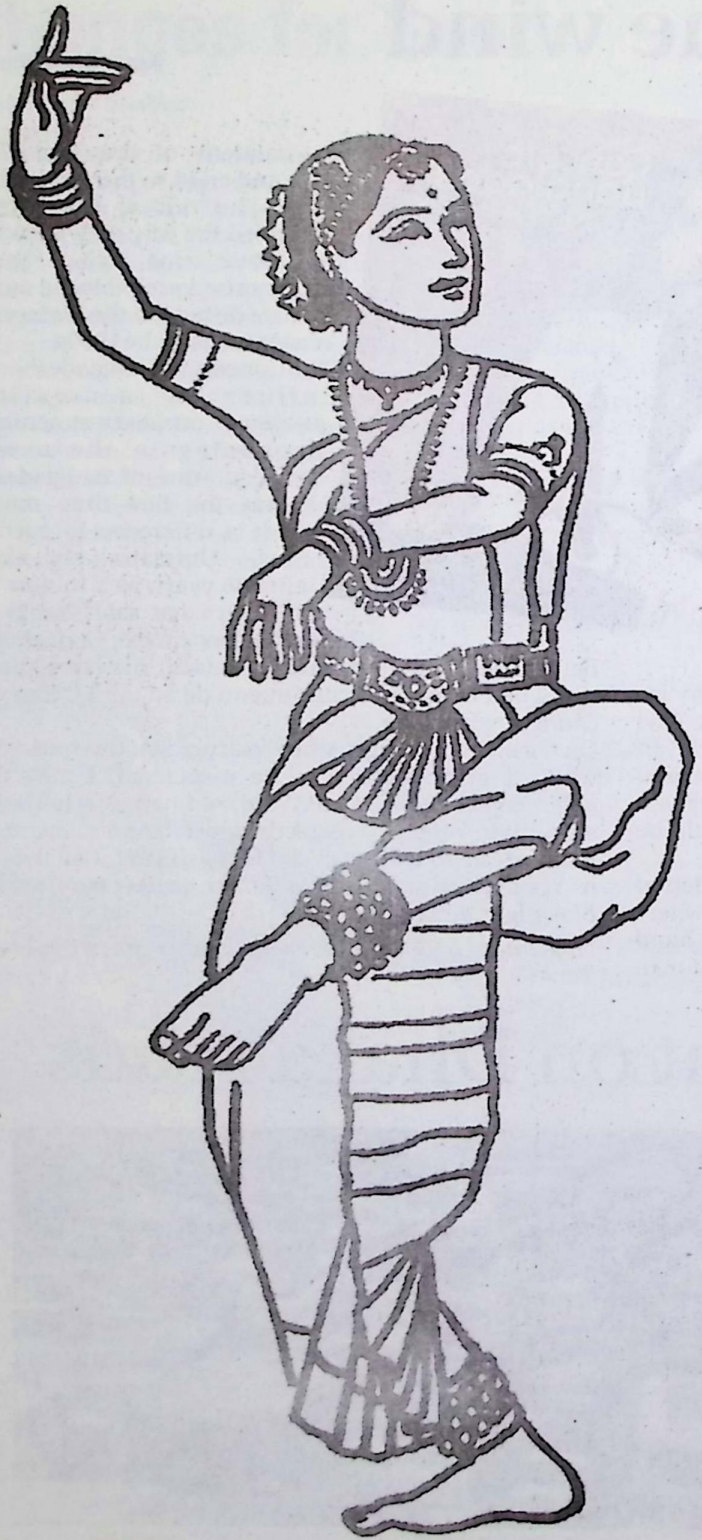


Call for equal rights

Shaila Sharmin

There were times when the women who danced were disrespected by our society. They were called *Nartoki*, which was not a respectable term. Not only dancing, but also, any kinds of art like singing or performing in theatre, especially for Muslim girls, was highly denied. People have a prejudice that women learn dancing to entertain others, especially men. However, at present days people have come out of these discriminations. The parents highly appreciate when their daughters want to learn dancing, singing, theatres and so on. Through these art forms people can teach others about social values, their lives and the problems they face in a society. Many people think that women have to violate their religious code if they want to involve them in such acts. This is another excuse to dominate girls in a male dominated society, showing religious codes that are not really religious but social codes. In a kingdom, where there is only one king, a king will not ever want another king. This is just like our society; there is one dominating gender - men. That is why, they do not want women to be enlightened or feel free to do things. However, the good news is that the societies as well as people's minds have changed a lot. Women are now being enlightened with knowledge and profound values. This way, their minds have been broadened and they have become more aware of the deprivations imposed upon them.

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