



NATURE, CONCEPT AND INSPIRATION OF DALIT LITERATURE

Prof. Aher Vaishali B.

Dept. of English, Babuji Avhad Mahavidyalaya, Pathardi, Dist.Ahmednagar.

ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with the issue of: "Nature, Concept and Inspiration of Dalit Literature."

In order to study the various forms of the Dalit Literature, it is very necessary to understand the concept and prominent features of Dalit Literature.

Therefore to understand the concept of the 'Dalit Life' and the 'Dalit Literature', it is important to know how Dalit Life came into existence. The roots of the Dalit life are seen in the Varna system. Untouchability and Caste system are the inseparable parts of the Dalit life. The present paper focused on how chaturvarna system was the root cause of untouchability. Even it is focus that the great people like Gautam Buddha, Saint Kabir, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who became the inspiration for the heart of the miserable plights of Dalit life. Hence we find the sensibility of the creators of Dalit literature has its roots in the sensibility of the great people who tried to explain the reasons behind the exploitation of Dalits.

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH PAPER

- 1) To understand the concept of Dalit Literature.
- 2) To focus on the Dalit life and Dalit Literature.
- 3) To study the prominent features of Dalit Literature.
- 4) To highlight on the thought of great persons who inspires Dalit life and Literature.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH PAPER

The research study hypothesizes the roots of the Dalit life are formal in the Varna system. Varna System and Manuscripts did never accept that the Shudra as human being. The Dalit is another name for the Shudra. Manusmriti is the record of inhuman and torturous life for Dalits. This insulting and low statues of Dalit has been inspired by the great philosophers such as Gautam Bhudha, Saint Kabir, Mahatma Phule and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These person's life, speeches and Writings inspired Dalit Literature and so Dalit life is reflected in Dalit literature. Dalit Literature guide and teaches to deny the Varna system and untouchability. So the paper focus on that Dalit literature is human centered and it aims at the redemption of human being.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The research paper highlight on how Dalit's life reflected in Dalit Literature. The study highlight on some thinker's and philosophers, who motivate all the Dalits and Non-Dalits who works for the 'Humanity'.

Although, this research study has more scope, it has some limitations too. It is not an easy job to mention here all the Dalit thinkers, writers and their works

INTRODUCTION

Dalit Literature has been a new literary movement which is closely related to our social institution. Dalit literature attracts the attention of many writers, readers, critics, philosophers and researchers. Through various literary forms such as poetry, drama, fiction, short story and autobiography, it has been picturing the life of the outsiders and depressed Dalits.

Manu, in the tenth chapter of the Manusmriti, mention horrible life and duties for the Shudras. He mentioned that the Shudras must not be allowed to live in village. They should be forced to live in isolated dirty places as well as frightening places like burial grounds and dumping grounds of village. They should eat the leftover food from broken mud pots. They should carry corpses of those persons who had no relatives. They should carry the dead bodies of animals too.

The historical records tell us that the Dalits in our country are compelled to condemn Manu and his manusmriti which is the root cause of their miserable condition. That is why Dr.B.R. Ambedkar publically burnt Munusmriti.

NATURE AND PROMINENT FEATURES OF THE DALIT LITERATURE

Dalit literature have been picturing the poor lives of the outsiders and the depressed people in India. Dalit Writings dealt with poverty, hunger, sorrow, widespread social evils and tensions. It created in readers an urgent awareness against the dehumanizing social evils and realizes us the society without caste discrimination.

The following are the prominent features of Dalit Literature -

- The Dalit Literature has been influenced and inspired by Dr.B.R. Ambedkar's life, work, his speeches and his writings.
- The Dalit literature has been a new literary movement against the chaturvarna system.
- The Dalit Literature struggles for, why a Dalit has been treated as human being?
- The purpose of Dalit Literature is to establish literacy, equality, fraternity and social justice.
- Dalit literature is human centered and it aims at the redemption of human being.
- Dalit literature is also known as revolutionary one. It introspects in order to self-respect.
- Its aim is to eradicate superstitions and to steer in rationality.
- Its role is to record what has been lived, seen and experienced.

Thus, the Dalit literature is the literature of the depressed and outsiders.

INSPIRATION FOR DALIT LITERATURE

Dalit life is the prime inspiration for Dalit literature. The Dalit sensibility is found in the sensibility of great people like Gautam Buddha, Saint Kabir, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Dr.B.R. Ambedkar. These great thinkers, philosophers and social reformars made the Dalits aware of their condition in society. These philosophers and thinkers inspired the Dalit writers.

Gautam Bhudha, being the pioneer, noticed the miserable condition of the Dalits and attacked the roots of the miseries. He condemned the concept of salvation, caste distinction, hero worship, idolatry, superstitions, god, violence, animism etc. because he was the first rationalist.

He rejected God's participation in human affairs and advocated that human efforts determine the course of a man's life. He also advocated liberty, equality, fraternity and justice and emphasized pradnya (prudence), Shila (Chastity) Karuna (Compassion) and Maitri (Fello- Feeling)

Dalit literature and the Buddhist philosophy are related to each other. The Buddhist thinking is the thinking of social revolution and change which is related to humanity. Buddha's principles such as liberty, non-violence truth and peace guides the whole humankind.

Therefore, it can be said that Buddha's philosophy is one of the major inspirations, behind the Dalit literature.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was prominent thinker who fought for the eradication of untouchability, castism, hegemony of the Brahmins, subjugation of the shudras and women, social and mental slavery etc. Mahatma Phule thought about the problems of the downtrodden and concluded that ignorance is the main reason for the depressed condition of shudras. Mahatma Phule started the first school for women and also for the untouchables who were not allowed to have education in those days. Phule bravely rejected the Chatur Varna System and Manusmriti. Because of Phule's speech, Work and his guidance the Dalits turned towards education and became able to express themselves.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar revolted against the system of untouchability and cast system. Through his periodicals like Mooknayak, Samata, Bahiskrit Bharat, Janata and Prabhudha Bharat he brought revolutionary social changes. Dalit tortures by the Hinduism so Ambedkar converted to Buddhism, which was his revolt against Hinduism. Dalit literature reflects the principles of Buddhism. Dr. Ambedkar is the major source of inspiration not only for the Marathi Dalit writers but also for Dalit writers in other regional languages in India. Ambedkar's life and philosophy have been central to Dalit Writings. He is the fundamental source of Dalit literature.

Sant Kabir is another great reformer who made Dalit aware of their fate and condemned the existence of God. He rejected the Four-Fold Varna system and emphasized the good deeds of Human being. He criticized casticism. His philosophy is found reflected in his poetic composition called 'Dohas'. Humanism is his philosophy. He also believed on the principles of liberty, equality, fraternity and social justice, which are the foundations of Buddhism. That is why the Dalit Writers and thinkers regards Kabir as next to Gautam Buddha.

CONCLUSION

The study of the nature and the concept of Dalit literature is helpful to understand the life and miserable plight of Dalit. It helps to comprehend their exploitation, discrimination, suppression and domination by the high caste Hindus. The concept of the Dalit literature indicates that, the Dalit literature is the manifestation of the bitter experience of Dalit life by the Dalit writers. The Dalit literature treats human being as the most superior beings irrespective of their race, color, castes, socio-economic and political status. The above mentioned philosophers and thinkers became the real inspiration for Dalits life and literature who wants to put an end the inhuman life of the Dalit's. Due to all these aspects of the Dalit literature, it will not remain the literature of the Dalit's but will certainly become the literature that teaches humanity.

REFERENCES

- Muller, M. (ed.) The Laws of Manu, Max and (Trans.) Buhler, G. Oxford: the clarendon press, 1886.
- Ambedkar, B.R. Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar writing and speeches, in Moon, V. (ed.) Vol.7 Mumbai : Education Department Government of Maharashtra, 1990.
- Bagul B. Samaj Prabodhankar Patrika, Pune in Dalit Sahitya : Ajache Kranti Vidnyan, Nagpur : Buddhist publishing House, 1971.
- Phule, M. Introduction to the 'Cultivators Whip Lord', Selections Collected works of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Vol.2 (trans.) By Patil, P. Bombay : The Education Department Govt. of Maharashtra, 1991.
- Kharat, S. Dalit Sahitya : Prerana Ani Pravrutti, Pune : Inamdar Bhandu Prakashan, 1978.