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Role of Documentary Making in Enhancing the Significance of Rivers in Indian Culture with Special Reference to Narmada River



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Abstract

Rivers has always been the symbol of Indian culture and recognitions, rituals, traditions. Filming of rivers is incomplete without showing all the dimensions of rivers. It is incomplete until river is shown as life giver, as well as destroyer both. Religious, spiritual and heavenly stories and knowledge makes scenes better.

Narmada Parikrama means The way of worship river Narmada as mother by walking revolutionary around its path of flowing. How Narmada parikrama wasi worship Goddess river, what kind of stuff they carry for worship and their style of doing it would be shown in documentary. How they perform all activities during this journey, their Works of daily routine life, these are such activities which makes documentary practical like personal grooming, hair comb packing of stuff, drinking tea, taking meals and gossip among them etc.

Keywords: Documentary films, Rivers, Narmada River, Narmada Parikrama.

Introduction

The water resources of India plays important role in the economy of the country, because a major portion of the population depends on the agriculture and Indian agriculture depends on rain water. India is also the biggest ground water consumer. According to a research 71 percent of water resources has been spreaded in 36 percent of area and the remaining 64 percent area has 29 percent of the water sources. The average longterm rainfall is around 1160 mm which is not found in any of the other country of same geographical area. River is among the most significant water resources. Filming rivers has always been difficult, every river has its own natural beauty of its type. Narmada River is full of its natural beauty and it keeps various wealth inside and complete itself in natural identity. When we talk about filming Narmada mother, we can start the journey from where the river originates, Amarkantak temple. In Amarkantak there is a pond where a small slit, a crack where water drops down and considered as an origin of Narmada, the starting temple can be shoot. Shoot should be divided in different parts while filming Narmada river. Beautiful scenes (natural), Fishermen fishing, Wildlife exist around rivers, Water animal and plants, Famous large bridges, Famous Ghats, Famous temples near Narmada, Hoardings of cities, Slum and gutters drains, Birds, Depth of rivers, Disputed places, Holy places/tirth sthal, Archeological importance, Historical importance, Stones and hills, Mountains, Dam construction, Funeral on Ghats, Belief related to rivers, Waterfalls, Mud, Rocks and types of rock, Height of mountain, Tributaries of rivers, atmosphere around rivers, Dropping of river into ocean, Business, Boundaries, Crime, Fairs, Tourism, Lights, Electricity, Hydro electricity, Usage as drinking water, Bathing animals, Washing clothes, Disasters, Superstitions, Accidents, Flood areas, Carelessness towards nature, Projects on rivers, Delta, Competitions held related to water sports rivers, Waterfalls, Narmada, tourism, Historical/archeology, Holy and shrine places Business.

Review of Literature

Country like India which has been accepting various cultures and traditions since 3000 years, India a liberal and flexible country which has been accepting various traditions into it. The country where thousands of civilizations settled around the banks of rivers and gradually changes or disappear but history always give proofs and signs of those destroyed

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civilizations and signs of their existing. Since most of the civilizations developed nearer to rivers and water sources so that historical proof and marks has found around the rivers and they tell the story of the past ages. If all these stories included in the documentaries it creates a special connection and affections.

One of the oldest river of the India, and most important river of the Madhya Pradesh originates from Amarkantak, and after flowing hundreds of kilometer, the river meets the Arabian sea in Bharuch, Gujrat, Her name is Narmada. Narmada covers the distance of 1312 kilometers in her entire journey. Over a territory of 98,796 km² stretches by the catchment area of the river bordered by Vindhya and Satpura mountain ranges. Like Satpura, Bori, Fossil Parks, Kanha and many more national parks in which 276 categories are of birds and mammals of 76 categories have home land. All three states, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are the important regions encompasses by the catchment area.

There are many documentaries have been made on rivers or water bodies. These movies has explained us about the importance of water, this told us that in how many ways human civilization is wasting water, these movies are just like an alarm or warning which informing us about future risk of losing water. It is said that the reason of third world war will be the water. Narmada documentary film will show the cultural importance and beliefs of Narmada. A documentary take many years of research and experience and efforts made by the team. Here are the examples of some of the documentaries -

Flow: For love of water (2008), Blue gold: World water wars(2008), One water (2008), Water on table (2010), Water (2006), Deep water(2006), Trouble the water(2008), The water war(1995), In our water (1982), Water's journey: The hidden river of Florida (2003), 2008 Global conference, Water: The global battle for the world, Earth aid: Water conservation, Pani hari: The water women of India, Standard Deviants: Human nutrition: Water, Modern marvels : Water, Battle for the Klamath, Clean water: Common ground , Science world : Water harvesting , 1979, Planet earth : Blue planet : Seas of life.

Only Narmada river is the one around which people do Parikrama in the world. River on which whole Puran (Hindu religious holy book) has been written is the only Narmada river. It is believed in India that four rivers of the country are like four Vedas such as Ganga is Rigveda, Yamuna is Yajurveda , Saraswati is Atharv veda and Narmada is Samveda, Samveda is symbol of Arts. Narmada means "namrata" the meaning of which is "the one who never die". According to geologist and experts, Narmada valley is nearly 60 to 250 crore year old. Also The Vindhya Mountains (172 million year old) is among the oldest mountains of the world. It makes boundaries between Aryavarta and the Dakshinavart according to the classical notion. Maa Narmada base is considered as prehistoric heaven by the scientists.

Narmada kund and Amarkantak places have been mentioned in Vedic literature like In Shatapatha Brahmana, Puranas, Mahabharata and Ramayana many times. About 3000 years, history

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remain in dark after Mahabharata. A town in the valley Riksh parvat about 6000 years back which was established by the Suryavanshi Samrat Mandhata which was called as Mandhata. River got title as Narmada by the Mandhata son , Samrat Purukutsa queen. In the recent history, Chedi king of 10-11 century offered this place to Kalachuri king in dowry. Karnadeva, the Kalchuri king had founded a temple in Surajkund during 1042-1072 AD. The river Narmada is among the most sacred holy river of India, Amarkantak has been chosen as a place for first tribal university.

The Objectives of The Study Are As Follows

1. To understand the Narmada Parikrama.
2. To analyze elements of River Documentary film.

Methodology

Descriptive research and observation method adopted following research techniques. In depth interview , analysis of Frequencies and used primary and secondary data, For this research, primary data 100 Respondent participate in this research study and secondary data is collected from research Report, journals, newspapers, books, Government offices and reports, Documentary makers, Area Experts.

Documentary

Every river has some special areas where people get together in beliefs and for some religious and spiritual activities. Narmada parikrama (Revolution around Narmada River) Filming, can be done in following points -

Tonsure ceremony of Parikramawasi, Their oath taking ceremony, Worship of parikrama, Identity card issued by government, Worshipping god shiv and goddess parvati, Visiting bank of river or other shrine places, Personal stuff of parikramawasi which they used to carry on head covered in a cloth, Clothes during Parikrama, Dishes of their meals during parikrama and their ways of digesting them, Their daily routines, cleanliness, their hard work to go to toilet and other personal activities, Standing in waiting queue to offering water to God shiv in a temple, Pain during journey, Old ladies and children doing parikrama, Slogans of Narmade Har, Prayer of mother Narmada river, Begging flour and other food items in the name of Narmade har, Way of devotion , Experience of daily travelling, by walk, by bicycle or by car, Wake up in the morning daily and other routine activities, Programs or festivals celebrating at the bank of the Narmada or nearby.

Ashrams of Kapila Muni, Bhrgu Rishi, Markandeya Rishi and Ayodhya kingdom were included in the area of Vindhya according to the tradition from where Narmada river flows. Historical places, statues, symbols, Ghats can be covered in shooting of this documentary. The caves of Bhimbetka of stone age are also situated in the range of Narmada valley, around 50 kilometers from Bhopal. Also fossils park of dindori, Dianosure Museum of Mandu, Bagh Caves situated around the the Narmada. There are hundreds of holy temples situated on the bank of river such as Omkareshwar Jyotirling, Amarkantak, Maheshwar Mahadev Temple, Choubis avatar temple, Chausath yogini temple,

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nemawar Siddeshwar temple, triveni sangam, Harsidhi temple, Shulpaneshwar temple. Narmada Documentary also covers natural beauty of Marble rocks of Bhedaghat, Dhuandhar Falls, Satpura and Vindhya Forest range, biodiversity of Pachmarhi (Dhoopgarh, Pandav caves, chauragarh) and Amarkantak (Maa ki bagiya, Amarkantak). Cultural values of Fairs organized on the banks of river, customs followed like Narmada Jayanti celebration, Chunari Yatra, Bhagoriya Fair of tribal region of Alirajpur and Jhabua, Snan on the Ghats of Narmada on Full moon and no moon days. All Tributaries of Narmada river such as Hallor river, Tawa river, Banjar river, Barna river. The presentation of Narmada Valley project of dams like Sardar sarovar dam, Omkareshwar dam, Indira sagar Project, Maheshwar dam will give a new dimension. Wildlife locations including national parks, sanctuaries, as Kanha National park, in Mandla district, from where two tributaries of Narmada, Hallon and Banjar passes, also Mukki gate side area of the park can be shoot. Portion of Gujrat state where Narmada flows near the sardar sarovar dam, there is a shoolpaneshwar sanctuary established which was earlier known as Dumkal sloth bear sanctuary. Statue of Unity established as a tribute to Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the Bharuch City where Narmada drop in to the sea. Road map Of Narmada Parikrama in One line can cover locations of Omkareshwar- Barwani – Shahda-Ankleshwar – Bharuch- Kukshi – Maheshwar – Barwaha – Khategaon- nemwar- Bareli- Udaipura- Jabalpur- Shahdol- Amarkantak – Mandla – Narsinghpur – Hoshangabad- Omkareshwar.

Business

Every river where boats or ships travels and water level maintained always is a places or channel of business. Various areas of India were famous for their business through water ways in ancient times. Documentary can show that what kind of business and how they are in practice.

Large Bridges

It was challenging to cross rivers, since it slow down human activities and makes it difficult. As soon as human civilization progress. Bridge construction become possible and it makes travelling easier, scene of bridge under and upper side both, shoots of people visiting and watching people, boating in river plays importance role in river documentary.

Rivers and Sewage

Dirtiness is now an identity of modern human civilization, population explosion in India and waste material generating from population which is continuously making rivers polluted. Disposing of human waste materials into the rivers is dangerous, these scenes in the documentary makes it realistic and true presentation, it plays an important role in spreading awareness.

Funeral

Every religion which emphasize on burning dead bodies, after death chooses to perform funeral on the bank of rivers and they creates funeral river banks.

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Most of the population of world take sea food in the form of their meal and fishing is one of the important evergreen business executed in rivers, seas etc. fisherman is a profession which is growing continuously in a country like India. In this field among the offerings of rivers to human being one is to make documentaries. Scenes of documentary illustrate the progress between ancient business and modernization as an important form.

Wild life

Rivers have always been flowing between mountains, rocks, forest or we can say that forests always need support of rivers and wild life in the forest exist due to presence of rivers. If we discuss about documentary, wild animals drinking water from the rivers, playing around animals makes documentary attractive which makes the journey of documentary string from starting to middle.

Large cities

Human civilizations always growth around the rivers and small villages of ancient time turned to metro cities of future. Consequently life style of cities established on the banks directly connected to rivers. The business of city culture and use of rivers represents the present face of human civilizations. Documentary contains the big building situated around rivers, huts, sewage drinking systems traffic crossing the roads and crowd which show busy life style of cities and their involvement with water bodies.

Rocks

Water of rivers touches rocks continuously which changes shapes gradually and due to this the changed shaped of rocks gives an attractive looks to see. This is one of the scene which helps in showing beauty of rivers through documentaries.

Dam

Dam is one of the most significance creation of human being, dam building promotes fisheries, water reaches to remote lands via channels construction, it increases ground water level. It produces, hydro electricity however it have its own negative aspects but positivity comes first.

Disaster

Dr Ambedkar said that flood never dangerous for human being but its improper management is dangerous for human being means human disaster in case of flood is really due to no proper management of excessive water and this is a symbol that represents that if rivers or other water bodies and nature would be compressed due to settling down of human residential land, unnecessary construction near water bodies than nature will show its dangerous face.

Accidents Crime Myths

Since rivers always responsible for their acts but human belief and their use, misuse it without any specific goal and misuse rivers, thousands of crime happened in rivers every year, thousands of accidents happened and inhuman superstitious activities happens in the banks of rivers for which human is responsible and rivers defamed due to it, however there is no responsibility of rivers in such myths to show there facts in documentary changes, human

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belief and documentary performs its basic fundamental role.

Mud

Mud exist around rivers (Nearby) sometimes river show a special ecosystem in itself, daily life problems occurs due to mud produced near to and around the rivers and mud is a natural part of rivers, one more face of rivers presents, filming it gives a different attitude.

Delta

In India some rivers make delta, if the specialty of rivers would be shown through documentary, scientific phase evolved in documentary and since it is a specific event, it makes documentary specific.

Flood Area

These are such places where people lives in residential area, where back water of rivers entered due to dam construction and the people living there before have to shift from there to another localities, back water level can increase, Due to river water level increasing, flowing path changing or due to government projects on river for development, irrigation hydroelectricity production.

Displacement and Rehabilitation

At that time when people have to shift from (displaced) their homes, due to it what kind of problems and conditions they have to face. What ways or plans they should follow that time, what are their losses, how badly their life styles and daily routines affected, such things should observed to select such a topic for documentary gives a new experience in documentary making.

Begging

Narmada parikrama wasi beg for their food needs specially floor, generally all these are ladies who used to beg. Where they live, what circumstances they face, how do they exist, how they fulfill their basic needs, such questions and their answers make documentary interesting if these scene of their struggle and begging for daily needs foods can be shown in documentary.

Pilgrims

Rivers documentary could not be completed without filming famous pilgrims and holy places establish on the bank of rivers, because this is a place where beliefs, faith found and which resided in any festivals of each religion.

Clothes

Parikrama wasi wears special type of clothes during journey, why they need such a particular clothes and where do they get it from, how these clothes helpful in the journey, when we answer such questions in documentary, the documentary becomes important.

Meal

Beliefs always emphasize on meals and need of eating food timely, there are so many restrictions on taking meals, it would be interesting to show rules and regulations, what they can eat or what is not allowed. How they cook food, how it taste, did

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that meal provide energy to them, so that they can walk whole day and empower their confidence.

Toilet

Since parikrama wasi used to go toilet outside in the open during their journey, so what kind of problems they have to face, how they overcome with such situations and what are the rules for this, including it in documentary illustrates another face of human needs.

Rules

There are so many rules and regulations imposed on new wheather, they are gentleman or ladies, what are these rules and what happen if they do not follow the rules and when these rules were defined, to show the rules of controlling new parikramawasi would be specific in documentary.

Offering Water to God Shiva

Every parikramawasi offers water to God Shiva and worship the mother Narmada. What difficulties they face while doing it, like how they have to stand in a queue for hours and face congested crowd.

Pain

Daily walking towards the destinations restlessness body pain, fever occurs. All these is a part of parikrama instead of it, the desire to walk can only inspired through power of beliefs, if we make documentary on Narmada parikramawasi and do not show these realities of pain than it would be like an important human aspects remains untouched.

Every Category

Children, youth, old age people, male, female and everyone take part in parikrama, so that filming every category and their beliefs should be necessary, since it brings an emotional touch in documentary and it informs viewers that anyone can do it.

Slogan

Narmada parikramawasi used to say slogans which are the symbol of their beliefs, how many slogans and their types and timing of slogans etc will bring enthusiasm in the documentary.

Maa Narmada Ki Aarti

This scene is one which is always very prosperous and wealthy and Narmada parikramawasi used to do it daily in simple form, it directly uplift the environment and feel of worship.

Programs Cariculam Activities

Some groups used to sing songs, some used to dance, share their experience with others entertainment, themselves respect the feeling of others, different people interact with each other and prepare others by sharing their experience, these scene can make documentary much better.

Finding

The above information has been taken from the Narmada parikrama wasi which are present at the Omkareshwar Narmada tirtha ,nemawar, koteshwar ,bharuch tirtha. In this research, information has been taken from 100 people in which 50 are male and 50 are female. They all are mature and has used their right to vote.

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Frequency Table

Sex

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	44	44.0	44.0	44.0
Valid 2	56	56.0	56.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Finding- There are 44 Female and 56 Male Respondent.

Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 2	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Finding- Everyone is above 21 year.

What problems came in Narmada parikrama? And How can be Narmada parikrama be made better?

Finding

Respondent common Experience -No stay Facility, No Food Facility, No Light Facility, No Sign Board for Village, Kilometer, No Safety, No Idea about Culture, No Treatment Facility, No Government Support, No ID or Registration organization, No Money Support organization, No Emergency Facility,

No Clean Ghats, No Cloth Change Facility, No Locker Facility, No Crowd Control System, No Parking Facility, No Garbage (Waste) control and recycle System, No Online Information, call center Support, Most of problems occur during rainy days. And if we provide that all above facility then Narmada parikrama can become better.

Why are you doing Narmada parikrama or why did you want to do this?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	29	29.0	29.0	29.0
Valid 2	10	10.0	10.0	39.0
Valid 3	50	50.0	50.0	89.0
Valid 4	11	11.0	11.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Finding

29% Respondence Believe, its type of prayer, 10% Respondence Believe change over soul, way to respect Narmada maya, 50% Respondence Believe its

Way of Workship, 10% Respondence Believe Learn with Nature, They want to live in Peace, Respondent believe that this parikrama has completed because they have faith in Maa Rewa.

What are the problems with the Narmada River or what problems can be happen in future?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	69	69.0	69.0	69.0
Valid 3	20	20.0	20.0	89.0
Valid 4	11	11.0	11.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Finding

69% Respondent think Old Places or Archiological important places will merge in river water, Flora and Fauna will Loss, 20% Respondent think Culture Loss, Tribal tradition will disturb and loss, 11% Respondence think geographical locations of villages will displace, Many tirtha of the Narmada river

are about to go into sink. Due to this, the people of Narmada parikrama said that there will be more problems in future parikrama. What are the problems with the River or what problems can be happen in future?. The above question response and this question response was same by the respondents.

Did tribal or other people bother you during the parikrama? If yes then how? any training to rescue disaster?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 2	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Finding- 100% parikrama wasi said that no one disturbed them on the pathway.

Did the number of trees reducing in the Path of Narmada Parikrama ?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Finding- 100% parikrama wasi said that trees reducing in the Path of Narmada Parikrama.

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Did you completed this Narmada Parikrama earlier.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	29	29.0	29.0	29.0
Valid 2	71	71.0	71.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Finding- 71% parikrama wasi said no . But other do small level of Narmada Parikrama for five to seven day and some of do full Parikrama.

Is there any Nala flows in your locality which was River in the Past. ?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Finding- 100% parikrama wasi said that Nala flows in locality which was River in the Past.

Does any small river or Nala flows in your locality which dried in summer days.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Finding- 100% parikrama wasi said that small river or Nala flows in locality which dried in summer days.

Do you feel that the number of trees reduces around you which causes reduction in rain.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Finding- 100% parikramawasi said that that the number of trees reduces around the path which causes reduction in rain.

Do you watch any documentary Related to River?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	11	11.0	11.0	31.0
Valid 2	89	89.0	89.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Finding

Only 11% Respondent watch Documentary.

Finding

Only 11% Respondent Know River Documentary Films Creat Awerness and 100% Respondent Accept Weather Patterns changes.

Finding

How awareness of rivers can be spreded in this Quston Respondent Responcses common Experience - Education System create Awareness, Providing Facility, Devlopment As Tourism Zone, Adventure Zone.

Discuss and Suggestion

Tremendous flow of believing and mixing can be seen in India only. Every river considered as a holy life line in whole world. Every community considered their importance in their own way. India also has its own unique way of respecting and offering rivers which is named as parikrama and the river along which it has been done is Narmada, so that it is known as Narmada parikrama .A good documentary should show the destruction, ruination happened due to proper management of water of rivers, special scene related to rivers which explains comparison, emotions and symbolic things. Should be included in documentary.

Since it is an ancient ritual so it takes an important place among the various scene of religion,

culture and traditions and shows the reality. It is a matter of exclamation that holy places pilgrims of Hindu religion established around water bodies like rivers and holy places, Jain religion exist on high altitude like mountains where water level disappears and the environment is totally moisture free. Spiritual science state that experiments, practices by Hindu, people were related to water and experiments done by Jain people were related to fire inside the body. Hindu saints teaches to eat things like milk, butter, curd, fruit juice so that balanced liquidity could be maintained inside the body whereas Jain saints does not allowed to bath. Since they do not required humidity inside or outside. Every religion has a way of fasting around the world. But none other than Jainism do not allow water to drink, during fasting. No one restricted water except Jain. After that those holy places of Hindu or Jain which are declared ignoring rivers or mountains would not considered as pilgrims later on. These are some examples of spiritual belief and if this phase of truth can be pictures through documentary, new aspects can be emerged. Example water of Ganga river is wonderful. It is questionable for scientist also, it is unique and different from all other rivers. The water of Ganga remains pure always, it never decompose, it can be stored in bottles for long time whereas the water of other rives if stored in plastic becomes smelly and dirty. If dead bodies

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dropped in to the other rivers the rivers become dirty and unclean. But the river Ganga never gets dirty due to dead bodies and the bones of dead bodies' dissolves in Ganga automatically very fast. Bank of rivers have been a special faith, belief and place of spiritualism. People get benefited from it for their general and commercial activities, people worshipped rivers and bank of rivers considered as a holy place.

Near by tourism places of Narmada valley will be promoted through this documentary, it also create employment opportunities. Standard of living will be promoted by its help and among people also it bring skills. Narmada surroundings and hidden culture are also shown by this documentary. During this documentary it also explores destinations of new tourists. At the international and India level powerful and strong image of river Narmada will be made by this documentary.

Facilities which should be provided to Parikramawasi

Stay, Food, Medical, Light, Sign Board for Village, and Kilometer, Culture information, Government Support, ID or Registration organization, Money Support organization, Emergency Facility, Clean Ghats, Cloth Change Facility Locker Facility, Crowd Control System, Parking Facility, Garbage (Waste) control and recycle System, online Information, call center Support. Also the stay places should be like.

Conclusion

The significans of the Rivers in Human civilization, its economy, culture, spiritual deeds, religious activities can be truly expressed through the Documentary. During Narmada parikrama, one can feel salvation experience which is the only purpose of human life, by doing its journey we can understand its existence and got the inner peace. Tradition, humanity, conservations and culture hope can be created by Namada Parikrama. The journey of the Parikrama begins from Omkareshwar to Amarkantak, then Amarkantak to Bharuch then Bharuch to Omkareshwer. The story moves with experiences of Namada Parikrama wasi and their believe in God and struggles during journey.

The beauty of the nature in the form of river, dependency of human on rivers and unique of way devotion, various colors of cultural values described through documentary which helps in understanding importance of rivers.

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