WISDOM IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE & INDIAN GAMES

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ISAGA 2009

- Professor Dmitriy Kavtaradze Keynote Address

  ? is wisdom better transported indirectly through games.

TRADITIONAL GAMES

Objective :

To raise the issue for further discussion & to note efforts of their revival in this digital age.

PLAY

Forms of play

- 玩 Interaction with “Things”
- 游 Interaction with “Environment”
- 戏 Interaction with “People”
- 玩游戏or 玩遊戲 “wan you xi”
  + means “playing games”.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE GAMES

- CHINESE TOYS

Clay dolls 泥偶

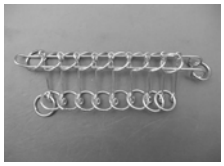
Cloth toy tiger 布老虎

Bamboo diabol o 空竹

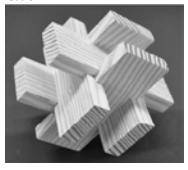
Playing a toy is a game

CHINESE PUZZLES

Nine-Connected Rings 九連環



Six Components of Excellence 六子聯芳



Deity Shuttle 仙人穿梭

Solving a puzzle is a game

TRADITIONAL CHINESE GAMES

- *For skills*
- *For fun*

Blowing bubbles 吹泡泡

Kicking shuttlecock 踢鍵子

Spinning diabolos耍空竹

TRADIATIONAL CHINESE GAMES …

Playing mahjong 搓麻将

Playing Go 下围棋

Firing crackers 放爆竹

- *For social entertainment*

TRADITIONAL CHINESE GAMES

Rich cultural and scientific knowledge

- bamboo-copter (竹蜻蜓) - inspired early design of flying machines
- Seven-piece Tangram teaches geometry, encourages creativity
- Nine Connected Rings teaches binary systems, summations and mathematical induction.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE GAMES

Rich cultural and scientific knowledge

杨柳儿活，抽陀螺； 杨柳儿青，放空中； 杨柳儿死，踢毽子； 杨柳发芽，打拔儿。	While willows thrive, spin the top; While willows green, thrust the diabolo; While willows wilt, kick the shuttlecock; While willows sprout, hit the "ba'er"

Toy and puzzle making as handicraft - Wisdom of life and inspiration of aesthetics are materialized through the fingers.

Work of God 神工

GRASS PLAY 草玩

我有罗汉松 我有观音柳	I have Arhat Pine. I have Bodhisattva willow
我有美人蕉 我有君子竹	I have Beauty Canna I have Gentleman Bamboo

Chambermaids in "Dream of Red Chamber"

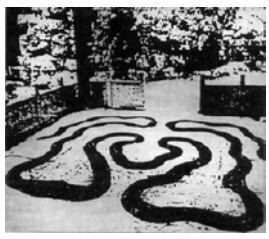
Pairs such as

- Arhat 罗汉<==> Bodhisattva观音
- Gentleman君子<==> Beauty美人

were highly regarded as linguistic wits in Chinese tradition.

WINE GAMES 酒令 ("DRINKING RULES")

- Over 700 kinds of game rules in 6 major categories



Floating glass in water 曲水流觞

Random

Modern dice

THROWING FISTS 猜拳 FINGER GUESSING

- A dinner guest could challenge another one into throwing fists to decide who should drink.
- The players would throw open their fists, showing certain number of their fingers, while the challenger would call out a number. If the number matches the total fingers put up by both players, the challenger would win.
- A more complex variation of the game could be that the caller would call out a phrase representing the number. . Intellectuals would play with phrases from poems and literature.

"Snowwhite's little friends?"

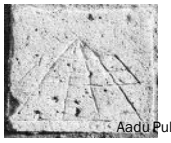
TRADITIONAL INDIAN GAMES

- Ludo originated in India in the 4th century as a game called 'Pachisi'
- Chess originated in India in 6th century from a game 'Chaturanga'.
- In India, board and card games have for long been a predominant form of entertainment.

AADU PULI AATAM - TIGER & GOATS

- A strategy and thinking game.
- The tigers aim to kill the goat while goats try to pin the tiger.
- The game needs concentration, analysis, anticipation and planning. It can be played by two people or two teams.

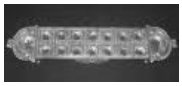
Aadu Puli Aatam - TIGER & GOATS

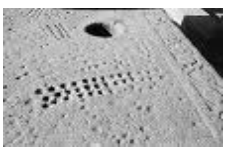


Aadu Puli Aatam - TIGER & GOATS

PALLANGULI

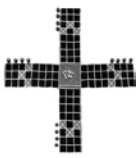
- A board with 14 cups with 6 seeds in each





PACHISI

- A 4-person strategic thinking game played with four beehive-shaped pieces in the color of black, red, yellow and green.

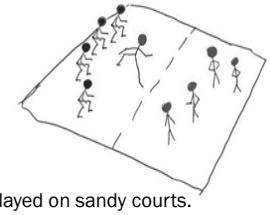


ASHTAA CHEMMAA, CHINESEPIEL, DAHDI

Color identification, Counting, simple math

KABADDI

A territorial defense game, similar to the style of Rugby. It involves teamwork as well as significant individual contributions.



It is often played on sandy courts.

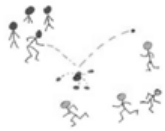
KHO-KHO - A RUNNER-CHASER GAME

- A team of chasers , who squat in runners-start positions, and a runner from the opposition team.

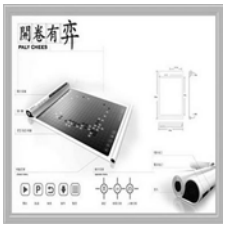
- The game involves directional rule(s). The chaser can run only in one direction while the runner can choose to move in any direction. The chaser's decision on following a direction as well as speed of running and passing the turn are crucial to the game.

LAGORI / PITHOO - BALL & STONES

- Played between two teams of attackers and rebuilders, Lagori is like a Dodgeball game. The game is played with a pile of seven stones and a ball.



REVIVAL EFFORTS – CHINESE GAMES



An electronic "Go" board

An online video showing 'rubber band' games

REVIVAL EFFORTS – INDIAN GAMES

- According to a EuroMonitor report , the annual value for traditional toys and games in India in 2009 grew by 18% to reach Rs34.7 billion in 2009.

Euromonitor report, Number: 264083

REVIVAL EFFORTS – INDIAN GAMES

- A recent study analyzed the mechanics of 28 traditional Indian games and compare these mechanics against existing videogames to show what makes traditional games unique.

Matthew Kam, Akhil Mathur, Anuj Kumar, and John Canny. Designing Digital Games for Rural Children: A Study of Traditional Village Games in India. In Proc. of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '09), Boston, Massachusetts, April 4-9, 2009.

REVIVAL EFFORTS – INDIAN GAMES

- Many leading companies, including Microsoft, ABN Amro, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), now make use of these games for training purposes or as de-stressers for their staff.

REVIVAL EFFORTS – INDIAN GAMES

- An analysis of some of the outdoor games in the context of Indians-in-the workplace business metaphor

Blog entry : The Other Games Indians Play by Venkat on April 17, 2008, http://www.ribbonfarm.com/2008/04/17/the-other-games-indians-play/

REVIVAL EFFORTS – INDIAN GAMES

- Ramsons Kala Prathisthana , in Mysore, & Masterpage through Kreeda have notable attempts to revive Indian traditional games.

Ramsons Kala Prathisthana, Mysore, http://www.ramsonsmysore.com

Masterpage, Kreeda http://kreedagames.com

REVIVAL EFFORTS – INDIAN GAMES

- In November 2009, Sony Computer Entertainment Europe, in collaboration with Indian game development studio Gameshastra , announced the launch of 'Desi Adda : Games of India' for the two PlayStation console formats : PS2™ and PSP™. It includes 6 traditional games of India.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-vW7L-eKfw

WISDOM IN TRADITIONAL GAMES

- ISAGA members to deliberate on research to contribute to the revival of these games .
- Research agenda :
  - + A more structured literature review
  - + Define terminology for a common understanding
  - + Document traditional games
  - + Classify traditional games based on various criteria e.g. gender, wisdom characteristics