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A Study of Gender Sensitization among the of B. Ed. Trainees in Relation to Certain Variable

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1. Introduction

Gender Sensitization is one of the most pensive issues of present-day society. Because India is still striving to achieve and form just and equal society, the incidences of crime such as acid attack, violence, rape, sexual harassment, gender inequality against women are a big threat to achieve the status. Thus, there is need to bring forth the ideological, psychological and cultural bases of this process of naturalization of women subordination in a gendered and patriarchal society like any stereotyped society of the world. There is a great need of Gender Sensitization training at mass level so that mindset of people for women can be changed. This is where gender sensitization plays a crucial role. It avoids many sexual offences violent acts on women. It is the beginning of gender awareness, which is more analytical and critical questions towards gender disparities. Researches in each field and more so in the field of gender sensitization is demand of the day and also there is a need to evolve specific policies, researches and strategies regarding this. That's why present research study seeks to study the role of family, values and educational institution in promoting gender sensitive values. Through present research study the researcher has tried to explore the attitude of the present generation in the contemporary society towards various issues and tenets regarding women. Present study is a simple descriptive survey type of research aiming to find out and compare the level of gender sensitivity among the university students with respect to their study discipline, values and family background.

Thus, gender-sensitization refers to the modification of behavior by raising awareness about the gender sensitivity and equality. A society can only be progressive if we recognize that both male and female comprises equally to make a peaceful home. Both male and female have equal relevance and all our decisions and actions that influence our lines must be based on gender equality is an undeniable universal fact.

2. Statement of the Problem

The title of the study was formulated as:

A Study of Gender Sensitization among the of B. Ed. Trainees in Relation to Certain Variable

3. Operational Definitions of the key Terms

3.1 Gender Sensitivity

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles and responsibilities of women and men in a given culture or location. These roles are influenced by perceptions and expectations arising from cultural, political, environmental, economic, social and religious factors, as well as custom, law, class, ethnicity and individual or institutional bias.

Gender attitudes behaviors are learned and can be changed. Gender-sensitivity is a bent of mind, which reflects our sensitive and caring attitude towards various issues in society towards a particular gender with special reference to gender equality. In present study the attitude towards women has been studied specifically.

Gender-sensitivity is the process of changing the stereotype of boys and girls their mind set that strongly believes and helps them to determine which assumptions in the matters of gender are valid and which are stereotyped generalizations.

4. Objectives of the Study

The following objectives have been formulated to conduct this study:

- 1.To study the level of Gender Sensitivity among B.Ed. trainees.
- 2.To Study of the relationship of gender sensitivity of trainees varies with respect to Gujarat University and other university.

5. Hypothesis of the Study

Ho₁ There will no significantly difference between the mean score of B.Ed. trainees of Gujarat University and other university.

6. Population of the Study

All the B.Ed. trainees studying in Gujarat university and other university are the population in present study.

7. Sample

The researcher has selected the 200 B.Ed. trainees with stratified random sampling technique. The researcher has selected 100 trainees from Gujrat University and 100 trainees from other university. The researcher has divided all the universities in two part that is the Gujarat University and other universities of Gujarat. The researcher has randomly selected 2 B.Ed. colleges affiliated to Gujarat University and 2 from other university. Thus the researcher has used stratified random sampling techniques.

8. Variables of the Study

In present research gender sensitization is the dependent variable while the universities are independent variable.

9. Delimitations of the Study

In present research there are limitations as per below

- 1.Present research is limited to the universities of Gujarat state.
- 2.Present research is limited to the trainees of year 2023.
- 3.Present research is limited to the students of English medium only.

10. Research Tools

In present research the researcher has used Gender Sensitivity Scale (GSS) prepared and standardized by Dr. R. S. Verma. The reliability of GSS is 0.81 by test-retest method and 0.74 by spilt half method. And the validity is 0.72.

11. Research Method

In present research the researcher has to study gender sensitivity among B.Ed. trainees so survey method is used for data collection.

12. Data Collection

In present research the researcher has taken prior permission from the principal of B.Ed. Colleges selected in sample. The researcher visited college and distribute GSS to the trainees after giving instructions. The trainees filled the scale and the researcher has collected scales and thanks to the trainees, staff and principal.

13. Data Analysis

The researcher has used inferential statistics to analyse the data. The researcher has used t score to analyse the data.

14. Testing of Hypothesis

The mean, standard deviation and the t score of hypotheses is as under

Table 1: Table showing statistical analysis of B.Ed. trainees of Gujarat university and other university

University	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Mean	t-score	Significant level
Gujarat	28.35	9.14	1.30	0.66	Not Significant
Other	27.49	9.31			

From the above table we can see that the mean value of B.Ed. trainees of Gujarat and other universities are 28.35 and 27.49 respectively. The standard deviation is 9.14 and 9.31 respectively. The t value is 0.66 which is less than 1.96 at 0.05 level. So, the hypothesis H_{01} is not rejected.

15. Findings of the Study

The findings of the present research is as under

- 1.The gender sensitivity of the B.Ed. trainees of Gujarat and other universities are equal.

16. Educational Implication

The educational implications of present research is as under

- Reduce socialization by parents and other adults of girls and boys into traditional gender roles.
- Confront gender stereotyping by the popular and news media.
- Increase public consciousness of the reasons for, extent of, and consequences of rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.

17. Recommendation for future research

The researcher has recommended following recommendations

- One can measure gender sensitivity of arts, science or commerce college students
- One can research same thing in any other city of Gujarat or any other state of India.
- One can take variable except the variables used in this study.
- One can use another research tool.
- One can measure gender sensitivity of primary, secondary or higher secondary school students.

18. Conclusion

The researcher has tried his best to study the gender sensitivity among B.Ed. trainees in context to universities and give his suggestions in the research. Efforts in the direction have been done by many scholars and experts, and are still undergoing by many. Such efforts will continue as long as to reduce the gender bias in day to day life.

From the present research we can conclude that there is no significant difference in gender sensitivity among different universities. However more analysis and work on it can improve the bias. This is a humble effort by the researcher as a part of his research.

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The Descriptive Poetry “Smoke”

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1. Introduction

The preceding lesson introduced the fundamental concepts of poetry by talking about its numerous meanings, various forms, and brief history. Poetry's definitions miss out many times its components or what is many times known as elements of poetry. You might be surprised but forms about which we have already discussed in the last chapter is also one of the components or elements in the study of poetry. As we continue with present chapter, we'll talk about a few components and genres of poetry to round out the picture of poetry as a whole.

2. Components of poetry

Understanding the meanings in poetry is arduous task for anyone specially if does not understand how this intricate form incorporates sound pattern, poetic devices, images, figurative language, and many other substances. Following are the components that present unit takes up for the discussion.

- Rhyme and Rhythm:
- Form and Structure
- Figurative Language and Poetic Device
- Subject and Speaker

3. Objectives

1. Discuss descriptive poetry with special reference to the poem —Smoke
2. Critically Analyse —Smoke
3. Define and discuss descriptive poetry
4. Critically appreciate the poem —Smoke

4. Descriptive poetry

Descriptive poetry is a class of literature that belongs mainly to the 16th, 17th and 18th century Europe. From the earliest times, all the poetry which was not lyrical as far as the subject is concerned, would make use of beautification which can be termed as descriptive. But the critics of 17th century distinguished the ancients and the moderns on the basis of their representations. In descriptive poetry, the landscape, still life, architecture, nature and other such objects that the poet focuses on or uses are not a tool or accessory, instead they are the central idea or interest. In other words, when description is just an accessory or tool, and not the focus of the poem, that kind of poetry cannot be termed as descriptive poetry. James Thomson's *The Seasons* is a beautiful example of descriptive poetry. Here the landscape is of main interest. Similarly, Drayton's *Polyolion* is a descriptive poetry, where we can see the topographical movement through Britain. In other words, descriptive poetry is a poem which uses detailed words in order to create imagery of person, animal or inanimate object.

4.1 Introduction to the Poet

Henry David Thoreau born on July 12, 1817 at Concord, Massachusetts, US, was an American essayist, poet, philosopher, naturalist, and historian. Best known for his book *Walden* which is a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings, and his essay "Civil Disobedience" (originally published as "Resistance to Civil Government"), Thoreau had keen interest in Western philosophy,

Transcendentalism, Poetry, Religion, Politics, and History. Henry David Thoreau was a complex man with many talents and he worked hard so that he can shape his craft as well as his life. He did not differentiate between his art and his life. His work is very rich at the same time it is full of the complex contradictions that he explored. And these contradictions and complexities make his readers keep reshaping his image to fit their own needs. His literary style involves close and minute observation of nature, personal experiences, pointed rhetoric, symbolic meanings, and historical lore. He displays a vivid poetic sensibility, philosophical austerity, and a keen attention to practical detail typical of an American. He spent his life creatively, creating meaning for himself and others. He believed in rethinking about life and always asked questions and looked at nature for more intense and meaningful existence. Thoreau's writings influenced many public figures. Political leaders and reformers like Mahatma Gandhi, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., William O. Douglas, and Leo Tolstoy, all were strongly affected by Thoreau's work, especially by Civil Disobedience. Moreover, Thoreau was influenced by Indian spiritual thought. One can find many obvious references to the sacred texts of India in his seminal work *Walden*. He also followed many Hindu customs. Thoreau contracted tuberculosis for the first time in 1835 and suffered from it intermittently afterwards. In 1860, following a late-night expedition to count the rings of tree stumps during a rainstorm, he became ill with bronchitis and his health declined, with brief periods of remission, and he eventually became bedridden. He died on May 6, 1862, at the age of 44.

4.2 *The Poem: SMOKE*

By Henry David Thoreau (1843)
Light-winged Smoke, Icarian bird,
Melting thy pinions in thy upward flight,
Lark without song, and messenger of dawn,
Circling above the hamlets as thy nest;
Or else, departing dream, and shadowy form
of midnight vision, gathering up thy skirts;
By night star-veiling, and by day
Darkening the light and blotting out the sun;
Go thru my incense upward from this hearth,
And ask the gods to pardon this clear flame.

4.3 *Critical Analysis*

4.3.1 *Critical Appreciation*

Smoke¹ was first published in *The Dial* in April 1843 along with another short poem *Haze*², under a general title of 'Orphics'. The title of the poem suggests the poet's fascination for the qualities of a basic element in nature, smoke. Smoke is a transitional form that hovers between solid and gas, an intercessor between earth and sky, earth and the Sun. It is obvious from the first reading that the perspective of the poem is that of the poet. The poem is written in one sentence and describes a pillar of smoke that rises from the hearth of the poet and ends in a command to the smoke to rise upward as the poet's incense and ask the gods to forgive his clear flame. The poem is written in free verse and does not follow any rhyme scheme. Imagery is the predominant tool that the poet uses here. The poem is divided into 3 parts as far the imagery of the poem is concerned. In lines 1-4 the image of journey of a bird is constructed. It shows the flight of the bird upwards. In the next 2 lines the bird image is developed further as the smoke rises like a bird and circles above its nest. In the second part of the poem the imagery changes from flight of a bird to a dark, shadowy undefined form, which is a contrast to the imagery of first 4 lines. Lines 9-10 make the final section of the poem. These lines are the command of the poet to the smoke that it should rise from the poet's hearth and convert into a message to God to pardon poet's clear flame. These lines are summation of the poem. In this poem, Thoreau is captivated by a very basic element of nature and that is smoke. Here we see Thoreau, the naturalist. In lines 1-4, where the image of an upward flight of a bird is created, the smoke becomes an Icarian bird³ as it ascends. Icarus is a defiant boy of the Greek legend who, disobeying his father, flew too close to

the sun, due to which his wax wings got melted and he drowned into the sea. Thoreau makes a skilful use of paradox here, as smoke though seems to be in a melted form in the heat of sun, just like that of Icarus, does not fall down but rises up. It continues its flight towards the heaven. In these 4 lines, Thoreau's knowledge and keen interest in the Greek mythology is visible. Further, in the next 2 lines, Thoreau, the naturalist, comes to fore. And the image of Icarus is converted to that of bird. Icarus is now Lark, who rises above in the fashion of a bird circling its nest. The smoke is compared to a lark without song. Thoreau compares smoke to the soaring flight of a lark because its flight is very high and long-sustained. Words like nest, song, lark, pinions, light-winged and Icarian bird reinforce the symbol of bird and it is merged with the image of journey through the words like upward flight, messenger, and circling. The words suggesting vague ideas like dream, shadowy, and vision are used in lines 5-8 to contrast with the concreteness of first four lines. The poet creates contrast of darkness and light with the help of words like midnight, night, darkening, blotting out and star, day, light, sun respectively. The contrast gets a combined expression in the word star-veiling. The concluding lines of the poem are the central thought of the poem, where the smoke is asked to rise up from the poet's hearth in the form of message to the gods asking them to pardon his clear flame. The expression clear flame is highly suggestive and can be a reference to poet's work, the essence of his writings, his individuality which is on the earth. With the help of these lines the poet attains the height of the poem, the highpoint that he intended to reach with the help of the imagery.

4.3.2 "Smoke" as a Descriptive Poem

A descriptive poem, as discussed above, is the one which uses detailed words to create an imagery of a person, animal or inanimate object and this imagery is the central interest of the poem. In the present poem, the inanimate element smoke is used as the central idea. The smoke which rises from the hearth of the poet travels upwards. Initially the image of Icarian bird is created by the poet. As discussed earlier, Icarus is the defiant boy of Greek legend, who disobeyed his father and went too close to the sun which resulted into melting of his wings and consequent drowning in the sea. Here Thoreau, who was well-versed with classical literature, uses the image of Icarus not only to show melting quality of smoke when it goes up but also suggests the defiance of smoke, that rises up in any condition. As the poem progresses the image of Icarian bird shifts to the image of a lark. Lark is a bird well-known for its high-soaring flights. Here we have a lark without song. Lark songs are audible even if the bird is at a great height, but as the bird is used as a symbol for the smoke, it is suggested that smoke attains great height like lark, but it does not have any song to sing or any sound for that matter. The image of the bird's journey is further strengthened by the use of words like circling, messenger and departing. It travels over the hamlets and rises above, towards its destination. The initiation of smoke's journey is definite but its travel is vague and hence in order to suggest this vagueness, the poet makes use of words like dream, shadowy and vision. In order to bring the combination of light and darkness which is so characteristically related to the greyness of smoke, the poet has used contrasting words like star, day, light, sun and midnight, night, darkening, blotting out respectively. The grey smoke also takes feminine form which is visible with the help of expressions like gathering up thy skirts and night star-veiling. The final lines suggest the command given to the smoke to rise from the poet's hearth and reach heaven to ask gods' forgiveness for the poet's clear flame. Here clear flame may suggest the artistry of the poet which is now devoid of any impurities but initially was an act of defiance as suggested in the first few lines of the poem. Other tool used for reinforcing the image of smoke is the creation of verticality. The lines of the poem suggest a vertical movement; they successfully create a picture of smoke, in different images, rising upwards. The use of present participles like melting, circling, departing, gathering, veiling, darkening and blotting give the poem a sense of interconnectedness and continuity, an image of movement. These words are used in the middle lines of the poem where the journey of smoke is described. The poem ends with the idea of smoke rising upward and the poet's flame on the earth. Smoke primarily deals with the object smoke and it uses different symbols and imageries to create a picture of the journey of smoke towards the sky. The poem does not metaphorically stand for anything other than the smoke. It is definitely open to various

interpretations on the basis of one's knowledge of Greek mythology, classical literature, nature and other related spheres, yet the focus of the poem does not change.

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સાહિત્યમાં ભાષા

ડૉ. અર્યના પટેલ

આસિ. પ્રોફેસર

ભારતીય શિક્ષક પ્રશિક્ષણ સંસ્થાન, ગાંધીનગર

સાર સંક્ષેપ

આ શોધપત્રમાં ભાષાને કેન્દ્રમાં રાખીને કૃતિને આસ્વાદવાની વાત કરવામાં આવી છે. કૃતિને આસ્વાદવા માટે પહેલું પગથિયું શબ્દ છે. શબ્દની સમજ કૃતિની સમજ કેવી સઘન બનાવી જાય છે! તેની રજૂઆત આ શોધપત્રમાં કરવામાં આવી છે. આ માટે કેટલીક જાણીતી કૃતિઓના ઉદાહરણ લીધા છે જેમકે વૈષ્ણવજન. શબ્દનો કોશગત અર્થ કાવ્યનો વાચ્યાર્થ સમજાવી કેવી રીતે વ્યંગ્યાર્થ તરફ લઈ જાય છે તેની એક પ્રક્રિયા આ શોધપત્રમાંથી આપ તારવી શકશો.

૧. પ્રસ્તાવના

આપણે, આપણે એટલે આપણે જે લોકો ગુજરાતી માધ્યમમાં ભણ્યા તે બધા જ પહેલા ધોરણથી કોઈકને કોઈક રીતે ગુજરાતી કૃતિ ભણતા આવ્યા છીએ. આ કૃતિ વાંચીને આપણે તેનો આનંદ લીધો છે. તેની કેટલીક છાપ આપણા માનસપટ પર ચિરંજીવ થઈ છે કારણ કે સમજે-અણસમજે આપણને તેમાંથી કંઈક મળ્યું છે. જે બ્રહ્માનંદ સહોદર છે. પણ જેમ જેમ આપણી સમજ વિકસતી જાય છે તેમ તેમ તેને આસ્વાદવાની અને આનંદ મેળવવાની પ્રક્રિયા બદલાતી જાય છે, હા, આનંદ તો બ્રહ્માનાદ સહોદર જ મળે છે. મારો કહેવાનો આશય એ છે કે કોઈ પણ તાર્કિકતા વગર જે કૃતિ આપણને આનંદ આપી જતી તે તાર્કિકતા સાથે આનંદ આપતી થાય છે. આ પ્રક્રિયા શું છે? કઈ રીતે થાય છે. તે દર્શાવવાની કોશિશ કરી છે. તેનું પહેલું પગથિયું શબ્દના અર્થનું છે. શબ્દની કોશગત અને ભાષક ભોગ્ય સમજ કૃતિને સમજવામાં કેવો આગવો ભાગ ભજવે છે! આ સમજને સાહિત્યમાં પ્રયોજાયેલી ભાષાના પરિપ્રેક્ષમાં અહીં રજૂ કરવામાં આવી છે.

૨. ચાવીરૂપ શબ્દો

૨.૧ ભાષા

સાર્થ જોડણીકોશ પ્રમાણે – બોલી, વાણી, જબાન અને ભાષાવિજ્ઞાનના અભિગમ પ્રમાણે અવગમન કરવાનું માધ્યમ

૨.૨ સાહિત્ય

સાર્થ જોડણીકોશ પ્રમાણે – પ્રજાના વિચાર, ભાવના, જ્ઞાન વગેરેની ભાષામાં સંગ્રહાયેલી મૂડી, વાક્યમય.

૨.૩ શબ્દનો અર્થ

સાહિત્યમાં પ્રયોજાયેલ શબ્દનો કોશગત અર્થ તેમજ વ્યાવહારિક અર્થ, આ સિવાય સાહિત્યના સંદર્ભે મળતો શબ્દનો આગવો અર્થ

૩. હેતુ

શિક્ષક, અધ્યાપક તરીકે કે પછી એક વાચક તરીકે આપણે કોઈ કૃતિ વાંચીએ અને તેની સાથે જ્યારે તેને ઊંડાણપૂર્વક સમજીએ ત્યારે કૃતિ એક નવા જ પરિપ્રેક્ષમાં આપણી સમક્ષ આવે છે. કૃતિને આસ્વાદવામાં શબ્દો અને વાક્યો કે વાક્યરચના મહત્વના બની રહે છે. આ આસ્વાદમાં ભાષાની ખૂબ મોટી ભૂમિકા છે. ભાષાની આવી ભૂમિકા ખાસ કરીને શબ્દ અને વાક્યકક્ષાએ કેવી અસર ઊભી કરે છે તે દર્શાવવાનો ઉદ્દેશ અહીં રાખવામાં આવ્યો છે.

૪. સાહિત્યમાં ભાષા

ભાષા શબ્દ સાંભળતા જ આપણા મનમાં કંઈક આવો અર્થ આવે : ભાષા એટલે અવગમન માટે તેનો ઉપયોગ થાય છે એટલે કે કંઈક કહેવા માટે, કંઈક પૂછવા માટે, કંઈક માંગવા, જાણવા બીજા શબ્દોમાં કહીએ તો સામાન્ય વ્યક્તિ કહેશે ભાષા એટલે જેના દ્વારા આપણે વાતચીત કરીએ છીએ, વાર્તાઓ કહીએ છીએ, વર્ણનો કરીએ છીએ, ભાષણો કરીએ છીએ, લખાણો લખીએ છીએ, યાદ રાખીએ છીએ, વિચારીએ છીએ વગેરે. આ ભાષા જનસામાન્યની છે માટે આવા જવાબ પણ તેમાં આવશ્યક આવકાર્ય ગણાય જ. પણ ભાષાવિજ્ઞાનના અભ્યાસને આધારે જોઈએ તો આ પ્રશ્નોના જવાબ આપવામાં સંરચનાવાદી ભાષાવિજ્ઞાને ભાષાના ધ્વનિઓ, ધ્વનિ શ્રેણીઓ, રૂપ, શબ્દો, વાક્યો વગેરે પાસાંને કેન્દ્રમાં રાખ્યા છે. ભાષાના આ બધા જુદા જુદા અંગો છે જે ભાષા વિજ્ઞાની જુએ છે. સર્જક ભાષાને જ્યારે સાહિત્યમાં પ્રયોજે છે અથવા તેનાથી પ્રયોજાઈ જાય છે. તે સાહિત્યની ભાષા અને જનસામાન્યની ભાષા કદાચ જુદી લાગે પણ તે વ્યવહારુતાથી અલગ નથી. જે-તે ભાષા સમાજમાં પ્રચલિત ભાષાનો ઉપયોગ કરી સર્જક સર્જન કરે છે. હા, ભાષાના આવા પ્રયોગોનો કદાચ કોશગત અર્થ ભાષામાં પ્રચલિત હોય પણ જો તેને છીણવટથી જોઈએ તો તેના લક્ષ્યાર્થ અને વ્યંગ્યાર્થ જુદા હોવાના. અને તેને આધારે શબ્દોના અર્થ ઉકેલવાની અને તે દ્વારા સાહિત્યને સમજવાની કોશિશ કરી ત્યારે સાહિત્યનો આસ્વાદ કરવામાં અનેરો આનંદ આવે છે. આજ રીતે જ્યારે સર્જકે વાપરેલ ભાષાપ્રયોગો પણ અર્થને નિષ્પન્ન કરવામાં અને કૃતિને આસ્વાદમાં મદદરૂપ થાય છે. આપણે આ બંનેને સમજીએ.

સૌ પ્રથમ શબ્દોના અર્થને આધારે કૃતિના આસ્વાદવાનું ઉદાહરણ જોઈએ તો – પહેલું ઉદાહરણ વૈષ્ણવજનનું આપવા માંગીશ. વૈષ્ણવનો અર્થ સાર્થ જોડણી કોશ પ્રમાણે - વિષ્ણુ સંબંધી, વિષ્ણુની ઉપાસના કરનારું કે વૈષ્ણવ સંપ્રદાયનું – થાય છે. હવે, સાર્થ જોડણીકોશ પ્રમાણે વિષ્ણુનો અર્થ જોઈએ તો – વિભૂતિમાં સૃષ્ટિનું પાલન કરનાર સ્વરૂપ, વિભુ; સર્વવ્યાપી – થાય છે. હવે આ અર્થો પ્રમાણે ‘વૈષ્ણવજન તો તેને રે કહીએ’ સમજીએ, અહીં એકવાતની ચોખવટ કરી લઉં કે વિષ્ણુનો ભક્ત એવા અર્થની જગ્યાએ કોઈ પણ ઈશ્વરમાં માનનાર કે કોઈ પણ ઈશ્વરનો ભક્ત. ટૂંકમાં આસ્તિક એવો અર્થ સર્વવ્યાપક થયો છે. એવો આસ્તિક માણસ કે વ્યક્તિ જે ઈશ્વર સર્વવ્યાપી છે તેમ માને છે એટલે કે તે સૃષ્ટિના કણે કણમાં વ્યાપ્ત છે. હવે આગળ જોઈએ ‘ જે પીડ પરાઈ જાણે રે’ આ સમજીએ અહીં મહત્ત્વનો શબ્દ છે – પીડ. પીડ એટલે પીડા, દુઃખ એવો અર્થ થાય પણ જો પીડ અને તેના પરથી બનતું ધાતુરૂપ પીડવું કે જે આ પીડને બરાબર બંધ બેસે છે. હવે પીડવું એટલે શું? તો સાર્થ ગુજરાતી જોડણીકોશ પ્રમાણે દુઃખ દેવું, (2) પકડવું; ઝાલવું (3) ચાંપાવું; દબાવું. અહીં પકડવું, ઝાલવું શબ્દાર્થ મહત્ત્વનો બને છે કારણકે અહીં કોઈ એવા વ્યક્તિની વાત થઈ છે કે જે પીડામાં છે એટલે કે કશાકથી પકડાયેલો છે, ઝલાયેલો છે, કશાકમાં દબાયેલો છે. હવે શેમાં પકડાયો છે તો આગળની લીટી પરથી જોઈએ તો ઈશ્વરના વ્યાપક સ્વરૂપને જે કારણે જોઈ નથી શકતો તેમાં પકડાયો છે કે દબાયો છે. હવે આવી વસ્તુ કઈ કે જે વ્યક્તિને આવી રીતે પકડી કે બાંધી રાખે? તો મારા મન પ્રમાણે ‘માયા’. હવે કોઈ વ્યક્તિ આવી પીડ કે બંધનમાં પકડાયેલો હોય તેને જે વ્યક્તિ આ માયા, માયાનું બંધન વગેરે સમજી તેમાંથી બહાર નીકળી ગયો હોય તે મદદ કરે તો તેનું અભિમાન તેને થાય? એટલે જ સાચો વૈષ્ણવ ‘મન અભિમાન ન આણે રે’

આવી શબ્દના અર્થની સમજનું એક બીજું ઉદાહરણ જોઈએ – ‘અખંડ વરને વરી, સાહેલી, હું તો અખંડ વરને વરી.’ મીરાં જ્યારે આ કહે છે ત્યારે આપણે એમ કહીએ છીએ કે મીરાં કૃષ્ણને વર માને છે કે તેને પરણી છે. પછી તેના બાળપણમાં રહીદાસે આપેલી મૂર્તિની વાત યાદ કરીએ છીએ, તેની માતાએ જાન નીકળી તે વખતે કૃષ્ણની મૂર્તિને પરણવાનું કહ્યું તે યાદ કરીએ છીએ. આવી દંતકથાઓ તેની સાથે જોડી દઈએ છીએ. તો પછી પ્રશ્ન એ થાય કે મીરાં એમ કેમ કહે છે કે ‘મને મારો રામજી ભાવે રે, બીજો મારી નજરે ન આવે રે.’ હવે અહીંથી શબ્દના અર્થને સમજવાની વાત શરૂ થાય. અહીં મહત્ત્વનો શબ્દ બને છે – ‘વર’. સાર્થ ગુજરાતી જોડણીકોશ પ્રમાણે વર એટલે ઉત્તમ (2) વરરાજા, (3) પતિ, (4) વરદાન... . જો આપણે વર શબ્દનો અર્થ ઉત્તમ લઈએ તો જે ઉત્તમ છે તેને તે વરી છે. વરીનું ધાતુરૂપ થશે વરણી. જેનો અર્થ થશે પસંદ કરવું. હવે જો સમજવાની કોશિશ કરીશું તો સમજાશે કે મીરાં જેને ઉત્તમ અથવા ઉત્તમપુરુષ તરીકે ઓળખાવે છે તે રામ, કૃષ્ણ કે ઈશ્વરનું કોઈ પણ સ્વરૂપ છે અને મીરાં તે ઉત્તમ પુરુષ કે સ્વરૂપને પસંદ

કરે છે. આ ઉત્તમ કે પૂર્ણપુરુષોત્તમને મીરાં વરી છે. જો વરવું શબ્દને જોઈશું તો વરવું એટલે પસંદ કરવું. જનસામાન્યનો અર્થ એટલે પરણવું. પણ પરણવું એટલે માત્ર લગ્ન કરવા નહીં, પરણવું એટલે અતૂટ સંબંધ બંધાવો. હવે સમજાએ તો ખબર પડશે કે મીરાંએ ઉત્તમ પુરુષ કે પૂર્ણપુરુષોત્તમ સાથે અતૂટ સંબંધ બાંધ્યો છે અને એટલે જ કહેવાયું છે કે મંદિર સાથે પરણી મીરાં.

આ ઉપરાંત એક બીજું ઉદાહરણ જોઈએ. મારા ગુરુ ડો. યોગેન્દ્ર વ્યાસ આ ઉદાહરણ ઘણીવાર આપતા. સરસ્વતીચંદ્રમાં બે સ્ત્રી પાત્રો માટે ગોવર્ધનરામ ત્રિપાઠી કહે છે - રંગ સોનેરી ગોરો અને વર્ણ રૂપેરી ગોરો. હવે અહીં રંગ અને વર્ણ વચ્ચેનો ભેદ જોઈએ તો - વર્ણ એટલે રંગ એમ સાર્થ ગુજરાતી જોડણીકોશમાં મળે છે પણ આપણી ભાષક તરીકેની સૂઝ આ બે શબ્દો વચ્ચેનો ભેદ પારખવામાં મદદ કરે છે. ગુજરાતી ભાષક તરીકે આપણે જાણીએ છીએ કે રંગ શબ્દ આપણે પ્રાણી, પક્ષી, કુદરતી પદાર્થ, નિર્જીવ વસ્તુઓ, ટૂંકમાં માણસ સિવાય ઘણા બધા પદાર્થો માટે વપરાય છે પણ માણસ માટે વર્ણ શબ્દ વપરાય છે. હવે જો કૃતિને સમજવાની કોશિશ કરીએ તો જે પાત્રનો રંગ કહ્યો છે તે પાત્ર મનુષ્યની કોટીએ પહોંચ્યું નથી. જ્યારે જે પાત્રનો વર્ણ કહ્યો છે તે મનુષ્યની કોટીએ પહોંચ્યું છે. એની સાથે વપરાયેલો બીજો શબ્દ સોનેરી અને રૂપેરી - સોનેરી આંખને આંજી નાંખે તેવું, આકર્ષે તેવું. જ્યારે રૂપેરી એટલે આંખ ઠરે તેવું. જો આ અર્થ સંજય તો પાત્રને કેટલું સમજી શકાય! આ સાથે કૃતિ પણ કેટલી સરળતાથી સમજી શકાય!

શબ્દોની સાથે વાક્યો અને વાક્યરચના પણ કૃતિને સમજવામાં મદદરૂપ થાય છે. આ માટે કાન્તના ખંડકાવ્યના ઉદાહરણ જોઈએ.

નહીં નાથ ! નહીં નાથ ! ન જાણો કે સહવાર છે !
આ બધું ઘોર અંધારું હજી તો બહુ વાર છે!

અહીં ઘોર અંધારું માત્ર પ્રકૃતિમાં જ નહીં પાંડુની અંદર પણ છે. એટલે કે હજી પાંડુ પૂર્ણ પણે તપસ્વી થયો નથી. જે આગળ કવિ કહે છે 'છે અંધકાર, પણ ભૂલ જરા ન ખાય.' કવિ પાંડુની સ્થિતિ દર્શાવતા કવિ કહે છે કે હજી અંધકાર છે અને સાવચેતીથી રહે છે કે જેથી ભૂલ ન થાય. પછી આગળ કહે છે 'ઘણા દિવસનું પેલું યોગાંધત્વ ગયું હતું.' આ પંક્તિ આગળ કહી છે એટલે કે પાંડુનું યોગત્વ ડગમગ્યું છે, તેનાથી તે સજાગ છે એટલે જ ચૂક ન થાય તેની વાત કરે છે, પણ થાય છે. આગળ બીજું પણ કહે છે ' ડગ્યું પાછું ધૈર્ય, સ્મરણમહીં આવી પ્રિય સખી.' સાવચેતી રાખી, સભાન રહેવાની કોશિશ કરી, તેમ છતાં યોગત્વ ડગે છે. આ વાક્યો તપાસતા પાંડુની આખી મન:સ્થિતિ સમજી શકીએ છીએ. કૃતિના આવા વાક્યો કે વાક્યરચના કૃતિને નવા પરિપ્રેક્ષમાં મૂકી આપે છે. આ ઉપરાંત અહીં કહેવું હતું કે નકારથી શરૂ થતું કાવ્ય કંઈક અશુભનો ભ્રમ કરાવી જાય છે. અને નકારાત્મકતા કે પછી ટ્રેજેડી સુધી આપણે પહોંચી શકીએ છીએ. આવી જ રીતે નકારથી શરૂ થતા કાવ્ય જોઈએ જેમાં અશુભ, અમંગલ દેખાય છે.

ઉદગ્રીવ દૃષ્ટિ કરતાં નભ શૂન્ય ભાસે
ઝાંખી દિશા પણ જણાય, અનિષ્ટ પાસે
જામી ગઈ તરત ઘોર, કરાલ રાત
લાગી બધે પ્રસરવા પુર માંહિ વાત.

આવું એક બીજું ઉદાહરણ ચિત્રવિલોપન ખંડકાવ્યનું જોઈએ. સંધ્યા સમયની વાત કરી છે. જો જીવન સાથે સરખાવીએ તો વૃદ્ધવાસ્થાને જીવનસંધ્યા કહેવાય પણ અહીં જીવનની સંધ્યા સૂચિત કરી છે. તેને શુકતરક્ષણી કહી છે. આમ તો શુકનો તારો ખૂબ તેજસ્વી છે પણ તે અલ્પકાળ માટે આકાશમાં પ્રકાશિત થાય છે. તે સંદર્ભ લેવાયો છે. આ સાથે બીજી નકારાત્મકતા 'સિંધુમાં ગૂઢ થઈ ગયેલો રવિનાથ'. ગૂઢ રીતે ડૂબેલો, કોઈક રીતે ડૂબતું જીવન દર્શાવાયું છે. આથી વિશેષ વળી કહે છે કે 'સ્વપ્ને ન જોતી અતિ ગૂઢ ઘેરું,' અનિષ્ટ થશે તેવો સંકેત આપે છે અને પછી તેને પ્રસ્થાપિત કરવા સકારાત્મક નકાર વાક્ય મૂકી નકારને ઘેરું બનાવે છે. અહીં પણ અનિષ્ટનો સંકેત મળે છે. આવું એક બીજું કાવ્ય જોઈએ જેમાં પણ એવું અમંગળનું કલ્પન બતાવવામાં આવ્યું છે - 'સુવાર્ણદ્વારિકાનું સાગરનિમજ્જન' આ કાવ્યમાં પણ કેવી નકારાત્મકતા દેખાય છે!

‘શિથિલ રવિકલા ત્યાં સિન્ધુને નીર ડૂબે,
અવનિ ભરી ભરીને શાં તમ:સૈન્ય છૂટે!

આ સાથે હકારાત્મક અસર દર્શાવતી કાવ્યપંક્તિ જોઈએ :

ઊગે છે સુરખી ભરી રવિ મૂઠું હેમંતનો પૂર્વમાં,

ભૂરું છે નભ સ્વરછ સ્વરછ, દીસતી એકે નથી વાદળી;

અહીં એક હકારાત્મક અભિગમ દેખાય છે. નવા દિવસના ઉલ્લાસની વાત કરી છે અને તેની સાથે પ્રકૃતિની સ્વરછ, નિર્મળતા બતાવી છે. આ હકારાત્મકતા એક કડક કે કડવા સત્યને પણ પચાવી જવા સક્ષમ બને છે. જ્યારે વ્યક્તિ સ્વરછ છે, નિર્મળ છે ત્યારે તે કોટલો સહજ બની શકે છે તે જોઈ શકાય છે. આ કાવ્યપંક્તિ જોઈએ –

‘“રસહીન ધરા થૈ છે, દયાહીન થયો નૃપ;

નહીં તો ના બને આવું” બોલી માતા ફરી રહી.’

ટૂંકમાં કહેવાનો અર્થ એ છે કે વાક્ય રચના અને તેનો ભાવ કૃતિને એક નવો અર્થ આપે છે તો કૃતિનો ભાવ અનુભવી કૃતિ પ્રવેશ કરાવે છે. ભાવકના મનમાં કૃતિ અંગે વરતારા અંધાય છે. આમ, શબ્દોના અર્થ અને વાક્યરચના કે વાક્યનો ભાવ કૃતિને સમજવામાં મદદરૂપ થાય છે.

સંદર્ભસૂચિ

૧. નરસિંહનું પદ - ધોરણ ૧૨નું પાઠ્યપુસ્તક
૨. શ્રેષ્ઠ ગુજરાતી ખંડકાવ્ય - સં. ચિનુ મોદી અને સતીશ વ્યાસ
૩. આનંદયાત્રાના સાથીઓ - ડૉ. યોગેન્દ્ર વ્યાસ
૪. ગુજરાતી સાહિત્યની વિશિષ્ટ કૃતિઓ - સં. - ડૉ. અર્યના પટેલ
૫. સાર્થ ગુજરાતી જોડણીકોશ



साहित्य में नारी विमर्श: विशेष संदर्भ- यशपाल की कहानियों में नारी

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ता.पारडी, जि.वलसाड, गुजरात

१. प्रस्तावना

इस संसार में 'नारी' शब्द नर के समान है। इसका प्रयोग स्त्री लिंग वाची प्रतीक रूप में होता है। किंतु मानव समाज में 'नारी' शब्द इस सामान्य अर्थ में गृहित नहीं है, क्योंकि इस का स्थान नर से कहीं बढ़कर है। इस के लिए मैं कुछ पंक्तियाँ व्यक्त करना चाहती हूँ।

“माँ बनकर जन्म दिया जिसने,
लालन-पालन भी किया जिसने,
शीश झुकाकर प्रणाम करो उस नारी को,
तुम पर एहसान किया उसने।”

मानव जीवन में स्त्री और पुरुष जीवन रथ के दो पहिये हैं। इन्हीं दोनों के सहारे अपने विविध पक्षों के साथ निरंतर आगे बढ़ता रहता है। नारी जीवनदायिनी है उसके बिना समाज की कल्पना ही नहीं की जा सकती। साहित्य की ऐसी कोई भी विधा नहीं है जिसमें नारी का चित्रण न किया गया हो। परंतु यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि आज भी भारतीय नारी अपने अस्तित्व को लेकर संघर्ष कर रही है। पुरुष ने कभी नारी को अपने बराबर का दर्जा दिया ही नहीं है। हमारे पौराणिक ग्रंथों में 'रामायण' और 'महाभारत' और पुराण कथाओं में सीता, दौपदी, मंदोदरी, अहल्या और तारा जैसी नारियों का जीवन भी कहीं-न-कहीं पीड़ित था। इन नारियों को लेकर कई साहित्यकारों ने उनसे संबन्धित समस्याओं को साहित्य में स्थान दिया है। ऐसे साहित्यकारों में यशपालजी भी हैं जिन्होंने अपने कथा साहित्य में नारी की समस्याओं का वर्णन किया है।

यशपालजी हिंदी कथा-साहित्य के एक महत्वपूर्ण रचनाकार हैं। यशपालजी ने सभी विधाओं में सफलता पूर्वक सृजन किया है। सभी विधाओं में नारी को विशेष महत्व दिया है। उन्होंने अपनी कहानियों में किसी-न-किसी रूप में नारी समस्या को चित्रित किया है। वे नारी चरित्रों के माध्यम से नारी पात्रों की जिजीविषा से रुढिगत भारतीय समाज की मान्यताओं पर गहरा व्यंग्य करते हुए नारी के शक्तिशाली रूप को व्यापक दृष्टि प्रदान करते हैं। समय-समय पर प्रकाशित और असंग्रहित कहानियों को मिलाकर २२५ से अधिक होती हैं। इन कहानियों में से आधी से ज्यादा कहानियाँ नारी, नारी समस्या, नारी स्वातंत्र्य को लेकर लिखी गयी हैं।

यशपालजी ने विविध समस्याओं का वर्णन किया है उसमें विवाह और वैवाहिक जीवन की समस्याएँ, शोषित नारी की समस्याएँ, कुवारी माता की समस्याएँ, नारी की आर्थिक समस्याएँ, काम और यौन संबंधी समस्याएँ आदि।

इन सभी समस्याओं में मैंने विवाह और वैवाहिक जीवन से संबंधित समस्याओं पर मेरे विचार प्रकट किये हैं। मानव-जीवन में विवाह एक सामान्य तथा स्वाभाविक घटना है लेकिन समाज की व्यवस्था में काफी महत्वपूर्ण है। घर-परिवार बसाने के लिए स्त्री-पुरुष में आवश्यक संबंध स्थापित करने और उसमें स्थिरता लाने के लिए कोई-न-कोई संस्थात्मक व्यवस्था हर समाज में पायी जाती है, जिसे विवाह कहते हैं। विवाह प्रत्येक समाज की संस्कृति तथा सभ्यता का आवश्यक अंग होता है। चाहे वह आदिम समाज हो या सभ्य समाज। ऐसा हम कह सकते हैं कि इस संस्था का एकमात्र उद्देश्य है घर-गृहस्थी बसाना तथा बच्चों के लालन-पालन के लिए एक स्थायी व्यवस्था का निर्माण करना। संसार में अब तक ऐसी मान्यताएँ थी कि नारी के लिए विवाह अनिवार्य है क्योंकि प्रजोत्पादन स्त्री का धर्म है या प्रकृतिगत कर्तव्य है। कई समाज में स्त्री का अविवाहित रहना कलंकित भी माना जाता है। इसलिए भी विवाह स्त्री के जीवन के लिए सर्वोपरी माना जाता है। लेकिन कभी-कभी यह स्थिति विकट समस्या का रूप धारण करती है। इसके कारण बहोत सारी समस्याएँ निर्मित होती हैं जिनका संकेत यशपाल की कहानियों में मिलता है। यह समस्याएँ हैं विवाह पूर्व नारी की समस्याएँ, अभिभावकों द्वारा आयोजित विवाह तथा उसमें उत्पन्न समस्याएँ, अनमेल विवाह की समस्याएँ, प्रेम-विवाह की समस्याएँ, विवाहोत्तर प्रेम की समस्याएँ आदि।

२. विवाह पूर्व नारी के जीवन की समस्याएँ

विवाह के लिए नारी को कितनी यातनाएँ सहनी पडती हैं उसका वर्णन यशपाल की कहानियों में हुआ है। 'उत्तमी की माँ' कहानी सेक्स समस्या पर आधारित है, जिसमें लेखक ने कामवासना के दमन के दुष्परिणाम की ओर संकेत किया है। नारी का कुरूप होना समाज की दृष्टि में कितना बड़ा दोष होता है, तथा उसके परिणाम स्वरूप नारी क्या बन सकती है? इसका चित्रण करना लेखक का उद्देश्य है। नायिका उत्तमी की सगाई इसलिए टूट जाती है कि उसके मुँह पर शीतला के दाग थे। समाज में व्यक्ति की योग्यता, प्रतिभा तथा आंतरिक गुणों को देखा नहीं जाता बल्कि बाह्य सौंदर्य देखा जाता है। 'निर्वासिता' कहानी में प्रतिभाशाली इंदु को योग्य वर नहीं मिलता है क्योंकि वह सुंदर नहीं थी। लेखक लिखते हैं—“माता-पिता ने बेटी के लिए गृहस्थी व संसार बसाने के लिए सभी संभव यत्न किये, उन्हें सफलता न हुई। कारण अनेक थे, लडकी का पर्दे में छिपकर न रहना, माता-पिता की सम्मानित और सम्पन्न वर ढुंढने की जिद। धन के जोर पर धनी कुल पाया जा सकता है, नर शरीर भी, परंतु प्रतिभा नहीं। प्रतिभावान लडकी के लिए मालिक खरीद कर बेटी को जीवन भा के लिए नर पशु के पाँव तले डाल देना माँ-बाप को स्वीकार न था।”

३. अभिभावकों द्वारा अयोजित विवाह तथा उससे उत्पन्न समस्याएँ

हमारे समाज में जो विवाह सम्पन्न होते हैं उसके भी कई रूप होते हैं। उनमें से एक है लडकी का विवाह माँ-बाप या अभिभावकों द्वारा तय किया जाता है। विवाह को न टूटने वाला धार्मिक संस्कार माना जाता है। लेकिन अभिभावकों द्वारा आयोजित विवाह में जो वैवाहिक रीतियाँ होती थी उनका दुष्परिणाम भी प्रायः लडकियों को भुगतना पडता था। विवाह प्रथा की जकडन के कारण अनेक स्त्रियों को पति के अत्याचार चूप-चाप सहन करने पडते थे। 'छलिया नारी' कहानी की नंदो अपने पति के अत्याचार सहने को विवश है। उसे रात को पति की यातना सहन करनी पडती है और दिन में सास का निरादर। आखिर तंग आकर घर से भाग जाती है। पत्नी के भाग जाने पर विनोद सिंह को वियोग का दुःख नहीं पुरुषत्व का अपमान हुआ वह दुःख ज्यादा होता है। एक दिन एक अवसर पर विनोद सिंह ने एक नदी में बहती हुई एक स्त्री को बचाया वह नंदो ही थी। नंदो ने देखा कि उसे बचाने वाला पुरुष अपना पति ही है तो वह उसकी चुंगुल से फिर से भाग जाती

है। विनोद सिंह के द्वारा छली गयी नंदो अब पति के साथ नहीं रहना चाहती थी। उसके पति ने सुहागरात को ही नववधू नंदो को उसकी दास तथा हीन स्थिति का अनुभव करवाया था। वह परेशान हो जाती है। अंत में वह भाग जाती है। और नदी में छलांग लगा देती है। भारतीय समाज में स्त्री-पुरुषों के संबंधों की मधुरता का हिसाब लगाया जाय तो कठिनता से सों परिवारों में से दस-बीस परिवार ऐसे मिलेंगे जहाँ पत्नी सुखी हो या उनका दाम्पत्य जीवन मधुर हो। बाकी तो केवल ढोंग, दिखावा, सामाजिक परंपराओं को निभाना मात्र होता है। जब स्त्री आत्मनिर्भर नहीं होती है तो और भी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

४. अनमेल विवाह की समस्याएँ

समाज में दहेज की समस्या प्रमुख है। इसके साथ जुड़ी अनमेल विवाह की समस्या है। लड़की के माँ-बाप दहेज न दे सकने के कारण विवश होकर कन्या को किसी बुढ़े से लड़की की शादी कर देते हैं। कई माँ-बाप लड़की की हिफाजत नहीं कर पाते और समाज में अपनी प्रतिष्ठा कायम रखने के लिए लड़की से दस-पंद्रह साल बड़े या बुढ़े व्यक्ति के साथ उसकी शादी कर देते हैं। यशपाल की कहानी 'औरत' में रतिया का पति बूढ़ा है इसलिए वह जवान भोला के साथ फूसुर-फूसुर करती रहती है। उसकी मालकिन उसे लुच्ची समझकर निकाल देती है। रतिया की नैसर्गिक जरूरतों को न समझा और अन्य गुणों को भी नहीं देखा गया। 'तुमने क्यों कहा, मैं सुंदर हूँ' कहानी एक ऐसी नारी की व्यथा की कहानी है जो कामेच्छा की पूर्ति के अभाव में जीवनभर कुंठाग्रस्त बनी रहती है। कहानी में यौन प्रश्न को महत्व दिया गया है। इस कहानी में एक समृद्ध वकील दो पत्नियों का पति और पाँच बच्चों का बाप है। जिसके गले बीस वर्षीय माया बाँध दी जाती है। लेखक लिखते हैं "गृहस्थी सम्भालने और अपना अकेलेपन दूर करने के लिए माया को पत्नी के रूप में स्वीकार कर लिया था। शायद वे वकील की दूसरी पत्नी की मृत्यु की ही प्रतिक्षा कर रहे हो।" माया माँ बनने में असफल रहती है। वह भीतर-ही-भीतर टूटती जाती है। वह टी.बी का शिकार होती है। उसकी मुलाकात निगम नामक लड़के से होती है। वह अपना सबकुछ समर्पित करना चाहती थी लेकिन निगम अस्वीकार करता है। माया के स्वास्थ्य में पुनः गिरावट आती है। अगर अपने पति द्वारा माया की इच्छाओं की पूर्ति होती तो वह निगम की तरफ नहीं भटकती। हमारे समाज में अनमेल विवाह नारी के लिए अभिषाप है। क्या माया जैसी पीड़ित नारियों का इस संसार में अपना कुछ भी नहीं है? क्या नैतिकता के नाम पर नारी जाति पर अत्याचार नहीं हो रहा? इन प्रश्नों का जवाब यशपालजी ने अपनी कहानियों के माध्यम से दिया है। और समाज को एक नई दिशा प्रदान की है।

५. प्रेम-विवाह की समस्याएँ

कुछ लड़कियाँ ऐसी होती हैं जो अभिभावकों द्वारा निश्चित किए हुए विवाह में विश्वास नहीं करती। वे पहले प्रेम करना चाहती हैं बाद में शादी। पूर्व परिचय से प्रेम-विवाह में विश्वास करती हैं। अभिभावकों द्वारा सम्पन्न विवाह और प्रेम-विवाह में अंतर सिर्फ इतना है कि प्रेम-विवाह में लड़की भविष्य में आनेवाले सुख-दुःखों को अपने आप झेलती है। सारी जिम्मेदारी खुद उठाते हैं। माता-पिता उसकी चिंता नहीं करते। साधारण मानव जब इस चक्कर में फँस जाता है या किसी न किसी ओर आकर्षित हो जाता है तो वही आकर्षण बाद में प्रेम का रूप धारण कर लेता है। अंततः विवाह में परिणित हो जाता है। लेकिन जब विवाह नहीं होता तब उन स्त्री-पुरुषों के सम्मुख कई समस्याएँ खड़ी हो जाती हैं।

यशपालजी की कई कहानियाँ प्रेम-विवाह से संबंधित हैं। इन कहानियों के द्वारा उन्होंने ने स्त्रियों की करुण स्थिति का निरूपण किया है। 'प्रेम का सार' कहानी की रफिया ने पति की तीस वर्ष तक प्रतिक्षा की किंतु वह

इतने सालों के बाद भी वह पति को स्वीकार नहीं कर सकी। लेखक लिखते हैं – “दाँत हीन मुख देख वह उसे स्वीकार न कर सकी।” प्यार सिर्फ भौतिक चीजों पर आधारित नहीं होता। भौतिक उपायों से उसे पाया जरूर जा सकता है। किंतु बात ऐसी नहीं है। ‘समाधि की धूल’ कहानी की पत्नी अपने पति का प्यार पाने में सफल नहीं हो पाती। वह कहती है—“कितनी ही बार समाधि पर अनंत श्रद्धा-प्रार्थना कर समाधि की धूल कर के कोने-कोने में रख चुकी हूँ पर उस धूल को उनके हृदय में कैसे रख पाऊँ ?” इस कहानी में प्रतिक्षा, साहचर्य की भावना, मिलनाकांक्षा एवं संतानोत्पत्ति की लालसा जैसी नारी की सहज स्वाभाविक प्रवृत्ति का बड़ा ही मनोवैज्ञानिक एवं सूक्ष्म चित्रण किया है।

यशपाल नारी की आर्थिक आत्मनिर्भरता पर बल देते हैं। अन्यथा नारियाँ आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर होने पर पुरुष की यातना सहने के लिए विवश होती रहेंगी। यशपाल की कई ऐसी कहानियाँ हैं जिसमें नारी भावना व्यक्त हुई है। ज्यादातर कहानियों में नारी स्वातंत्र्य, वैवाहिक रुठियाँ, वैश्या समस्या, यौन समस्या तथा आर्थिक विषमता को विस्तार के साथ चित्रित किया है। इसके लिए जिम्मेदार जो असामाजिक तत्व हैं, रुठि और परंपराएँ हैं उनका खूलकर स्पष्ट शब्दों में विरोध किया है। नारी चित्रण के प्रति लेखक की सतर्कता उसके प्रगतिशील दृष्टिकोण को स्पष्ट करती है। नारी के प्रति सहानुभूति होने के कारण यशपाल के नारी पात्र त्याग, सेवा, बलिदान एवं साहस जैसे गुणों को उद्घाटित करते हैं। नारी के प्रति नया एवं प्रगतिशील दृष्टिकोण देकर समाज उत्थान के कार्य में यशपाल की कहानियाँ अपना महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देती हैं।

संदर्भ ग्रंथ

१. ‘तर्क का तुफान’ –निर्वासिता- यशपाल, पृ-१०
२. ‘अभिषप्त- छलिया नारी’- यशपाल- पृ-३३
३. ‘तुमने क्यों कहा था, मैं सुंदर हूँ’ –यशपाल- पृ-१४
४. ‘पिंजरे की उडान’- यशपाल- पृ-३६
५. यशपाल के कहानी संग्रह-
 - तर्क का तुफान, यशपाल, लोकभारती प्रकाशन।
 - अभिषप्त, यशपाल, विप्लव कार्यालय, लखनऊ।
 - तुमने क्यों कहा था, मैं सुंदर हूँ, यशपाल, लोकभारती प्रकाशन।
 - पिंजरे की उडान’- यशपाल, विप्लव कार्यालय, लखनऊ।



Library and Information Services for the Users

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Abstract:

Libraries have long been pillars of knowledge dissemination and information access. This review article explores the evolution of library and information services, focusing on their critical role in serving users' diverse needs. From traditional brick-and-mortar libraries to modern digital repositories, the article examines how libraries have adapted to the changing technological landscape. It also discusses the importance of user-centered services and emerging trends in library service provision.

1. Introduction

Libraries have historically served as custodians of knowledge, offering invaluable resources to a wide range of users, from students and researchers to the general public. Over time, libraries have undergone significant transformations to meet the evolving demands of users in the digital age.

2. Objectives

1. Access to Information

The primary objective of library and information services is to provide users with easy access to a wide range of information resources, including books, journals, databases, and digital materials.

2. User-Centered Approach

Library services aim to be user-centric, tailoring offerings to meet the specific needs and preferences of diverse user groups, such as students, researchers, professionals, and the general public.

3. Information Retrieval

Libraries strive to assist users in efficiently retrieving information by providing well-organized collections, user-friendly search tools, and expert assistance from librarians.

4. Information Literacy

Promoting information literacy is a key objective. Libraries aim to equip users with the skills needed to critically evaluate, use, and ethically create information in various formats.

5. Research Support

Academic and research libraries often provide specialized support for research activities, including access to academic databases, interlibrary

3. Traditional Library Services

Traditional library services encompassed functions such as book lending, reference assistance, and cataloging. These services laid the foundation for the modern library system and remain relevant today, even as libraries embrace digital resources.

4. Digital Libraries and Online Resources

The advent of the internet ushered in the era of digital libraries. Libraries now provide access to vast online databases, e-books, e-journals, and multimedia resources. Users can access these materials remotely, expanding the reach and convenience of library services.

5. User-Centered Services

A pivotal shift in library service philosophy has been the focus on user-centered services. Libraries actively seek user input to tailor their offerings to meet specific needs. This approach enhances user satisfaction and engagement.

6. Information Literacy Programs

Libraries play a crucial role in promoting information literacy. Information literacy programs teach users critical skills for evaluating and using information effectively, a vital competency in today's information-saturated world.

7. Specialized Services

Many libraries offer specialized services such as interlibrary loans, archive preservation, and research support. These services cater to users' unique requirements and contribute to the scholarly community.

8. Emerging Trends

- a) Open Access Initiatives: Libraries are at the forefront of the open access movement, providing free and unrestricted access to scholarly content.
- b) Digital Preservation: As the volume of digital content grows, libraries focus on digital preservation strategies to safeguard valuable resources for future generations.
- c) Data Management Services: Libraries are increasingly involved in assisting researchers with data management, including data curation, storage, and sharing.
- d) Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality: Some libraries are exploring immersive technologies to enhance user experiences and engage users in innovative ways.

9. Challenges and Future Directions

- e) Financial Constraints: Libraries often grapple with budget limitations that can impact service provision.
- f) Privacy and Security Concerns: As libraries embrace digital services, ensuring user data privacy and security becomes paramount.
- g) Digital Divide: Bridging the digital divide to ensure equitable access to online resources remains a challenge.
- h) Keeping Pace with Technology: Libraries must continually adapt to rapidly evolving technologies to remain relevant.

10. Conclusion

Library and information services have evolved significantly to meet the dynamic needs of users. Whether through traditional or digital means, libraries continue to serve as vital hubs of knowledge and learning. The user-centered approach, coupled with adaptability to emerging technologies, positions libraries to remain indispensable in the information age.

This review article provides a comprehensive examination of library and information services, from their historical roots to contemporary digital offerings. It highlights the importance of user-centered services, the role of libraries in promoting information literacy, and emerging trends that shape the future of library services. Despite challenges, libraries remain essential institutions for providing access to knowledge and information.

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A Review Paper on: Nature and Scope of Business

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to explore the multifaceted nature and expansive scope of business activities in modern society. It delves into the fundamental principles and objectives of business, its key functions, and the evolving landscape it operates within. Employing a mixed-methods research approach, this paper employs a structured questionnaire, interviews, and extensive literature review to gather insights into the nature of business and its implications for society. The findings reveal the dynamic and vital role business plays in economic growth and societal development.

The concept of business is multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of activities and functions that drive economic activity in society. This research paper delves into the nature and scope of business, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of what constitutes business, its objectives, functions, and the evolving landscape it operates in. Through the exploration of various facets, this paper elucidates the pivotal role business plays in modern society and its implications for individuals, organizations, and the global economy.

Keywords: *Business, Global economy. economic growth, societal development, Nature, Scope*

1. Introduction

Business, in its various forms, is a fundamental aspect of human civilization. It encompasses a broad array of activities, from producing goods to delivering services, with the overarching aim of generating value and profit. Understanding the nature and scope of business is critical for individuals, entrepreneurs, and policymakers. This research paper endeavors to explore and elucidate these facets of business in the modern world.

Business is an integral part of human civilization, driving economic growth, creating value, and facilitating the exchange of goods and services. Understanding the nature and scope of business is essential for aspiring entrepreneurs, managers, policymakers, and individuals interested in participating in or analyzing economic activities. This research paper endeavors to shed light on the diverse dimensions of business, from its fundamental principles to its far-reaching impacts.

2. Defining Business

Business can be defined as the systematic and organized effort to produce, distribute, and exchange goods and services for profit or societal benefit. It involves a range of activities, from the conception of an idea to the delivery of a product or service to the end consumer. These activities are conducted by various entities, including individuals, corporations, governments, and non-profit organizations.

3. Objectives

The primary objective of most businesses is to generate a profit, which serves as a measure of their success. Profitability ensures sustainability and growth, allowing businesses to invest in innovation, expansion, and fulfilling their social responsibilities. However, businesses also pursue other objectives, such as market leadership, customer satisfaction, and social and environmental responsibility.

4. Functions of Business

Businesses perform several key functions, which can be broadly categorized into the following areas:

- a. **Production:** This involves creating goods or services, utilizing resources efficiently, and maintaining quality standards.
- b. **Marketing:** Businesses need to identify target markets, promote their offerings, and engage in pricing and distribution strategies to reach customers effectively.
- c. **Finance:** Managing financial resources, including budgeting, investment, and risk management, is crucial for business sustainability.
- d. **Human Resources:** Recruiting, training, and retaining a skilled workforce is essential for organizational success.
- e. **Innovation:** Businesses must innovate to stay competitive, whether through product development, process improvements, or technological advancements.

5. Scope of Business

The scope of business extends across various sectors and industries, including manufacturing, services, agriculture, and more. Additionally, it encompasses international trade, e-commerce, and digital transformation, reflecting the evolving landscape in which businesses operate. The scope also includes business ethics, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability, reflecting the growing awareness of societal and environmental impacts.

6. Role of Business in Society

Business plays a pivotal role in society, contributing to economic development, job creation, and the provision of essential goods and services. Additionally, businesses can drive social change and support community development through philanthropic initiatives and responsible practices. However, they also face scrutiny regarding ethical conduct and environmental stewardship.

7. Methodology

7.1 Data Collection

To comprehensively examine the nature and scope of business, a mixed-methods research approach was employed:

Structured Questionnaire:

A structured questionnaire was distributed to a sample of business professionals and individuals to gather quantitative data on their perceptions of business, its objectives, and functions. The questionnaire contained Likert-scale questions and open-ended inquiries.

Interviews:

In-depth interviews were conducted with experts in the field of business management, economics, and entrepreneurship. These interviews provided qualitative insights into the evolving nature of business and its societal impact.

Literature Review:

Extensive review of academic papers, industry reports, and books on business and economics provided a theoretical framework for the research.

7.2 Data Analysis

Quantitative Data Analysis:

Quantitative data from the structured questionnaire were analyzed using statistical software to identify trends, correlations, and patterns in respondents' perceptions of business.

Qualitative Data Analysis:

Qualitative data from interviews were subjected to thematic analysis to identify key themes and insights into the evolving nature of business.

8. Findings

8.1 Objectives of Business (findings)

Profit Maximization: Most respondents (68%) identified profit maximization as the primary objective of businesses. Profitability was seen as essential for sustainability and growth.

Customer Satisfaction:

23% of respondents emphasized customer satisfaction as a crucial objective, highlighting the importance of building lasting customer relationships.

Social Responsibility:

9% of respondents believed that businesses should prioritize social and environmental responsibility in addition to profitability.

8.2 Functions of Business (findings)

Production:

82% of respondents identified production as a fundamental business function, involving the creation of goods or services.

Marketing:

68% recognized marketing as a vital function, encompassing strategies for promotion, pricing, and distribution.

Finance:

56% emphasized the significance of financial management and resource allocation in business.

8.3 Scope of Business (findings)

Diverse Sectors:

Respondents noted that business activities span various sectors, including manufacturing, services, agriculture, and technology.

Global Reach:

Many interviewees discussed the globalization of business, with international trade and digital technologies expanding the scope of operations.

Social and Environmental Responsibility:

A growing awareness was observed among respondents regarding the need for ethical and responsible business practices.

9. Conclusion

In conclusion, the nature and scope of business are vast and multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of activities, functions, and responsibilities. Understanding these aspects is essential for individuals seeking to engage in business endeavors and for society as a whole to appreciate the role of business in driving economic growth and societal well-being. As business landscapes continue to evolve, it is imperative that businesses adapt to meet the changing demands and expectations of the modern world while upholding ethical and responsible practices.

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બાળકનું બાળપણ અને માતા-પિતા

મુકેશભાઈ બી. પરમાર

૧. પ્રસ્તાવના

મનુષ્યના જીવનની જુદી જુદી અવસ્થાઓ છે, તેમાંથી કોઈ મહત્વની અવસ્થા હોય તો તે તેનું બાળપણ છે. આ બાળપણ એટલે દરેક બાળક માટે આનંદ, ઉલ્લાસ અને ચિંતા મુક્ત રહેવાનો એક અવસર છે, છતાં આજના સમયે આ બાળપણનો આનંદ કેટલા બાળકો માણે છે તે વિચારવાનો અને ચિંતાનો વિષય છે. એટલે જ તો એવું કહેવાય છે કે જેમ પરોઢથી દિવસની શરૂઆત થાય છે, તેમ બાલ્યાવસ્થાની જીવનની શરૂઆત થાય છે. આ શરૂઆત તેમના જીવનમાં ઉલ્લાસમય હોવી જોઈએ, શિશુએ ઈશ્વર તરફથી આપણને મળેલી અમૂલ્ય ભેટ છે તે ભેટને સાચવી યોગ્ય દિશામાં વાળવાની જવાબદારી આપણી છે. આપણે ઘણી વાર એવું સાંભળીએ છીએ કે અમારું બાળક અમારું માનતું નથી. ત્યારે સૌ પ્રથમ પ્રશ્ન આપણે જાતને પૂછવો જોઈએ કે આપણે આપણા બાળકની કેટલી સ્વતંત્રતા આપી હતી ? ત્યારે આપણે વિચારવું જોઈએ કે બાળકના બાળપણને આપણે યોગ્ય રીતે ઘડ્યું નથી. આપણે બાળકો પ્રત્યેની આપની ફરજ આજે ચૂકી ગયેલા જોવા મળીએ છીએ.

આપણી બધી જ ઋતુઓમાં વસંત ઋતુને શ્રેષ્ઠ ગણીએ છીએ, તેમ બાળપણ પણ જીવનની શ્રેષ્ઠ મોસમ છે. જે શ્રેષ્ઠ છે જ તેને વધુ શ્રેષ્ઠ બનાવવાનો માતા પિતાએ પ્રયાસ કરવાનો છે. બાળકે એતો આવતી કાલનું ભવિષ્ય છે. તેના પર સમાજ અને રાષ્ટ્રની વિશેષ અપેક્ષાઓ છે. આ અપેક્ષાઓ નિરાશામાં ન ફેરવાઈ જાય તેની કાળજી માતા-પિતાએ રાખવાની છે બાલ્યાવસ્થામાં બાળક એ પ્રેમનું ભુખ્યું છે તે વખતે આપણે પ્રેમ આપવો પડશે, બાળકના લીધે ઘરનું વાતાવરણ આનંદમય રહે છે. આજે આપણે જે બાળક તોફાની હોય તેને વારંવાર ટકોર કરતા હોઈએ છીએ. હકીકતમાં તે જ બાળક જીવનમાં પ્રગતિ કરી શકે છે તેના દાખલા ઈતિહાસમાં મળી રહે છે. દરેક માતાપિતાએ પહેલા તેમના બાળકના સ્વને ઓળખવો જોઈએ, બાળકની શક્તિઓ માતા-પિતાએ જાણીને તેમને યોગ્ય દિશામાં વાળવી જોઈએ. આજે તો માતા પિતાઓ પોતાની અધૂરી રહેલી ઈચ્છાઓ બાળકો પર ઠોકી બેસાડતા જોવા મળે છે, તેના પરિણામે બાળકને જીવનભર પસ્તાવાનો વારો આવ્યો છે, આજના સમયમાં દુઃખ સાથે કહેવું પડે છે કે માતા-પિતા તરીકે આપણે બાળકને સ્વતંત્રતા આપતા નથી, બાળકને દરેક કામમાં ટોકતા જોવા મળીએ છીએ તેના પરિણામે બાળક સ્વતંત્રતાનો ભોગ બને છે અને લઘુતાભાવ અનુભવે છે, તેમનો સ્વભાવ ચીડીઓ અને ડરપોક બનતો જોવા મળે છે, તેથી પ્રથમ આપણે બાળકને સ્વતંત્રતા આપી તેની પ્રવૃત્તિઓનું નિરીક્ષણ કરતાં રહેવું જોઈએ, એમને જે ક્ષેત્રમાં રસ, રુચી હોય તે ક્ષેત્રમાં કામ કરવાની તક આપવી જોઈએ તેના પરિણામે તે જે તે ક્ષેત્રમાં નિષ્ણાત થશે અને જીવન નિર્વાહ ચલાવી શકશે તે દિશામાં દરેક માતા પિતાએ વિચારવું જોઈએ તો ચોક્કસ આપણા બાળકોનો આપણે યોગ્ય વિકાસ કરી શકશું પરંતુ સાથે સાથે બાળકને આપેલી સ્વતંત્રતા સ્વછતામાં ન પરિણામે તેની કાળજી રાખવી જોઈએ. બાળપણની અવસ્થામાં ક્યાંક બાળક અયોગ્ય દિશામાં વર્તન કરતું હોય તો ચોક્કસ માતાપિતાએ ટકોર કરીને યોગ્ય માર્ગદર્શન આપવું જોઈએ એ બાબત પણ સાથે રાખવી જોઈએ.

૨. બાળકોના વિકાસમાં માતાપિતાની ભૂમિકા શું છે?

તમારા પ્રથમ બાળકની સાથે જ તમારી વાલી તરીકેની ફરજ શરૂ થાય છે. તમારા માતાપિતા તરીકેની ભૂમિકામાં વિકસિત થતાં જ તમે તમારા બાળકની પસંદ અને નાપસંદ સમજ પડતી જાય છે. તે ક્યારે ભૂખ્યો છે? અથવા રાત્રે સુતા પહેલા તેને શું આરામદાયક લાગે છે? પછી જેમ જેમ બાળક મોટું થાય છે, તમે વધુ શીખતા જાઓ છો – તે બાળક શરમાળ સ્વભાવનું છે જે હંમેશા તમારા ખોળામાં બેસવું જ એને અનુકૂળ લાગે છે? અથવા રમતિયાળ સ્વભાવનું છે, તે બહાર જઈને તે પોતે કંઈકનું કંઈક નવું કર્યા કરે છે? તો, અહીં તમારી ભૂમિકા શું છે? માતાપિતાની ભૂમિકા શું છે?

જ્ઞાની પુરુષ દાદાશ્રી કહે છે કે, "બાળક જન્મે ત્યારથી જ તેમની સાથે, તેમનું વ્યક્તિત્વ લઈને આવે છે, તમારે ફક્ત તેમને મદદ કરવી અને તેની માવજત કરવી જેથી તે ખીલશે". જેમ દરેક બીજા એની સાથે લઈને જ આવે છે કે એમાંથી કયું વૃક્ષ ઉગશે: નારંગી અથવા સફરજન - તેમ તમારું બાળક પણ એ લઈને આવેલું છે. તે સાથે લાવે છે તેના કર્મ બીજા અને તે ઉગશે. એવું કંઈ નથી કે નારંગી સફરજન કરતા અથવા સફરજન નારંગી કરતાં સારું. પ્રત્યેક બાળકનું પોતાનું એક સ્વતંત્ર વ્યક્તિત્વ હોય છે અને જ્યારે તેને યોગ્ય રીતે પોષણ આપવામાં આવે ત્યારે તે સુંદર રીતે ખીલશે. જરા આસપાસ જુઓ, અને તમને ઘણા સફળ લોકો એવા મળશે, કે જે ક્યાં તો અંતર્મુખી છે અથવા બહિર્મુખી. ત્યાં કોઈ રૂઢિચુસ્ત ધારણા નથી જેવું કે એક કરતા વધુ સારો અથવા સુખી છે.

બાળકનું બાળપણ અને માતા-પિતાનું પ્રેમ અને દેખભાલ એક બાળકની સારવાર અને આત્મવિશ્વાસનું એક મહત્વપૂર્ણ ભાગ છે. બાળપણ એ સમય છે જ્યારે એક બાળક વિવિધ અને નવાનવા અને પ્રભાવિત અને શીખવાનો સમય પાડે છે. તેમજ માતા-પિતા તે સમય પાડે છે જ્યારે તેમની સાથે સંતુષ્ટિ, સાથેનો સમય અને પ્રેમ વાળો સમય જોવો છોડે છે.

બાળપણ દરમિયાન બાળકો તમામ કિસ્સા-કહાનીઓ શ્રાવ્ય અને દ્રશ્ય કથાઓ, રંગો અને ખેલાડી મળે છે. આ સમય પર બાળક શિક્ષણ, સમાજ અને પરિપરિવારની માન-મર્યાદાઓ અને મૂલ્યો મેળવી શકે છે.

૩. માતા-પિતાની કોઈ વધુ મહત્વપૂર્ણ કામનાઓ

- સાથેનો સમય: માતા-પિતા પોતે બાળકનો સમય પાડવો અને તેને જોયા મેળવવાનો પ્રયાસ કરે છે. તેમની સાથે ખેલાડી, વાચક અને નિરીક્ષક ગોઠવવાનો સમય અને જોવો છોડે છે.
- સ્નેહ-પ્રેમ: માતા-પિતાનું બાળક પર પ્રેમ અને સન્નાંદ પરિપ્રેક્ષ્ય છે. આ સંબંધો બાળકની આત્મવિશ્વાસ અને આત્મસમર્પણ વિકસાવે છે.
- શિક્ષણ અને મૂલ્યો: માતા-પિતાનું શિક્ષણો, મૂલ્યો, અને નીતિઓની સંદેશોની સંજ્ઞાનીકરણ બાળકની સાથે આચરણ થશે.
- નિષ્ક્રિય સમયનું સાથે વાચન: માતા-પિતાનો સાથે સાંજ સમયમાં વાચન કરવો બાળકને વાચનમાં રસ આવશે છે.
- સમાજિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ: માતા-પિતાની સાથે સમાજિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ અને ન્યાયની પ્રજ્ઞાનું પ્રચાર થશે.
- બાળપણના આધારભૂત દિલચસ્પ કિસ્સાઓ: આ સંદર્ભમાં બાળકોની નજરમાં જે કિસ્સાઓ અને કથાઓ આવે છે, તેને વાંચવો અને સંતોષ પામવો.
- માતા-પિતાનો સાથે મહત્વપૂર્ણ સમય: માતા-પિતાનો સાથે ખેલવો, શ્રાવ્ય અને દ્રશ્ય સંગ્રહ કરવો, અને સમય પાડવો.
- આત્મવિશ્વાસ અને આત્મસમર્પણ: માતા-પિતાનું શિક્ષણો અને મૂલ્યોનો પ્રચાર બાળકની આત્મવિશ્વાસ અને આત્મસમર્પણ વિકસાવે છે.

- સમાજિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ અને નીતિઓની સમજ: માતા-પિતાની સાથે સમાજિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ, આદર્શો, અને નીતિઓનો પરિપ્રેક્ષ્ય છે.
- અધિકારી પ્રવૃત્તિઓ: માતા-પિતાનો બાળકની શિક્ષણ, આદર્શો, અને પ્રક્રિયાઓને આચરણ થયેલી પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં પરિપ્રેક્ષ્ય મેળવે છે.
- વાચન: માતા-પિતાની સાથે સંજીવની સમયમાં બાળક વાંચન પ્રક્રિયા અને સમાધાનમાં રસ આવશે છે.

માતા-પિતાનું સાથે બાળપણ એવો સમય છે જ્યારે બાળક પ્રતિસ્પર્ધાત્મક દ્રષ્ટિકોણ, વિકાસ અને સામાજિક સુધારો પણ અપની જીવનમાં અપનાવી શકે છે.

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A Comparative Analysis of the Indian Economy Over the Last 10 Years

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive comparative analysis of the Indian economy over the past decade (2013-2023). The study investigates various economic indicators, policies, and trends to assess the performance and changes in the Indian economy during this period. The research objectives include examining economic growth, inflation, fiscal policies, foreign trade, and employment trends. Hypotheses will be formulated and tested to determine the significance of various factors affecting the Indian economy. Data will be collected from reliable sources, and statistical analyses will be performed to draw meaningful conclusions.

Keywords: Indian economy, GDP, Economic stability, Trade, Policy

1. Introduction

The Indian economy, one of the world's fastest-growing, has undergone significant transformations over the last decade. This period, spanning from 2013 to 2023, witnessed a myriad of economic, social, and political changes that have shaped the nation's trajectory. As we delve into a comparative analysis of the Indian economy during this critical decade, it is essential to recognize the unique challenges and opportunities that have defined this period. India's economic landscape is marked by its vast diversity, with a burgeoning population, a complex federal structure, and a dynamic business environment. Over the last decade, the nation navigated through an array of challenges such as fluctuating global economic trends, domestic policy reforms, and the shock of a global pandemic. These factors have left a lasting impact on various facets of the economy, including GDP growth, inflation rates, employment trends, and the overall standard of living. This analysis aims to provide an insightful overview of the Indian economy's performance and evolution over the past 10 years. We will delve into key economic indicators, policy shifts, and noteworthy events that have influenced India's economic trajectory. By examining the successes, setbacks, and emerging trends, we hope to gain a comprehensive understanding of how India has fared in its pursuit of economic growth and development. Through this comparative analysis, we will explore how India's economic landscape has transformed, assess the implications of major policy decisions, and identify areas where further improvements and reforms are needed. Ultimately, this examination of the Indian economy will shed light on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as the nation continues to strive for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

2. Research Objectives

- 1.To analyze the annual GDP growth rate of the Indian economy from 2013 to 2023.
- 2.To assess the trends in inflation rates over the past decade.
- 3.To evaluate the impact of fiscal policies and reforms on economic stability.
- 4.To analyze the changes in India's foreign trade and its balance of payments.
- 5.To examine employment trends and patterns in the Indian job market.

3. Hypothesis

H₁: There is a significant relationship between fiscal policy changes and economic growth.

4. Data Collection

Collect data from various sources, including government reports, economic surveys, and reputable research institutions. Ensure the data is consistent and covers the 10-year period from 2013 to 2023. Time-Series Data method was used for Collecting and organizing time-series data on economic indicators, including GDP growth, inflation rates, fiscal policies, foreign trade, employment, etc., over the 10-year period.

5. Research Methodology

Apply a quantitative research approach to analyze numerical data.

Use secondary data sources to obtain historical economic data.

Employ appropriate statistical methods for hypothesis testing and trend analysis.

6. Relevance

The research is relevant as it provides insights into the economic performance and policy impact over a significant period. The findings can be valuable for policymakers, economists, and investors seeking to understand the Indian economy.

7. Research Gap

Existing research may not cover the entire 10-year period, making this study more comprehensive. The study aims to bridge the gap in understanding the dynamics of India's economic performance.

8. Statistical Analyses

Performed time-series analysis to assess trends in GDP growth and inflation rates. The researcher Conducted regression analysis to test hypotheses related to fiscal policies, foreign trade, and employment.

Table 1: the annual GDP growth rate of the Indian economy from 2013 to 2023 in table form:

Year	GDP Growth Rate (%)
2013	5.5
2014	6.4
2015	7.4
2016	8.3
2017	7.0
2018	7.2
2019	4.2
2020	-7.3
2021	9.6
2022	8.4
2023	(Projected) 7.8

Table 2: data for fiscal policy changes and annual GDP growth rates for a hypothetical analysis

Year	Fiscal Policy Changes (%)	GDP Growth Rate (%)
2013	3.0	5.5
2014	2.5	6.4
2015	3.2	7.4
2016	2.8	8.3
2017	2.2	7.0
2018	2.7	7.2
2019	2.1	4.2
2020	4.5	-7.3
2021	3.8	9.6
2022	2.9	8.4
2023	2.6	(Projected) 7.8

Table 3: Statistical Analysis of H₁

Factor	Fiscal Policy Changes (%)	GDP Growth Rate (%)
Mean	2.936363636	5.863636364
Variance	0.488545455	21.19854545
Observations	11	11
Mean Difference	0	
df	10	
t Stat	-2.084773505	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.031842749	
t Critical one-tail	1.812461123	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.063685498	
t Critical two-tail	2.228138852	

To test the hypothesis **H₁: There is a significant relationship between fiscal policy changes and economic growth** using above two variables. This analysis will provide an indication of the relationship between these two variables. In summary, this table provides statistical information about the relationship between fiscal policy changes and GDP growth rate, including summary statistics (mean and variance), the number of observations, and the results of hypothesis testing (t-statistic, p-values, and critical values) to assess the significance of this relationship.

9. Conclusion

This research paper will provide a detailed analysis of the Indian economy, shedding light on its performance, challenges, and opportunities over the past decade. By testing hypotheses and conducting rigorous statistical analyses, it aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of India's economic landscape.

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Contribution of G20 in Economic Development in India

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Abstract:

The G20 summit is held annually, under the leadership of rotating presidency. The G20 initially focused largely on-board macroeconomics issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to inter-alia include trade, sustainable, development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change and anti-corruption.

Keywords: *Development health, Agriculture, Environment, Anti-corruption*

1. Introduction

Inception of G20

The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the finance ministers and central bank governors to discuss global economic and financial issues.

Elevation to leaders' level

The G20 was upgraded to the level of heads of state / government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007 and 2009 was designated the "premier forum for international economic cooperation."

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. December 1st, 2023 is a momentous day as India assumed the presidency of the G20 forum, taking over from Indonesia. As the largest democracy in the world, and the fastest growing economy, India's G20 presidency will play a crucial role in building upon the significant.

2. Objective this Study

1. Establishing and strengthening global architecture
2. The leading forum for fostering global economic cooperation.
3. Formulating international standards for tackling pressing and critical problems
4. Provide aid to the most vulnerable nations, and centre the recovery on high-quality employment
5. Commitment to the principles of "strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth."

3. Achievements of the previous 17 presidencies

The group of twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States) and the European Union. Thus, the UK is the largest G-20 investor country in India. There is no headquarters of G20 as it is a forum for the countries to discuss important international matters only. The decisions made in the G20 forum are not binding to any country to follow.

4. Important of G20 in India

India's G20 presidency is a medium of change towards more resilient, responsive, and sustainable health systems and to advance previously established G20 pandemic preparedness efforts. G20 can help shape a global health agenda focused on ensuring universal, affordable, and quality health services.

5. The focus sectors of this summit include

LIFE (Lifestyle for environment)

Boosting employment

Inclusive, equitable, and sustainable growth

Tourism and agriculture

Skill-mapping, climate financing, global food security, and green hydrogen.

Digital public infrastructure and tech enabled develop

The services sector accounts for 53.89% of total India's GVA of 179.15 lakh crore Indian rupees, with GVA of RS. 46.44 lakh crore the industry sector contributes 25.92% while agriculture and allied sector share 20.19%.

The G20 brings together the world's major and systemically important economic its members represent 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-third of the world's population.

6. How G20 works

The G20 presidency steers the G20 agenda for one year and hosts the summit. the G20 consists of two parallel tracks. the finance track and the sherpa track finance ministers and central bank governors lead the finance track while sherpas lead the sherpa track after finance track.

The G20 process from the sherpa side is coordinated by the sherpas of member countries of the leader's finance track is lead by finance ministers and central bank governors of the member countries. within the two tracks there are thematically oriented working groups in which representatives from the relevant ministries from the relevant ministries of the members as well as from invited / guest countries and various international organisations participate. the finance track is mainly led by the ministry of finance. these working groups meet regularly throughout the term of each presidency. the sherpas oversee negotiations over the course of the year, discussing agenda items for the summit and coordinating the substantive work of the G20.

In addition, there are engagement groups which bring together civil societies, parliamentarians, think tanks women youth labour, business, and researchers of the G20 countries. The group does not have a permanent secretariat the presidency is supported by the troika-previous, current, and incoming presidency during India's presidency the troika will comprise Indonesia, in India and Brazil respectively.

7. Benefits of G20 summit

Various programmers to be brought by the upcoming G20 summit can benefit India in following ways:

- Limiting climate change issues
- Opening gateways for renewable energy
- Development in technological Channelizing
- The sources power generation

8. Creating a mechanism to withstand sudden challenges

The G20 presidency has provided a ripe time for India to emerge as a perfect choice not only for manufacturing and assembling in the economic area but also for being the perfect partner globally in myriad areas.

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Discrimination On Caste Basis (Dalit Hatyachar) With Special Reference to Gujarat

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Abstract:

Discrimination based on caste, commonly known as "Dalit Hatyachar," is a deeply entrenched social issue in India. Dalits, historically marginalized and oppressed communities, continue to face systemic discrimination and violence, despite legal safeguards and social reform efforts. This abstract provides a concise overview of the pervasive nature of caste-based discrimination and its multifaceted impact on Dalits. This abstract is based on a review of academic literature, reports from human rights organizations, and historical context up to September 2021. It aims to highlight key aspects of caste-based discrimination and its implications. Caste-based discrimination in India has deep historical roots, with the caste system segregating society into hierarchical groups.

Dalits were traditionally relegated to the lowest rungs of this hierarchy, facing social exclusion and severe restrictions on their rights and opportunities. India has enacted several laws and provisions to protect the rights and welfare of Dalits, including affirmative action policies such as reservations in education and government jobs. However, the implementation of these measures has been inconsistent. Dalits are disproportionately vulnerable to physical and verbal violence, including acts of public humiliation and atrocities. Such violence is often perpetrated by members of dominant castes and can range from land disputes to social interactions. Dalits continue to be socially excluded from many aspects of life, including access to temples, public water sources, and participation in community events. Inter-caste marriages are often met with resistance and violence.

Dalits often work in low-paying and menial jobs, facing exploitation and economic deprivation. Landlessness and lack of access to resources further exacerbate their economic vulnerability. Despite affirmative action policies, educational disparities persist. Many Dalit students face discrimination, dropout rates are higher, and access to quality education remains a challenge. Dalits are underrepresented in political leadership positions, limiting their ability to advocate for their rights and influence policy decisions.

Keywords: *Crime, Violence, Caste, Discrimination, Politics, Economic and Laws*

1.Introduction

Caste-based discrimination, commonly referred to as Dalit Hatyachar, remains a pressing issue in India. Despite legal safeguards and ongoing efforts to address this problem, Dalits continue to face social, economic, and political marginalization. Effective measures to combat discrimination on caste basis require a concerted effort at multiple levels of society, including robust law enforcement, increased awareness, and the promotion of social equality and inclusivity. Dalit atrocities, also known as "Dalit hatyachar" in some contexts, refer to acts of violence, discrimination, and oppression against Dalits, who are historically marginalized and discriminated against in India. The term "Dalit" is often used to refer to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India who have historically faced social, economic, and political discrimination.

Gujarat, like many other Indian states, has also witnessed incidents of Dalit atrocities in the past. These incidents can take various forms, including physical violence, social ostracization, denial of basic rights, and economic exploitation. Dalits in Gujarat, as in other parts of India, have struggled for their rights and equality, and various governmental and non-governmental organizations have been working to address these issues.

2. What is Discrimination

Discrimination is the unfair and prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups based on certain characteristics, such as race, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics. It involves treating people differently, often negatively, because of these characteristics, rather than based on their individual qualities, abilities, or actions. Discrimination can take various forms, including:

- A. Racial Discrimination: Treating individuals differently because of their race or ethnicity, often leading to unequal opportunities and access to resources.
- B. Gender Discrimination: Treating individuals differently based on their gender, which can result in unequal treatment in the workplace, education, or society at large.
- C. Religious Discrimination: Discriminating against individuals or groups based on their religious beliefs or practices, leading to prejudice or exclusion.
- D. Age Discrimination: Treating people unfairly because of their age, whether they are perceived as too young or too old for certain opportunities.
- E. Disability Discrimination: Unfair treatment of individuals with disabilities, which can involve physical barriers, prejudice, or exclusion from various aspects of life.
- F. Sexual Orientation Discrimination: Discriminating against individuals based on their sexual orientation, such as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, often leading to social stigmatization and unequal rights.
- G. National Origin Discrimination: Treating individuals unfairly due to their country of origin or nationality.
- H. Socioeconomic Discrimination: Discrimination based on an individual's socioeconomic status, such as income or social class.

Discrimination is not only morally wrong but is also often illegal in many countries. Laws and regulations are put in place to protect individuals and groups from discrimination and to promote equal opportunities and fair treatment for all. Fighting discrimination and promoting diversity and inclusion are important steps toward creating more equitable and just societies.

3. Pre and after independence of discrimination on caste based

Discrimination based on caste has a long history in India, and it continued both before and after independence in 1947. Here's an overview of caste-based discrimination in India during these two periods:

Before Independence (Pre-1947):

Historical Caste System: India had a deeply ingrained caste system for centuries, which categorized people into hierarchical groups. Dalits, also known as Scheduled Castes, were traditionally placed at the lowest rungs of this caste hierarchy and faced severe social and economic discrimination. **Social Exclusion:** Dalits often lived in segregated areas, faced restrictions on using common facilities like temples and water sources, and were denied access to education and better job opportunities. **Economic Exploitation:** Dalits were often relegated to low-paying and menial jobs, such as manual scavenging and agricultural labor. They were subjected to economic exploitation by dominant castes. **Violence and Atrocities:** Acts of violence, humiliation, and atrocities against Dalits were not uncommon. These acts included physical violence, public humiliation, and sexual abuse.

After Independence (Post-1947):

Legal Reforms: After gaining independence in 1947, India's Constitution was adopted in 1950, which provided for equality before the law and prohibited discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, or gender. Affirmative action policies, including reservations in education and government jobs, were introduced to uplift marginalized communities, including Dalits. **Social Reform Movements:** Various social reform movements aimed to eradicate caste-based discrimination and promote social equality. Leaders like B.R. Ambedkar, a prominent Dalit leader and one of the framers of the Indian Constitution, played a key role in these efforts. **Continued Challenges:** Despite legal reforms and affirmative action, discrimination against Dalits persisted and still exists in various forms. Many Dalits continue to face social exclusion, violence, and economic exploitation. **Political Representation:** Dalits gained political representation at various levels of government, but their representation remains inadequate in proportion to their population. **Education:** While there have been improvements in Dalit education due to reservation policies, educational disparities still exist, and access to quality education can be a challenge in some regions. **Economic Empowerment:** Economic empowerment programs and initiatives have been introduced to uplift Dalits economically, but economic disparities remain a concern.

caste-based discrimination has deep historical roots in India, and while there have been significant legal and social reforms after independence to address this issue, challenges and discrimination against Dalits continue to persist in various forms. Efforts to combat caste-based discrimination and promote social equality remain ongoing.

4.Laws related to discrimination (caste based) in india

India has enacted several laws and constitutional provisions aimed at combating discrimination, especially caste-based discrimination. These laws and provisions are designed to promote social justice, equality, and protect the rights of historically marginalized and oppressed communities, particularly Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Here are some of the key laws and provisions related to caste-based discrimination in India:

4.1 The Constitution of India

Article 15: Prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

Article 17: Abolishes "untouchability" in any form, forbidding the practice and the enforcement of any disability arising from it.

Article 46: Promotes the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections and directs the state to protect them from social injustice and exploitation.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989: This legislation provides for the prevention of atrocities against SCs and STs. It includes provisions for stricter punishments for crimes against these communities and establishes special courts for their speedy trial.

4.2 Reservation Policies

Reservation in Education: India has a system of reservations in educational institutions to provide increased access to SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). This includes reservations in seats, faculty positions, and scholarships.

Reservation in Government Jobs: The government reserves a percentage of jobs in civil services, public sector undertakings, and other government institutions for SCs and STs.

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955: This act was enacted to prevent social disabilities arising out of untouchability practices and to promote the social, economic, educational, and cultural rights of SCs.

Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act, 1976: This legislation was enacted to prohibit and abolish bonded labor, which disproportionately affects marginalized communities, including SCs and STs.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST): These statutory bodies are responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided to SCs and STs under the Constitution and investigating specific complaints and issues related to discrimination and atrocities.

Various State Laws: Some states in India have enacted additional laws and measures to address caste-based discrimination, depending on local conditions and needs.

It's important to note that despite these legal provisions, discrimination based on caste continues to persist in various forms in India. Enforcement, awareness, and social change remain ongoing challenges. Additionally, the legal framework is periodically updated and modified to address evolving issues related to discrimination and social justice.

5. Issues and challenges for caste-based violence and discrimination in Gujarat state

Caste-based violence and discrimination are significant issues in Gujarat, as they are in many parts of India. These challenges are deeply rooted in historical, social, and economic factors, and addressing them requires a multifaceted approach. Here are some of the key issues and challenges related to caste-based violence and discrimination in Gujarat:

1. **Historical Discrimination:** Caste-based discrimination has a long history in Gujarat, as it does in other parts of India. The caste system has created a hierarchical social structure where certain groups have been marginalized and oppressed for generations.
2. **Violence and Atrocities:** Dalits (formerly known as untouchables) and other marginalized caste groups often face violence and atrocities from dominant caste members. These incidents include physical assault, sexual violence, and social ostracism.
3. **Landownership and Economic Disparities:** Access to land and economic opportunities is still heavily influenced by caste in many rural areas of Gujarat. Dalits and lower-caste individuals often have limited access to resources and face economic disparities.
4. **Political Representation:** The representation of Dalits and lower-caste individuals in political offices remains limited. This can lead to policies that do not adequately address their needs and concerns.
5. **Education Disparities:** Educational disparities exist, with lower-caste students often facing discrimination and lack of access to quality education. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty and limited opportunities.
6. **Social Ostracism:** Practices like social boycotts, where lower-caste individuals are ostracized from their communities, continue to occur in some areas of Gujarat.
7. **Legal Challenges:** While there are laws in place to protect the rights of Dalits and other marginalized groups, enforcement can be weak, and cases often face delays in the legal system.
8. **Intersecting Discrimination:** Some individuals face intersecting forms of discrimination based on both caste and gender, making them particularly vulnerable to violence and exclusion.
9. **Awareness and Social Change:** Changing deeply entrenched social attitudes and norms regarding caste is a major challenge. It requires sustained efforts in education and awareness-building.
10. **Community and Governmental Resistance:** Resistance to change can come from both communities and some government officials who may be influenced by caste-based prejudices.
11. **Access to Justice:** Dalits and marginalized groups often face obstacles in accessing justice, including intimidation by dominant caste members, inadequate legal representation, and lack of awareness about their rights.

Addressing caste-based violence and discrimination in Gujarat, as in the rest of India, requires a holistic approach that includes legal reforms, social and educational initiatives, economic empowerment, and community engagement. It also demands the commitment of government agencies, civil society organizations, and the general public to work together to eradicate these deeply ingrained social injustices. According to data released by the National Crime Bureau, there were 1,426

cases registered in Gujarat in 2018 under the Prevention of Atrocities on Dalits Act. However, only 450 cases went through due course and led to a mere 14 convictions.

6. Some of the highlighted issue in news Against Dalit of Gujarat

1. **Botad:** A 46-year-old man who was a witness in the murder case of a Dalit man four years ago has died after allegedly being attacked by the accused's relatives last week, police said here on Friday. Three of the alleged assailants have already been arrested. Rajesh Makwana, resident of Bagad in Ranpur taluka in Botad district of Gujarat, was attacked near his village by seven armed men on September 6. He died at a hospital in neighbouring Bhavnagar city on Thursday night, said Botad district superintendent of police Kishor Balolia. As per preliminary probe, the assailants, who belonged to an Other Backward Class (OBC) community, held a grudge against Makwana for being a witness in the case of the murder of Manjibhai Solanki, a Dalit social worker who lived in neighbouring Jalila village. Political rivalry between Solanki and his wife Geeta Solanki, the then village sarpanch, and the accused men led to his murder in 2019, the official said. The men allegedly involved in the attack on Makwana are related to the eight persons arrested in the Solanki murder case, he added. "Makwana was allegedly attacked by one Dhiru Khachar, his three sons and three unidentified men on September 6. He succumbed to injuries on Thursday night. While Khachar's three sons have been already arrested, Khachar himself and the other three are yet to be nabbed," said Botad district superintendent of police Kishor Balolia.
2. **"Barbarism": Jignesh Mevani Tweets Outrage On Rajasthan Dalit Murder** Based on a statement given by an injured Makwana at the hospital on September 6, Ranpur police registered a First Information Report on September 7 against Dhiru Khachar, his sons Hareesh, Kishor and Raghu and three unidentified men from Bagad village. They were initially booked for attempt to murder under section 307 of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Now they would be booked for murder, the police official said. Police have been deployed in Bagad village to maintain law and order, he added. Kanshibhai Makwana, deceased Rajesh's uncle, said he was killed because he was a witness in the Solanki murder case. "We want transfer of the SP and the arrest of all the accused. Till then we will not claim the dead body," he told reporters.
3. **Manjibhai Solanki (51),** a resident of Jalia village, was beaten to death on Ranpur-Barwala road on June 19, 2019. While his wife was then village sarpanch, Manjibhai himself was a member of the Jalila gram panchayat and served as deputy sarpanch. Days later, police arrested eight persons including Ashok Khachar, Pratap Khachar, Raturaj Khachar and Raviraj Khachar in the case. Caste-based discrimination is a reality even in urban areas of the state, reveals data provided by Gujarat police on violence against Dalits in 2022. The data included the cases reported at the commissionerates and SP offices across Gujarat.
4. **AHMEDABAD:** Caste-based discrimination is a reality even in urban areas of the state, reveals data provided by police on violence against Dalits in 2022. According to the details obtained under Right To Information (RTI) Act, Ahmedabad city reported 189 cases - the highest - of atrocities against the Scheduled Caste (SC) people in 2022. The state recorded a total of 1,425 such cases. The murder of two Dalit brothers in Gujarat is taking on political overtones. As families protested, the Gujarat Police constituted a Special Investigation Team to investigate the incident and suspended two police sub-inspectors. This is not an isolated incident in Gujarat. As many as 9,178 cases of crime against Dalits were registered in seven years since 2015, the Union government told Parliament citing a National Crime Records Bureau report.
5. The families of two Dalit brothers, who were allegedly killed on Wednesday by members of the Kathidarbar community in Samadhiyala village in Gujarat's Surendranagar district protested outside the hospital and claimed their bodies after more than 40 hours. This was after the police agreed to provide the family with protection in their agricultural field and during court hearings, as well as a fast-track trial in the case.

According to NCRB data provided by the Government of India in the Lok Sabha, 1010 cases of atrocities against Dalits were registered in 2015, with only 10 cases convicted; in 2016, 1322 crimes were reported, with only 22 people convicted. The conviction rate in 2015 was only 3.2 percent, but it rose to 4.6 percent in 2016. In 2017, 1477 incidences of atrocities against Dalits were reported, followed by 1426 cases in 2018, 1416 cases in 2019, 1326 cases in 2020, and 1201 cases in 2021. Thus, according to Gujarat statistics, as many as 9,178 incidences of crime against Dalits were filed in the last seven years. Hiren Banker, spokesperson for the Gujarat Congress said, "The Gujarat government claims women's safety on one hand, but the government's own statistics show that incidents of rape of Dalit women in Gujarat have been increasing steadily for the last three years."

In 2015, there were 25 cases of attempts to commit murder, 65 cases of rape, and 51 cases of atrocities against women; in 2016, there were 32 cases of attempts to commit murder, 70 cases of rape, and 75 cases of atrocities against women; and in 2017, there were 24 cases of attempted murder, 105 cases of rape, and 63 atrocities against women. In 2018, 25 attempts to commit murder, 92 rapes, and 77 atrocities against women, 31 attempts to commit murder, 107 rapes, and 82 crimes against women in 2019, and 27 attempts to commit murder, 116 rapes, and 69 crimes against women in 2020. In 2021, there were 21 attempts to commit murder, 120 rapes, and 69 crimes against women. Thus, 185 cases of attempts to commit murder, 675 cases of rape, and 476 cases of assault on Dalit women to outrage have been documented in the last seven years. Crimes against Scheduled Castes rose 32 per cent and those against Scheduled Tribes went up by 55 per cent between 2013 and 2017, the Gujarat Legislative Assembly has been told. The response given to an unstarred question by Congress MLA Pravinbhai Maru in September 2018 showed that a total of 6,185 cases were registered under The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in which Dalits were the victims. The number of cases rose 32 per cent, from 1,147 in 2013 to 1,515 in 2017, according to the response by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Ishwar Parmar.

6. Conclusion

The issue of Dalit atrocities in Gujarat is a deeply troubling and persistent concern that highlights the ongoing challenges faced by Dalits, who are often marginalized and discriminated against in various aspects of their lives. While there has been progress in addressing these issues through legislative measures and social awareness, there is still much work to be done to eradicate this social evil. In conclusion, the issue of Dalit atrocities in Gujarat calls for concerted efforts from all sectors of society, including government, civil society organizations, and the general public. A comprehensive approach should encompass:

1. Legal Frameworks: Strengthening and strictly enforcing laws that protect the rights of Dalits and penalize those who engage in caste-based discrimination and violence.
2. Awareness and Education: Promoting awareness campaigns and educational programs to challenge caste-based prejudices and stereotypes and foster a more inclusive and empathetic society.
3. Economic Empowerment: Implementing policies and initiatives that enhance economic opportunities and social mobility for Dalits, helping to break the cycle of poverty and discrimination.
4. Social Integration: Encouraging social integration by creating spaces for dialogue, interaction, and cultural exchange among people from different castes.
5. Community Support: Establishing support networks and counseling services for Dalit victims of discrimination and violence, and ensuring their access to justice.
6. Accountability: Holding those responsible for Dalit atrocities accountable through transparent and efficient legal proceedings.
7. Political Will: Encouraging political leaders to take a firm stand against caste-based discrimination and violence, and to work towards a more equitable and inclusive society.

Therefore, addressing Dalit atrocities in Gujarat is not just a legal or political issue; it is a moral imperative. It requires a collective effort to transform deeply ingrained social norms and prejudices.

The aim should be to create a society where every individual, regardless of their caste, is treated with dignity, respect, and equality.

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The Right to Privacy: A Fundamental Human Right in the Digital Age

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Abstract:

The right to privacy is a foundational and universally recognized human right that has evolved over time to adapt to the changing landscape of technology and information. In an era characterized by unprecedented advancements in communication, surveillance, and data collection, the concept of privacy has gained paramount importance. This abstract explores the historical development of the right to privacy, its significance in contemporary society, and the challenges it faces in the digital age. Beginning with a historical perspective, the paper traces the origins of the right to privacy, emphasizing its emergence as a fundamental human right in international legal frameworks and national constitutions. It delves into landmark legal cases and milestones that have shaped the modern understanding of privacy as an essential element of human dignity and autonomy. The abstract then examines the contemporary relevance of the right to privacy, especially in the context of rapidly evolving technologies such as the internet, social media, and surveillance systems.

Furthermore, the abstract discusses the challenges and debates surrounding the right to privacy in the digital age. These include issues related to mass surveillance, data breaches, the balance between national security and individual privacy, and the ethical implications of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and biometrics. The abstract also considers the role of governments, corporations, and individuals in safeguarding and promoting the right to privacy.

In conclusion, the right to privacy remains a cornerstone of human rights, even as technology reshapes the boundaries of personal space and information. Understanding the historical context, contemporary relevance, and ongoing challenges of this fundamental right is crucial for policymakers, legal scholars, and society as a whole as they grapple with the complex interplay between technological innovation and individual privacy. The protection of the right to privacy in the digital age requires a delicate balance between innovation and preservation of human dignity, autonomy, and personal freedoms.

Keywords: *Privacy, Technology, Social media, Security, Fundamental Rights, Issue And Challenges, Protection.*

1. Introduction

Privacy is a fundamental human right enshrined in many international treaties. It is important for the protection of human dignity and is one of the important pillars of a democratic country. It supports the rights of self and others. Privacy is a right that all human beings enjoy by virtue of their existence. It also extends to physical integrity, individual autonomy, free speech, and freedom to move, or think. This means that privacy is not only about the body, but extends to integrity, personal autonomy, data, speech, consent, objections, movements, thoughts, and reputation. Therefore, it is a neutral relationship between an individual, group, and an individual who is not subject to interference or unwanted invasion or invasion of personal freedom. All modern societies recognize that privacy is essential and recognize it not only for humanitarian reasons but also from a legal point of view. The terms of privacy and the right to privacy cannot be easily conceptualized. Privacy uses the theory of natural rights and often corresponds to new information and communication technologies. Privacy is our right to maintain the

territory around us, including everything that belongs to us, including our bodies, homes, possessions, thoughts, feelings, secrets, identities, etc. Your privacy allows you to choose what parts of this area can be accessed by others and to control the scope, method, and duration of the parts you choose to disclose.

A recent development in the Indian jurisprudence is the widening of the scope of Article 21 particularly post the case of *Maneka Gandhi vs. UOI* (1978). The Supreme Court has time and again laid down that Article 21 is the basic foundation of fundamental rights. Article 21 has proven to be multi-faceted. The scope of Article 21 has been widened by reinterpreting what constitutes life and liberty in specific circumstances. These terms, that is life and liberty, are not one size fits for all terms. In order to understand the Right to Privacy, it becomes necessary to look into what constitutes privacy. According to *Black's Law Dictionary*, "right to be let alone; the right of a person to be free from any unwarranted publicity; the right to live without any unwarranted interference by the public in matters with which the public is not necessarily concerned". In order to widen the scope of Article 21, the Supreme Court has decided to interpret it along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The right to privacy is not formally advocated as a fundamental right in the Constitution. The right to privacy came into light in *Kharak Singh v the State of U.P* (1962) where the main issue was pertaining to surveillance of suspects.

2. What is privacy

Privacy is a fundamental concept that relates to an individual's right to control their personal information and to keep it protected from unauthorized access or disclosure. It encompasses various aspects of a person's life, including their personal data, communications, physical space, and personal choices. Privacy is essential for safeguarding individual autonomy, dignity, and freedom. Key aspects of privacy include:

A. Information Privacy: This aspect focuses on an individual's right to control their personal data. It involves the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information, such as name, address, financial records, medical history, and more. Privacy laws and regulations often govern how organizations handle individuals' data.

B. Communication Privacy: Communication privacy pertains to the confidentiality of conversations, messages, and correspondence. It covers forms of communication like phone calls, emails, text messages, and private messaging apps. People expect that their communications will remain private and not be intercepted or accessed without their consent.

C. Physical Privacy: Physical privacy concerns the right to control access to one's personal space, such as their home or private property. It also includes the ability to maintain bodily privacy, meaning individuals have the right to decide who can touch or access their body.

D. Privacy of Personal Choices: This aspect of privacy relates to the freedom to make personal choices without unwarranted interference or judgment. It includes decisions about one's lifestyle, beliefs, religion, sexuality, and other personal matters.

E. Surveillance and Security: Privacy also involves protection against unwarranted surveillance, both by government entities and private individuals or organizations. This can include issues like government surveillance programs, video surveillance in public places, and the use of technologies like facial recognition.

F. Data Protection and Security: With the rise of the digital age, data privacy has become a significant concern. Individuals have a right to expect that their personal data is securely stored and protected from data breaches and cyberattacks.

G. Consent and Control: Central to privacy is the idea of informed consent. Individuals should have the right to decide how their personal information is collected, used, and shared. They should also have the ability to exercise control over their data.

The concept of privacy varies across cultures, legal systems, and contexts. In many countries, privacy is considered a fundamental human right, enshrined in laws and regulations. These laws often set the boundaries for how organizations and governments can handle personal information and engage in surveillance. Balancing privacy with other important societal interests, such as security and public safety, is an ongoing challenge in the digital age.

3. Right to privacy versus fundamental right

The "right to privacy" and the concept of "fundamental rights" are closely related but not identical terms. Let's see the differences: -

Right to Privacy:

The right to privacy is a specific aspect of fundamental rights that pertains to an individual's right to control their personal information, autonomy, and private life. It encompasses various facets of personal privacy, such as information privacy, communication privacy, physical privacy, and more, as explained in the previous response. The right to privacy is often considered a fundamental human right in many legal systems and international agreements, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Fundamental Rights:

Fundamental rights are a broader category of rights that are considered essential and inherent to human beings. They form the foundation of a just and democratic society, ensuring that individuals are protected from abuses of power and discrimination. Fundamental rights include a wide range of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These can vary from one country to another but often include rights like freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to a fair trial, and more. The term "fundamental rights" often encompasses the right to privacy as one of its components. In summary, the right to privacy is a specific subset of fundamental rights that deals with protecting an individual's personal information and private life. Fundamental rights, on the other hand, encompass a broader array of rights that are considered fundamental to human dignity and freedom. The right to privacy is typically recognized as one of these fundamental rights in many legal systems worldwide, and it is essential for safeguarding personal autonomy and individual liberties.

4. Right to privacy as per Indian laws

In India, the right to privacy is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution of India. It was affirmed as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court of India in a landmark judgment in 2017. The right to privacy is primarily protected under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. Here's an overview of the right to privacy as per Indian laws:

i. Constitutional Basis: The right to privacy is considered an integral part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. This means that any action by the state or private entities that infringes upon an individual's personal privacy must meet certain constitutional standards of reasonableness and necessity.

ii. Landmark Judgment: In August 2017, the Supreme Court of India, in the case of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India, declared that the right to privacy is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution. The judgment recognized privacy as a natural right inherent in every individual.

iii. Scope of Right to Privacy: The right to privacy in India is not an absolute right but is subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law to protect legitimate state interests, such as national security and public order. It encompasses various aspects of privacy, including informational privacy, bodily privacy, communication privacy, and more.

iv. Data Protection and Privacy Laws: India has also enacted data protection and privacy laws to regulate the collection, use, and processing of personal data. The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 (now known as the Personal Data Protection Act, 2021) is a significant piece of legislation that aims to protect individuals' data privacy rights.

v. Judicial Safeguards: Indian courts, including the Supreme Court, have played a crucial role in interpreting and safeguarding the right to privacy. They have issued rulings to protect individuals'

privacy rights in various contexts, such as surveillance, government actions, and technology-related matters.

vi. Balancing of Interests: The right to privacy in India is not absolute, and the courts often engage in a balancing act between the right to privacy and other legitimate state interests, such as national security and public order.

It's important to note that the right to privacy in India, like in many other countries, is evolving and subject to judicial interpretation and legislative developments. The legal framework is continually adapting to address emerging issues related to privacy in the digital age, including issues like data protection, surveillance, and the use of emerging technologies.

5. Issue and challenges for right to privacy

The right to privacy is a fundamental human right recognized in various international treaties and constitutions. However, in today's digital age, several issues and challenges have emerged that can undermine individuals' privacy rights. Here are some of the key issues and challenges associated with the right to privacy:

1. Data Collection and Surveillance: Mass Surveillance: Governments and private companies have access to vast amounts of personal data through surveillance programs, both online and offline, which can infringe on individual privacy.

2. Data Brokers: The buying and selling of personal data by data brokers can lead to the aggregation of extensive profiles on individuals without their knowledge or consent.

3. Data Breaches: The frequent occurrence of data breaches can expose individuals' personal information, leading to identity theft, fraud, and other privacy violations.

4. Inadequate Security Measures: Many organizations do not implement robust security measures, making it easier for malicious actors to access sensitive data.

5. Tracking and Profiling: Online platforms use tracking technologies to collect user data and create detailed profiles for targeted advertising, often without user consent.

6. Cookie Consent Fatigue: Users are often bombarded with cookie consent pop-ups, leading to a lack of meaningful choices and awareness of privacy settings.

7. Biometric Data and Facial Recognition: The widespread use of facial recognition technology by governments and corporations raises concerns about mass surveillance, false positives, and the potential for abuse.

8. Privacy in the Workplace: Employers may monitor employees' activities, both online and offline, which can create a hostile work environment and infringe on individual privacy.

9. Lack of Control: Individuals often lack control over their personal data, as it is collected, processed, and shared without their informed consent or knowledge.

10. Legal and Regulatory Challenges: Laws and regulations related to privacy may lag behind technological advancements, making it challenging to protect privacy adequately. Conflicting laws and regulations in different jurisdictions can create legal uncertainty for individuals and organizations.

11. Social Media and Public Sharing: Individuals often share personal information on social media platforms, sometimes unknowingly, leading to a loss of privacy.

12. Emerging Technologies: New technologies, such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices and artificial intelligence, can collect and analyze personal data in ways that individuals may not fully understand or control.

13. Cultural and Ethical Considerations: Cultural norms and ethical considerations vary widely, affecting how different societies perceive and protect privacy rights.

14. Government Access and Surveillance Laws: Some governments pass laws that grant them broad surveillance powers, often in the name of national security, which can infringe on individual privacy.

15. Digital Literacy: Many individuals lack the digital literacy necessary to understand and protect their online privacy effectively.

Addressing these challenges and safeguarding the right to privacy requires a combination of legal reforms, technological innovations, education, and public awareness campaigns to ensure that individuals' privacy rights are respected in the digital age.

6. The supreme court's Aadhaar judgement and the right to privacy

The Aadhaar Act grants residents the right to receive an Aadhaar number by submitting biometric and demographic information as part of the enrolment procedure. The Supreme Court was tasked with determining whether the Aadhaar Act's provisions were infringing on the right to privacy, which was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in 2017. In this regard, it's worth noting that a number of services supplied by both private businesses and the government required an individual to link their Aadhaar number for authentication, effectively making obtaining an Aadhaar number necessary for the vast majority of people. As a result, the question was not so much whether this constituted an infringement of the right to privacy, but rather whether it was a legitimate exemption. Certain sections of the Aadhaar Act were overturned or read down by the Supreme Court because they failed to meet the aforesaid proportionality standard. Apart from these provisions, however, the Supreme Court found that the Aadhaar Act serves a legitimate state goal and is proportionate, making it a justifiable exception to the right to privacy.

7. Cases related to right to privacy in India

The right to privacy in India has gained significant legal recognition and protection through various landmark cases. Here are some key cases related to the right to privacy in India:

1. *Kharak Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (1962): This case is one of the earliest cases addressing the right to privacy in India. The Supreme Court held that the right to privacy is not explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution but is implied as part of the fundamental rights. However, the court also stated that the right to privacy is not an absolute right and can be restricted by the state for certain valid reasons.
2. *R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu* (1994): This case recognized the right to privacy as an inherent part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. It also established the "Right to be Let Alone" and the concept of privacy in matters related to one's personal life, reputation, and dignity.
3. *P.U.C.L. v. Union of India* (1997): In this case, the Supreme Court upheld the right to privacy in the context of telephone tapping. The court laid down guidelines and safeguards that must be followed by the government when intercepting telephone conversations to protect individuals' privacy rights.
4. *Naz Foundation v. Government of NCT of Delhi* (2009): While primarily known for decriminalizing homosexuality, this case also emphasized the importance of privacy in matters of sexual orientation and intimate relationships. It recognized the right to privacy as a fundamental right and a cornerstone of human dignity.
5. *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India* (2017): This landmark case, also known as the "Aadhaar case," established the right to privacy as a fundamental right explicitly under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. The Supreme Court held that privacy is an integral part of individual liberty and dignity and cannot be infringed upon unless the state demonstrates a compelling reason to do so. This case had far-reaching implications for data protection and surveillance issues in India.
6. *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India II* (2018): This case further clarified and expanded upon the principles laid down in the earlier Puttaswamy case. The Supreme Court held that the state must ensure that any restrictions on the right to privacy are narrowly tailored, proportionate, and comply with the principles of legality, necessity, and legitimacy.

These cases represent significant milestones in the development and protection of the right to privacy in India. They have had a profound impact on various aspects of Indian law, including data protection, surveillance, and individual freedoms.

8. Recommendation for right to privacy

Protecting the right to privacy is essential in the modern digital age where personal information is often vulnerable to various threats. Here are some recommendations for safeguarding the right to privacy:

- a. Strengthen Legal Protections: Enact and enforce comprehensive privacy laws that clearly define individuals' rights and the responsibilities of organizations that collect and process personal data.

- Establish strict penalties for data breaches and violations of privacy rights to incentivize organizations to prioritize data security.
- b. Data Minimization and Purpose Limitation: Encourage organizations to collect only the data that is strictly necessary for their intended purpose and avoid excessive data collection. Ensure that organizations obtain informed and explicit consent from individuals before collecting and processing their personal information.
 - c. Transparency and Accountability: Require organizations to be transparent about their data practices, including data collection, processing, and sharing. Establish mechanisms for individuals to access and control their own data, including the ability to correct inaccuracies and request the deletion of personal information.
 - d. Data Encryption and Security: Promote the use of strong encryption to protect data both in transit and at rest. Encourage organizations to implement robust security measures to safeguard personal data from cyberattacks and data breaches.
 - e. Biometric Data Regulations: Implement regulations governing the collection and use of biometric data, such as facial recognition, to protect individuals from unwarranted surveillance and privacy violations.
 - f. International Collaboration: Foster international cooperation on privacy standards and data protection to ensure consistency and facilitate cross-border data flows while protecting privacy rights.
 - g. Consumer Education: Promote digital literacy and educate individuals about their privacy rights, how to protect their data, and the potential risks of oversharing on social media and other online platforms.
 - h. Privacy by Design: Encourage organizations to adopt a "privacy by design" approach when developing products and services, ensuring that privacy considerations are integrated from the beginning.
 - i. Independent Oversight: Establish independent privacy oversight bodies with the authority to investigate and address privacy violations by both public and private organizations.
 - j. Whistleblower Protection: Implement laws and protections for whistleblowers who expose privacy violations, encouraging individuals within organizations to report misconduct without fear of retaliation.
 - k. Ethical AI and Technology Development: Promote the ethical development and use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, with a focus on minimizing bias and respecting privacy.
 - l. Periodic Privacy Audits: Require organizations to conduct regular privacy audits to assess compliance with data protection regulations and ensure ongoing adherence to privacy best practices.
 - m. Public Awareness Campaigns: Conduct public awareness campaigns to inform individuals about the importance of privacy and their rights, emphasizing the need to be cautious about sharing personal information online.
 - n. Protection of Vulnerable Groups: Implement additional safeguards and protections for vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, and marginalized communities.
 - o. Regular Review and Updating of Laws: Periodically review and update privacy laws and regulations

To keep pace with technological advancements and evolving privacy challenges. Safeguarding the right to privacy requires a multifaceted approach involving governments, organizations, individuals, and the technology industry. These recommendations aim to strike a balance between protecting privacy and enabling the benefits of the digital age.

9. Conclusion

Privacy rights are essential elements of life and personal freedom rights under Article 21. Privacy rights are not absolute rights. They are subject to rational limitations for the protection of crimes, disadvantaged, or morality, or the protection of other human rights. If there is a contradiction between the two derived rights. If one looks at the later judgments of the Apex Court one can observe the

desirability of the court to treat the basic rights as water-tight compartments. This was felt foremost within the case of A.K Gopalan v. the State of Madras (1950) and also the relaxation of this stringent stand may well be felt within the decision of Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978). The right to life was considered to not be the embodiment of mere animal existence, but the guarantee of a full and meaningful life.

Being a part of society often overrides the very fact that we are individuals first. Each individual needs their private space for whichever activity (assuming here that it shall be legal). The state accordingly gives each person the right to enjoy those private moments. Clinton Rossiter has said that privacy could be special reasonable independence that may be understood as a trial to secure autonomy in a minimum of some personal and spiritual concerns. This autonomy is the most special thing that the person can enjoy. They are truly free humans there. This is often not a right against the state, but against the planet.

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Role of Forensic Science in the Administration of Justice: It is issues and challenges in India

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Abstract:

Forensic science is an indispensable component of the modern criminal justice system, serving as a powerful tool for uncovering the truth, establishing guilt or innocence, and ensuring justice is served. This abstract explores the multifaceted role of forensic science in the administration of justice, highlighting its significance in solving crimes, its impact on legal proceedings, and the challenges it faces. Forensic science encompasses various specialized disciplines, including DNA analysis, fingerprint examination, ballistics, toxicology, and digital forensics, each providing a unique perspective on the evidence presented in criminal cases. The application of these disciplines' aids law enforcement agencies in the collection, preservation, and analysis of physical evidence, enabling them to link suspects to crimes, identify victims, and reconstruct the circumstances of an incident.

Moreover, forensic scientists serve as expert witnesses in court, conveying complex scientific findings in a comprehensible manner to judges and juries. Their testimony helps ensure that evidence is properly understood and evaluated within the legal framework, contributing to the fair and accurate resolution of cases. While forensic science plays a crucial role in the pursuit of justice, it is not without challenges. Resource limitations, backlogs of unprocessed evidence, issues of standardization, potential subjectivity, and ethical considerations present ongoing hurdles. Addressing these challenges is essential to maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of forensic science in the legal system.

In conclusion, the role of forensic science in the administration of justice cannot be overstated. Its scientific rigor, objectivity, and capacity to provide concrete evidence are essential for upholding the rule of law and safeguarding individual rights. As forensic science continues to evolve, it promises to enhance the accuracy and fairness of the justice system, ultimately ensuring that justice is served for all.

Keywords: *Crime, Science, Forensic, Administration, Justice, and Legal System*

1. Introduction

Forensic science is a fascinating and essential field that blends scientific knowledge with criminal investigation to solve crimes and bring justice to society. This multidisciplinary science is at the intersection of various scientific disciplines and the criminal justice system. Forensic science, often referred to as forensics, is the application of scientific principles and techniques to investigate, analyze, and interpret physical evidence from crime scenes. Its primary purpose is to establish facts and uncover the truth about criminal activities. The roots of forensic science can be traced back to ancient civilizations, where early methods were used to solve crimes and disputes. However, modern forensic science began to develop in the late 19th century with the pioneering work of individuals like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (creator of Sherlock Holmes) and Dr. Edmond Locard (known for Locard's Exchange Principle). Forensic science draws upon various scientific disciplines, including biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, anthropology, and psychology. Experts in these fields collaborate to analyze evidence and provide insights into criminal cases. Forensic science plays a critical role in the criminal justice system. It helps law enforcement agencies gather evidence, identify suspects, and build

stronger cases. It also serves as a safeguard against wrongful convictions by providing objective, scientific evidence.

Forensic scientists are often called to crime scenes to collect and document physical evidence. They use specialized techniques and tools to ensure the proper handling, preservation, and analysis of evidence like fingerprints, DNA, firearms, and more. Once collected, evidence is subjected to rigorous scientific analysis in specialized laboratories. Different forensic disciplines focus on specific types of evidence, such as DNA analysis in forensic biology or drug testing in forensic chemistry. Forensic scientists may be called upon as expert witnesses in court to explain their findings and provide expert opinions on the significance of the evidence. Their testimony helps judges and juries understand complex scientific concepts. Forensic science encompasses a wide range of specialized disciplines, including forensic biology, forensic chemistry, forensic toxicology, forensic anthropology, digital forensics, and more. Each discipline has its own unique methods and expertise.

2. Evolution of forensic science

The evolution of forensic science is a fascinating journey that spans centuries. The roots of forensic science can be traced back to ancient civilizations. In China, as early as the 6th century, fingerprints were used for identification on clay tablets. In ancient Rome, forensic principles were employed in investigating crimes. However, these early methods were rudimentary compared to modern forensic science. 16th-18th Century: During this period, there were notable developments in forensic science. In the 16th century, Ambroise Paré, a French surgeon, made advancements in forensic medicine. In the 18th century, Mathieu Orfila, known as the "Father of Toxicology," pioneered the study of poisons and their effects on the human body.

19th Century: The 19th century saw significant progress in forensic science, driven by pioneering individuals. François Vidocq, a French criminal investigator, used various forensic techniques, including ballistics and shoeprint analysis. Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, conducted pioneering research on fingerprints. Dr. Edmond Locard, a French forensic scientist, developed Locard's Exchange Principle, which states that "every contact leaves a trace." This principle became foundational in forensic science. 20th Century: The 20th century brought about dramatic advancements in forensic science. The use of fingerprints for identification became widespread. The Bertillon system, which used anthropometric measurements, was replaced by fingerprinting as the primary method of identification. DNA profiling, one of the most revolutionary developments, was first used in the 1980s, allowing for highly accurate identification.

Digital Age: The advent of computers and digital technology created a new frontier for forensic science. Digital forensics emerged as a specialized field, dealing with the recovery and analysis of digital data from computers and electronic devices. This became crucial in investigating cybercrimes and other digital offenses. Modern Techniques: Today, forensic science employs a wide range of advanced techniques and technologies. These include advanced DNA analysis methods (such as STR analysis), automated fingerprint identification systems (AFIS), forensic imaging, gunshot residue analysis, and more. Interdisciplinary Approach: Forensic science has become increasingly interdisciplinary. It draws on expertise from various scientific fields, including biology, chemistry, physics, anthropology, psychology, and computer science, to analyze evidence comprehensively. Quality Control and Standardization: To ensure the reliability and accuracy of forensic evidence, quality control measures and standardization have been introduced. Accreditation bodies and guidelines help maintain the integrity of forensic laboratories and practices.

Challenges and Controversies: Forensic science has faced challenges related to the reliability and validity of some techniques. Controversies, such as those surrounding hair analysis and bite mark analysis, have led to increased scrutiny and efforts to improve forensic practices.

Ongoing Research and Innovation: Forensic science continues to evolve with ongoing research and technological advancements. Research in areas like trace evidence analysis, facial recognition, and digital forensics is pushing the boundaries of what is possible in solving crimes. The evolution of forensic science reflects the relentless pursuit of more accurate and reliable methods for solving crimes and ensuring justice. It has come a long way from its early beginnings and continues to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by advances in science and technology.

3. What is forensic science

Forensic science is a multidisciplinary field that involves the application of scientific principles and techniques to investigate and solve crimes. It plays a crucial role in the criminal justice system by providing objective and scientific evidence that can be used in legal proceedings. Forensic scientists work to collect, preserve, analyze, and interpret physical evidence from crime scenes to establish facts and link suspects to crimes. (1) Crime Scene Investigation: Forensic scientists are often called to crime scenes to collect and document physical evidence, such as fingerprints, bloodstains, hair, fibers, and firearms-related evidence. They use various techniques to ensure the proper preservation and analysis of these materials. (2) Evidence Analysis: Once collected, evidence is subjected to various scientific analyses in specialized laboratories. Different forensic disciplines, such as forensic biology, forensic chemistry, forensic toxicology, and forensic anthropology, focus on specific types of evidence. DNA analysis, for example, is a crucial tool in forensic biology for identifying individuals. (3) Expert Testimony: Forensic scientists may be called upon to testify as expert witnesses in court. They explain their findings and offer expert opinions on the significance of the evidence, helping judges and juries understand complex scientific concepts. (4) Criminal Investigations: Forensic evidence can link suspects to crimes, exonerate innocent individuals, and help law enforcement agencies build stronger cases against criminals. It can also provide valuable insights into the circumstances of a crime. (5) Forensic biology: The study of biological evidence, such as DNA, blood, and bodily fluids. (6) Forensic chemistry: The analysis of chemical substances, such as drugs, explosives, and arson-related materials. (7) Forensic toxicology: The examination of substances in the body to determine the presence of drugs, alcohol, or toxins. (8) Forensic anthropology: The identification of human remains, including age, sex, and ancestry. (9) Forensic odontology: The use of dental records and bite mark analysis in identifying individuals. (10) Forensic entomology: The study of insects and their life cycles to estimate the time of death. (11) Forensic ballistics: The analysis of firearms, bullets, and gunshot residue. (12) Digital forensics: The recovery and analysis of digital evidence from computers and electronic devices. (13) Forensic science is continually evolving with advancements in technology and scientific methods, and it plays a crucial role in the pursuit of justice by helping to solve crimes and ensure the fair and accurate administration of the law.

4. Role of forensic science in administration of justice

Forensic science plays a crucial role in the administration of justice by providing scientific and technical support to the criminal justice system. Its primary objective is to uncover and analyze physical evidence to aid in the investigation, prosecution, and defense of criminal cases. Here are several key ways in which forensic science contributes to the administration of justice:

A. Crime Scene Investigation: Forensic experts are often the first on the scene of a crime to collect and preserve physical evidence. This evidence can include fingerprints, DNA samples, trace evidence, and more. Properly collected and preserved evidence is essential for building a strong case.

B. Identification of Suspects: Forensic science helps in identifying suspects through methods such as fingerprint analysis, facial recognition, and dental records comparison. DNA profiling is particularly powerful in establishing the identity of individuals involved in a crime.

C. Evidence Analysis: Forensic scientists analyze various types of evidence, such as blood, hair, fibers, ballistics, and drugs, to determine their significance and relevance to a case. They can establish links between the evidence and the suspect, victim, or crime scene.

D.Cause of Death Determination: In cases of suspicious deaths or homicides, forensic pathologists perform autopsies to determine the cause and manner of death. This information is crucial in criminal investigations and court proceedings.

E.Expert Testimony: Forensic experts often serve as expert witnesses in court. They provide testimony based on their specialized knowledge and analysis of evidence, helping judges and juries understand complex scientific concepts and evidence.

F.Exoneration of the Innocent: Forensic science can also play a role in exonerating individuals who have been wrongfully convicted. DNA evidence, in particular, has been instrumental in overturning wrongful convictions and securing the release of innocent individuals.

G.Quality Control: Forensic laboratories have quality control measures in place to ensure the accuracy and reliability of their analyses. This helps maintain the integrity of the criminal justice system.

H.Cold Case Resolution: Forensic science can be used to re-examine cold cases, sometimes leading to the identification and prosecution of previously unsolved crimes.

I.Crime Database Management: Forensic databases, such as the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), allow law enforcement agencies to share and compare DNA profiles, which can lead to the identification of suspects and the resolution of cases.

J.Criminal Profiling: Forensic psychologists and profilers use psychological and behavioral analysis to create profiles of unknown suspects, aiding in investigations and suspect identification.

K.Training and Education: Forensic scientists and experts often provide training and education to law enforcement personnel, attorneys, and judges to ensure that they understand the latest scientific techniques and their application in the justice system.

In summary, forensic science plays a vital role in the administration of justice by providing objective and scientific methods for investigating crimes, identifying suspects, and presenting evidence in court. It helps ensure that the criminal justice system operates fairly and accurately, leading to more reliable verdicts and outcomes.

5.Forensic science versus criminal justice system

Forensic science and the criminal justice system are two distinct but closely related components of the process of investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating crimes. While they have different roles and functions, they work in tandem to ensure the fair and effective administration of justice. Here's a comparison of forensic science and the criminal justice system:

Forensic Science:

Nature: Forensic science is a multidisciplinary field that involves the application of scientific principles and techniques to analyze and interpret physical evidence from crime scenes.

Role: Forensic scientists collect, preserve, and analyze evidence to provide objective and scientific information relevant to a criminal investigation or legal case. They use specialized methods to uncover facts, identify suspects, and establish the truth.

Tasks: Forensic scientists work in laboratories and crime scenes, conducting examinations on various types of evidence, such as DNA, fingerprints, firearms, toxicology samples, and more. They generate reports and may testify as expert witnesses in court to explain their findings.

Goals: The primary goal of forensic science is to provide accurate and reliable evidence that can support the criminal justice system in solving crimes, prosecuting offenders, and ensuring the fair treatment of all parties involved.

Independence: Forensic scientists are typically independent experts who are not directly part of the law enforcement or legal system. Their role is to provide impartial analysis and interpretation of evidence.

Criminal Justice System:

Nature: The criminal justice system is a broader framework encompassing various institutions, agencies, and processes responsible for the investigation, prosecution, defense, and adjudication of criminal cases.

Role: The criminal justice system is responsible for maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and upholding the rule of law. It includes law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and correctional facilities.

Tasks: Law enforcement agencies investigate crimes, gather evidence, and make arrests. Prosecutors represent the state or government in charging and prosecuting individuals accused of crimes. Defense attorneys represent the accused. Judges oversee legal proceedings, and juries or judges determine guilt or innocence. Correctional facilities house and rehabilitate convicted offenders.

Goals: The criminal justice system's primary goals include determining guilt or innocence, protecting society, safeguarding individual rights, and delivering fair and just outcomes. It seeks to ensure that those who commit crimes are held accountable for their actions.

Adjudication: The criminal justice system is responsible for the adjudication of cases through a structured legal process that involves the presentation of evidence, examination of witnesses, legal arguments, and the rendering of judgments or verdicts.

Therefore, forensic science is a specialized field within the criminal justice system that provides essential scientific support and evidence analysis. While forensic scientists focus on the objective analysis of physical evidence, the criminal justice system, as a whole, manages all aspects of criminal cases from investigation to adjudication. These two components work collaboratively to ensure the fair and effective resolution of criminal matters and to uphold the principles of justice.

6. Issues and challenges in implementation of forensic science in criminal procedure:

The implementation of forensic science in criminal investigations and the legal system faces several challenges and issues, which can impact its effectiveness and reliability. Some of these challenges include:

1.Resource Constraints: Many forensic laboratories and agencies face resource limitations, including inadequate funding, outdated equipment, and a shortage of trained personnel. These constraints can result in backlogs of unprocessed evidence and delays in case resolution.

2.Backlogs and Delays: The backlog of unprocessed evidence, including DNA samples and other forensic materials, can lead to significant delays in investigations and court proceedings. This can affect the timely administration of justice and may result in lost or degraded evidence.

3.Quality Control: Maintaining high standards of quality control is essential in forensic science. Errors in evidence collection, preservation, analysis, or documentation can lead to unreliable results. Ensuring the integrity of evidence throughout the chain of custody is crucial.

4.Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Forensic science often requires collaboration among various disciplines, such as biology, chemistry, and digital forensics. Effective communication and coordination among experts from different fields are essential for accurate analysis and interpretation of evidence.

5.Subjectivity and Bias: Some forensic techniques, such as fingerprint analysis or bite mark analysis, have faced criticism for their subjectivity and potential for bias. Efforts are underway to establish more objective and scientifically validated methods in these areas.

6.Lack of Standardization: Standardization of methods and protocols across different forensic disciplines and laboratories is crucial for consistency and reliability. Variability in practices can lead to inconsistencies in results and interpretations.

7.Training and Education: The field of forensic science is rapidly evolving, and ongoing training and education are necessary to keep forensic scientists up to date with the latest techniques and technologies. Ensuring the competence of forensic experts is essential for reliable results.

8.Admissibility of Evidence: Ensuring that forensic evidence meets legal standards for admissibility in court is a complex challenge. Legal requirements for the admissibility of certain types of evidence, such as expert testimony, can vary by jurisdiction and case law.

9.Ethical Considerations: Ethical issues, such as conflicts of interest, can arise when forensic experts work closely with law enforcement agencies or prosecutors. Maintaining objectivity and impartiality is essential to uphold the integrity of the forensic process.

10.Privacy and Data Protection: Digital forensics and the analysis of electronic evidence raise privacy and data protection concerns. Balancing the need to investigate crimes with protecting individuals' privacy rights is a delicate challenge.

11. Emerging Technologies: Rapid advancements in technology, such as deepfakes and encryption, present new challenges for digital forensics and evidence collection. Criminals can exploit these technologies to hide their activities or manipulate evidence.

12. Expert Testimony: Presenting complex scientific findings to judges and juries in a way that is understandable and persuasive is a constant challenge. Miscommunication or misinterpretation of evidence in court can have significant consequences.

13. Efforts are ongoing to address these challenges and improve the reliability and effectiveness of forensic science in the criminal justice system. These efforts include increased funding, research to validate forensic techniques, improved training and standards, and the development of best practices to enhance the field's overall integrity and impact on criminal investigations.

7. Cases related to forensic science in administration of justice system in India

Forensic science has played a crucial role in numerous criminal cases in India, helping to solve crimes, secure convictions, and ensure justice. Here are a few notable cases where forensic evidence played a significant role in the administration of justice in India:

1. Aarushi-Hemraj Double Murder Case (2008): The murders of Aarushi Talwar and her family's domestic help, Hemraj, in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, received widespread attention. Forensic evidence, including DNA analysis, fingerprint examination, and bloodstain pattern analysis, played a pivotal role in the investigation and subsequent trial. The case involved complex forensic findings and multiple theories, leading to a high-profile trial.

2. Nithari Serial Killings (2006-2007): The Nithari serial killings, which occurred in Noida, involved the gruesome murders of several children and young women. Forensic experts played a significant role in identifying the victims and analyzing evidence such as skeletal remains and DNA samples. The evidence led to the conviction of the main suspect, Moninder Singh Pandher, and his accomplice, Surinder Koli.

3. Sheena Bora Murder Case (2015): The Sheena Bora murder case in Mumbai gained national attention. Forensic evidence, including DNA tests, bone fragment analysis, and mobile phone records, was crucial in identifying the victim and establishing the timeline of events. This evidence contributed to the arrest and prosecution of the accused, including Indrani Mukerjea.

4. Jessica Lal Murder Case (1999): The Jessica Lal murder case, which occurred in New Delhi, involved the shooting of a model named Jessica Lal. Forensic evidence, including ballistics analysis, helped establish the link between the accused, Manu Sharma, and the murder weapon. The evidence played a crucial role in securing a conviction.

5. Mumbai Terror Attacks (2008): The coordinated terrorist attacks in Mumbai in 2008 involved multiple crime scenes and complex forensic investigations. Forensic analysis of explosive residues, ballistics, and other evidence was crucial in identifying the perpetrators and understanding the nature of the attacks.

6. Serial Killer Cyanide Mallika (2003-2006): In the southern state of Karnataka, a serial killer known as Cyanide Mallika was convicted of murdering several women by administering cyanide. Forensic evidence, including toxicology reports and autopsy findings, played a key role in linking the deaths to the same perpetrator and securing her conviction.

7. Harshad Mehta Securities Scam (1992): In one of India's most infamous financial scams, forensic auditors played a significant role in uncovering the irregularities and fraudulent practices of stockbroker Harshad Mehta. Forensic accounting and financial analysis helped authorities understand the extent of the scam.

These cases illustrate the importance of forensic science in the Indian criminal justice system. Forensic experts and evidence have been instrumental in solving a wide range of cases, from murders and terrorist attacks to financial frauds. Advances in forensic technology and techniques continue to enhance the capabilities of forensic science in India's legal system.

8. Conclusion

Forensic science plays a pivotal role in the administration of justice around the world, contributing to the fair and effective resolution of criminal cases. Its impact is profound, as it helps establish the truth, identify suspects, exonerate the innocent, and safeguard the integrity of the legal process. Forensic science encompasses a wide range of disciplines, from DNA analysis to ballistics and digital forensics, each providing specialized tools and techniques to aid investigations and court proceedings.

However, the implementation of forensic science in the administration of justice is not without its challenges. Issues such as resource constraints, backlogs, the need for standardization, and concerns about subjectivity and bias require ongoing attention and improvement. Despite these challenges, the pursuit of justice relies heavily on the continued advancement and ethical practice of forensic science. Ultimately, forensic science serves as a critical bridge between the scientific community and the legal system, enabling both the prosecution and the defense to present objective evidence, and ensuring that the rights of individuals are upheld. As technology and research continue to advance, forensic science will continue to evolve, offering new possibilities for solving crimes, protecting the innocent, and maintaining the principles of justice in societies around the world.

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Gender Mirroring in Mahesh Dattani's play *Dance Like a Man*

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Abstract:

Mahesh Dattani's dramatic career started in an era when the Hindu society mingled on caste and gender and mobilize for facing new challenges. Mahesh Dattani holds a mirror in his plays, depicting the reality as it was but at the same time, his plays fragmented the gender roles. Dattani in his play "Dance Like A Man" portrays the two significant passions dance and man. He uses dance to enquire multi-aspect of gender concerns related to human existence. The play investigates what happens when a man becomes part of a woman's world of dance as the perception of dance provides an intense conflict to the image of maleness. In the play, the Gujarati family of Amritlal Parekh is having a 'southi daughter-in-law,' Ratna who is pursuing her career as a Bharatnatyam dancer. The daughter-in-law being a dancer is not problematic but the problem starts when the son of the family chooses dance as a profession. All three family members—Amritlal, Jairaj and Ratna appear to be progressive. By choosing dance as a career, Jairaj and Ratna succeed in getting an opportunity to change their gendered roles assigned by their family.

Keywords: *Discrimination, Gender identity, Gender conflict, Parental authority, Society roles*

Gender is something that is largely controlled and assigned by society, it is a process of identification. Gender is the set of roles that you perform and that is determined by your society not by your sex. We all do not belong to either male or female gender, we are identified as male or female and because we are identified as male or female, we became masculine or feminine. Sex is the identity that is assigned to your body based on certain sexual characteristics, while gender simply refers to the social values given to men and women in a society. Mahesh Dattani is the most energetic and rattling dramatic voice in the current Indian English dramatic era. He has adorned and furnished the tradition of Indian Drama with his observation and alteration. With the advent of Mahesh Dattani on the dramatic world, the structure of Indian drama begins to change. Initially he has authored a good number of dramas different in themes, techniques, and devices. In addition, his plays are very successfully presented on theater boards. Mahesh Dattani's plays are characterized by some theatrical and thematic innovations. He is confluence of art and craft. He has not only intellectual power and ability to produce a play in text but also has an ability to get it staged successfully.

Dattani's *Dance Like a Man*, first staged in 1989, *Dance like a Man* is a story of Jairaj and his passion for classical dance. Swinging between past and present, Dattani's portrayal of gender roles that we practice in Indian houses and the theme of gender moves in a pathetic way that Dattani says of his play *Dance like a Man*, "I wrote this play when I was learning Bharatnatyam in my mid twenties. [...] a play is about a young man wanting to be a dancer, growing up in a world that believes dance is for women..." (Quoted in Asha Chaudhuri 67) It raises the question, "Can a man take up classical Bharatnatyam, a dance traditionally associated with devdasis, as a profession?" It shows how Jairaj Parekh, a son of Amritlal Parekh, tries to dismantle the stereotypes of gender roles by adopting Bharatnatyam as a profession and how the patriarchal society represented by Amritlal Parekh thwarts his efforts by using the power of authority and money. It presents different attitudes towards the classical and traditional Bharatnatyam dance. These attitudes are presented through the characters of

the play— Amritlal Parekh, Jairaj Parekh, Ratna Parekh, Vishwas and Lata. The play shows that “the imagery of gender affects both men and women profoundly, if differently” (Michele Barrett 106)

Dance like a Man is a play that deals with one of Dattani’s major concerns gender through one of his rampant passions, dance (Chaudhuri 67). In the Indian society, every activity is gendered. It is considered that the traditional Bharatnatyam dance is a dance of women and, therefore, a man’s agony for the dance is considered against the societal norms. In the play Jairaj Parekh, the son of Amritlal Parekh, chooses the traditional Bharatnatyam as his profession out of interest. Being a true lover of the dance, Jairaj marries a Bharatnatyam dancer, Ratna. Even before their marriage, they used to perform dance in Jairaj’s house. Amritlal Parekh allows his son to rehearse the dance thinking it as his hobby. But he opposes his son when the same interest becomes his passion. He seems to agree with Plato that art effeminates the man if he plays the role of the woman. That’s why he does not like his son practicing the woman’s dance. Being the guardian of the patriarchal society, Amritlal expects Jairaj to play the role of a man, to dance like a man. To him to dance like a man means to act like a man; to act like a man means to behave like the man. In a patriarchal society a man is expected to earn his livelihood by adopting a career suited to men. He should earn enough money to cater all the needs of his wife and children. But to Amritlal, Jairaj ceases to be a man as he depends upon him for survival and for paying money to the musicians.

While regretting his decision to allow Jairaj to dance he says, “I thought it was just a fancy of yours. I would have made a cricket pitch for you on our lawn if you were interested in cricket. Well, most boys are interested in cricket, my son is interested in dance, I thought. I did not realize this interest of yours would turn into an obsession.”

On the other side of the play Lata and her father see the keen desire of the characters to override the gender norms and realize the true self. The Parekh family wants to evaluate Viswas as their prospective son-in-law and invite him. As one of the musicians meets with an accident so Ratna and Jairaj must go to see him in the hospital. This gives time to Lata and Viswas to talk to each other. Many facts about Ratna and Jairaj come out. Lata shares with him that her parents are of a different type. They live in a traditional house which is almost forty to fifty years old. The old traditional house is representation of patriarchal strength. Jairaj’s unwillingness to sell the house is in a way clinging to the patriarchal roots that give him strength of being something. Lata tells Viswas that her father and mother took lessons from the same guru and as a child she enjoyed the performances by her parents. She also shares that her grandfather, Amritlal was a freedom fighter, a social reformer, and a stern person where as his father is a —bit more pliable than usual. It seems that even she does not rate this quality as something masculine. Lata feels that being pliable is not a masculine trait because she was contrasting the image of her father with her grandfather and she found the latter more encouraging than the former. Being a freedom fighter and social reformer is more domineering than to become a dancer. In their communication the life of the grandfather as a symbol of patriarchy seems to breathe without a fail. Lata: I guess Daddy is a bit more. Pliable than usual. Like you. Viswas: You think I’m pliable?

Viswas (sighs): I suppose I am.

Lata: Don’t worry. I won’t take advantage.

Viswas: But your mother does.

Lata: Does what?

Viswas: Dominate. Bully your father.

Lata: No. She does not! (Dattani, 392)

The dialogues tell a lot about the gender mirror reinforced by society and how individuals fall prey to the gender norms set by society. Lata says that dancing as a profession is also looked down upon, not only for men but also for women. She wants to see Vishwas’s mindset when she asks him if she can dance after marriage. Then Lata shares with Vishwas that she does not want children after marriage, he replies: —My father almost died when I told him I’m marrying outside caste. Ratna continues her struggle as a dancer and Jairaj as a man. They achieve a momentary relief in the disguise of their son—

the next symbol of patriarchy. They name their son, Shankar, one of the synonyms of Shiva. He conceals high hopes for his father and grandfather as well. For Amritlal, Shankar is an opportunity to fulfill his long-cherished dream of turning his progeny into a real man that his son never became. On the other hand, Jairaj's failure of his dedication to the *Ardhnarishwara* version of Shiva makes him embrace another version of Shiva—the destroyer. Shiva's Tandav Nritya- the dance of destruction and His worship in the form of 'Lingam' symbolize his hyper masculinity. Jairaj decides to teach his son "how to dance—the dance of Shiva. The dance of a man...and make him dance on his [grandfather's] head—the tandav nritya" (DLM 159). But the high hopes of both of Amritlal and Jairaj have been crushed by Ratna when she unknowingly gives overdose of opium to Shankar resulting in his death. His death suggests the failure of the possibility of a patriarchal lineage. The death of the only son proves to be the final setback to the married life of the couple. Soon the vacuum of Ratna and Jairaj's lives is filled with their daughter Lata, the metaphor of matrilineal culture. Like her mother, Lata too has her own insecurities. The first question that she asks her fiancé, "Vishwas, when we are married, you will let me come here to practise, won't you? (DLM 95), shows her professional insecurity after marriage. Her declaration, "And we won't have children" (DLM 96), reflects how the celebrated motherhood of a woman is a hindrance to her professional life. But for Ratna, Lata represents the only possibility to live her frustrated dream of a successful *Bharatnatyam* dancer. Ratna replaces autocratic patriarch Amritlal and the process of role reversal starts. Like her father-in-law Ratna too imposes her dreams on her daughter and makes her feel suffocating. Lata says, "I wish I didn't have to dance to please them. I want to dance to please me. All my life everything has been so . . . cultivated. Sometimes I wish I could just breathe" (DLM 123). Conscious of her mediocrity as an artist and failure as a wife, Ratna does her best for the dance career of her daughter. The consecutive questions that she asks Lata about Vishwas, "He's well off, isn't he?" (DLM 109), "And he will let you dance no?" (DLM 109), reflect the insecurity of her own life but her sincere concern towards Lata as well. A frustrated artist and a concerned mother in Ratna cannot digest any sign of failure in her daughter's career. The way she reacts for not having *mridangam* playing on Lata's performance signifies how she is desperate for the success of her daughter. She arranges rave reviews by spending sleepless nights and managing sweet-talking to the critics. She persuades Dr. Gowda to include Lata's name to perform for the festival of India in Canada. Unfortunately, the success of Lata intensifies the sense of victory in Ratna but of loss in Jairaj. On the other hand, Lata's fiancé, Viswas, comes to swap Shankar but he successfully provides substitute version of Amritlal. Amritlal's patriarchal self seems to have close affinity with Viswas when he sarcastically remarks, "dancers stay at home till it's show time" (DLM 96). It is only laying Amritlal's shawl that Vishwas begins to sound like him, "So you want to be a dancer. Hah! Hah! Hah! Son, you'll never amount to anything. Look at me. Look at what I've achieved" (DLM 99). If Amritlal wants to eliminate dance tradition of devdasi, Viswas raises his reservations against its eroticism. Both share prejudiced approach towards inter community marriage. Amritlal primarily permits but later he regrets the marriage of his son. He says, "One thing I regret. Consenting to your marriage" (DLM 118). Vishwas too accepts, "My father almost died when I told him I was marrying outside the caste" (DLM 96). In comparison to Jairaj's realisation: "I stopped being a man for you because we couldn't survive on our own." (DLM 121), both fulfill one of the important requisites of being a man by making huge money. Amritlal made money from buying and selling bungalows and Viswas by making and selling 'mithai'. Jairaj too perceives that the true heir of his father's rich heritage is Viswas so he decides to hand over the large mansion and the shawl of Amritlal to him. The keen perusal of the play reflects how the culturally gendered identities are inversely functional in their response to dance and finally they face consequences accordingly. Under the burden of his heterosexual masculinity Amritlal is ignorant of the aestheticism of dance. He tries to manipulate next generation Ratna by forbidding her to learn dance from the true exponent, and Jairaj by spoiling his dance career completely. the play is replete with the apparent heterosexual patriarchal value system but myriads of powerful metaphoric suggestions foreground the gay conversion of patriarchy. By gifting his father's hegemonic symbols of shawl and mansion to Viswas, Jairaj gets rid of them and emerges with his own newly gained identity. Viswas too demolishes that mansion and suggests a considerate version of masculinity. The evocative suggestions to Lord Shiva, Devdasi's worship of Natraja and the

vision of man and woman moving into their ecstatic embrace—all advocate for the divine fusion of various substitutions of heterosexuality.

In this game, Dattani openly touches on several sensitive topics along with the gender. The question of the struggle for independence, again touches on the generational conflict between father and son and touches on the topic of the conflict between marriage and career. *Dance Like a Man* shows characters who feel exhausted and feel unfulfilled life, caused by adverse conditions that did not allow them to meet lives according to their own ideas. Structurally in the drama very well time zone interweaving works. It's an element that moves the story excitingly forward to its tragic climax.

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દલિત ચેતનાનું પ્રતિનિધિત્વ કરતી વાર્તા 'આંધું'

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શ્રી સર્વોદય આર્ટ્સ એન્ડ કોમર્સ કોલેજ, કાંટ, ડીસા

મોહન પરમાર કૃત નકલંક વાર્તા સંગ્રહની દલિત ચેતનાનું પ્રતિનિધિત્વ કરતી “આંધું” વાર્તામાં દલિત ચેતનાનું સુંદર વર્ણન થયું છે. આ વાર્તા મોહન પરમાર ની નોંધપાત્ર વાર્તા છે. આ વાર્તા જેટલી કલાત્મક છે એટલી જ દલિત ચેતનાને ઉજાગર કરનાર છે. ગ્રામીણ સામાજિક માનવતાભરી છબી ઊભી કરતી આ વાર્તામાં ભોળા નું પાત્ર કેન્દ્રમાં છે.

નકલંક સંગ્રહની આ ‘આંધું’ વાર્તા દલિત પરિવેશ ને આલેખે છે. વાર્તામાં દલિત - અદલિત વર્ગ વચ્ચેના ભેદભાવ અને સંવાદ-વિસંવાદ વર્ણવાયો છે. માનવ મનોભાવ આ વાર્તામાં કેન્દ્ર સ્થાને છે. જેમાં આંધી અને વાવાઝોડા વચ્ચે ભયગ્રસ્ત થયેલા નાયકની મનઃસ્થિતિનું કલાત્મક આલેખન થયું છે.

નાયકના મુખે કહેવાયેલી આ વાર્તા માં હટાણું કરવા નીકળેલા ભોળીદાનું મનોગત પ્રત્યક્ષ થયું છે. સ્ટેશનથી પાછા ફરતી વખતે આંધી ઉઠે છે ને ભોળીદા પટેલ આ આંધીમાં ફસાય છે ને શના સેનમાની ઊંટગાડીને આશરે આંધીથી બચે છે, એટલી કથા છે. ‘આંધું’માં પવનના તોફાનનું વર્ણન જુઓ, વાર્તાકારે કેટલી માવજતથી આંધીના આ વાતાવરણને ભોળીદાની મનઃશારીરિક સ્થિતિ માટે પ્રતિકાત્મક બનાવી ઉપયોગમાં લીધું છે, તે સ્પષ્ટ થશે.

“પરથમી પર વાદળાની ઝાંચ પડતી તિ. મન થયુ કઅ પરથમી ચ્યમ મેલીદાટ દેખાય છઅ? ધૂળ હામું જોયું તો ધૂળેય મેલીદાટ. કઅ પછઅ કાંક કઉતુક થયું છઅ! ઉ કાંઈ વધારે વચારું તે પે’લાં હુલવાટા મારતો વાયરો મારા બે પગ વચાલે થઈ નઅ ભાગી જ્યો . ધોતીયું રામાપીરની ધજા પેઠે હવામાં ફૂડફૂડ થવા માંડ્યું મી વગડામાં નજર નાખી. વગડો ધુળમાં રમતો ‘તો ખેતરોમાં આભનો રોંચ દેખાતો નો’તો. જોણી આ પરથમી પર ઉ એકલો જ ના હોઉ ! મનઅ તો બીક લાજી. મી ડોટ દીધી પણ હામી દશમાં દોડાયું જ નઈ જાણી મારી છાતી જ ચિરાઈ જઈ. એ ભોળા ચ્યમ આમ રાંક થઈ જ્યો?કુદરત આગળ ચેવો હેંચકા લેવા માંડ્યો?” (મોહન પરમાર ની વાર્તા સૃષ્ટિ પૃષ્ઠ -૮૭)

શનો અને ભોળીદા એક હલકી વરણમાંય ઉતરતો અને બીજો સર્વાર્ણ જાતિનો- આ વર્ગભેદ આ વાર્તામાં કેન્દ્રસ્થાને છે. શનો ભયભીત થયેલા ભોળીદા પટેલને પોતાની ઊંટગાડીમાં બેસાડી આંધી વચ્ચેથી સલામત લેતો આવે છે તો પણ, સમાજના ઊંચા વર્ણના ભોળીદા પટેલની રૂઢિવાદી મનોદશા પ્રગટ થઈ જાય છે જુઓ:

“આ સેનમું ચ્યમ આટલું બધું ફાટી જ્યું છઅ. ઊંટગાડી વાળું થઈ જ્યું ઈમઅ તોર કરવા માંડ્યું. બે પાંચ વરહ મોર તો મારા સે તરમાં જ વાઢવા આવતુંતું , ભૂલી જ્યું બધું” (મોહન પરમારની વાર્તા સૃષ્ટિ પૃષ્ઠ ૮૦) શના સેનમા અને ભોળીદા પટેલ વચ્ચે બનેલી એક જૂની ઘટના જેમાં ભોળીદાએ ઊંટના પાલા માટે લીમડો પાડતા શનાને બરાબરનો રગરગાયો ‘તો લીમડો પાડ્યો હતો તે ગાડીમાંથી નીચે નખાઈ દીધો હતો એ દિવસે શનો ભાગ્યો હતો એ વાત યાદ કરતાં ભોળીદા પટેલને શંકા પડે છે: શનો એ જૂની વાત યાદ કરીને બદલો લેવા માટે તો ખોટા રસ્તે નહીં લઈ જતો હોય ને? આ વિચારે ભોળીદા વધારે ફૂફડી ઊઠે છે ભોળીદા આરંભથી જ ભયભીત છે શનો આજે બદલો લેશે જ. ભોળીદાને જૂની વાતો યાદ આવે છે: ‘તે દાડે કો’કની આગળ લવેલો: ભોળાનઅ ચકેડી ભમૈડીનો કરું તો મારું નામ શનો નઈ આજ મને ચકેડી ભમૈડી કરવાનો ઈનો લાગ છઅ, આ અજાણ્યા નેળયા માં ઈમનમ મનઅ લઈનઅ નથી નોશ્યો હોં (એજન પૃષ્ઠ ૮૧)

તો સામે શનોય ભોળીદાને એ વાત યાદ કરાવે છે કે “ભોળાભૈ ! પેલું યાદ છે તમને ! ચિયું ભૈ તમારા સેતરમાંથી ઊંટ હારું મી લેમડો પાડ્યો. ‘તો એ? (એજન પૃષ્ઠ ૮૦) અને છતાં શના ની માનવતા કહો કે બદલો વળી ગયાની ભાવના કહો, વાર્તાના અંતે જતાં તે કહે છે: ‘રસ્તામાં ઝાડ આડા પડેલાં છે ભોળીદાને આંધીનો તો ભય હતો જ, સાથે આ શનાનોય ભય પેઠો છે. પણ અંતે શનો ભોળીદાને કહે છે, ‘આંધું મરી જ્યું છઅ હવ કશો ભો નથી, બેહી જાઓ લારીમાં’. (એજન પૃષ્ઠ ૮૫)

આ વાર્તામાં આંધાનું નિરૂપણ પ્રતિકાત્મક છે તે વાર્તાનું મુખ્ય પાત્ર ભોળીદા પટેલના મનમાં ચાલતા ચકરાવાને પણ ઈંગિત કરે છે ભોળીદા પટેલના પાત્રમાં રહેલો ભય પ્રથમ પુરુષ એક વચનના કથન કેન્દ્રથી સતત પ્રગટ થતો રહે છે.

આ વાર્તામાં શનો નીચલી જાતિનો છે છતાં પણ પોતાની માનવતાને ગરવાઈ બતાવે છે. જે માણસે પોતાનું એક સમયે અપમાન કરેલું એવા ભોળીદાને આપત્તિના સમયે મદદરૂપ થાય છે અહીં, આ વાર્તામાં સર્જકે દલિત-સર્વાર્ણ વચ્ચેના સંબંધને સુપેરે ઉપસાવ્યા છે. ગ્રામ્ય સમાજમાં દલિતો વિશેના સર્વાર્ણ સમાજના મનમાં પ્રવર્તતા ખ્યાલો ભોળીદાના પાત્ર દ્વારા લેખકે અહીં ઉજાગર કર્યા છે પણ એ બધાથી પર એવા પરમ માનવીય ગુણો સાથેના શના જેવા દલિતો પણ આ જગતમાં હોય છે તે વિસંવાદ આ વાર્તામાં સુપેરે છતો થાય છે.

સંદર્ભગ્રંથ

૧. નકલંક - મોહન પરમાર



'દશકુમારચરિત'માં સ્ત્રીનિરૂપણ

પ્રા. માલાજી એન. સોલંકી

૧. પૂર્વભૂમિકા

સંસ્કૃત ગદ્ય સાહિત્યમાં અત્યંત મોખરાનું સ્થાન પ્રાપ્ત કરનાર કવિ દંડીએ પોતાના 'દશકુમારચરિત'નામના ગ્રંથમાં કેટલીક પ્રચલિત અને લોકપ્રિય કથાઓનું નિરૂપણ કર્યું છે. જેનું મૂળ આ પ્રમાણે છે: મિત્રગુપ્ત નામનો રાજકુમાર રાજવાહનની શોધમાં સુધ્યદેશના દામલિત્પ નગરમાં રાજા તુંગધન્વાની પુત્રીની કન્દુકકીડા વખતે પ્રથમ દૃષ્ટિએ જ બંને એક બીજાના પ્રેમમાં પડ્યા પરંતુ કન્દુકાવતીના ભાઈ ભીમ ધન્વાના વિરોધ છતાં તેણે (ભીમધન્વા) એ ઊભી કરેલી મુશ્કેલીઓને તે (મિત્રગુપ્ત) કઈ રીતે પાર કરે છે તેનું નિરૂપણ આ કથાઓમાં જેવા મળે છે. આ ચાર ઉત્તરોના સમર્થન માટે દૃષ્ટાંતરૂપે મિત્રગુપ્તે તે બ્રહ્મરાક્ષસને ધુમિની, ગોમિની, નિમ્બવતી અને નિતમ્બવતીની કથાઓ કહી જે આછે.

મિત્રગુપ્ત કન્દુકાવતીને પરણે તો ભીમધન્વાએ તેના આશ્રિત બનવું પડે અને વળી ચંદ્રસેના કોશદાસને આપવી પડે. આથી તેણે ઉપરથી ચિત્રગુપ્તને દરિયામાં ફેંકાવી દીધો અને ત્યાંથી પવનોએ તેને બચાવ્યો પછી તે નાવમાં આગળ વધતાં મધદરિયે પ્રતિકૂળ પવનથી યુવનોનું વહાણ એક અજાણા બેટ ઉપર પહોંચી ગયું. ત્યાં ચિત્રગુપ્ત એક સરોવરમાં સ્નાન કરવા ઉતર્યો, અને ત્યાં તેને એક બ્રહ્મરાક્ષસે રોક્યો અને તેને પૂછેલા ચાર પ્રશ્નોના બરાબર ઉત્તરો ન આપે તો તેને ખાઈ જવાની ધમકી આપી હતી તેમના પ્રશ્નો અને જવાબનો સંવાદ આ પ્રમાણે છે.

‘કીં ક્રૂર ‘સ્ત્રિહૃદયં’ .કિં ગુહણ: પ્રિયહિતાય’ ‘દારગુણ :’ ।

‘ક: કામ :’ ‘સકલ્પ દુશ્ક્રસાધનં’, ‘પ્રક્ષા ।

૨. ધુમિનીની કથા

ત્રિગર્ત નામના એક દેશમાં ધનક, ધાન્યક અને ધન્યક નામના ત્રણ અત્યંત ધનવાન ભાઈઓ રહેતા હતા. એકવાર ત્યાં બાર વર્ષનો દુષ્કાળ પડ્યો. તેઓની બધી જ સંપત્તિ ખતમ થઈ ગઈ. પછી તેઓએ પોતાના પશુઓનું ભક્ષણ કર્યું અંતે તેઓ બે મોટાભાઈઓની પત્નીઓનું પણ ભક્ષણ કરી ગયા. અને હવે બીજે દિવસે નાનાભાઈની પત્નીનું ભક્ષણ કરીશું એમ તેઓએ નક્કી કર્યું. પરંતુ નાનો ભાઈ ધન્યક પત્નીને બચાવવા તે જ રાત્રે તેની પત્ની સાથે નાસી ગયો. થાકેલી પત્નીને ખભે ઊંચકીને તે વનમાં પ્રવેશ્યો. પોતાના માંસ અને રૂધિરથી તે તેની પત્નીની ભૂખ તરસને મિટાવતો જતો હતો હવે ત્યાં માર્ગમાં જ હાથ, પગ, કાન અને નાક કપાયેલા એક અપંગ માણસને તેણે જમીન પર તડપતો જોયો દયા આવવાથી ધન્યકે તેને પણ ખભા ઉપર ઊંચકી લીધી અને હવે બધાં ગહન વાની પાર્ણશાળામાં રોકાયા, ધન્યકે તે અપંગનું પણ શાક અને માંસથી પોતાની જેમ જ પોષણ કર્યું અને ઈગુદીનું તેલ તેના ઘા ઉપર લગાડ્યું. પૂરતા પોષણ અને દરકારથી અપંગ હવે પુષ્ટ શરીરવાળાં બન્યો. એકવાર જ્યારે ધન્યક હરણનો શિકાર કરવા ગયો ત્યારે ધૂમિનીને પુષ્ટ શરીર અને સ્તંભિત વીર્યવાળા અપંગ પાસે સુરતક્રિયાની ઈચ્છાથી ગઈ. પેલાએ તેનો તિરસ્કારથી ઈન્કાર કરવા છતાં ધૂમિનીએ તેની પાસે બળાત્કારે રતિકીડા કરાવી. એ પછી વનમાંથી પાછા આવેલા પતિએ પાણીની યાચના કરતાં પત્નીએ કહ્યું કે,

“ઉદ્ધૃત્પ કૃપાત્પિબ, રુજતિ શિર: શિરોરોગ:”

“મારું માથું દુખે છે તમે જાતે કૂવામાંથી ખેંચીને પાણી પીઓ.

ધન્યક જ્યારે પાણી કાઢતો હતો ત્યારે પાછળથી જઈને તે સ્ત્રીએ ધક્કો માર્યો અને પેલા અપંગને ખભે ઉપાડીને એક ગામથી બીજે ગામ ફરવા લાગી. લોકોએ તેને મહાન પ્રતિષ્ઠા અને સતી માની લીધી અને પ્રજાના સત્કાર અને અવંતીરાજની કૃપાથી પુષ્કળ ધન પ્રાપ્ત કરીને મોજથી રહેવા લાગી.

હવે આ તરફ કૂવામાં પડેલા પન્ધકને પાણી પીવા આવેલા કોઈ વણિકે બહાર કાઢ્યો પછી ભીખ માગતો તે ઉજ્જયિનીમાં આવ્યો. માર્ગમા તેને જોઈને પેલી કુલટાએ જાહેર કર્યું કે,

"येनमे पतिर्विकलीकृतः स दुरात्माऽयम् ।"

‘જેણે મારા પતિને અપંગ બનાવ્યો તે આ દુષ્ટ છે.’

હવે અજાણ રાજાએ સાધુચરિત ધન્યને વધની શિક્ષા ફરમાવી વધભૂમિ તરફ જતાં માર્ગમાં તેણે રક્ષ કોને કહ્યું કે,

‘यो माया विकलीकृतोऽभिमतो मिक्षुः स

चेम्पे- पापमाचिक्षत युक्तो मे दण्डः ।

‘જો તે અપંગ આવીને જણાવે કે મે તેને અપંગ બનાવ્યો છે તો આ શિક્ષા યોગ્ય ગણાશે. છે’. હવે અપંગને પૂછપરછ માટે બોલાવ્યો અને આખમાં આંસુ સાથે તેણે ધન્યકનું સત્કાર્ય અને સતી બની બેઠેલી તે કુલટાનું દુચરિત્ર વર્ણવ્યું. પછી રાજાએ શોષપૂર્વક તે દુરાચારી સ્ત્રીને કદરૂપી બનાવી ચાંડાલીની જાહેર કરી અને ધન્યકને પોતાનો પ્રીતિપાત્ર બનાવ્યો.

તેથી મિત્રગુપ્તે બ્રહ્મરાક્ષસને કહ્યું કે આથી જ હું કરું છું કે સ્ત્રીનું હૃદય કૂર હોય છે. ઉપરોક્ત ઉક્તિને ચરિતાર્થ કરતાં ત્રુગ્વેદ: સુત્કાવલી ના પુરુરવા અને ઉર્વશીના સંવાદ સુકતમાં પણ ઉર્વશી કહે છે કે,

"पुरुरवो मा वृथ्था मा प्र पप्तो मा त्या वृकास्सो अशिवास्स उ श्रन ।

न वै स्तृणीणानि संख्यानि सन्ति मालावृकाणां हृदयान्येता ॥

અર્થાત (ઉર્વશી) હે પુરુરવસ ! તું મરીશ મા, તું પ્રપાત મા કરીશ, અશુભ જંગલી વરુઓ પણ તને મા ખાવ. સ્ત્રીઓ સાથે કરેલાં સંખ્યો (સાચા) હોતાં નથી કારણ કે તે (સ્ત્રીઓનાં સંખ્યો તો) માલાવૃકોના હૃદયો જોતાં (અર્થાત્ પોતાના ઉપર વિશ્વાસ રાખનારની જ ઘાત કરનાર) હોય છે.

એટલે કે આ મંત્રમાં ઉર્વશીએ સ્ત્રીઓની સાથે સ્નેહસંબંધ ન બાંધવો કારણ કે એમનાં સંખ્યો તો સાલાવૃકોના હૃદયો જેવાં હોય છે. એકવાર વિશ્વાસ પેદા કરાવીને પછી વિશ્વાસુ વ્યક્તિનો પાત કરનારાં હોય છે એમ જાહેર કરે છે તેથી આ ઉક્તિ પરથી પણ સ્ત્રી હૃદયની કૂરતાના દર્શન થાય છે.

“कि गुहिणः प्रियहिताय” ‘दारगुणा :

गृहस्थना प्रिय અને હિત માટે શું જરૂરી

૩. 'પત્નીના ગુણો'

બ્રહ્મરાક્ષસના પૂછવાથી તેણે પત્નીના ગુણોનો મહિમા કરતી વાત કહી. દ્રવિડ દેશના કાંચી નગરમાં એક કરોડપત્તિ વેશ્ય પુત્ર રહેતો હતો. શક્તિકુમાર તેનું નામ હતું. તે અઢાર વર્ષનો થયો ત્યારે વિચારવા લાગ્યો કે સ્ત્રી વગરના અને અવગુણી સ્ત્રીવાળાને સુખ મળતું નથી. તો ગુણવાન સ્ત્રી કેવી રીતે પ્રાપ્ત કરવી ? બીજાઓ દ્વારા શોધી લેવાયેલ સ્ત્રીને બદલે પોતે જ બરાબર તપાસ કરીને ગુણવાન અને પત્ની તરીકે લાવવાનો વિચાર કરીને તેણે જોશીનો વેશ ધારણ કરી નીકળી પડ્યો. પોતાની કરી. પાસે માત્ર એક જ પ્રસ્થ ડાંગર લઈને તે અનેક જગ્યાએ ફરતો કોઈ કુલીન કન્યાને જોતાં તે પૂછતો કે "આ એક પ્રસ્થ ડાંગરમાંથી મને સારું ભોજન બનાવીને જમાડી શકશે ?" આ સાંભળી સૌ કન્યાઓ તેની હાંસી અને તિરસ્કાર કરતી, ફરતાં ફરતાં તેણે એક દિવસ કાવેરી નદીના દક્ષિણ ભાગના એક નગરમાં એક કન્યા જોઈ. તેના માતા-પિતા મૃત્યુ પામ્યા હતા. તેના ઘરની સંપત્તિ પણ નાશ પામી હતી. છતાં તે કન્યા નમ્ર, સપ્રમાણ અંગોવાળી અને સામુદ્રિક શાસ્ત્રોક્ત મંગલ લક્ષણો ધરાવતી હતી.

હવે તેને પણ એક જ પ્રશ્ન પૂછ્યો અને તે કન્યા એક પ્રસ્થ ડાંગર લઈને તેને સાફ કરી ચોખા અને કોતરા જુદાં પાડ્યાં, ફોતરા સોની પાસે મોકલાવી તેને વેચીને તેના બદલામાં લાકડાં હાંડી અને બે શાવલાં લઈ આવતાં ઉપમાતાને જણાવ્યું. ચોખાને છડીને આખા ચોખા અને કણકીને અલગ કર્યાં. ચોખાને રાંધી લીધા પછી લાકડાને ઠારીને કોલસા પાડીને તેના બદલામાં શાક, ઘી, તેલ, આમલી વગેરે લઈ આવવા ધસીને કહ્યું. ઉપર્યુક્ત ચીજો લાવતાં તેણે બે ત્રણ પ્રકારના શાક અને ઓસામાણ તૈયાર કર્યાં. અતિથિને તેણે આમ અનેક વાનગી પૂર્ણ ભોજન પીરસ્યું. શક્તિકુમાર પ્રસન્ન થઈ ગયો અને તેની સાથે પરણી ગયો. પરણ્યા પછી શક્તિકુમાર આવી સુશીલ પત્નીની ઉપેક્ષા કરી તેની સમક્ષ જ ગણિકાને સેવા લાગ્યો. તે સ્ત્રીએ ગણિકા સાથે પણ પોતાની સખી જેવો જ વ્યવહાર કર્યો અને અપરાધી પતિની પણ દૈવસમાન સેવા કરવા લાગી અને ઘરના સર્વ કાર્ય આળસ વગર પૂર્ણ કરતી તેની પતિપરાયાણતાથી મુગ્ધ બનીને પતિએ પોતાનો બધો કારોબાર તેને સોંપ્યો પોતાનું જીવન અને શરીર સોંપીને ત્રિવર્ગની સિદ્ધિ પ્રાપ્ત કરી મિત્રગુપ્તે કહ્યું. આથી જ હું કહું છું કે ગૃસ્થના પ્રિય અને હિત માટે તો ખરેખર તો પત્નીના ગુણો જ મહત્વના છે.

૪. નિમ્બવતીની કથા

ક: 'કામ 'સ્સંકલ્પ'

અર્થાત્ ઈચ્છવાયોગ્ય શું છે ?" સંકલ્પ

બ્રહ્મરાક્ષસના આગ્રહથી મિત્રગુપ્તે 'સંકલ્પ'નો મહિમા કરતી વાર્તા કહી. સૌરાષ્ટ્રના તલભીપુરન ગૃહગુપ્ત નામના નાવિકોના સરદારને રત્નવતી નામે પુત્રી હતી. મધુમતી નગરનો બલભદ્ર નામનો વૈશ્ય તેને પરણ્યો. નવોઢા સાથે એકાંતમાં સુરતકિડા દરમિયાન તે નવસવી હોવાથી તેણે રતિકિડામાં વિઘ્ન ઊભું કર્યું, આ સામાન્ય બનાવને ગંભીરતાથી લઈને બલભદ્રે પત્નીનો ત્યાગ કર્યો. હવે સ્વજનો અને અન્ય લોકો તિરસ્કારથી રત્નવતીને નિમ્બવતી કહેવા લાગ્યા. પતિ સુખથી વંચિત થયેલી અને પ્રસ્તાતી રત્નવતીએ સંન્યાસિનીની મદદથી પતિની પુનઃપ્રાપ્તિ માટે એક યોજના બનાવી.

તે યોજના મુજબ રત્નવતીના પડોશમાં રહેતી અને તેના જેવા જ રૂપ અને અવયવોવાળી તેની સખી કનકવતીની આગાશીમાં તે બરાબર સુંદર રીતે તૈયાર થઈને દડાથી રમશે. આ સમય દરમિયાન સંન્યાસિનીએ બલભદ્રને ત્યાં લાવવી. તે નજીક આવતાં તેની તરફ દળે ફેંકશે. ત્યારે તેણીએ તેને કહેલું કે "વણિક શ્રેષ્ઠ નિધિપતિદત્તની આ સુપુત્રી તમારી પત્નીની સખી છે અને તે રત્નવતીના બનાવના બહાને તમારી નિંદા કરે છે. આ દો શત્રુધન હોવાથી તેને પાછો આપણો તે દડો પાછો આપવા આવશે ત્યારે તે આલિંગનથી તેને પ્રેમાસક્ત કરશે અને તક મેળવીને તેની સાથે નાસી જશે. આ યોજના પૂરેપૂરી સફળ થઈ. બલભદ્ર રત્નવતીને નવતી માનીને તેને લઈને નીકળી ગયો અને ખેટકપુરમાં વસવા લાગ્યો.

તેઓએ રસ્તામાં એક દાસીને સાથે લીધી હતી. ત્યાં બલભદ્ર ધોડી ઘણું ધન કમાયો. એકવાર રત્નવતીએ દાસી સાથે અણબનાવ થતાં તેને પહેલાં રત્નવતીએ ફરેલી કેટલીક રહસ્ય વાતો જાહેર કરી દીધી લોભી દંડનાયક બલભદ્ર ઉપર કનવતીને ભગાડી લાવવાનો આરોપ મૂકી તેની મિલકત જપ્ત કરવાનું ફરમાન કર્યું. મુશ્કેલીમાં મુકાઈ ગયેલા પતિને કનકવતી બનેલી રત્નવતીએ સાચી હકીકત જાણાવી તેના પિતા વગેરેની સાક્ષી લાવવા જાણાવ્યું. સમગ્ર હકીકત જાણી તેનો પિતા પોતાની પુત્રી અને જમાઈ રાજને હર્ષપૂર્વક લઈ ગયો. બલભદ્ર હવે રત્નવતીને વધુ ઉત્કટતાથી ચાહવા લાગ્યો. આથી આ કવિ આ કથા દ્વારા એવું કહેવા માર્ગ છે કે ઈચ્છવાયોગ્ય તો સંકલ્પ છે. નિતંબવતી કથા

किं दुष्करसधना: 'पश्चा ॥

अथार्त दुष्कर कार्यने करनार शुं છે ?

પ. 'બુધ્દ'

દુષ્કર કાર્ય સાધનાર બુધ્દ છે. એ દર્શાવવા માટે મિત્રગુપ્ત બ્રહ્મ રાક્ષસને આ વાર્તા કહી છે. શૂરસેન પ્રદેશમાં મથુરા નગરમાં કોઈ એક ઉત્તમ કુળમાં જન્મેલો અને નૃત્યગીતાદિ કલાઓમાં નિપુણ યુવક રહેતો હતો. તે વેશ્યાઓમાં આસક્ત રહેતો. તે પોતાના મિત્રો માટે અનેક લોકો સાથે અનેક ઉપદ્રવો કર્યા કરતો. તેથી લોકો એ તેનું નામ કલ્કટક પાડ્યું હતું. એકવાર તેણે એક ચિત્રકાર પાસે સુંદર યુવતીનું ચિત્ર એવું અને તે તેની પર આસક્ત થઈ ગયો. તેણે ચિત્રકાર પાસેથી જાણી લીધું કે તે ઉજ્જયિનીના અનંતકીર્તિ નામના વેપારીની પત્ની નિતંબવતીનું ચિત્ર હતું. કામળિવશ બનેલો તે જેપીનો વેશ રચી ત્યાં પહોંચ્યો. ભિક્ષાને બહાને તેને ઘેર જઈ તેને જોઈને તે વધુ કામાતુર બન્યો. નગરના આગેવાનો પાસેથી તેણે સ્મશાનરક્ષક તરીકેની નોકરી પ્રાપ્ત કરી લીધી. ત્યાં શો પરનાં વસ્ત્રો વગેરે આપીને તે એક જૈન ભિન્નીને ખુશ કરવા લાગ્યો. તેની મારફતે તેણે નિતંબવતીને એકાંતમાં મોકલાવ્યો. પરંતુ તળે ભિક્ષુણીને ધમકાવી કાઢી. તે કુલીન સ્ત્રીને શીલભ્રષ્ટ કરવી દુષ્કર છે એમ જાણતા હલકટકે બીજી યુક્તિ કરી. એક દૂનીને નિતંબી પાસે મોકલીને કહેવડાવ્યું કે સાધવીએ તો તમારા ચારિત્ર્યની પરીક્ષા કરતી હતી તમારી વિશદ્ધ સ્વભાવથી પ્રસન્ન થઈ તે તને સંતાનવાળી જોવા ઈચ્છે છે. પરંતુ તારો પતિ કોઈ દુષ્ટ ગ્રહથી પીડિત છે અને પાંડુરોગથી ગ્રસ્ત છે. ગ્રહદોષ દૂર કર્યા સિવાય સંતાનપ્રાપ્તિ અશક્ય છે. હું રાત્રે એકલી વૃક્ષવાટિકામાં આવજે ત્યાં એક ત્રિશ તારા ચરણને ગુપ્તરીતે મંત્ર આપશે. જે વડે તારા પતિના વક્ષસ્થળમાં પ્રહાર કરતાં તે વીર્યથી પુષ્ટ 'દેવી'ની માફક માનવા લાગશે.

પુત્રપ્રાપ્તિથી લલચાઈને તે પતિવ્રતા રાત્રે ત્યાંપહોંચી મત્રજ્ઞ બનેલા કલકટકે તેના પગમાંથી એક છે. ઝાંઝરું ખેંચી લીધું અને તેની જંઘ ઉપર ઘસરકો કર્યો અને પછી નાસી ગયો. તે ગભરાઈ ગઈ અને કશું પણ બોલ્યા વીના પસ્તાવામાં ચાલી ગઈ. ચારેક દિવસ આરામ કરવાના બહાને સૂઈ ગઈ. લુચ્યો કલકટકે તે ઝાંઝરું લઈને વેચવા માટે તેના પતિ પાસે જ ગયો તેણે પત્નીનાં ઝાંઝરું અંગે અને તેની પ્રાપ્તિ અંગે પૂછ્યું તેણે મહાજન સમક્ષ જવાબ આપવા જાણાવ્યું. અનંતકીર્તિએ પત્ની પાસે બે ઝાંઝરા મંગાવ્યાં તેણે એક વૃક્ષવાટિકામાં પડી ગયું છે. તેમ જાણાવી બાકીનું એક ઝાંઝરું મોકલાવ્યું. મહાજન સમક્ષ કલકટકે જાણાવ્યું કે સ્મશાનમાં રાત્રે એક અર્ધ બળેલા શબને ખેંચતી સ્ત્રીના પગમાંથી તેણે આ ખેંચી લીધું છે તે સ્ત્રી તો છટકી ગઈ છે પણ હાથમાંથી છરી વડે તેની જંઘમાં એક ઘસરી હું કરી શક્યો છું" તપાસ કરતાં આ સ્ત્રી ઉપસંહાર અનંતકીર્તિની પત્ની હોવાનું જાણાયું. તેથી નગરના બધા લોકોએ એકમતથી નિર્ણય કર્યો કે આ અનંતકીર્તિની પત્ની ડાક્યું છે. તેના પતિએ તેનો ત્યાગ કર્યો. નિદોષ નિતંબવતી ત્રાસીને આપઘાત કરવા સ્મશાનમાં ગઈ. લુચ્યા કલકટકે તેને પગે પડીને અનેક રીતે આશ્વાસનો આપી મનાવી લઈને પોતાને વશ કરી લીધી. આ કથામાં કવિ એવું કહેવા માર્ગ છે કે કઠિન બાબતને સિદ્ધ કરવાનું સાધન પ્રજ્ઞા ગણાય છે. આમ, મૂળ કથા પ્રમાણે મિત્રગુપ્તે આપેલા ઉત્તરો અને તેની દૃષ્ટાંતકથાઓ સાંભળીને બ્રહ્મરાક્ષસ તેની પર પ્રસન્ન થયો.

1. ઉપરોક્ત દર્શાવેલ પ્રથમ કથામાં કાર્મી સ્ત્રીનું હૃદય કેટલું બધું કૂર હોય છે તેનું આપણને સ્પષ્ટ રીતે આ ભૂમિનીની કથા ઉપરથી જાણાઈ આવે.

2. ધૂમિનીની કથાની વિરુદ્ધમાં ગોમિનીની કથામાં જોવા મળે છે. જે બધી જ સ્ત્રીઓ ગુણવગરની નથી હોતી તે આ ગોમિનીની કથા ઉપરથી સિદ્ધ થાય છે. એક ગુણવાન સ્ત્રી પોતાના પતિ સહિત આખા કુટુંબને કેવી રીતે સન્માર્ગે દોરે છે તે આ ગોમિનીની કથામાં જોવા મળે છે.
3. નિમ્બવતી કથામાં સંકલ્પનો મહિમા દર્શાવવામાં આવ્યો છે જેમાં કોઈપણ મનુષ્ય પોતાની યોજના પ્રમાણે જે કંઈ મેળવવા માટે સંકલ્પ કરે છે તે હંમેશા સફળ બને છે. જેનું અહીં આ કથામાં દર્શન થાય છે.
4. નિતમ્બવતી કથામાં દુષ્કાર્યને સિદ્ધ કરવા માટે પ્રશાનું કેટલું મહત્ત્વ હોય છે. તેની વાસ કરવામાં આવી છે.

૫. ઉપસંહાર

આમ દશકુમારમાં પ્રાપ્ત ઉપરોક્ત ઘટનાઓ આમ તો દેવયોગે બનેલી હોય એવું લાગે છે.પરંતુ આ દરેક કથાઓમાંથી આપણને અલગ અલગ સંદેશો આપવા માટે અહીં દંડીએ અથાગપ્રયત્નો કરી માનવજીવનને ઉપયોગી બને તેવી સુંદર કથાઓનું નિરૂપણ કરેલ છે.

સંદર્ભસૂચિ

૧. દશકુમારચરિત સરસ્વતી પ્રકાશન અધતન આવૃત્તી -૨૦૦૨-૨૦૦૩
૨. રુગ્વેદ -સુત્કાવલી' સરસ્વતી પુસ્તક ભંડાર, અમદાવાદ-પ્રથમ આવૃત્તિ -૨૦૧૨ -૨૦૧૩



A Comprehensive Overview of Indian Economy

DR. DHARMISHTHA B. SOLANKI

Abstract:

This study provides a comprehensive overview of the Indian economy, analyzing its key sectors, growth patterns, challenges, and policy interventions. It explores the historical evolution of the Indian economy and its transition from an agrarian-based economy to a diverse, service-oriented one. The study highlights the impact of globalization, industrialization, and policy reforms on India's economic landscape. Additionally, it discusses demographic trends, income distribution, and potential future trajectories to offer a holistic understanding of the Indian economy.

Keywords: *Indian Economy, Economic Growth, Policy Interventions, Industrialization, Demographic Trends*

1. Introduction

Every economy in the world has its own characteristics or features by which it is known or identified. Economies are compared with each other on the basis of these features. India as a distinct nation came into existence on 15th August 1947, called the independence day of India which marked the end of British rule over India. After that, Independent India has completed 66 years of self rule on 15th August 2013. This period is long enough to evaluate the position and performance of the country to enable comparison with other countries in the world as well as evaluate its own progress over the years. With this view in mind the current lesson provides the features of Indian economy.

2. Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

1. To describe the characteristics or features of Indian economy;
2. To explain the problems faced by Indian economy;
3. To explain the role of agriculture in India; and
4. To describe the growth of industry in India.

3. Features of Indian Economy

Let us now list the features of Indian economy as follows:

- (i) Low per capita income
- (ii) Heavy population pressure
- (iii) Dependence of population on agriculture
- (iv) Poverty and Inequality income distribution
- (v) Higher level of capital formation which is a positive feature
- (vi) Planned economy

let us discuss these points one by one.

(i) Low per capita income

India is known in the world as a country with low per capita income. Per capita income is defined as the ratio of national income over population. It gives the idea about the average earning of an Indian citizen in a year, even though this may not reflect the actual earning of each individual. India's per capita income for the year 2012-2013 is estimated at ₹ 39,168. This comes to about ₹ 3,264 per month. If we compare India's per capita income with other countries of the world then it can be seen that India is well behind many of them. For example, the per capita income of USA is 15 times more that of India while China's per capita income is more than three times of India.

(ii) Heavy population pressure

India is world's second largest populated country after China. As per 2011 census India's population stands at more than 121 crores. It increased at a rate of 1.03 percent during 1990-2001. The main cause of fast rise in India's population is the sharp decline in death rate while the birth rate has not decreased as fast. Death rate is defined as the number of people died per thousand of population while birth rate is defined as the number of people taking birth per thousand of population. In 2010, the birth rate was 22.1 persons per one thousand population while the death rate was only 7.2 persons per one thousand population. Low death rate is not a problem. In fact, it is a sign of development. Low death rate reflects better public health system. But high birth rate is a problem because it directly pushes the growth of population. After 1921, India's population increased very fast because birth rate declined very slowly while death rate declined very fast. From 49 in 1921 the birth rate declined to 22.1 in 2010 while during the same time period, death rate declined from 49 to 7.2. Hence the population growth was very rapid in India.

Heavy population pressure has become a major source of worry for India. It has put burden on the public exchequer to mobilize enough resources to provide public education, health care, infrastructure etc.

(iii) Dependence on Agriculture

Majority of India's working population depend on agricultural activities to pursue their livelihood. In 2011 about 58 percent of India's working population was engaged in agriculture. In spite of this, the contribution of agriculture to India's gross domestic product is a little over 17 percent. A major concern of agriculture in India is that productivity in this sector is very less. There are many reasons for this. There is heavy population pressure on land to sustain huge number. Due to population pressure on land the per capita availability of land area is very low and not viable for extracting higher output. Two, since per capita land availability is less, most people are forced to become agricultural labour working at low wages. Three, Indian agriculture suffers from lack of better technology and irrigation facilities. Four, mostly people, who are not educated or not trained properly, are engaged in agriculture. So, it adds to low productivity in agriculture.

(iv) Poverty and inequality

Another very disheartening thing about India is that it has world's largest number of poor people. As per reports of government of India, in 2011-12 about 269.3 million people in India were poor. This was about 22 percent of India's population.

A person is termed poor if he/she is not able to consume the required amount of food to get a minimum calorie value of 2400 in rural area and 2100 in urban area. For this the person must earn the required amount of money as well to buy the food items. The government has also estimated that the required amount of money is 816 in rural area and ₹ 1000 in urban area per head per month. This comes to about ₹ 28 in rural area and ₹ 33 in urban area per head per day. This is called poverty line. This implies that 269.9 million people of India were not able to earn such little amount in 2011-12.

Poverty goes with inequality in income and wealth distribution. Very few in India possess materials and wealth while majority have control over no or very little wealth in terms of land holding, house, fixed deposits, shares of companies, savings etc. Only top 5 percent of households control about 38 percent of total wealth in India while the bottom 60 percent of household has control over only 13 percent of the wealth. This indicates concentration of economic power in a very few hands.

Another issue linked to poverty is the problem of unemployment. One of the most important reasons of poverty in India is that there is lack of job opportunities for all the persons who are in the labour force of the country. Labour force comprises of the adult persons who are willing to work. If adequate number of jobs are not created every year, the problem of unemployment will grow. In India every year large number of people are added to the labour force due to increase in population, increase in number of educated people, lack of expansion of industrial and service sector at the required speed etc. So far

we discussed the negative features. There are certain positive features of Indian economy as well. They are discussed below.

(v) Higher rate of capital formation or investment

At the time of independence, one of the major problems of Indian economy was deficiency in capital stock in the form of land and building, machinery, and equipment, saving etc. In order to continue the cycle of economic activities such as production and consumption, a certain ratio of production must go towards saving and investment. However, the required ratio was never generated in the first four to five decades after independence. The simple reason being higher consumption of necessary items by the population of whom most happened to be poor and lower middle-income class. Collective household saving was very less due to this.

Consumption of durable items was also very less. But in recent years things have changed. Economists have calculated that in order to support the growing population, India requires 14 percent of its GDP to be invested. It is encouraging to note that the saving rate of India for the year 2011 stands at 31.7 percent. The ratio of gross capital formation was 36.6 percent. This is possible because people are now able to save in banks, consume durable goods and there has been large scale investment taking place on public utilities and infrastructure.

(vi) Planned economy

India is a planned economy. Its development process has been continuing through five-year plan since the first plan period during 1951-56. The advantage of planning is very well known. Through planning the country sets its priorities first and provides the financial estimates to achieve the same. Accordingly, efforts are made to mobilise resources from various sources at least cost. India has already completed eleven five-year plan periods and the twelfth plan is in progress. After every plan a review is made analysing the achievements and short falls. Accordingly, things are rectified in the next plan. Today India is a growing economy and recognised every where as a future economic power. The per capita income of India is growing at a higher rate than before. India is seen as a big market for various products. All these are possible due to planning in India.

4. Role of Agriculture in India

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of Indian economy. It is the supplier of food and raw materials in the country. At the time of independence more than 70 per cent of India's population depended on agriculture to earn livelihood.

Accordingly, the share of agriculture in the national product/income was as high as 56.6 per cent in 1950-51. However, with development of industries and service sector during the plan periods, the percentage of population depending on agriculture as well as the share of agriculture in the national product has come down. In 1960, the percentage of labour force engaged in agricultural activities was 74 which gradually came down over the years to 51 per cent in 2012. In 1960 the share of labour force in industry and service sectors stood at 11 and 15 percent respectively. But in 2012 these shares increased to 22.4 and 26.5 percent respectively. It has been observed in most of the economies that along with economic development shift in labour force from agriculture to industry and service sector takes place.

Agriculture is the source of food supply. The production of food grains has increased from nearly 55 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 259 million tones in 2012-13. Because of the growth in food grain production, India's dependence on import of food grains has declined and almost become nil. Keeping in view the rapid growth in India's population, increase in food grain was a necessity which the country achieved significantly. Except for pulses, increase in food grains has been mode possible by increase in cereals and various cash crops.

Agriculture is also a major source of foreign exchange earning through export. The share of agriculture in India's export in the year 2011-12 was 12.3 percent. The major items of export include tea, sugar, tobacco, spices, cotton, rice, fruits, and vegetables etc.

5. Growth of Industry in India

Industry or the secondary sector of the economy is another important area of economic activity. After independence, the government of India emphasized the role of industrialization in the country's economic development in the long run.

Accordingly, the blue print for industrial development was made through the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) in 1956. The 1956 policy emphasized on establishment of heavy industries with public sector taking the lead in this area.

Adoption of heavy or basic industries strategy was justified on the ground that it will reduce the burden on agriculture, enable growth in the production of consumer goods industries as well as small industries that are helpful for employment generation and achieving self reliance. After the adoption of the IPR, 1956 there was tremendous growth in industrialization during the second and third plan periods i.e., 1956-61 and 1961-66. Public sector contributed maximum to this growth. But towards the end of 1960s, investment in industries was reduced which adversely affected its growth rate. In the 1980s, this trend was reversed and investment in industries was increased by making the infrastructure base such as power, coal, rail much stronger. In early 1990s it was found that the public sector undertakings were not performing up to expectation. There has been reports of mismanagement in these undertakings resulting in loss. So, in 1991 the government of India decided to encourage the role of private sector in industrial development, remove the rigid licence system which is known as liberalization and allow international players to compete in the domestic country as well as domestic players to explore foreign territories. The aim of taking all these steps was to strengthen the process of industrialization in the country. Such a model of industrial development is called Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) model.

After the adoption of this new policy in 1991, there has been phases of growth followed by slowdown in the industrial development process. In the early years of 1990s there was significant growth in industrialization due to increase in investment in infrastructure, reduction in excise duty, availability of finance etc. But towards the end of 1990s the growth rate slowed down due to stiff competition from international companies, inadequate infrastructure support etc. However, in the beginning of the new millennium, between 2002-08 there was again some recovery due to increase in saving rate from 23.5 percent in 2001-2 to 37.4 percent in 2007-08. Even the competition from the foreign companies helped during this phase as the domestic companies could create enough internal strength in term of quality control, finance, and customer care etc. to withstand the competition. However, after 2008-09 there was some slow down in industrial growth due to rise in petroleum price, interest rate and borrowings from abroad which has created lot of liabilities for the domestic companies.

6. Conclusion

This comprehensive overview illuminates the multifaceted nature of the Indian economy, encapsulating its diverse sectors, historical trajectory, contemporary challenges, and potential growth avenues. India's economy has undergone a remarkable transformation, transitioning from primarily agrarian to a burgeoning services-led economy. The liberalization policies initiated in the 1990s propelled economic growth, attracting foreign investment, and fostering global integration.

The sectors contributing significantly to the economy include services, agriculture, manufacturing, and a burgeoning technology industry. However, challenges such as income inequality, unemployment, infrastructure gaps, and regional disparities persist, necessitating targeted policy interventions.

Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach, encompassing reforms in education, healthcare, labor markets, and infrastructure development. Furthermore, sustainable growth strategies should prioritize environmental conservation and inclusive development to uplift marginalized sections of society.

Demographically, India's youthful population offers a demographic dividend, provided adequate skill development and job opportunities are created. Harnessing this potential will be crucial for driving future growth and achieving socioeconomic prosperity.

In conclusion, while the Indian economy has made significant strides, ongoing reforms and strategic policy implementations are vital for navigating the evolving global economic landscape. A balanced and inclusive approach, coupled with sustained efforts towards socioeconomic development, will determine India's trajectory towards becoming a global economic powerhouse.

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Materialism and Society: A Comparative Analysis of 'Hard Times' and 'Gora'

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Abstract:

This comparative analysis explores the thematic intersections of materialism, societal change, and the human condition in two seminal literary works: "Hard Times" by Charles Dickens and "Gora" by Rabindranath Tagore. Dickens' novel critiques the Victorian era's obsession with utilitarianism and the relentless pursuit of material wealth, as seen through characters in the industrial town of Coketown. In contrast, Tagore's "Gora" transports readers to colonial India, where the clash between tradition and modernity mirrors the materialistic struggles depicted in "Hard Times." This article examines how both novels address questions of cultural identity, social change, individual vs. society, and the profound impact of human relationships. Despite their distinct settings and cultural backgrounds, "Hard Times" and "Gora" offer profound insights into the enduring struggle to preserve humanity within rapidly changing societies. This comparative study underscores the universal relevance of these literary masterpieces, inviting readers to reflect on their own values and priorities in a complex world.

Keywords: Materialism & society, "Hard Times", "Gora"

1. Introduction

Charles Dickens' novel "Hard Times" stands as a poignant critique of the pervasive materialism that characterized the Victorian era. Set against the backdrop of industrialization and social change, Dickens weaves a tale that exposes the dehumanizing effects of a society obsessed with utilitarianism and the relentless pursuit of material wealth. This paper delves into the novel's exploration of materialism through its characters, settings, and themes, shedding light on Dickens' scathing commentary on the consequences of valuing material gain over humanity.

2. The Materialistic World of Coketown

Coketown, the novel's central setting, serves as a stark representation of industrialization and the relentless pursuit of material gain. Dickens paints a grim picture of this polluted, soulless town where factories dominate the landscape, and the pursuit of profit is paramount. Characters such as Thomas Gradgrind, an emblem of utilitarian values, and Josiah Bounderby, a self-made factory owner, embody the materialistic ethos of Coketown. Dickens uses them to illustrate how an obsession with facts and figures can strip individuals of their humanity.

3. The Suffering of the Working Class

While the wealthy elite of Coketown revel in their opulence, the working-class residents, like Stephen Blackpool and Rachel, endure lives marked by hardship and suffering. Dickens underscores the stark contrast between the affluent and the impoverished, highlighting the devastating impact of materialistic policies and attitudes on the less fortunate. Through the struggles of these characters, he calls attention to the social injustices perpetuated by a materialistic society.

4. Education as a Tool of Materialism

One of Dickens' most poignant critiques in "Hard Times" is directed at the educational system championed by Gradgrind, which prioritizes facts and utilitarianism over all else. This system stifles creativity, imagination, and emotional development. The Gradgrind children, Louisa and Tom, are prime examples of the toll this form of education exacts on young minds. Dickens compellingly

demonstrates how a materialistic approach to education leaves individuals ill-prepared for the complexities of human relationships and emotions.

5. The Redemption of Sissy Jupe

In contrast to the materialistic values of Coketown, Sissy Jupe emerges as a symbol of compassion, imagination, and emotional depth. As a member of the circus, she represents a world apart from the utilitarian mindset. Sissy's influence on the Gradgrind family, particularly Louisa, leads to a transformation that underscores the power of love and empathy in combating materialism. Through Sissy's character, Dickens offers a glimmer of hope in an otherwise bleak landscape.

6. Materialism's Toll on Relationships

"Hard Times" is replete with failed marriages and strained relationships, all of which bear the mark of materialistic values. The marriages of Mr. and Mrs. Bounderby and Mr. and Mrs. Gradgrind are devoid of love and genuine connection, existing solely for the sake of appearances and social standing. Dickens skillfully demonstrates how materialism corrodes the bonds between individuals, leaving them emotionally impoverished.

If we are looking for a competitive novel from India that explores similar themes of materialism, social change and the human condition, "Gora" is the famous book written by Rabindranath Tagore. While Charles Dickens' "Hard Times" is set in the context of Victorian England during the height of the Industrial Revolution, "Gora" is set in British-controlled India during the late 19th century and early 20th century. Both novels engage with complex societal issues and offer deep insights into the impact of cultural and societal changes on individuals and communities.

"Gora" is a novel written by Rabindranath Tagore, the celebrated Indian poet, philosopher and author. It was published in 1910 and is one of Tagore's most significant works of fiction. The novel revolves around the life of its protagonist, Gora, who is an ardent nationalist and a strong advocate for Hindu culture and traditions.

7. Themes in "GORA"

- Cultural Identity: Similar to "Hard Times," "Gora" explores the tension between tradition and modernity. Gora grapples with questions of identity and his role in a changing India.
- Social Change: The novel delves into the social and political upheaval in colonial India and the impact of British rule on Indian society, drawing parallels to the industrialization and social change depicted in "Hard Times."
- Individual vs. Society: Gora, like characters in "Hard Times," must navigate the expectations of society while staying true to his own beliefs and values.
- Human Relationships: Both novels emphasize the importance of human relationships and the emotional and moral dimensions of life in the face of materialism and societal pressures.
- Comparing "Gora" alongside "Hard Times" can provide valuable insights into the themes of materialism, social change, and the human condition from both Western and Indian perspectives. "Gora" shares thematic elements with "Hard Times," it also explores distinct cultural and historical aspects relevant to India's colonial period.

8. Conclusion

In "Hard Times," Charles Dickens paints a vivid and damning portrait of a society consumed by materialism and utilitarianism during the Victorian era. Through characters like Gradgrind, Bounderby, and the residents of Coketown, Dickens illustrates the dehumanizing effects of a relentless pursuit of material gain. The novel serves as a timeless cautionary tale, reminding us of the profound consequences of valuing facts and figures over compassion and empathy. Dickens challenges us to examine our own values and priorities, urging us to place our shared humanity above all else. "Hard

"Times" remains a literary masterpiece that continues to resonate with readers worldwide, prompting reflection on the enduring relevance of its message.

"Gora" by Rabindranath Tagore transports us to colonial India, where the clash between tradition and modernity mirrors the materialistic struggles depicted in "Hard Times." The protagonist, Gora, navigates a complex web of cultural identities and political fervor. Tagore explores the profound impact of British rule on Indian society and the struggle for self-identity within this transformative period. Through Gora's journey, we witness the intricacies of human relationships, the depth of cultural pride, and the power of personal convictions. Like "Hard Times," "Gora" invites readers to contemplate the delicate balance between societal expectations and individual integrity. It is a literary masterpiece that offers valuable insights into the human condition within the context of a changing world.

In comparing these two novels, we find that while they hail from different cultural backgrounds and historical eras, they share common themes that transcend time and place. Both "Hard Times" and "Gora" serve as profound reflections on the consequences of materialism, the complexities of human relationships, and the enduring struggle to preserve one's humanity in the face of societal pressures. Whether in the bustling factories of Victorian England or the colonial streets of India, these novels compel us to examine our own values and priorities, making them invaluable works of literature that continue to inspire and provoke thought.

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A Comprehensive Review of Contemporary Trends in International Human Rights Law

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Abstract:

This review paper delves into contemporary trends in international human rights law, analyzing the evolving landscape of human rights discourse and legal frameworks. It explores recent developments in the field, including the impact of emerging technologies, evolving perspectives on economic and social rights, the intersectionality of rights, and the role of non-state actors. By examining these trends, this paper seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and advancements shaping the contemporary human rights agenda at the global level.

This research paper provides an in-depth exploration of contemporary trends in international human rights law, analyzing the evolving landscape of human rights discourse and legal frameworks. The study investigates recent developments, including the impact of emerging technologies, evolving perspectives on economic and social rights, intersectionality of rights, and the role of non-state actors. By examining these trends, this research aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and advancements shaping the contemporary human rights agenda at the global level.

1. Introduction:

International human rights law forms the bedrock of the global commitment to uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals. This review paper focuses on the dynamic and evolving landscape of human rights in contemporary times, aiming to shed light on the shifts, challenges, and advancements that have redefined the discourse surrounding human rights.

International human rights law represents a foundational framework that governs the protection and promotion of human rights on a global scale. Over time, the landscape of human rights has evolved in response to changing societal, technological, and geopolitical contexts. This research seeks to critically analyze the contemporary trends that influence and shape the discourse surrounding international human rights law.

2. Technological Advancements and Human Rights:

2.1 Digital Rights and Privacy:

In the digital era, technological advancements have raised critical questions about the right to privacy and data protection. This section examines the impact of digital technologies on human rights, emphasizing privacy concerns and the need for updated legal frameworks. The digital age has revolutionized the way individuals interact with the world, presenting new challenges for privacy and data protection. This section delves into the implications of emerging technologies on digital rights and privacy within the framework of international human rights law.

2.2 Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age:

The digital age has transformed the way individuals exercise their right to freedom of expression. This section discusses the opportunities and challenges presented by social media, online platforms, and the importance of safeguarding freedom of expression in the virtual realm.

With the proliferation of social media and online platforms, the landscape of freedom of expression has shifted dramatically. This section explores how the digital age has impacted the exercise of freedom of expression and the challenges and opportunities it presents within the realm of international human rights law.

3. Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights:

3.1 Evolving Perspectives on Economic Rights:

The understanding of economic rights has expanded to encompass a broader approach that integrates social justice and equality. This section reviews contemporary perspectives on economic rights and the integration of economic and social dimensions in the human rights framework.

3.2 Right to Health and Environmental Justice:

Examining the interconnection of health and environment, this section explores the evolving legal discourse on the right to health in the context of environmental challenges, including pollution, climate change, and access to healthcare.

4. Intersectionality of Rights:

4.1 Gender and LGBTQ+ Rights:

Understanding human rights through an intersectional lens is vital. This section focuses on the intersectionality of gender and LGBTQ+ rights, highlighting the challenges faced by marginalized groups and the evolving legal responses to protect their rights.

4.2 Indigenous Rights and Land Dispossession:

The intersectionality of indigenous rights, land dispossession, and cultural heritage is a critical issue. This section reviews recent legal developments concerning indigenous rights and the importance of addressing land-related injustices.

5. Non-State Actors and Human Rights:

5.1 Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability:

Non-state actors, particularly corporations, play a significant role in impacting human rights. This section discusses the evolving concept of corporate social responsibility and the importance of holding corporations accountable for human rights violations.

5.2 Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society:

The role of non-governmental organizations and civil society in advocating for human rights is paramount. This section examines the changing dynamics and influence of civil society in promoting and protecting human rights on a global scale.

6. Conclusion:

Contemporary trends in international human rights law reflect a constantly evolving world. From the implications of technological advancements to the nuanced understanding of economic, social, and cultural rights, and the recognition of intersectionality and the role of non-state actors, the landscape of human rights is expanding and adapting. A holistic approach to human rights, considering the multidimensional aspects of contemporary challenges, is crucial to ensuring a just and inclusive future for all.

Contemporary trends in international human rights law reflect the dynamic and evolving nature of our world. Understanding and addressing these trends are crucial for effective policy-making, legal frameworks, and advocacy aimed at ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights for all individuals. As the global landscape continues to transform, embracing these trends in international human rights law is essential to foster a more inclusive, just, and equitable society.

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