

A study on esteem on statues: A Critical Perspective Through Sociological Context on Labour statue in Chennai

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ABSTRACT

‘Statues are artifacts which can enjoy visually and aesthetically’

Visualization of artifacts plays a crucial role in connecting society towards the past, present, and future mechanisms with reality.

A statue is a sculpture that serves the public in form of representation and generation activity. So, the signs and symbols are instruments of expression, communication, knowledge, and control. These symbols are credited with the power to tell all aspects of society. That is, people construct statues to commemorate their leaders and favourites or to transmit mythical histories to present authority. So, the value of statues and history must be addressed for various reasons.

In this research paper, the researcher tries to bring out the different values of statues and their structure with historical cultural connection with society. In this manner, the labour statue is erected to represent the quality of society and individuals.

Keywords: Social reality, Statues, Cognitive, Textual analysis, Sociological analysis, contextual analysis.

1. Introduction

A Statue is a sculpture that serves the public in form of representation.

The word statue is derived from the Latin ‘statua’ intends image and ‘status’ is standing for or position.

A statue is a shape of a photo this is erected for the cause of commemorating the person, events, or moves of the beyond timepieces of information. For the purpose of sharing information from the historical perspective, the statues are constructed in the form of generation activity. However, the term ‘statue’ is usually in comparison with the word ‘obilisk’, ‘monument’, and ‘monolith’. The forms of the statues and monuments are different, no matter the reality that every word is used for similar meanings. The general definition of the monolith is a large tall block of stone, used particularly for religious purposes in ancient times. The other obelisk is a pointed stone with a huge height, like a pillar that is made to remind people of a particular event in form of communication. The phrase statue clearly falls below the phrases sculpture and monument. In fact, all these words communicate the same

meanings, even though they have technical differences. The term sculpture basically comes from the Latin 'sculpere', which means especially 'to carve'. The conceptual explication of the statue is more rooted in its main purpose of raising than its literal definition. Basically, the Statues are raised across the globe for the only purpose of commemoration or remembrance. The raise must be questioned is, in this place is what is commemorated when it's commemorated and the importance of these commemorations should be illuminated. "Commemoration is a process that satisfies the want to reverence those who suffered or passed away during the clash and intends to interrogate the past and address modern issues. Statues are additionally designed as said by the incident of outside conflict when a state or a nation struggles with another nation. Also, statues are raised to commemorate harmless people, militants, or chivalrous war leaders and for various reasons, who lost their lives in a conflict/war. In short, statues are the voice of people, or events that have values for the society specifically and the county in general. Therefore, this study paper significantly opinions numerous kinds of literature and analyzes the records and values of statue interpretation that specialize in hard work statue (1959: Marina Beach, Chennai, India).

1.2 Objective of the study:

The objective summarizes what is to be achieved by the study.

- To analyze the general perspective of the statue with social construction.
- To find out the Structure of the statue and the reference used in labour statue.
- To analyze the different Values of statues and their connection with labour statues.

1.3 Need for the study:

In Chennai, some landmarks are based on statues/monuments (for example – Gandhi mandapam, Dheeran chinnamalai statue, Gandhi statue, Victory war memorial, Valluvar kottam, Anna memorial, Rajiv Gandhi memorial). Also, in particular, Chennai marina beach is placed with different statues like Bharathiyar statue, Kannagi statue, Thiruvalluvar statue, G U Pope statue, Bharathidasan statue, Avvaiyar statue, Mahathma Gandhi statue, Veeramamunivar statue. Why these many statues are placed in a single area and communicate what?

All these statues are explaining some individual personalities from historic backgrounds. But The Labour statue represents society – working-class people. The labour statue represents what? four men were trying to move the rock. Sculpted by Debi Prasad Roy Chowdhury and is considered to be one of the earliest statues on Chennai beach and was erected on Republic Day 1959 during the Kamaraj government. It was made using bronze material and the height is around 17 feet from the ground. The reason for selecting the labour statue – it represents the working-class people in society.

1.4 Methodology:

Content analysis is one of the major research tools used to determine qualitative data. Using content analysis, the researcher can analyze the relationship, meanings, and presence of certain concepts. The analyses can be done based on headlines, historical documents, books, media, and newspapers. Based on the method this research process is carried out to support

the objectives. To achieve these objectives, various content is analyzed including papers written by historians and experts on the history and values of monuments and statues.

By applying the above-mentioned methodology, the structure, cultural and aesthetic values have been analysed for the Labour statue. The Labour statue structure has been compared with Greek 23 proportions of the grid with its period and the reference adopted will be analysed with labour statue sculpted in Chennai marina beach.

1.5 Background/ History of statue construction:

1.5.1 Worldwide:

The period when and why the statue is erected is like a question always. But the statue is somewhat compared with a free-standing sculpture. If we want to know the background of statue construction, we need to analyze the study of sculptural fine arts. The prehistorical time period plays a huge role in the study of sculptural fine arts. The different types of statue construction are found in different periods like gothic (early period 1150-1250, classical antiquity era (8th century BC and the 6th century AD). The purpose of construction started with birds and moved for religious purposes later. From, the Renaissance period (14th C) to now (2022), the statues are erected to communicate various ideologies of different individuals. In the proto-historic time period, the Indus valley civilization (2500-1700 bc) is best known for its sculpture and method of construction.

The well-known seals and terracotta figures are confined to Mohenjo-Dara and Harappa. Only a few statues were found and the biggest is only 42 cm high. These pictures indicate elderly men with beards and loose garments. The most important among the bronze statue is a dancing girl.



It started for representation; these representations started the communication.

The erection of statues took a different perspective in this modern age. The ideologies of individuals are also started to represent in the form of statues. Since, the prehistoric time period, sculptures and statues are under the act of communication process. Recently, social values are monitored through the statues.

1.5.2 In India:

The Indian sculpture tradition extends from 2500 to 1800BCE, Indus Valley civilization. The materials were terra-cotta, during the period statues like, bearded men and dancing girl was

found. This has been followed from the prehistoric to the historic period. Historically the tradition of Indian sculpture shares space with the Maurya dynasty, roots in Chandragupta Maurya: 321 BC. One of the greatest Indian dynasties was established by him at an earlier stage (Magadha, now Patna). Followed by Asoka (Chanadragupta's grandson): 272-232 BC, during his time he puts pillars and rock concepts for the empire's growth. The Maurya dynasty ends in 185 BC. After the Maurya dynasty ends, the next four years were a series of invasions from the northeast. The Greek culture was introduced through intruders. Slowly the Greek influence was seen through sculptures. A link has been created between India and the west by the Kushan dynasty, which was founded around the 2nd Century AD. During the 2nd and 1st centuries, Hindu and Buddhist statues were established. The different styles were in a wide range during the 9th and 10th centuries. For example, the statue of unity in India is considered the world tallest with a height of 597 feet.

1.5.3 In Tamil Nadu/Chennai:

The architecture of Tamil Nādu plays a wide range of historical perspectives. Begins from Sangam period architecture (580BCE – 300CE), temples and spiritual design has been carried out throughout the period. Pallavas architecture (600CE to 900CE) single rock concept has been introduced. Pandiya architecture (6th Century to 10th Century), during this period structures, were established in architecture. The spiritual concept has been improved.

For instance, the Thomas Munroe statue (Chennai, Tamil Nadu), Kannagi statue (Marina beach, Triplicane, Chennai, Tamil Nadu), and the Triumph of Labor statue (Marina beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu) are constructed to share political, social, and religious ideologies. Even, though the construction of statues is spotted in the prehistoric time period, still (2022) the function is continued with historical perspectives.


1.6 The esteem of the Statue:

The statues are constructed in society for several reasons. Everything which is being constructed in society comes through direct or indirect symbolization. These kinds of art forms are collectively used for sharing common experiences or the idea creators play a crucial role in a contextual manner. By addressing Marx's theory of ideology, – *ideology emerges out of a society's mode of production*. The monuments, statues, and construction have a great power to rebuild society ideology in different dominant ideologies. So, in each and every structure, the past, present, and future are interrelated. These pasts, present, and future indicated cultural and social values. Statue plays a vital role in representing history with cultural value to the future. So, it is important to understand why this particular statue is placed on this land? With what context?


1.6.1 Structures of Statues:

Greek style has been influenced by Egyptian art (700BC to 480BC). The period was called the Archaic period (600 to 480 BCE) and sculptors followed 23 grid styles (Egyptians followed 19 squares). Greek sculptors used the same canon proportions in the symmetry method to bring the natural poses to the human body. This method was followed into the


classical (480 TO 323 BCE) and Hellenistic periods (323 TO 30 BCE). Greek art had three periods (Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic).



Kouros from Attica, Greece, 600 BCE



Roman copy of Marble Statue of the Diadoumenos



Dying Gaul


Archaic: 600 - 480BCE

Classical 480 - 323BCE

Hellenistic: 323 - 30BCE

**Greek
Sculpture
and
Proportions**


Archaic followed the Egyptian style and sculptures were very rigid, classical period came with proportion and followed side pose with a sense of harmony and Hellenistic follows the movement in statues, the minute movement has been followed in sculptures and that was called a very interesting period. The proportions were very realistic and intense.



Michelangelo - Method

23		
22		
21	Eyes	
20		Head
19	Neck & Shoulders	
18		
17		
16		Torso & Upper Arms
15		
14	Waist & Belly Button	
13		
12		
11		Thighs
10	Hands	
9		
8		
7	Knee Caps	
6		
5		Lower Legs
4		
3		
2		
1	Feet	

Greek art - Proportion grid



Michelangelo - Layout

To make the statue more realistic and intense Greek art followed unique grid proportions. These grid proportions were provided perfect outlook of human pose and structure. To bring the natural pose and value in sculpture, the same 23 proportions were adopted in the Greek art. Based on the size of statue the grid will be followed. If the single grid box measurement is one feet height, then all the 23 proportions will be the same one foot in height. The Greek art proportions were followed as mentioned, 1-5 will be allotted for lower leg portions, 6-7 will be for knee cap portions, 8-11 will be thighs, 9 will be for falling straight hands, 12-14 for waist, 15-18 will be for upper arms, 19 will be for neck portion, 20-23 for head portion, eye portion will be in between 21-22. In general, the grid and proportions were adopted for height measurement.

1.6.2 Values of Statues:

The statues have been erected for several reasons. In such a case it represents the idea and concepts of the society and, is also considered a material site for sharing memories. Symbolic concepts are introduced through statues with different values, which include political, aesthetic, cultural, and economic (Muluaem Daba Tola, 2017). Also stated that statues are representing a socio-political system of the society.

1.6.2.1 Cultural values

In the physical representation of culture, architecture plays a vital role. Erected statues are sharing different values in the architecture. The word 'culture' comes with various elements. That includes art, belief, and morals (Quinn, 2006; Abulnour, 2013). Cultural heritage has been considered the major element of statues, which connect the past to the present generation. The Culture of the society can be informed through statues, for example, the Buddha statue. Statue represents the clothing style of the followers.

1.6.2.3 Aesthetic value

The word aesthetics is related to beauty. Beauty depends on the concepts of the individual perspective (Muluaem Daba Tola, 2017). Aesthetic values can be seen in two different ways (artist perspective and social perspective). The perspective of the artist is focused on dramatic ways and statues are constructed to indicate the incident (Cole, 2009 Torre, 2002).

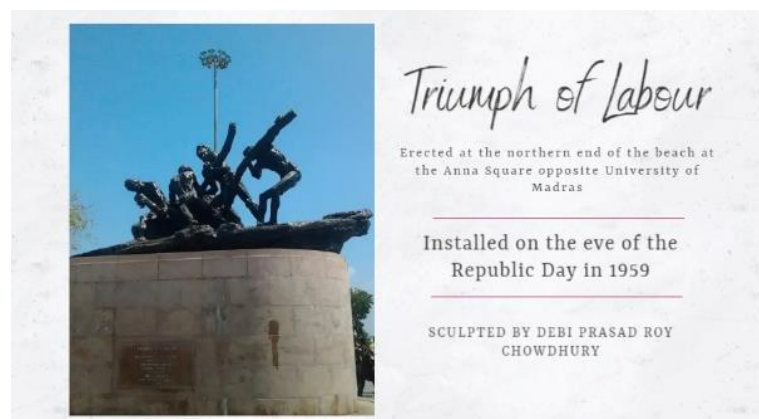
1.7 Interpretation & Analysis:

1.7.1 Structure and reference of labour statues: The discussion part is about the second statue on Marina beach which was sculpted in the 1950s. In general, the artwork is carried out from one place to other or adapted from different areas, which is also termed influence. According to the history of artwork, every nation follows a different style of work according to its nature. In that way, let's discuss the working method/style/reference of TRIUMPH OF LABOUR STAUE. The sculpture speaks about the working style of labour in India. The style has been portrayed through the dress and the properties used. The material used was bronze to bring about the minute details in sculpture. So-called the minute details concept was carried out from Greek-style (Hellenistic world 323 BCE to 31CE). The work in the Hellenistic world was celebrated for its naturalistic approach. The material used to bring the naturalistic approach was maximum marble. They used this sculpture art as the medium of

communicating expression (for example Laocoon and his sons: Vatican Museum). In Greek, the classical approach adapted expression movement, which leads to realistic anatomy (striking its own attention). By following that, the sculptor used Greek art grid proportions (23 grids) to bring the minute movement in labour statue. While analyzing the making style, the Greek grid proportions were similar with labour statue.



The working style of labour statue has been adopted from the classical Greek style. Now the analysis is based on why four men are in sculpture? The concept in art has always adopted the style I mentioned above. The particular movement style used in labour statue is similar to the photograph which says about the Second World War. The sculptor took the Greek style and adopted the pose from the *Rising flag of Iwo Jima*. The picture was published in the newspaper – which says about the efforts of American soldiers to raise the flag in Japan. A similar pose was adopted and sculpted labour statue. The variable in labour statue clearly says that the working style of labour statue is Greek style.



1.7.2 Cultural Value:

Cultural values play a main role even a particular community exists. The value can be maintained by making sculptures and monuments. The ideology of the culture can be spread through the activity of making statues. In such cases, ideology includes their belief and values. The labour statue in Chennai marina beach flows with its own culture, it starts from the colour tone. The statue with four men was black in colour, it indicates the nature colour of the community. The dressing style adopted in the statues indicates the dressing style of the working-class community in that period (the 1950s) along with the turban. Turban plays a different role in different areas. The method of wearing a turban is also focused on statue, that too not all four men were with a turban. It also indicates the people's mentality at work. The particular style of clothing takes the work culture to the next generation and also portrays the present generation. The lifestyle of the working people can be possible by the way of influence on others. The body structure indicated the working nature of labours in the way of adopting the Greek Hellenistic approach to represent bodybuilding. Sculptures in public places can be termed as mass mediums for sharing cultural values.

1.7.3 Aesthetic Value:

The beauty of the labour statue is the index of working-class people. The adaptation of the art structure in the labour statue expresses the nature of the artistic approach. The major focus is on the appearance of the labour in aesthetic way. The structure with aesthetic appearance shows a brand appearance to the labour. Value that deals with "what makes beauty?". Beauty of the statue can be related with surrounding also, the marina beach placed with various statues, all these statues were treated for the appearance for public. The beauty was adopted by the general public. In such case, what way the beauty is decoded. The public art will be experienced with different forms based on the previous observation and knowledge about the subject.

1.8 Conclusion:

Statue is erected in three dimensions to remember the event or person or moment. It is difficult to identify when did the erection of statues begin. It started with carving birds and ended with memories. Basically, the statues have values like Political, custom, and sightseer. The representation of statues can be transferred to future society in the form of past observation. But past observations can be misunderstood and the same information can be communicated in the wrong way with different variety of myths, which are created for a particular statue without knowing the historical background. Also, the statues can be created as a tool to spread awareness of the incident (Triumph of labour statue in marina beach Chennai is to commemorate the country's first of May Day was held in 1923) and also constructed by political aspects as well.

This paper will be a useful reference to discuss the variable in statues and their construction method with the artistic adopted style of reference.

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