dhyana. A good amount of Vedantic literature elucidates the use of sound to attain spiritual bliss and asserts that the entire creation begins with the sound vibration or sphot. For past centuries, in Vedic culture, the sacred sounds, in the form of mantras or Kirtans, are used to pierce the sensual, mental and intellectual levels of existence to purify the body and mind and to attain divine enlightenment to become liberated.

Keywords

Musical Frequencies, Vibration, Beejmantra, Nadayoga, Consciousness

1. Introduction

द्वे ब्रह्माणि वेदितव्ये शब्दब्रह्म पराम च यत् ।

शब्दब्रह्मणि निष्णातः परं ब्रह्माधिगच्छति ॥ [6.22]^[1]

‘One can attain Brahma by mastering the technique of nada and its manifestation’

The origins of Indian classical music can be traced back to the Vedic era. It is believed that the great seers first experienced the divine sound vibrations in nature during deep meditative states. These transcendental sound frequencies are thought to disconnect the mind from sensory activities and allow one to achieve a state of perfect consciousness.

In our Vedic Scriptures, "nada," the eternal element of the self-existent universe, is referred to as Nada Brahma due to its eminent quality. It is believed that the absolute supreme Brahman can be manifested through it. The ancient treatises on yoga and spiritual practice state that the practice of Nada yoga, with the help of mantras, leads to the realisation of omnipresent supreme consciousness. The energy generated through this form of sound vibrations is potent enough to show the path of enlightenment and self-realisation.

2. Research Problem

Despite the advancements in science and technology, mental health challenges and emotional imbalances remain widespread, often leaving individuals disconnected from their inner selves. The therapeutic potential of sound vibrations, as explored in ancient Indian spiritual traditions, remains underutilised in modern approaches to well-being. This study addresses the gap in understanding how musical frequencies and Nada Yoga can be leveraged as tools for mental, emotional, and spiritual transformation.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To explore the significance of sound vibrations in Indian spiritual traditions, specifically through Nada Yoga.
2. To analyse the impact of musical frequencies on mental and emotional well-being.
3. To examine Beej mantras' relevance and connection to the body's energy centres (chakras).
4. To highlight the healing potential of sound frequencies and their applicability in contemporary therapeutic practices.
5. To investigate the use of Indian classical music as a spiritual discipline for achieving higher states of consciousness.

4. Hypothesis

1. Sound vibrations, particularly those generated by Nada Yoga and musical frequencies, positively influence mental and emotional states by harmonising energy centres.
2. The practice of Indian classical music and chanting of Beejmantras can enhance spiritual awareness and provide a pathway to self-realisation.
3. Nada Yoga in modern therapeutic practices can lead to improved mental well-being and emotional balance.

5. Relevance of the Study

In today's fast-paced and stress-laden world, there is an urgent need for holistic approaches to well-being that address the mind, body, and spirit. This study draws from ancient Indian traditions, offering insights into how sound frequencies can transform consciousness and promote inner peace. By bridging traditional wisdom with contemporary research, the study highlights the potential of Nada Yoga and musical frequencies as tools for personal growth, emotional healing, and spiritual exploration.

6. Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research methodology to examine the intricate relationship between Indian classical music, Nada Yoga and their influence on emotional and spiritual well-being. It begins with a thorough literature review, analysing primary sources such as the Vedas and Upanishads and secondary literature that contextualises these findings within contemporary scholarship. Case studies are also conducted to document practices such as chanting and mantra meditation, providing insight into their benefits for practitioners. To enrich this understanding, interviews are conducted with experienced musicians, Nada Yoga practitioners, and spiritual teachers, capturing their insights and experiences. Furthermore, the analysis investigates the vibrational effects of Beej mantras and ragas, leveraging existing research in acoustics and neuroscience to elucidate the profound connections between sound and the human psyche.

7. Results

The study highlights key findings about the impact of sound on mental well-being. It shows that chanting Beej mantras and practising Nada Yoga significantly alleviate stress, anxiety, and mental restlessness, promoting a connection to higher states of consciousness. Additionally, the frequencies of specific mantras resonate with the body's energy centres, facilitating emotional healing and energy flow. Engaging with Indian classical music, especially through ragas, fosters a meditative state that calms the mind and enhances emotional health.

Finally, the research underscores the potential of integrating Nada Yoga and musical frequencies into modern therapy as a complementary approach to addressing mental health challenges.

8. Discussion

The results of this study reaffirm the ancient wisdom of the Vedic era while highlighting its relevance in addressing contemporary challenges.

- Integration of Sound Therapy in Modern Context:** The findings reveal that sound vibrations, such as Beej mantras and musical frequencies, have measurable effects on mental and emotional health. This aligns with the hypothesis that Nada Yoga can harmonise energy centres and promote inner peace. The recognition of these practices by modern science, particularly in the fields of neuroscience and vibrational medicine, offers an opportunity to integrate them into contemporary therapeutic frameworks, such as sound therapy and music therapy.
- Chakra-Based Healing Through Beej Mantras:** The study highlights the relationship between Beejmantras and the activation of energy centres. This supports the view that chanting specific mantras can enhance energy flow, leading to emotional healing and spiritual elevation. It also demonstrates the interconnectedness of physical, emotional, and spiritual health, a principle rooted in Vedic philosophy.
- Indian Classical Music as a Meditative Tool:** The therapeutic and meditative qualities of Indian classical music resonate with its historical use as a tool for self-realisation. The study underscores the relevance of ragas in inducing a meditative state, supporting the hypothesis that music can serve as a bridge between sensory and transcendental experiences.
- Implications for Holistic Well-Being:** The harmonious sound vibrations described in this study provide insights into a holistic approach to well-being. They not only enhance physical relaxation but also deepen spiritual awareness, paving the way for a more integrated understanding of health.
- Challenges and Future Scope:** While the potential benefits of sound frequencies and Nada Yoga are evident, the study acknowledges the challenges of scientific validation in this domain. Further research is required to establish standard protocols for integrating these practices into clinical and therapeutic settings. Additionally, empirical studies using modern tools like EEG, MRI, and biofeedback could provide quantitative evidence of the transformative effects of sound on consciousness.

The Mysteries of Matter and the Unlimited Mind

For centuries, scientists have tried to unfold the mysteries of matter and later realised that matter is not the only reason behind the universe's evolution and, therefore, is not absolute and final. There exists another dimension of experience that has the potential to unfold the boundless hidden possibilities of the mind. Tantra Philosophy also aligns with this perspective, asserting that the mind is limitless and its experiences can be expanded. The Vedas and the Upanishads are replete with teachings that resonate with this principle.

In the Vedic era, the concept of 'vid' is referred to as Vidya, whereas in the contemporary world, it is known as meditation. The Vedas and Upanishads contain various examples of different kinds of Vidyas, such as Brahma Vidya, which was developed to attain the highest state of self by regulating the mental patterns and formations of the mind. Examples include Akasha Vidya - the cosmic ether [Chandogya Upanishad, 1. ix.1], Dahara Vidya [Chandogya Upanishad, viii] Panchagani Vidya [Chandogya Upanishad v.iii to x]^[2].

Exploring Consciousness Beyond Material Perception

The human mind is influenced by the material world perceived through our five senses. However, there exists an additional element recognised by sages and scientists alike, known as energy. This energy allows for the exploration of dimensions of the mind that transcend the constraints of time, space, and matter, offering limitless possibilities beyond our conventional understanding. Furthermore, the source from which the physical body has evolved is pure consciousness resonating with energy.

Individual consciousness takes on a luminous, transcendental form, often described as primal or the unstruck anhad sound. The sages have encountered this sound, known as Nada, in the anahata chakra, manifesting in various forms such as melodious flute tunes, the sound of peacocks or thunder, and the form of mantras.

According to tantra philosophy, rishis have asserted that consciousness manifests in multiple degrees and can be experienced as sound, light form, and idea. To attain such experiences, one must devote oneself to the practice of yoga and Pranayama as preliminary preparations for effective concentration and meditation. Yoga and Pranayama serve as tools to facilitate a rapid inward turn, enabling seekers to perceive and meditate on the subtle inner sounds.

The Divine Essence of Indian Musical Tradition

In Indian musical tradition, we believe that sound is a manifestation of the divine. Indian musical heritage is deeply rooted in the idea that experiencing music can lead us to a greater understanding of ourselves and our connection to the universe. We consider music a spiritual discipline that can elevate our inner being to a divine and peaceful state. Thus, through music, one can reach God by meditating on sound.

Indian classical music is known for its unique and complex structure, with each musical note carrying a specific emotion and meaning. At its core, our music seeks to uncover the fundamental nature of the universe, with ragas serving as one of the means to grasp this essence. The ragas, the melodic structures used in Indian classical music, profoundly impact the mind and can evoke a wide range of emotions. The great seers of ancient India believed that by listening to these harmonious sounds, one could experience the ocean of divine bliss. In other words, Indian classical music is considered a spiritual discipline that helps individuals learn divine bliss and experience the ultimate state of consciousness. Even today, Indian classical music is widely regarded as a form of meditation and is used by many to achieve inner peace and tranquillity. The practice of Indian classical music is a means of artistic expression and a path to spiritual enlightenment.

Indian Classical Music - The Yoga Of Sound

The sages of Vedic and pre-vedic civilisations were well aware of the fact that yoga, through sounds, can alter the life force with its ability to recharge and heal the body. Based on their experiments, with the help of Nada yoga, they developed the theory of chakra meditation, where each gland has a vibratory frequency that coincides with a particular sound in the form of Beejmantra. After various experiments and rigorous practices, our ancient rishis concluded that these divine harmonious sounds can influence our minds and emotions, and meditation through these harmonious musical frequencies can be integrated as a spiritual practice.

In Indian culture, it is believed that music is the best way to experience supreme Brahman, and when it reaches its ultimate purity, it can awaken a deep state of mystical consciousness that leads to spiritual transformation. It's a yoga of sound with its unique mystical capabilities where a wealth of information is available for those who have developed their deep sense of profound listening. The power of subtle sonic dimensions can be experienced through the yoga of sound. Music is the finest of fine arts and the most subtle art form, as compared to the other art forms, which can be enjoyed in its physical and transcendental aspects. Indian music is highly spiritual. It is pure, divine and regarded as a prayer to God. As said in Padma Purana- where my devotees sing, there be I.

मद भक्ता यत्र गायन्ति तत्र तिष्ठामि नारदः ॥

The Spiritual and Healing Power of Musical Notes: Insights from Ancient Sages and Scholars

All the musical notes can be defined as pure form of Nada. The musical notes are the specific organised frequencies located at specific distances or musical intervals from each other. According to Suresh Chandra Banerjee in his book 'Fundamentals of Ancient Indian Music' - Swara is a charming sound with a resonance that evolves from Shruti and has the capability of calming the mind of the listener.

Musical sound frequencies have been known to have a profound effect on the human mind and body. It is believed that music can have a similar impact on the mind as physical yoga asanas have on the body and pranayama have on the breath. This belief is not new and has been propounded by several sages and scholars throughout history. One such prominent figure is Saint Tyagaraja, who is part of the famous Trinity of South Indian classical music.

Tyagaraja has composed several works emphasising musical notes' importance and glory. In one of his famous Kritis, he says, "Sobhillu saptaswara sundarullu bhajimpavey masa," which translates to "The divine light is glowing through the seven notes." This statement highlights the spiritual significance that music holds in our lives.

Throughout his life, Tyagaraja sang and celebrated the power of music. He believed that music was not just a form of entertainment or a means of pleasing the senses but rather a way to nourish the soul. He stressed that one cannot attain liberation without the knowledge and practice of music. The teachings of Saint Tyagaraja and other ancient sages remind us of the immense value that music holds in our lives. It has the power to heal, energise, and uplift our spirits.

Musical Frequencies: The Foundation of Ritual Singing

Sound is considered a conventional form of energy as light. Our ancient sages were very well aware of this fact and carefully chose the harmonious sound frequencies from the cosmos in the form of musical notes. They discovered that these consciously chosen harmonious sound frequencies, if activated with effective mental visualisation with awareness and at the same time combined with creative utterance, can have far-reaching vibratory effects, and they can be transmitted into the core of the atomic and subatomic levels of the body.

Our sages and seers used these harmonious and powerful sound frequencies as the basis of mantras in Vedic rituals. Our seers and sages had a better understanding of how mantras, if recited in musical sound frequencies, can trigger vibratory effects on subtle and gross levels. They were aware of the fact that chanting the harmonious musical sound vibrations, with the help of syllables in the form of mantras, can give stimulation to the specific part of the human body, and the effects of these musical frequencies could be dynamic, phenomenal and helpful for the mind to achieve meditative state and peace. Even in ancient Egypt, music had a twofold influence on man that is gross and subtle and was called 'physics of the soul'. Powerful sounds and mantric structures were sung in the Egyptian temples and music was considered to be of great importance. Almost all the ancient civilisations, whether it is Vedic, Pre-Vedic Indian civilisation, Egyptian, Chinese or Greek, were well informed about the science and philosophy of musical frequencies and used them in terms of healing and as a tool for connecting with the spiritual wisdom and with the energy of consciousness through mantras woven in musical sound frequencies.

The musical sound frequencies resonate with our inner being and allow the harmonious circulation of the energies in the sphere of our body and mind and help our mind to become concentrated and reflective. By developing the perfection in listening to the subtle tones, our body understands and regulates the physical as well as the subtle functions of our life. These certain harmonious frequencies serve as a link to connect our limited intelligence with the greater divine intelligence that is omnipresent and omnipotent and further extends our awareness to the infinite eternal.

Conclusion

The harmonious musical sound frequencies, with attentive practice, can awaken the higher potentials of the brain and transfer the flow of energy in the nervous system. Therefore, it can be used as a tool for attuning our body and mind to resonate positively. It is not hyperbolic to state that musical frequencies could be the doorways to exploring the conscious energy hidden in the universe and can give our meditation practises a different dimension. If exercise is the key to a flexible body, then harmonious sound frequencies must be the key to the flexibility of the mind.

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