

ননী ৰাজখোৱা

শিক্ষক গোট, জাঁজী হেমনাথ শর্মা মহাবিদ্যালয়
জাঁজী জামুগুৰি, শিৱসাগৰ

Chinta-Gushsha : A collection of different articles / research based articles contributed by different academicians based on education, literature, culture, economy and society edited by Noni Rajkhowa on behalf of Teachers' Unit, Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College, Sivasagar on completion of Diamond Jubilee of the college (1964-2024) and published by Teachers' Unit, Printed at Binayak Offset, Sivasagar.

Date of Publication : 25th July, 2024

Published by : Teachers' Unit, Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College, Sivasagar

ISBN :

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Printed at : Binayak Offset, Sivasagar

Notes from the Editor

In the era of knowledge driven society, education emerges as an integral component for individual and social development. In the modern world, education is considered as basic right. It is also the potent tool to identify, develop and transform the human capacities and potentialities into an efficient human resource. It makes an individual responsible, refined, cultured, dynamic, honest, skillful, resourceful and enterprising citizen. Education shapes the destiny of a Nation. Besides human resource development, education extends its contribution to each and every aspect of the society including economic development. It is a means of empowerment and the key input for establishing democracy and democratic society. It is also a potent tool of bringing desirable social change and to promote modernisation. Education gives importance of four 'C's i.e. Consideration, Confirmation, Control and Commitment.

In this regard, higher education plays a significant role. It enables individual to expand their knowledge and skills, express their thoughts clearly, comprehend abstract concepts and theories along with improving their quality of life. Through higher education, a nation can address the issues relating to equality, accessibility, quality, values and development. In this process, educational institution plays a crucial role. The entire education system is centered round with the teacher, students and society. Teachers play a vital role in education system. Teachers are social

engineer and social reformer. They are pillars of knowledge, shaping the future of our kids. They are educators, mentors, guide and motivators.

Due to the adverse affect of privatization and commercialization of education, the present education system has been changed and it has faced various challenges. The question has raised regarding qualitative development in higher education in comparison to quantitative development. The National Educational Policy, 2020 (NEP) has envisioned a massive transformation in education through an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high quality education to all.

Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College, a premier centre of Higher Education, situated at Jhanji-Jamuguri in the district of Sivasagar, has been celebrating its Diamond Jubilee since the last year. The teachers' unit of the college has done various activities in connection with celebration of its Diamond Jubilee. The teachers of the college have various roles and responsibilities besides teaching the students. They serve as advisors for students' union or extracurricular activities. They provide guidance and support to students, involve in various committees and cells of the college. The teachers' unit of the college has already published books named 'Chinta Kalpa', 'Asomiya Sahitya, Samaj aru Sanskritit Abhumuki' and 'Chinta Brithika'. There was also a planned of the teachers' unit to publish a book covering the areas of education, society, literature, culture, political as well as economic.

The book 'Chinta Guchsha' is the result of such long term planning of the teachers' unit. This book is a compilation of research articles in the areas of education, literature, culture, political and socio-economic aspects. Both English and Assamese sections of this book cover wide ranging multidisciplinary scholarly articles.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the distinguished contributors/writers/thinkers for their valuable academic

contributions and support. I am equally thankful to our honorable Principal, Dr. Manjit Gogoi sir, respected President and Secretary of Teachers' Unit of the college for their help and cooperation at every step of this academic endeavour. I extend my sincere gratitude to all the members of the editorial board of the book for their active participation and valuable suggestions to publish this book. I also offer my thankfulness to the Binayak Offset, Sivasagar to bring out the book within the short time. Finally, I express my sincere apology for the mistake done unknowingly if any in the publication of this book.

Noni Rajkhowa

Editor

Chinta Guchsha

Teacher Unit

Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College

25th July, 2024

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The Trends in Urbanisation in the North East India :It's mplications to Regional Economy

Dr. Binoy Brot Rajkhowa

INTRODUCTION:

The term urbanisation is the process of the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. Urbanisation occurs because people move from rural areas to urban areas due to many reasons. The Asia-Pacific region is a great example of urbanisation, as it contains over half of the world's population of city dwellers.

Urbanisation began in ancient Mesopotamia in the Uruk Period (4300 - 31000 BCE) for reasons scholars have not yet agreed on.

Urbanisation is the most significant phenomenon of the 20th century which has affected all aspects of the National life of India. Being the first most populous country in the world, India's fast growing urbanisation has a regional as well as world-wide impact. The present paper makes an attempt to study the trends in Urbanisation in North East India and its economic implications.

Concept of Urbanization

Urbanization refers to the process of rise in urban population. It is an index of transfer of nation from traditional rural economy to modern industrial one. It is progressive concentration of population in urban unit (Davis, 1965). Kingsley Davis has explained urbanization as a process of switch from spread out pattern of human settlements to one of concentration in urban centres (Davis, 1962). According to Trewartha (1969) urbanization is a cyclical process through which the nations pass as they evolve from agrarian to industrial societies. It implies positive correlation between the degree of industrialization and urbanization. The concept of urbanization is in the stage of evolution throughout the world & more so in developing countries like India (Mallic, 1981). Hagget (1975) points out that urbanization in developing countries like India differs from that in developed countries. In these countries urbanization had a late start and it has been very rapid. The growth rate of urban population in backward states has accelerated as compared to advanced states (Mohan R and Chandrasekhar, 1982). While urbanization of developed countries has been mostly the product of rural urban migration the urbanization of developing countries has been equally the result of population explosion with rural urban migration.

The definition of an urban area changes from country to country and there is no uniform standards. Most commonly, a city is generally defined as a political unit organized and governed by an administrative body. The most accepted criterion of urbanization is typically population size, density of population and the extent of the built up area.

In 2001 census the urban centers have been categorized on the following criteria -

The Places having a minimum population of 5000.

75% of the male working population engaged in the

activities other than agriculture.

Recombination of UN the census of India classified its urban places into 6 categories as follows:

Class I cities having a population of lakh or more.

Class II Cities having population of 50,000-99,999.

Class III Cities having population of 20,000-49,999.

Class IV Cities having population of 10,000-19,999.

Class V Cities having population of 5000-9999.

Class VI Cities having population of less than 5000.

Objectives of the Study :

Following are the major objectives of the study.

- To study the trends in urbanization in India in general and of North East India in particular and

- To study the economic implications of Urbanization in North East India.

Findings :

Urbanization in India :

Distribution of Urban Population by Size Classes :

Despite a long tradition of urbanization, India was at a low level of urbanization in the beginning of 20th century with only one tenth of its population residing in urban areas. It was around one sixth at the time of independence. In the 2001 census 27.7 percent of its total population lived in urban areas.

An analysis of the distribution of urban population reveals that the process of Urbanization in India population being concentrated in class I cities, which has gone up systematically over the decades in the last century. There has been a massive increase in the percentage share of class I cities from 51.42 in 1961 to 68.7 in 2001. The basic reason for the increasing dominance of these cities is graduations of lower order towns into class-I category (Kundu, 2003).

The increasing concentration of population of cities that too in large cities has been the striking features of India's

urbanization during the last century (Bhagat, 2004).

Urbanization is crucially linked to migration. A person is defined an migrant if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than he place of immediate last resident. Population Migrants Classified based on place of Last Residence in 2001 and growth rate during 1991-2001, India

Migrants	2001 (In million)	Percentage Distribution 2001	Growth Rate (Percentage)		
			1971-81*	1981-91*	1991-2001*
Intra-district	193.5	61.6	24.9	8.3	37.0
Inter-district	74.6	23.7	44.3	13.7	26.3
Inter-State	41.1	13.1	28.1	11.7	53.6
International Migrants	5.1	1.6	-9.1	-6.1	-13.4
All migrants	314.3	100.0	27.0	9.8	34.7
Total Population	1028.6	-	24.7	23.7	21.4

Source : census of India 2001.

The intra district and inter district movement comprises largest share of migration i.e. 61.6 percent and 23.7 percent respectively. Inter state migration and international immigration comprises less share of migration i.e. 13.1% and 5.1% respectively. It has been observed from the table that the growth rates of migrants declined from 27 percent during 1971-81 to 9.8 percent in 1981-91, but accelerated to 34.7% during 1991-2001. One of the remarkable features of all types of internal migration is that it is dominated by women. This is because women move to their husband's place of residence after marriage (Bhagat, 2005)

3.2 TRENDS IN URBANIZATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NORTH EAST:

The regional variations in the distribution of urban

population are significant. A large proportion is concentrated in six most developed states, namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal, accounting for about half of the country's urban population. In 2001 census, these cities reported a percentage of urban population much above the national average of 27.78 whereas the less developed states report significantly low figures. Thus, the level of urbanization in the states with high per capita income is high and vice versa. These states attracted population in urban areas due to industrialization and infrastructure investment (Kundu, 2006).

Table No. 2 : Pattern of Urbanization and Growth of Urban Population Across States/UTS:

States/UTs	Percentage of Urban population				Annual exponential growth rate		
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Andhra Pradesh	19.31	23.25	26.84	27.08	3.94	3.55	1.37
Arunachal Pradesh	3.70	6.32	12.21	20.41	8.32	9.28	7.00
Assam	8.82	9.88	11.09	12.72	3.29	3.29	3.09
Bihar	10.00	12.46	13.17	10.47	4.34	2.65	2.57
Chattisgarh	NA			20.08			3.09
Delhi	89.70	92.84	89.93	93.01	4.56	3.79	4.14
Goa	26.44	32.46	41.02	49.77	4.37	3.96	3.32
Gujarat	28.08	31.08	34.40	37.36	3.42	2.90	2.8
Haryana	17.66	21.9	24.79	29.00	4.65	3.58	4.00
Himachal Pradesh	6.99	7.72	8.70	9.79	3.02	3.11	2.81
Jammu, Kashmir	18.59	21.05	22.76	24.88	3.80	3.44	3.44
Jharkhand	NA			22.25			2.55
Karnataka	24.31	28.91	30.91	33.98	4.08	2.55	2.53
Kerala	16.24	18.78	26.44	25.97	3.19	4.76	0.74
Madhya Pradesh	16.29	20.31	23.21	26.67	4.46	3.71	2.71
Maharashtra	31.17	35.03	38.73	42.4	3.35	3.27	1.21
Manipur	13.19	26.44	27.69	23.38	9.70	2.98	1.21
Meghalaya	14.55	18.03	18.69	19.63	4.87	3.10	3.16
Mizoram	11.36	25.17	46.2	49.5	11.79	9.57	3.27
Nagaland	9.95	15.54	17.28	17.74	8.49	5.58	5.27
Orissa	8.41	11.82	13.43	14.97	5.21	3.08	2.61
Punjab	23.73	27.72	29.72	33.55	3.62	2.55	3.19
Rajasthan	17.63	20.93	22.88	23.38	4.52	3.31	2.71
Sikkim	9.37	16.23	9.12	11.1	9.55	3.23	4.83
Tamil Nadu	30.26	32.98	34.2	43.86	2.45	1.79	3.56
Tripura	10.43	10.98	15.26	17.02	3.26	6.19	2.53
Uttar Pradesh	14.02	18.01	19.89	20.78	4.78	3.27	2.84
Uttaranchal	NA			25.59			2.84
West Bengal	24.75	26.49	27.39	28.03	2.75	2.54	1.84
Union Territories							
Andaman, Nicobar	22.77	26.36	26.8	32.87	6.38	4.10	4.40
Chandigarh	90.55	93.6	89.69	89.78	5.92	3.07	3.40
Dadra, Nagar Haveli	0	6.67	8.47	22.89	-	5.28	14.59
Daman and Diu	-	-	46.86	36.26	-	4.93	1.87
Lakshadweep	0	46.31	56.29	44.47	-	4.46	-0.77
Pondicherry	42.04	52.32	64.05	66.57	4.66	4.92	0.39
All India	20.22	23.73	25.72	27.78	3.79	3.09	2.73

Source : Population Census, Paper 2, 1981, 1991 and 2001

Table No. 3

Growth Rate of Population (in %)

	1991-2001	2001-2011	Difference
India	21.5	17.6	-3.9
Rural	18.1	12.2	-5.9
Urban	31.5	31.8	+0.3

The slowing down of the overall growth rate of population is due to the sharp decline in the growth rate in rural areas, while the growth rate in urban areas remains almost the same.

Table No. 4

Sex Ratio

	2001	2011	Difference
Overall			
India	933	940	+7
Rural	946	947	+1
Urban	900	926	+26
0-6 years			
India	927	914	-13
Rural	934	919	-15
Urban	906	902	-4

Table No. 5

Growth Rate of Population (in %)

	1991-2001	2001-2011	Difference
EAG	25.0	20.9	-4.1
Rural	23.5	18.7	-4.8
Urban	31.6	29.9	-1.7
Non EAG	18.9	15.0	-3.9
Rural	13.2	5.7	-7.5
Urban	31.5	32.7	+1.2

- The improvement in overall sex ratio is largely in urban areas
- Though the Urban Child sex ratio is far worse than in the rural areas the fall in Child sex ratio in rural areas is around 4 times that in urban areas. In fact the decline is more gradual in urban areas.
- There is a decline of 8.9 million children in Rural areas, while in Urban areas has shown increase of 3.9 million.

Table No. 6

Number of Urban Units - India

- Town
 - Census 2001 5,161
 - Census 2011 7,935 Increase : 2,774
- Statutory Towns :
 - Census 2001 3,799
 - Census 2011 4,041 Increase : 242
- Census Towns :
 - Census 2001 1,362
 - Census 2011 3,894 Increase : 2,532

Table No. 7

Population by Rural Urban Residence- India- 2011

Persons :

- Total : 1,210,193,422
- Rural : 833,087,662
- Urban : 377,105,760

Rural Urban Distribution Persons (in %)

- Total : 100.0%
- Rural : 68.84%
- Urban : 31.16%

Source : Census 2011 - Provisional Population Totals - India

Table No. 8

Urban Population in States@

Top Three States :	Absolute	Share
• Maharastra	50.8 million	13.5%
• Uttar Pradesh	44.4 million	11.8%
• Tamil Nadu	34.9 million	9.3%

Bottom Three States :

• Sikkim	0.15 million	Negligible
• Arunachal Pradesh	0.31 million	0.1%
• Mizoram	0.56 million	0.1%

Note : *- Share to total Urban Population in the country.

@- Excludes UTs.

Source : Census 2011 - Provisional Population : Total - India

High Urban growth has been registered in relative by underdeveloped states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh the states that have low percentages of urban population. Form the table it is observed that Goa has the highest percentage of urban population except the union territories and Himachal Pradesh recorded a lower percentage of urban population followed by Assam, Bihar and Sikkim, Urban Scenario in the post independence period has been characterized by dualism. Both developed and less developed states experienced repaid urban growth.

If we observe the trend of urbanization in North Eastern states (Table 3) we see that Mizoram has the highest percentage of urban population (49.5) followed by Manipur (23.9) Arunachal Pradesh (20.41) Meghalaya (19.63), Nagaland (17.74), Tripura (17.02) and Assam has the lowest percentage of urban population followed by Sikkim (11.1) percent in 2001.

Table No. 9 : Percentage of Urban Population in North East
During 1991-2011.

Year	A.P.	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	NER
1991	12.80	11.10	27.52	18.50	46.10	17.21	10.01	15.30	13.78
2001	20.34	12.72	24.12	19.63	49.50	17.74	11.10	17.02	15.47

Source : Census of India 1991, 2001

3.3 TREND OF URBANIZATION IN ASSAM :

Table No 10: Trend of Urbanization in Assam : 1961-2001

Census Year	Percentage Urban Population		Decadal Growth rate of Urban Population
	India	Assam	
1901	10.84	2.34	-
1911	10.29	2.41	20.5
1921	11.18	2.74	36.8
1931	11.99	2.92	27.58
1941	13.83	3.11	28.30
1951	17.29	4.29	65.73
1961	17.97	7.21	126.57
1971	19.91	8.82	95.01
1981	23.34	-	-
1991	26.73	11.10	92.97
2001	27.80	12.90	36.22

Note : * The figure shows growth rate during 1971-91

Source : Census of India

Important phenomenon. The contribution of the urban sector to the Indian economy rose to 47% in 1980-81 as against 20% in 1950-51 although all the north eastern states are primarily agricultural states, with the growth of urban areas, the contribution of primarily sector starts declining with the increase in the contribution of service sectors.

2. Income growth :

The growth of employment in urban areas has been higher than over all employment in the country. Growth rate of employment during 1977-78 to 1987-88 averaged at about 4% per an-num while the growth rate of employment in the rural areas was less than 1% per annum. The Task Force on urban development had estimated that urban income exceed rural by 182 percent in 1980-81. The structural change of economy (GOI 1983) has further widened disparities in per capita rural urban income. The urban labour market is undergoing rapid changes

as most of the opportunities are coming from self employed and informal sector.

3. Poverty :

While the available evidence points out on overall improvements in the income of the urban people the incidence of poverty in urban areas has been a quite disturbing phenomenon. About 32.36% of total urban population live in urban condition of absolute poverty.

Evidence shows that other manifestation of poverty in terms of access to housing and basic services is equally serious. In 1991, nearly 18.6% of persons in urban areas were without access to safe drinking water & 30.1% without any form of basic sanitation. Housing deficit in urban areas particularly in the class I cities in the North East is much more severe for economically weaker sections of population. According to an estimate, as much as 30% of the total urban population do not have access to basic urban services, such as safe drinking water & sanitation, land, affordable shelter, security of tenure and transport. The majority of poor get accommodated in slums and informal settlements.

4. Growth of Urban informal sector :

The informal sector continues to play an important role in providing employment opportunity. The most of the cities reflect the typical range of informal sector employment share from about 30% to 70%. These usually self employed workers in this sector have little formal education are generally unskilled and lack access to financial capital. Informal sector incomes have remained in rural regions despite continued flow of rural urban migration.

The rural urban migration disproportionately increase the growth rate of urban job seekers. On the other hand urban job creation is generally more difficult and costly. This will create a short run problem of resource imbalance into a long run

situation of chronic and rising urban surplus labour.

3.4 Conclusion :

The size class distribution of urban population and their growth rates over the decade and the interstate variation in the levels and growth in urban population highlights that there was a sharp fall in the rate of urbanization during 1991-2001 which indicates deceleration in population mobility in the country. This trend reveals that men have become less mobile over the past few decades than women. An important features of urbanization in India and in the NER is dualism i.e. urban growth at macro level is decelerating but in class - I cities it is growing. The process of urbanization in India has been large by city oriented with high percentage of urban population being concentrated in class-I cities with highly of a dual urban structure is reflected in the fact that many of these cities are not able to attract investors from the national and world market.

The cities and towns are facing challenges of meeting the conflicting goals of catering to the demands of global capital market on the one hand and for providing access to employment, land and basic amenities to the local population on the other.

The under concentration of population in most of the towns in North-Eastern region results in a number of problems for the inhabitants of the towns. Therefore it is suggested that the future of these urban units lie in the management of huge population through the creation of job opportunities, removal of slums and providing adequate amenities to the inhabitants through proper environmental improvement.

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NUMISMATICS AS SOURCE OF AUTHENTIC INFORMATION OF EARLY AND MEDIEVAL ASSAM HISTORY

Tirtha Baruah

Introduction :

The history of early or ancient Assam covers the period from the days of the Epics to the early part of the 13th century A.D. On the other hand, Medieval Assam history may be said to have begun with the coming of the Ahoms to this land in the early part of the 13th century and covers the entire period of their rule till the formal inauguration of the British regime in 1826. For the depth study of the history of early and medieval Assam, there are various types of sources. The numerous sources that help in the reconstruction of the historical part of Assam can be divided into two types, viz. literary sources and Archeological sources. The archeological sources may be subdivided into the three categories inscription or Epigraphy, coins numismatics and material remains.

No coins bearing the names of the early kings of Assam were discovered and this condition was regarded as similar to that of Bengal and the Pala and Sena kings and their contemporaries who did not issue any coins because the necessity of the market was fully met with by the coins already in circulation in the country as well as with the cowries shells which

were widely used as money. The said situation in the Pala and Sena kingdoms also explains the well known fact that some of the important ruling families of other parts of India, such as the mighty Rashtrakutas of the Deccan also did not issue any coins at all. It is again well known that coins minted in any territory and brought into circulation in any part of India, never went out of the markets. However, the absence of any discovery of the punch-marked, Kushana and Gupta coins, which have often been found in Bengal, is difficult to explain since there appear to have been trade relations between Bengal and Assam at least in the Gupta age.

Objectives of the study :

There are many objectives behind the study-

i) To find out the role of the coins in the reconstruction of history.

ii) To analyze the impact of numismatics on the economic aspect of early and medieval Assam.

iii) To find out the relation of Assam with other powers by going through the coins.

Methodology :

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of information's. The secondary sources have been collected from books, journals, magazines, newspapers, websites etc. The approach of the study is histories-analytical.

Review of Literature :

We have found a number of literally works on the various aspects of the rule of early and medieval Assam. Sir Edward Gait's A History of Assam is a pioneer work on the history of Medieval Assam and deals with in details the political and administrative aspect of the Ahom rule, but the book does not mention thoroughly the study of coins of early and medieval Assam. Assam Buranji written by Gunabhiram Boruah does not emphasize the subject matter of our study. Another valuable

work, P. Gohain Boruah's Asamar Buranji (1899 reprint Guwahati 1976) also does not reflect anything on the present subject matter. Hiteswar Borboruah's Ahomar Din is also prominent work but this book also fails to incorporate in details the present study. Itisasa Sauyara Sachate Basar of Sarbarnanda Rajkumar does not study in details about the Nunuismatics of medieval Assam HK Borpuzari edited "The comprehensive history of Assam", Vol-II and III, very briefly discuss about the subject matter. A comprehensive history of Assam written by Swanalata Boruah also does not particularly highlight the present study. The Tai and Tai Kingdoms by P. Gogoi do not mention in details about the topic of study. Hence there is ample scope to undertake research project on the present Subject.

Discussion :

Numismatics are the most important sources of authentic information of early and medieval Assam History. The study of the coins is called Numismatic. The coins help us in determining the chronology of a dynasty but very few coins of the early period have so far been discovered.

Among coins of early or pre-Ahom times found in Assam so far, there are certain gold issues of the type called Imitation Gupta, found in a hoard discovered at Paglatek, in the south bank of Brahmaputra. The same type of coins are also found in Bangladesh and Tripura which gives information of Assam-Bengal trade relationship some Copper coins discovered in Daulapadung Tea Estate near Tezpur are roughly round in shape and of varying weight. These coins have a blank reverse and single letter 'Va', 'Ha', and 'Ba' on the obverse. It is possible that 'Vo' indicates the name of Vanamala varman, 'Ba' lavarman and 'Ha' indicates Harjarvarman. The silimpur stone inscription of Prahasa records a tulapurush gift along with 900 gold coins of Joyapala who is generally identified with the last member of the Pala line of kings of ancient Assam. Although numismatic

evidence is one of the most reliable sources for reconstructing the history of the early period of Assam, curiously enough, till now has not brought to light a single coin belonging to any of her early kings. Ofcourse, this does not mean that the kings of ancient Assam did not mint coins at all, because there is ample evidence both epigraphic and literary, to the fact of issuing royal coins in the early period.

Numismatics are the most important authentic sources of information of medieval Assam History. Coins are a good source of constitutional as well as administrative history. Early Ahom rulers issued very interesting coinage. The earliest known Ahom coins belong to Suklenmung Gargayan Raja (1539-62AD) though records reveal that minting of coins took place as early as the reign of Sudangpha or Bamuni Konwar (1397-1407) The general belief that the Ahom Kings minted coins on the day of their accessions is not based on strong foundation. Recent findings prove that "minting of coins was not associated merely and invariably with the accession of rulers of the Singarighar, where the coronation ceremony was held. It is found that coins could be minted even before and after ascending the coronation hall."

Three scripts Ahom, Devanagari and Assamese were used in the Ahom coins. Those of the early part of their rule were in Ahom script, those of the middle part in Devanagari and those of the later part in Assamese. The legend of Suklenmung's coins was in the Ahom language and that of Pratap Singha in Sanskrit. Though three of the successors of Pratap Singha reverted to Ahom, Rudra Singha reintroduced Sanskrit which thenceforth became the ruler. Two kings, Pramatta Singha and Rajeswar Singha struck coins with Ahom legends in the year of their accession. Queen Phuleswari, the consort of king Siva Singha was the first to use Persian script on her coins. Rajeswar Singha issued coins in both Persian and Devanagari scripts.

The Ahom coins were Octagonal in shape, the obverse containing the name of the king and the date of the coin and, the reverse, impression of the deity of the concerned king. The coins of Suhungmung or Dihingia raja have the impression of the Ahom deity Ta-ra-(meaning God). Other Ahom coins were impressed with Hindu deities like Siva, Rama and Hara-Gauri, among whom, Siva seems to be most popular. Queen Phuleswari struck square coins.

The rupee and the gold muhars of the Ahom Kings were struck to the Indian standard of a tola or 96 ratis. Rudra Singha introduced half and quarter rupee coins. Still smaller coins weighing 12 and 6 ratis were first issued by Siva Singha and coins weighing 3 ratis by Gaurinath Singha (1780-95AD) A regular gold currency was introduced by Siva Singha, but gold coins of Suklenmung and Udayaditya Singha before him are also extant. There was no copper coinage during the Ahom period.

Two Moamariya Chiefs, Sarbananda and Bharath Singha in the declining period of the Ahom rule minted coins- The coins of Sarbananda are dated 1794 and 1795 and those of Bharath Singha, 1796AD They are in Sanskrit legend and Assamese script and dedicated to Lord Krishna. Their coins are nonagonal in shape.

Koch coins include the coins of King Naranarayan and his son Lokshminarayan as well as those of Raghudev and his son Parikshit who ruled in the eastern part of the Kingdom after its division in 1581 AD Coins of Naranarayan are dated Saka 1477 (1555AD) and are dedicated to Siva. There are as many as 25 Coins of Lakshminarayan preserved in the state Museum of Gauhati. All of them are dedicated to Hara and Gauri. Six of them are half-rupee coins, weighing 72.9-78.07 grains, the rest are full rupee coins of 147.9-155.5 grains weight. After acknowledging suzerainty of Emperor Jahangir in 1596

Lakshminarayana promised to issue half rupee coins only. One silver coin of Raghudev and another of Parikshit have been preserved in the state Museum.

The Koch coins are heptagonal in shape and struck in silver. Their legend is in Sanskrit and script archaic Assamese. The currency of the Koch Kings named as 'Narayani' after royal surname 'Narayan' of the dynasty.

There are five silver coins issued by the kachari king Jasanarayan (1583-1610AD) and dedicated to Hara and Gauri. The legend is in Sanskrit and the script Assamese.

Some anonymous coins of Jayantiya kingdom dated Saka 1630 (1708AD) have been found. Chronologically these coins belong to sundar Rai, who, having been defeated in the hands of the Koch king Naranarayan, was permitted by the latter to strike coins in the name of the kingdom only. Their legend is in Sanskrit written in Assamese script.

Quite a good number of coins, all silver and belonging to different Muslim rulers of India have been found in different parts of the state. They include coins of Ghiyasuddin Iwas (1213-27AD) Malik Yuzbak Tughril Khan (1252-57AD) Alauddin Hussain Shah (1493-1519AD) and of Emperors Shahjahan and Aurangzeb. They are circular in shape and have Persian legends. They throw important light on the relation of Assam with Muslim power in India.

Importance of Coins :-

The Numismatics are the primary sources of knowing history. The coins give us the names of the rulers who ruled at various times in different parts of the country. Information obtained from the coins help us to corroborate the evidence gathered from other powers. They help us to fix the chronology of the accession, important event and death of ruler. The places where the coins are found help us to determine the extent of the territory of a ruler. The figures of the various things appearing

on the coin indicate the religion, customs, dresses, hobbies and amusements of the kings. The gold and silver coins are indicative of the prosperity of the people. From the coins - we are able to know the language and script of a particular age. From the design of the coins we come to know about the artistic taste of the people. The development of Science of metallurgy is also reflected in the overall designs of the coins.

Conclusion:-

Among the archaeological sources, numismatics are the most important authentic sources of information's of early and medieval history of Assam. For the reconstruction of history, coins are the most reliable sources. The coins of early and medieval Assam indicate the various aspects of political, economic and culture of the state. From coins, we come to know the relations of Assam with the others parts of the country. After all, numismatic sources are the genuine for the reconstruction of history.

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY IN INDIAN SCENARIO

Dr. Poban Gogoi

International student mobility refers to the process whereby a person enrolls at an academic institution across a national border for part or all of one's education. It is the phenomenon of students crossing geographical borders to obtain a portion or all of their education in a country other than their own. Thus, the international student mobility involves students leaving their country of residence for a period of their education abroad. It is the process wherein an individual who has physically crossed an international border between two countries with the objective to participate in educational activities in a destination country, where the destination country is different from his/her country of origin. The global scenery of higher education has witnessed a steady increase in the mobility of international students, as more individuals seek diverse academic experiences and cross-cultural learning opportunities. Students generally move towards economically and technologically advanced countries with well-established higher education systems. Thus, the reasons for international student mobility are many and diverse.

The concept of international student mobility can be described with the help of push and pull factor theory of migration. This theory was propounded by Everett S. Lee. According to this theory, the factors causing human migration can be divided into two groups - push and pull factors. Push factors are things that are unfavorable about the home area that one lives in, and pull factors are things that attract one to another host area. This push-pull theory is commonly used to explain international student mobility. The theory suggests that there are push factors that motivate students to leave their home country and pull factors that attract them to the destination country. Push factors refer to the negative conditions that drive students to leave their home country, such as political instability, lack of economic opportunities, limited access to education, lack of personal safety etc. These factors create a "push" effect on students and prompting them to seek better opportunities and a more stable environment in another country. On the other hand, pull factors are the positive aspects of the destination country that attract students to move there. These factors can include access to better education, economic opportunities, a more stable political environment and better living conditions. These factors create a "pull" effect on students and encourage them to move to the destination country. By using the push-pull theory, the specific factors that drive student mobility at international level can be studied. International student mobility refers to the mobility of students who cross borders for study. International student mobility depends on economic, educational, linguistic, geographical and technological factors. The choice of destination depends on the individual's personal goals, financial situation and academic interests.

Students from countries with lower economic development often study abroad to pursue better career prospects. Meanwhile, countries having closer trade relations

with their origin countries are also preferred, as more potential job opportunities can be expected there. There are many students who move to other countries because of the hiked expenses for education at their own country. These students usually try to compromise with their education and move to places where the cost of living and education is lower than that of their birth place. This happens because of the poor financial background of the family. There are some educational factors responsible for international student mobility. This implies that the host country's education quality attracts the students. Regarding educational factors, university rankings also play a significant role. Countries with more universities on world ranking systems are believed to have a higher quality of education and are thus favored by international students.

Linguistic factors also play a crucial role in the decision-making process. This implies that the host country's language commonality with the students' home country is an important factor in for international student mobility. Geographical proximity plays an important role in for international student mobility. Students seek for studying in those countries which are geographically near to their own country. In a digital era, students tend to choose technologically advanced countries for studying abroad. Certain governments also sponsor their young citizens to study in these countries with scholarships with the intent that they acquire new technical skills and bring this knowledge back home. Students are tempted to explore the world by themselves. They want wider exposure. International student mobility is seen because of this reason. Many of the institutions do not have wide variety of courses which serves as one of the reasons for the students to move out of their home place and pursue their preferred subject or course at another country. Besides, globalization of education; global demographic trend and policy changes play a significant role in for international

student mobility. These encourage students to move to the countries where they want to pursue their studies.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY FROM INDIA

India is a key player in international student mobility. The country supplies a large number of students to different countries of the world. Presently, India is contributing about 7.5% of the total international student mobility in the world, the second after China. During colonial times, Indian students used to go to the UK and to a smaller extent to France, Portugal, Germany and the USA for post graduate studies and research. They belonged to well-to-do families. During post-independence period, meritorious students started receiving support from the government and many moved to abroad for pursuing education with the patronage from the government. At the same time, there was an increase in the capacity of Indian parents to pay for their children's education. In recent times, students are now increasingly going to the USA and Europe for under-graduate education as well. Liberal arts and humanities are now becoming popular. Management education is also being preferred.

There was a rush in the international mobility of Indian students post the rapid privatization of Indian higher education in the 1990's. Employability, reputation and the desire for a better social life were dominant factors motivating Indian students to pursue higher education abroad. The last few years were reportedly witnessing an increase in the numbers because of the factors like changes in political order, anti-immigration policies, and threats of terrorism and changing world economic landscape. Now, the United States of America (USA), Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), Australia and Germany are among the most popular destinations for Indian students seeking education abroad. These countries offer various opportunities such as world-class universities, excellent research facilities and diverse

academic programs. The USA and Canada are known for their high-quality education, friendly immigration policies and ample job opportunities. On the other hand, the UK and Australia boast a long-standing reputation for academic excellence and cultural diversity. Germany is another popular choice for Indian students due to its strong economy, high quality of education and well-established scientific and research institutions.

Over the years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of Indian students opting to pursue higher studies abroad. It is estimated that the number of Indian students deciding to study abroad will touch 1.8 million by 2024. As per the data from Union Ministry of Education in 2022, a total of 7.5 lakhs Indian students have gone abroad for higher education. The number has increased drastically from 4.5 lakhs in 2017 and 2.6 lakhs in the pandemic year of 2020. In 2022, India surpassed China to become the country with the most number of international students in the USA. The total number of countries with Indian students is 240 which include the USA, Canada, Australia, the UK, Uzbekistan, Philippines, Russia etc. Most of the Indian students prefer studying in English-speaking countries such as the USA, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Ireland. The USA and the UK, for instance, had record-breaking visa issuance for Indian students in 2022. The reasons for popularity of these countries are the demand for top universities, specialized courses and better post-study work rights. The table below highlights the top countries hosting Indian students over the past five years -

International Student Mobility from India (2018-2022)

Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
United States of America	1,20,759	1,22,535	62,415	1,25,115	1,90,512
Canada	1,02,720	1,32,620	43,624	1,02,688	1,85,955
United Kingdom	25,042	36,612	44,901	77,855	1,32,709
Australia	63,670	73,808	33,629	8,950	59,044
Germany	14,299	18,034	9,865	16,259	20,684
Russian Federation	14,857	16,545	1,387	15,814	19,784
Singapore	13,838	15,419	4,860	2,264	17,085
Bangladesh	10,167	13,412	5,479	10,493	17,006
Kyrgyzstan	12,199	12,942	865	15,162	14,728
Philippines	12,550	13,479	4,601	251	11,261
Kazakhstan	4,596	6,080	937	5,625	8,895
France	7,023	8,495	4,333	5,293	6,406
Ireland	5,089	6,671	3,272	4,869	6,211
United Arab Emirates	13,405	9,341	2,925	3,427	5,892
Georgia	4,804	4,148	1,724	2,599	5,269
Italy	4,482	4,791	3,211	3,008	3,507
Uzbekistan	105	300	102	503	3,430
Malaysia	3,668	4,090	1,121	567	2,453
Ukraine	13,140	13,911	6,723	18,596	2,199
China	20,619	19,170	398	3	1,967

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY TO INDIA

India is the host for a large number of students from the different countries of the world. India hosted a total of 46,703 foreign students in 2018. While Indian students abroad account for about 7.5% of the total international students, foreign students in India account for 0.9% of internationally mobile students. Although there is provision for foreign students to constitute 15% of total enrolment in some Indian higher education institutions, these targets remain a dream. This situation is due to low demand for study in Indian programs/ courses. Most of the foreign students in India are from neighboring countries or from Africa. The single largest share of students in 2018 came from Nepal and more than half of the international students in India come from seven countries as

shown in the table below -
International Student Mobility to India (2019)

Country	% of students
Nepal	22.5%
Afghanistan	9.5%
Bhutan	4.8%
Nigeria	4.5%
Sudan	4.4%
Malaysia	3.5
Bangladesh	3.3

Several positive factors attract foreign students to India. The foreign students find the fee levels as well the cost of living as low in India. Besides, India offers highly subsidized education to international students. On the other hand, the factors that distract the international students include the lack of post-study visas and employment opportunities, low salaries and adverse reports on safety, especially of female students etc.

The government of India has taken various steps to expand the scope and operations of internationalization of higher education. The government has been making efforts to develop India as an education hub. To attract international students, the government of India had launched the 'Study in India' program in 2017 with the provision for 2,500 scholarships. It attracted around 6,000 students from more than 30 countries in 2018. India has set a target of 500,000 international students by 2024. Thus, the government has been expanding student support facilities to attract international students.

India is also making efforts to permit foreign universities to establish independent branch campuses in the country. This may attract more foreign students to India. Another program was launched in 2017-18 to attract foreign faculty members to teach for short periods in Indian universities. The Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN) attracted around 1,800 scholars

from 56 countries to offer courses in 2017-18 and 2018-19. The Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) was launched in 2015. In its extension in GIAN II, the government intended to promote mobility of Indian faculty members to teach in universities abroad. A Scheme for Promotion of Academic Research and Collaboration (SPARC) was launched in 2018 to promote research collaboration between reputed institutions abroad and Indian institutions. Such collaboration enhances the academic credibility of domestic institutions, increases Indian faculty members' international publications and promotes international exposure and experience which encourages adherence to international standards in teaching and research, and helps to develop a comparative perspective and enhanced analytical competencies.

India's MOOC platform SWAYAM (Study Web of Active Young Aspiring Minds) is also gaining popularity. The SWAYAM courses are offered to foreign students and it has the potential to attract foreign students in large numbers. The Ministry of Education (formerly the Ministry of Human Resource Development) launched the SWAYAM program on 9th July 2017. It aims to provide millions of students with a quality education through e-learning courses.

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Handloom Weaving sector in Assam - Its projects and Problems

Minati Gogoi

Handloom weaving is an important production sector after Agriculture in India. This sector represents the continuity of the age old Indian Heritage and reflects the socio-cultural condition of the weaving community of the country. It provides employment to million of people of whom 60% are women.

Weaving sector has an integral part of the lives of Assamese society in general and tribal society in particular. It links with the folk life of Assamese people. It gives full time and part time employment to thousands of people especially the women folk of the state.

The skills of weaving and spinning have always been considered highest attainments of an Assamese woman. Assam is famous for several types of silks. The most prominent and prestigious product of Assam is the Muga Silk. Apart from Muga there are also silk like Pat and Eri.

According to National Handloom Census conducted during (2019-20) more than 12.83 lakh and 12.46 lakh handlooms are available in Assam. The Govt. of Assam has established Directorate of Handloom and Textile to provide development

and Promotional interventions with active support of the Govt. Qualitative and Qualitative Improvement of this sector.

According to NHC (2019-20) total no. of household engaged in this sector are 12.69 lakh, female weaves 11.79 lakh male weavers 1.04 lakh in Assam. They produced Gamucha, Makhala Chador fernisling cloths, dress meterails and other fabrics. According to this census weavers produced 160 MT of Muga silk during 2020-21 and 2834 MT of Eri Silk. Golden Silk Muga and versatile silk Eri has great demand in Europe, USA, Japan, South Afrika, Middle East etc.

Govt. has addopted various policies to develop this sector.

The Assam Govt. has addopted the 'State Handloom Policy' Assam, 2027 to provide integrated and inclusive support in terms of sibsidy on raw materials, ronolving credit system, working capital subsidy etc.

Textile and apparel policy, Assam 2018 has been adopted to the state Govt. with an aim to create awaness in textile sector by establishing new small and medium industry in the state to provide more employment by optimum utiliziation of raw materials.

Major Schemes implimanted by the State Govt.

Skill upgradation programme : Under this scheme runing 102 nos. of Handloom training centres to provide training on Handloom wearing and other allied techniques to unemployment youth.

Handloom Training Insititute : Establised 4 Nos. of Handloom Training Institue to provide 1 year duration upgraded higer training on Handloom Textile desinigm, dyeing, entrepreneuship etc.

Yara Bank : Running 33 Nos. of Yarn Bank in District and Sub Divisional Head Quarter of the state to provide quality Raw Materials in the form of cloth handyarn with 30% subsidy rate.

Income Generation intervention to Handloom wearers :

Through this scheme provided fly shuttle frame loom with working capital to the economically weaker weavers to take up handloom as livelihood.

Economic upliftment of weavers :

Provides financial grants to wearing S.H.G. for skill upgradation, new looms and raw materials for their sustainable quantity production and livelihood.

Handloom Model Village :

Providing need based interventions to a handloom cluster of 3 to 4 nearby villages for taken up handloom weaving as their livelihood in sustainable way, commercially.

Swa arisbhor Naari : Govt. buy the handloom product such as Gamucha, Aronai, Pazar, Dumer etc. directly from the indigenous weavers at quality benchmarking fixed price and will be sold through showrooms and outlets through ART FED. The eligible weavers can participate in the programme through a registration portal.

Problems :

Despite its widespread across the country productive capacity of the sector is not fully utilized yet. Present day handlooms have been facing threats from the powerlooms and the mill sectors. It is unable to reach the desired goal because of insufficient Govt.-Policies, inadequate supply of Yarn rise in price of Yarn, absence of proper training and poor market system. Most of the weavers live below the poverty line. They face the problem of malnutrition, food insecurity and other diseases.

After announcement the Nation Wide Lockdown due to Covid 19, the handloom weavers of Assam are the biggest victim. The weavers have been facing the problems of unavailability of raw materials, heavy debt, continuous losses etc. Both production and sale have been stopped during the lockdown.

Further in current economic climate of Globle markets, the future of weaving sector turn into more uncertainty than ever. This sector also faces the problems of chaning consumers preferences and demand pattern.

Conclusion :

Weaving sector has the potintial to provide gaintful employment to the wearer's in our state. It is neccessary top appreciate for overcomeing its challenges and gear up the sector in the interest of economic development and cradiction of poverty in our state. It is an eco friendly small industry, very simple and the knowledge of this technology can be assambled by anybody within no time. It is the right time to take appropriate initiative to revive this important and unique sector. It is important to careful nursing and create awareness for appreciation of the value of our tradition in future generation.

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IMPLANTING ANDRAGOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION : PLANNING CHANGES FOR THE FUTURE

Dr. Parag Rajkhowa

INTRODUCTION

The permanence of 'change' is an undeniable inevitability. 'Change' becomes the bottom line for more standardized conditions of human life and sustainability. Education, which is perhaps the most potent weapon of uplifting standards of existence and survival, is, therefore, not an exception. And time is the best witness to these changes that have been introduced from time to time, nay, regular intervals of time corresponding to the continuous new demands. The demand-supply chain in Education has withstood the test of time-not an overstatement.

Over the years Pedagogy has ruled the roost when it comes to deciphering and disseminating Higher Education. Of late, the limitations of pedagogy have come to the fore. Hence, it is imperative that a mechanism to address the loopholes in the traditional format be designed for effective implementation. As of now, proposals are mooted to introduce Andragogy in accordance with the extent, feasibility and viability of conditions conducive for such changes. This has been triggered by the new demands of the clientele involved in the entire process of Higher

Education for that matter Adult Education. It would be pertinent to quote what Oblinger and Knowles had to say in respect of Andragogy.

- a. "The learning styles, attitudes, and approaches of high School students differ from those of eighteen-to-twenty two year old college students. (Oblinger, 2003)"
- b. "The psychological definition is one who has arrived at a self-concept of being responsible from one's own life, of being self-directing. (Knowles, 1984)"

CONCEPT AND DEFINITION

The term 'Andragogy' was first brought into usage by a German school teacher Alexander Kapp in 1833 to delineate the educational theory of the Greek philosopher Plato. Andragogy embodies the principles and methods pertaining to adult learning. It is based on the science of planning, education and assessment of learning activities. It is also billed as an art because it incorporates the relational climate between the trainer and the adult trainee, as well as learners between the learners (Health Nexus Sante, 2003). In Greek, Andragogy means the man-leading in comparison to Pedagogy, which in Greek means child-leading. Malcom Knowles, an American educator, was the most prolific figure in synonymising Andragogy with adult learning. Knowles states that Andragogy is the art and science of adult learning and encapsulates any form of adult learning. The exponents of andragogy very emphatically endorse that adults must be treated differently and not the ways in which children are treated because adults enter the learning experience in different manner. According to Knowles the basic components of quality adult learning include the following:

- a. Adults must be fully aware of the reasons of their investment of time in the learning process as they have a self-formed image of their own which becomes

- detrimental when things do not suit their dispensation whereby they feel as if their experiences aren't valued;
- b. Adults are harbored with a feeling that their real life experiences are taken cognizance of;
 - c. Adults are more intensely geared up for new learning situations;
 - d. Adults are inclined to solving situations more out of their own understanding and experiences of situations; the need is to locate the relevance of their approaches and to ensure that pragmatic concrete decisions/solutions are recognized;
 - e. Intrinsically, the adults are more motivated to learn than children as their learning is governed by choice and not by any compulsion. The same may be true when it comes to children.

ASSUMPTION

It was in 1980 that Knowles made four assumptions in respect of the characteristics of adult learners, or for that matter Andragogy and these assumptions differ from what have been formulated with regard to child learners:

- a. **Self-Concept:** The idea of self-concept is like innate capacity building in terms of stepping up of cognitive and other abilities and skills and this is a continuous process that moves forward with the passage of time;
- b. **Adult Learner Experience :** This is the result of accumulation of knowledge and wisdom corresponding to experience;
- c. **Readiness to learn:** An adult is always aware of the developmental tasks before her/him and therefore, she/he fine tunes himself/herself to the demands of "readiness to learn". This is a pointer to a person's maturity that is acquired over a period of time, as a person matures the motivation to learn is internal;

- d. **Orientation to Learning:** Here the shift is from postponed application of knowledge to immediacy of application and accordingly her/his orientation towards learning shifts from one of subject centeredness to one of problem-centeredness.

PRINCIPLES OF ANDRAGOGY

Some principles of andragogy are:

- a. **Learning is fundamentally social:** Even as learning is about the process of acquiring knowledge, successful learning is a 'social construct' which necessitates the skills to unlearn old ways. Learners are challenged to confront newness which may sometimes seem to intimidate or dent what one holds firmly as concretizing her/his identity. To ensure a paradigm shift is a time consuming affair.
- b. **Knowledge is integrated in the life of communities and the connections we maintain:** The avowed objective is to develop shared values, perspectives and way of doing things to create communities of practice and purpose. Optimizing rapport within communities of people with shared interests, practices etc. is what learning strives for.
- c. **Learning is an act of participation:** Out of motivation springs the desire to learn and learning through motivation ensures acceptability in social fronts. Learning enables building and maintaining person-to-person connections which in turn is a marker of value.
- d. **Depth of learning corresponds to Depth of engagement :** The depth of engagement is a determinant of our depth of learning in that transferring of learning experiences in the form of blogs, reviews, critiques etc firmly grounds the learning experience at

the individual and enriches the community in the collective front .

- e. **Engagement hinges on empowerment :** That there is a direct correspondence between the proportion of engagement with the degree of empowerment is hardly contestable for empowerment is an inevitability when the engagement is sincere, unflinching and relentless.
- f. **What for me is critical:** Any kind of engagement leads to empowerment based on its pro-active character and its relevance with credible marketability. There is every possibility of a disconnect if relevance of the engagement is misplaced, distorted or ascertained.
- g. **Big picture first, then the details:** Contextualization of the engagement or the learning experience if not ascertained leads to nowhere. The engagement cannot afford to be wayward, lest, it would go haywire. In other words, the presentation should be such that the details support the big picture ideas.
- h. **Adults are problem-centered rather than content oriented:** What becomes a habit with adults is that they become problem centered bent on immediate application of their knowledge and skills to solve problems. The problem-centeredness is more intense than content orientedness.
- i. **Adults abhor the idea of barriers, be it in any form/format:** Irrespective of whether they are physical barriers or environmental barriers, adults retract from their goals in the event of barriers coming their way;
- j. **Repetition ensures retention of critical information:** Critical information is of utmost importance to make the learning experiences productive and in fructuous. To achieve that in terms of retention in memory of critical information,

repetition is the yardstick.

- k. **Autonomy:** A reasonable degree of autonomy is due to an adult learner when she/he is in some learning situations/engagements. In the absence of autonomy superseded by excess control, the adult learners' minds drift and deflect from the desired directions.

CLINCHING THE IMPORTANCE OF ANDRAGOGY AT COLLEGE IN LIEU OF PEDAGOGY

The most vocal exponent of adult education with new spaces in terms of new methods/methodologies for adult learners is Edward Thorndike who in 1928 publishes his studies on the learning abilities of adults. Thorndike demonstrated that adults have the capacity to learn, which hitherto was not substantiated by research till then. Moreover, studies by Thorndike and Sorenson observed that adults have the ability to learn in ways substantially different from children. The shift from old assertions to novel ideas got an impetus in the hands of Eduard Lindeman in 1926 who proposed that adult education needed to be more student-centered rather than teacher and subject-centered. It was Lindeman's findings that have come to stay in that the findings acquired center stage with the motto that learners become increasingly self-directed as they mature. Lindeman's work influenced Knowles in his formation of Andragogy and he continued working with his theory of Andragogy. "The Adult Learner: A Neglected Species" (1984) by Knowles is revolutionary as in this work Pedagogy is pitted with Andragogy with arguments in the letters in favour with plausible observations and reality checks. As Andragogy is the art and science of teaching adults and is the "most persistent practice-based" process, it has acquired a stature of its own to withstand the test of time. To clinch this statement Trueman and Hartiey says, "Mature students had better study habits than the younger students in that they engaged in more 'deep' and less 'surface'

learning than the younger students."

WHETHER THE TEACHER OR LEARNER:

In the discourse on Andragogy with its edge over Pedagogy when it comes to adult education, the teacher is designated as a 'facilitator' who optimizes his efforts to strike a balance between the requirements of the placement and the level of autonomy granted. In all, the teacher/facilitator supports the trainee's learning in consonance with the defined and underlined features of Andragogy.

In so far as learners are concerned, they should know the objectives of their study and studying. It is therefore, incumbent that learning is task-oriented incorporating the heterogeneity of the learning community. Added to this, it needs to be ascertained that learners develop the ability to connect and relate what is being studied to their personal and professional experiences. Moreover, learners should be governed by a motivation with an urge to learn. Last but not the least; learners should be involved in the planning of their instruction prioritizing problem centeredness over content-centeredness.

CONCLUSION

The above discussion clinches the arguments in favour of an ambience of Andragogy for academic excellence. A college student is more comfortably and conveniently placed in situations of andragogy as her/his versatility is excited to more intriguing learning situations where there is more autonomy, freedom, choice, scope and range. With the passage of time, dependent pedagogical learners code-switch to andragogy by dint of a versatility which is acquired in the exposure to newer and wider variety of learning experiences. Andragogy has the potential to address heterogeneity and it is a win-win situation for all concerned in the teaching learning process. Learners become self-directed with an ability to control, supervise, motivate and

adjust themselves to challenges. Andragogy, thus, is the panacea for active learning.

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PEDAGOGY FOR ONLINE TEACHING

Dr. Rajiv Gogoi

Pedagogy defines the methods adopted for conducting teaching-learning sessions using various strategies and approaches adopted by teachers to ensure the fulfillment of the teaching objective. The primary objective of pedagogy is to develop effective learning experiences. It is the study of teaching and learning in alignment with the predefined goals of education. In the teaching-learning process, there are two entities involved, the teacher and the student. Pedagogy acts as a bridge of communication between the two. It involves the methodologies to be adopted by the teacher to deliver a lesson and the techniques to assess the student's response to the information being imparted. However, Pedagogy, in general, is a mix of knowledge and skills that is essential for successful teaching from teachers and facilitating development in students. While teacher pass down knowledge to the younger generation, students in turn learn to develop those knowledge hence, both teachers and students are at the centre of the learning process.

To enhance the interaction between the teacher and students, educationists consider pedagogy as a tool of effective teaching and learning and have developed various effective

pedagogical practices for the same. Education has gone through a lot of transformation over the past many decades. It is within the reach of more learners than before. Also, today, formal education is available in many disciplines of learning, for various categories of learners and is deliverable through technology-enabled channels. This has been possible because the pedagogical practices have also evolved with the changing world around. The demand for quality education is at an all-time high today. So, effective pedagogical approaches are of vital importance in providing quality education.

Importance of Pedagogy in Teaching

Quality teaching pedagogy provides strong foundations for learning. It helps students in developing advanced concepts and abilities and the right pedagogy enables teachers to observe the academic progress of their students. Right pedagogy is important

- To improve quality of learning
- To make students more receptive during the learning sessions
- To improve student's participations
- To impart knowledge effectively across a spectrum of learners
- To develop higher cognitive skills in students

Factors Affecting Pedagogy

Various factors and pedagogy teaching methods influence the pedagogy to be adopted in a particular teaching-learning process. Some of these are subject, curriculum, motivation to learn, and competence of the teacher. The learning styles of students and the availability of infrastructure also influence the pedagogy. These are as follows

- Competence of the teacher

A competent teacher keeps the students motivated, interested and eager to learn. Also, such a teacher employs a

judicious blend of skills, abilities and knowledge.

- Learning Styles of the Students

An idea about the students' learning styles helps teachers to adopt the appropriate pedagogical approaches. The pedagogical approach that complements students' learning styles helps accelerate the learning process. It keeps students motivated and interested in learning.

- Field of Study

The field of study also influences the choice of pedagogy. For example, physics requires a balance of theory and laboratory sessions. Political science, on the other hand, does not need laboratory sessions. Architecture requires field visits, besides theory and laboratory sessions.

- Availability of Additional Resources Projectors, virtual laboratories, etc. help extend the scope of the teaching-learning process. Such educational resources keep the learning sessions lively and students engaged.

- Education System

The policies of an education system, curriculum standards, etc. also influence the pedagogical approach. For instance, an exam that tests the ability of a student to memorize and recall facts discourages the instructor to employ a learning pedagogy that develops higher-order thinking.

Online learning

Online learning has become a significant part of higher education. Any modern pedagogy must account for students finding, analyzing and applying knowledge from a growing number of online tools, platforms and sources. Higher-order skills, like critical thinking and the ability to learn more independently, as well as in larger groups, are essential for engaging in online learning in a meaningful way. Students must be comfortable in using technology to help them learn and to access, share and create useful information and gain better

fluency in a subject. Educators, in turn, can use technology to enhance course materials and further support their pedagogies through blended learning that combines classrooms with online teaching, flipped classrooms that provide materials students can access after class, like videos, lecture notes, quizzes and further readings. They can integrate new forms of technology to teach, like videos, animations and simulations through sources like YouTube channels, Digital textbooks, podcasts and clickers. All of this content enhances the experience for students.

Preparing to Teach Online

For preparing to teach online, the following basic computer and internet knowledge and skills have to acquire

- Setting up folders and directories on a hard drive
- Proper use of word processing software: cut, copy, and paste; minimize and maximize windows; save files
- Handle email communications including attachments
- Use a browser to access the Internet
- Blackboard basics such as making your course available, managing the course menu, adding items and attaching files etc.

Online Learner Characteristics, Technology and Skill Requirements

To be a good candidate for online learning, the student must be committed to learning, have a positive attitude, be willing to take on a challenge, and possess time management skills. Generally, the traditional classroom allowed, even conditioned the learner to be passive. In contrast, the online learner will need to take an active role in the learning process. The learner must be self-directed and motivated to succeed in online learning. Online learners require differing skills. According to Biesenbach-Lucas, "online learners must not only understand ideas and concepts, they must be able to explain them articulately to others using text. Successful online learners need an environment where

they can both acquire and exercise their skills to achieve personal learning goals" and receive support and assistance from the online instructor as needed.

Technology and Skill Requirements for Students

The following computer and technology skills have been identified for the online student

- Ability to use devices to communicate with other systems to access data, upload and download
- Ability to use email to create, send, respond, use attachments
- Ability to use presentation graphics such as PowerPoint to create slides, displays
- Ability to create multimedia presentations
- Ability to use word processing
- Ability to navigate systems such as Blackboard and the Internet
- Ability to navigate a Windows or operating system to manipulate files using file manager, determine active printer, access installed applications, create and delete directories and files.

Effective Online Pedagogy

Online learning is not "slapping classroom content online" (O'Neil, Fisher, & Newbold, 2008, p. 18). The use of a delivery mechanism, such as the Internet or Blackboard "should not define the pedagogical practice." The technology should provide "the mechanism through which the online teacher implements the best pedagogy for that course or topic" (McVay et al., p. 6).

The online teacher must use technology to enhance the course content. By utilizing the positive aspects of technology, the online teacher can provide a quality educational learning experience. An effective online pedagogy is one that emphasizes student-centered learning and employs active learning activities.

Bill Pelz (2009), a Professor of Psychology and Sloan Consortium Award for Excellence in Online Teaching winner, provides three principles of effective online pedagogy

- Principle 1: Let the students do most of the work. The more time students spend engaged with the content the more they will learn.
- Principle 2: Interactivity is the heart and soul of effective asynchronous learning.
- Principle 3: Strive for presence: social, cognitive and teaching presence.

Online Teaching strategies and the Role of the Online Teacher

In order to offer high quality instruction in online learning, online course instructors should hold a certain set of beliefs about learning. The North American Council for Online Learning reports that, "many students in the 21st century don't think of technology as something separate from daily life, and perhaps online learning should not be thought of as separate from the teaching and learning that goes on in schools every day". According to Watson, four core competencies that the online teachers should enhance through professional development are provided below.

- Teachers must develop heightened communication skills, particularly in written communication. In many programs, teachers and students are communicating primarily through email, discussion board postings, and other texts, therefore the teachers must recognize the tone of their writing and pay attention to the nuances of words.
- In asynchronous programs, time management skills are critical for teachers and students, because they can be online at any time.
- In synchronous programs, teacher planning is an issue as lectures must have a multimedia component that requires

much more planning for than is usual for traditional classrooms.

- If teachers have students with disabilities, they must know how to adapt course content and instruction to meet these students' needs. Reaching visually impaired, hearing impaired, or learning-disabled students online can be quite different than in a physical classroom.

The traditional face-to-face learning environment is teacher-centered. The teacher controls the delivery of the information. With the advent of the Internet, access to vast resources of data and information, learners are no longer dependent on faculty for knowledge. The ability to learn online has altered this dynamic enabling an environment that is controlled or negotiated by the learner. A learner-centered online classroom that has the ability to enhance the interactivity and collaboration. Online instructors are now facilitators of information guiding students toward solutions. A change or modification to the instructor's pedagogy is required. In order for online learning to be successful, teachers as well as learners must take on new roles in the teaching-learning relationship and faculty must be willing to release control of learning to the students.

The instructional strategies identified by the Illinois Online Network as effective strategies used in the face-to-face classroom that can be transferred into an online learning environment are

- Discussion/Forum: Adult learner prefers this instructional strategy because it is interactive and facilitates participation. The discussion format allows the learner to explore his/her life experiences and apply them to new situation.

- Self-directed Learning: Online learning supports the self-directed learner in pursuing individualized, self-paced learning activities.

- Small Group Work: The online course can be divided

into smaller, more manageable groups. The small group can discuss content, share ideas, solve problems, and provide peer feedback for assignments.

- **Project:** The learning experience is made more relevant with projects. Online projects can be tailored to give students an opportunity to pursue their special interests and relate to their chosen career field. Projects can be done individually or within groups.

- **Collaborative Learning:** Combining two or more students to work together on a project or assignment. Collaborative learning can be more effective than competitive and individualistic efforts in promoting cognitive development, self-esteem and positive student-student relationships.

Conclusion

In this way, the well-thought modern-day pedagogy is a complete interrelation of the concepts and ideas, along with the ways of teaching the students. It also indicates that these practices have direct involvement with the student's achievements, results and skills developed after following the approach.

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ISSESUE OF BAMBOO CRAFTS AS SOUVENIR: A STUDY FROM PRODUCERS PERSPECTIVE IN SONITPUR DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Introduction

Souvenirs serve as tangible reminders of travel experiences, purchased to encapsulate the memories of visited destinations. They hold significant value in the tourist experience, as travelers often acquire mementos as proof of their journeys. People are inclined to seek tangible evidence of special moments in their lives (Wilklins, 2009). The act of purchasing souvenirs is not only for personal recollection but also extends to the intention of gifting to individuals back home. A diverse array of items serves as souvenirs globally, including local crafts, postcards, fine art, accessories, jewelry, T-shirts, toys, food, wildlife and nature objects, and leather goods. Among these, handicrafts stand out as a particularly favored category, as they represent the cultural essence of the host community. Handicrafts, being cultural expressions, play a pivotal role in

showcasing the local culture and traditions of a region or community. Moreover, they contribute significantly to local economic development and facilitate the exchange of cultural elements between regions and nations. Timothy (2005) highlights pottery, woodcarvings, figurines, baskets, blankets, clothing, fabrics, leather goods, and jewelry as the most prevalent handicraft items in the tourism souvenir industry. Min and Baishou (2006) define tourist souvenirs as commemorative merchandise associated with tourism, possessing geographical information and serving various purposes such as gifts, collections, and interior decorations. These souvenirs are deeply rooted in the traditional cultures and folk customs of an area, offering a comprehensive reflection of local culture and characteristics. The significance of tourist souvenirs lies not only in their functional uses but also in their ability to encapsulate the essence of a destination's identity and cultural heritage.

Assam, serving as the gateway to North East India, stands out as a unique destination that encompasses eco-tourism, cultural tourism, wildlife exploration, and rural tourism. The state's allure lies in its diverse offerings, including beautiful wildlife with unique flora and fauna, picturesque landscapes, tea gardens, and monuments showcasing the rich heritage of the Ahom dynasty. Assam emerges as a hotspot for various forms of tourism, attracting visitors with its multifaceted attractions. Boasting abundant forest and mineral resources, Assam holds a distinctive position in the Bamboo & Wood industry within India, comparable to resource-rich countries like Canada and the Scandinavian nations-Sweden, Norway, and Finland. The state harbors an impressive collection of 51 bamboo species. Artisans across Assam extensively engage in bamboo and woodcraft, creating items primarily used in construction and furniture (Dutta, 2012). Beyond the conventional applications of bamboo, the versatile material finds secondary uses in crafting umbrella

handles, walking sticks, fishing rods, tent poles, cordage adders, yokes, baskets, toys, and various decorative items, as well as domestic and agricultural implements. An additional advantage of bamboo craftsmanship is its adaptability to cottage and small-scale industries, requiring minimal tools and machinery. The durability, affordability, and eco-friendliness of bamboo products contribute to their increasing demand in both national and international markets. Despite the evident significance of bamboo crafts in Assam, tracing the exact origins of this tradition proves challenging due to the lack of definitive historical records. The craftsmanship not only reflects the state's rich cultural heritage but also holds promise as a sustainable and sought-after commodity in the global marketplace.

Literature Review:

Dutta (2012) notes the absence of precise records that could establish the antiquity, history, and origin of bamboo craft in Assam. Nevertheless, glimpses into the thriving state of wood and bamboo products in Assam can be traced back to the time of Bhaskara Varman, specifically the early part of the 7th century A.D. Despite the lack of definitive historical documentation, these subtle historical indicators suggest that the tradition of bamboo craftsmanship has deep roots in Assam, reflecting a longstanding and enduring heritage in the region. Gordon (1986) provides a comprehensive perspective on souvenirs, categorizing them into five distinct types. Firstly, there are pictorial images, encompassing postcards, photographs, and illustrated books specifically depicting particular regions. The second category, termed "Piece-of-the-rock" souvenirs, comprises natural materials or objects, like rocks and shells, extracted from the natural environment. Symbolic shorthand souvenirs, the third type, involve mass-produced items associated with real objects or monuments, serving as iconic representations of landmark scenery; miniature Eiffel Towers from Paris are cited as examples.

The fourth category includes souvenirs that may lack reference to a specific place but gain significance through inscriptions, such as T-shirts marked with "Grand Canyon," becoming meaningful reminders of a particular location and time. Finally, the fifth type, local product souvenirs, encompasses a diverse range of items, including ethnic foods and crafts, that visitors can bring back as mementos. Gordon's taxonomy offers a nuanced understanding of the varied forms and purposes that souvenirs can take on in the tourism context. In a study conducted by Mogindol and Bagul (2014) highlighted the significant role played by the handicraft sector in the country's economy. Notably, this sector is largely comprised of small-scale businesses, often family-based enterprises. The researchers found that tourists displayed a particular preference for two types of handicraft products - those based on textiles and those derived from forest resources. Within their research, Mogindol and Bagul identified various appeals that served as motivations for tourists to favor these specific craft items. This investigation sheds light on the economic importance of the handicraft sector in Malaysia and provides insights into the preferences and motivations of tourists in choosing particular types of handicraft products. Wilkins (2009) studied about the souvenir buying behavior and motivations behind such purchase of souvenir in Australia and identified various types of items preferred by people as souvenir and differences in buying behavior among different demographic segments along with emphasis on usage of souvenirs. They found significant gender differences in purchase and in underlying motivations for such purchase among male and female.

In the study on rural tourism in Taiwan, Tseng et al (2009) underscored souvenirs as crucial for sustainable development. Tourists, attracted not only by local scenery and culture, but also unique products, were influenced by various factors in souvenir purchase. The study found that aesthetic

intention positively impacted satisfaction, emphasizing the significance of local products in tourism. Nomura (2002) investigated the souvenir purchase patterns of domestic Japanese tourists, identifying multiple factors influencing choices, such as prices, weight, size, shopping time, travel forms, and family income. He analyzed preferred souvenir types and suggested measures like production improvement, effective display, and promotion to enhance tourist satisfaction, emphasizing strategic enhancements for the souvenir industry. Das (2020), Bamboo, a precious plant resource in Southern and Eastern Asia, holds cultural significance. India, the second richest country in bamboo resources, relies on it for rural economy. The North-Eastern region, especially the Karbi tribe in Assam, has a rich bamboo craft tradition integral to their culture, now endangered. The study emphasizes documenting and reviving this heritage.

Dutta, & Radha, (2022). This article delves into the marketing strategies of bamboo craftsmen in Assam, the second-largest job-creating sector after agriculture. Based on primary and secondary data, it highlights products, challenges, and recommends training programs for craftsmen to enhance marketing skills, leverage social media, and improve profitability in the bamboo sector

Objectives of the paper

1. To study the prospects of bamboo crafts as a souvenir product of greater tourism industry, and
2. To study the various problems faced by the craftsmen in the production and marketing,

Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through non probabilistic snowball sampling procedure. A structured schedule was designed and administered among 50 craftsmen's engaged in the production of bamboo and can crafts. Geographically the

study was carried out in Tezpur city of Sonitpur district of Assam. The interview was conducted in vernacular language and thereafter transcribed into English. One interview, approximately takes 10 to 15 minutes. The study covers problems of craftsmen in Sonitpur district of Assam and the findings cannot be generalised with the other region or state. Again, problems of the crafts and its prospects depend upon the crafts itself. Therefore, the findings are exclusively applicable for bamboo crafts and not the other crafts. Another major limitation of the study is that the surveyed craftsmen simultaneously practice the production of bamboo and cane crafts. Therefore, it becomes difficult for the researcher to demarcate between the two, in terms of hours devoted, return they received etc.

Analysis

Bamboo craft is practiced by craftsmen as their secondary livelihood generating activity. The various reasons regarding this is presented in the subsequent section of the paper. Analyzing the gender of the respondents, it was concluded that cent percent of the respondent are male. While analysing the age group of the craftsmen, it is concluded that, 70 per cent of the craftsmen belong to the age group of 30 to 40. 82 percent of the craftsmen undertaken the production of regular and decorative crafts. Here, regular crafts imply items with utilitarian aspects and decorative crafts means items with decorative aspects. While analysing the income from the crafts 46 percent of the craftsmen earn more than 30000 per month. When the respondent are enquired about their involvement in the bamboo crafts they revealed that, lack of job is the prime reason for choosing the craft as a major source of livelihood. Only a small portion of the craftsmen (08 percent) are practicing it in the fear of probable extinction of the crafts. Moreover, 15 per cent of respondents indicate that other reasons like training from various organizations like DIC, DRDA encourage them to choose bamboo and cane craft as

their livelihood. 60 per cent of the respondents reveal that they learn the craft informally either from friends and relatives, or as inter in others firm. Although some of them have never avail any formal training, but long term association with the craft has make them expert in the crafts production. The respondents revealed about shortage of working capital and are financed through borrowing from friends and relatives. Regarding marketing of the crafts, it was observed that, Craftsman's adopt both direct as well as indirect marketing for selling the crafts. The first channel is Craftsmen / producer - buyer. Buyer may be individual buyer or institutional buyer. The other channel is Craftsmen/ producer - whole seller/ show room dealer - buyer . Selling from the factory out let is preferred channel of marketing. Selling through trade fair and exhibition is another channel of marketing , however, They revealed participation in fair and exhibition is not preferable as it involves extra expenditure in terms of participation fees, transportation charges etc. Regarding the impact on livelihood, craftsmen revealed that, they are able to run their families with crafts income.

Problems faced by the craftsmen:

The seasonal availability of raw material poses a significant challenge, particularly during rainy seasons, making it difficult to obtain the necessary resources for can production. This scarcity intermittently disrupts the manufacturing process, impacting overall production efficiency. The transportation cost of raw materials is a crucial factor in bamboo crafts production. Managing and minimizing these costs are essential for the economic viability of the production process, influencing overall affordability and competitiveness in the market. The scarcity of skilled manpower poses a challenge in bamboo crafts production. This deficit in expertise hampers the quality and efficiency of the manufacturing process, underscoring the need for training programs and initiatives to develop a skilled workforce in the

bamboo crafts industry. The rising wages of labor in bamboo crafts production present a significant challenge. This increase in labor costs can impact the overall production expenses, potentially affecting the competitiveness and profitability of the bamboo crafts industry. Managing and optimizing costs become crucial in addressing this concern. Craftsmen currently encounter minimal marketing-related challenges, with products selling swiftly and production tailored to customer demand. Approximately 80 percent of respondents believe that competition among craftsmen positively influences sales by fostering creativity and innovation in products. However, craftsmen also face issues such as a dwindling interest among the new generation for the craft, potentially leading to its non-existence in the future. Despite this concern, the craftsmen's adaptability to customer preferences and their ability to modify crafts based on individual choices contribute to the current success of the industry, emphasizing the need for strategies to attract and engage the younger generation in preserving traditional crafts.

Conclusion

The craft industry faces various challenges impacting its growth and sustainability. Production-related problems, including seasonal raw material availability, high carrying costs, and a shortage of skilled manpower, hinder development. Direct marketing from the factory remains the most utilized and preferred channel for craftsmen. The institutional customer segment, emphasizing decorative items for higher margins, currently drives the industry. Despite lacking formal training, craftsmen have honed their skills over the years to support their families. However, the dwindling interest of the new generation in learning and pursuing crafts as a profession poses a serious threat to the craft's sustainability. Additionally, the lack of

government support and subsidies, coupled with the industry's unorganized nature, underscores the need for formal structures to facilitate growth and development.

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ADOPTING INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM IN COMMERCE EDUCATION

Bidisha Sarmah

Introduction

India is a country, rich in culture and traditions along with a huge valuable knowledge base that has been carried down from generation to generation in the form of texts, stories, poetry etc. The rich Indian knowledge repository encompasses various disciplines such as philosophy, astronomy, agriculture, medical science, mathematics, engineering, architecture, literature, music, politics, trade and commerce and so on. This knowledge is well preserved in the ancient scriptures such as Bhagavad Gita, Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads, Kautilya's Arthashastra etc. The earliest known ancient text is Rigveda Samhita which is written in Sanskrit language and contains a collection of hymns and verses dedicated to the deities. The ancient texts have played a crucial role in the formation, development and governance of societies along with enriching people's value systems and ethics. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is the knowledge arising out of religion, science and culture of the undivided Indian sub-continent and dates back to the 2500 BC making it 5000 years old. IKS can be said to have been composed of six streams namely- Vedic knowledge system, Buddhist intervention, Jain cosmology, Sikh pan, folk knowledge system and tribal

knowledge system. Indian knowledge is considered to be a system as there is a systematic disbursing of the knowledge which in part are complementary and also work as one. This knowledge is directed towards a common goal of benefitting the society at large. Indian Knowledge is passed down from one generation to another orally in the form of poems, stories, etc in the gurukul system of education. With the advent of British rule, the Indian education system which involved indigenous knowledge began to change. As with the British rule came the Western influence that had an adverse impact on the Indian society, education, and culture.

After 77 years of independence from British rule and with the introduction of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Indian education system is going to be revolutionized. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims at eliminating the Western influence and reviving and acknowledging indigenous knowledge. NEP 2020 believes that the Indian Knowledge System still holds an immense wealth of knowledge that can be beneficial in the present-day scenario. In today's dynamic world, Indian Knowledge System continues to be a source of wisdom and innovation. Indian ancient texts such as Manusmriti, Arthashastra and Panchatantra hold huge importance in the field of trade and commerce even to this day. The texts hold their connection to various topics such as accounting, taxation policy, commercial law, management etc. to name a few. The study of the different ancient texts in this context allows a better understanding of the various practices and policies adopted in trade, commerce and management and its relevance in present times.

Arthashastra and its Relevance

Arthashastra is an ancient Indian text written by Vishnu Gupta (also known as Kautilya) in Sanskrit language. He worked as a teacher and a political advisor for the Maurya dynasty.

Initially, it was primarily written for Chandragupta Maurya with the motive of providing governance lessons for his empire. Kautilya believed that for a nation to develop and prosper, there should be a government and the government should act for the benefit of its people. The book, Arthashastra, is an ancient text on diplomacy, governance and economics. The book gives an insight into the practical problems that a government can face and also provides a means of tackling them. Arthashastra consists of 15 books and 150 chapters relating to different aspects of running a government.

Taxation in Arthashastra

Taxation is a means of carrying out various welfare schemes for the public. Arthashastra too recommended different tax rates on different items without leaving any room for arbitrariness to satisfy the needs of the king's subjects. Book 1, Chapter 13 of Arthashastra states that the king on payment of 1/6th of grains and 1/10th of merchandise takes upon himself the safety and security of the subjects and punishments are levied on as punishments when taxes are violated.

Book 2, Chapter 6 of Arthashastra deals with the collection of revenue by the collector-general. For revenue collection, the sources of income are- under the head of forts, under the head of country parts, under the head of mines, under buildings and gardens, forests and herds of cattle and roads of traffic. The revenue can be of different forms such as price, share, monopoly charge, fixed tax, manufacturing charge and penalty. In the field of taxation, customs duties played an important role.

Book 2, Chapter 22 of Arthashastra prescribed the different rates of duty to be paid for different commodities imported or exported. Merchandise tax is classified into three categories- a tax on country goods, a tax on city-side goods and a tax on foreign goods. Also fines were imposed if there were found to be any offenses.

Book 5, Chapter: 2 states that the king may collect revenue in times of need according to the capacity of his subjects and also exempts some classes of people displaying a progressive approach towards taxation.

The taxation policy as provided in Arthashastra is quite relevant in the present times and provides a base for the current taxation system of the country. The taxation policy followed in the past was quite progressive approach as it required payment of taxes by the people of the nation according to their capacity to pay which are then utilized for the welfare of the people at large. The same principle is also followed by the present taxation system. Moreover, the non-payment of taxes also calls for penalties and punishments in the present system of taxation. Such similar provisions were also seen to had been made in the book regarding the default of taxes. In addition to the direct tax, various other taxes such as GST and custom duty for imports are imposed today which have a resemblance with the taxation policy mentioned in the Arthashastra.

Commercial Law in Arthashastra

An empire cannot function smoothly without any law and order. For maintaining law and order in the state, Kautilya's Arthashastra provides several civil and criminal laws, non-adherence to which would have resulted in punishments and fines. This is mentioned in Book 3 of Arthashastra.

Arthashastra provides information on different laws that were in place then and also includes all possible circumstances that could have occurred at that time. Laws applicable to the transactions of trade and commerce are provided in the Arthashastra in a detailed manner.

Chapter 1 of Book 3 provides a clear distinction between the transactions which were valid and otherwise. It also stated the varied punishment and fines to be borne by the parties to the transaction when found guilty of undertaking an invalid

transaction. Moreover, the chapter also states who are the persons competent to enter into transactions. It provided that if agreements were entered into by a dependent or unauthorized person shall not be valid which otherwise would have been valid if the same person agreeing was authorized. The Chapter also considered the circumstances of an authorized person being provoked or intoxicated or the person being lunatic. In such cases, the agreements were declared as void.

Chapter 12 of Book 3, talks about regarding deposits and other credit facilities - pledges mortgages, delivery orders, borrowings, hiring and sale through agents. The different rules related to the credit were clearly mentioned in the book. As per Arthashastra, a depository shall not make use of the security without the permission of the owner otherwise would be liable for compensation for use as well as fine. It is also mentioned in the Chapter that, anything that had been borrowed must be returned in the same condition as it was received. Also, if an agent is hired to sell goods on behalf of the other, then the owner of the goods shall receive the total price of the merchandise excluding the commission of the agent.

The present laws surrounding commercial trade and commerce also have similar provisions for these situations. The Indian Contract Act, 1872, Section 10 defines the agreements that can be contracts and Section 11 states the parties who are competent to enter into contract. Moreover, the law of agency is well explained in Chapter X of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. The provisions relating to pledge are provided in the Sections 172- 179 of the Indian Contract Act. The provision of delivery to the carrier under section -139 of the Sale of Goods Act can be found in the Arthashastra. With the increase in the complexity of business transactions the commercial laws have been modified to adopt these changes but the roots of the laws can be witnessed in the ancient text of Arthashastra.

Panchatantra and its Relevance

Panchatantra, an ancient text of interrelated animal fables, was originally written in Sanskrit by the Indian scholar Vishnu Sharma. He is believed to have written the collection of fables for three princes of a King who had been entrusted with the responsibility of teaching the princes, governing skills, morals and principles. The name of the "Panchatantra" comes from two words- 'Panch' meaning five and 'tantra' meaning strategy. Panchatantra is a total of 87 stories under five headings- Mitra Bhedha (the loss of friends), Mitra Samprapti (gaining of friends), Labdha Prasanam (Loss of Gain), Kakolukiya (Pragmatism) and Aprikshita Karakam (Rash Actions). Panchatantra has been translated to every major language leading to nearly 200 versions of the text and in more than 50 languages.

Panchatantra stories in addition to providing life lessons can be efficiently used to communicate important management lessons in a present-day context. Take the case of "the bharunda bird", where the bird has two heads and a single stomach. In the story, one head found some nectar but refused to share it with the other head. Angrily the other head found some poison and ate it. This resulted in the death of the bird as both the heads shared the same stomach. This case can be used to understand an important concept of management which is the organization structure. If an organization has two bosses, there are chances of internal conflict between the two which may have an adverse effect on the growth of the organization and ultimately affect the organisation's survival. From this case, it can be well interpreted that an organization should not have two bosses. This analysis of organizational structure is also given by Henri Fayol in his scientific principle of Unity of Command.

Another story of "the king and the foolish monkey" that talks about right placement of personnel in the right position. In this story, the king had a favourite monkey that lacked

intelligence and did foolish activities without any consequences. One day while the king was sleeping, the monkey noticed that a fly was hovering over the king. In order to get rid of the fly, the monkey swayed a sword which did not harm the fly but critically injured the king. This story emphasizes on training of employees in the job before joining the organization. Training not only elevates the productivity of the organization as an organization becomes more aware of its capabilities and the extent of its useful applications.

The stories in Panchatantra were put across different generations for the purpose of imparting values and ethics of life. However, Panchatantra's applicability is not limited to life lessons but can also be adopted for providing management lessons in today's complex business environment. Information disbursed by way of stories are easier to understand and retained. Better understanding leads to appropriate application of the lessons taught. In addition to the management lessons, the stories teach wisdom to the managers and help in making better decisions leading to success.

Conclusion

The activities of business houses have become increasingly sophisticated due to the growth of trade and commerce in the global perspective. In addition to plans for success, the competitive environment demands innovation from organizations in order for them to endure and prosper over the long term. India, a nation with many different customs and civilizations, has a rich history that is still unexplored but is full of wisdom and information. A wealth of information about astrology, agriculture, music, politics, engineering, commerce, and other subjects can be found in the old scriptures and folklore. The Indian knowledge system has suffered from the influence of Western culture and customs, and its transmission to the younger generations has significantly decreased.

The implementation of NEP 2020 paves the way for adoption of Indian traditional knowledge into the education system which was previously lost because of the Western influence. Embracing the Indian Knowledge System not only allows one to connect to its roots, and discover ones' cultural identity but also helps one to understand the secrets of thriving civilizations and their knowledge systems which otherwise would be left uncharted and lost.

Even though trade and commerce in India have developed over time, there are still remnants of classical knowledge systems in the contemporary corporate environment. The formal taxation system that is in place in India is similar to the one that was established under the Mauryan dynasty and is described in Kautilya's ancient work Arthashastra. These volumes also include the laws that were in effect at the time to regulate trade and commerce. Because of the complexity of the business transactions involved, today's laws are more intricate than ever, but their foundations remain the same as they were in the pages of Arthashastra.

Moreover, the stories of Panchatantra have been propagated orally from generation to generation and are a major source of morals, values and ethics. Apart from providing life lessons and teaching skills to tackle any challenges in life, these are also effective sources of management lessons. As the tales are self-explanatory, it would be easier for the youth to inculcate the required skills and bring innovativeness paving the way for better decision-making and success. Thus, it is necessary to inculcate traditional knowledge and gain a competitive edge by enabling one to navigate the complexities of the business world while respecting one's cultural roots.

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Exploring Dropout Reasons of undergraduate Female Students of Tea Tribe Community of Assam: A Case Study of Sivasagar District of Assam

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Introduction

The tea tribes of Assam have a history deeply rooted in the colonial era when the British established large-scale commercial tea plantations in the region. Facing a shortage of labor for the labor-intensive work on the tea estates, the British planters introduced an indentured labor system. Laborers were brought in from various regions, including central and eastern India, Nepal, and parts of present-day Bangladesh. Many of these laborers belonged to tribal and indigenous communities, forming what is now known as the tea tribes. Among the major tribal groups within these communities are Adivasis, Santhals, Oraons, Mundas, and others.

Life for the tea tribe laborers was challenging, with meager wages, inadequate housing, and limited access to essential services. They lived in designated areas on the tea estates, known as labor lines, and faced socio-economic hardships. The migration of diverse communities had a profound impact on Assam's cultural landscape. The tea tribes brought with them their unique

languages, traditions, and practices, enriching the cultural diversity of the region. Over the years, the tea tribes have been involved in movements and struggles for their rights. These movements aimed at improving working conditions, securing fair wages, and addressing overall socio-economic challenges. The tea tribes' struggles have played a role in shaping policies and initiatives for their development.

Efforts have been made by both governmental and non-governmental organizations to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the tea tribes. Development schemes have been implemented to improve education, healthcare, and overall living standards within these communities. In the political sphere, representation for the tea tribes has been emphasized. Leaders from these communities have played important roles at the state and national levels, advocating for the rights and interests of their people.

Despite progress, challenges persist, including issues related to land rights, social discrimination, and economic disparities. Ongoing efforts aim to address these challenges and uplift the socio-economic status of the tea tribe communities. The tea tribes of Assam, with their unique histories and cultural contributions, continue to be an integral part of the state's social fabric. Their story reflects the complexities of colonial history, migration, and the ongoing struggles for socio-economic empowerment and cultural preservation.

Review of the related literature

Dropout rates in higher education have been a concern for educators and policymakers around the world. While there are many factors that contribute to student dropout, research has shown that family factors can play a significant role. This literature review aims to synthesize the findings from recent studies examining the relationship between family factors and student dropout in higher education.

Family income has been identified as a key factor affecting student dropout rates. A study by Fioriello and Dounay (2021) found that financial constraints were a significant predictor of dropout among university students in Italy. Similarly, a study by Al-Shlowi and Ismail (2020) found that family income was a significant predictor of student dropout in Jordanian universities. Low-income students may face financial barriers to education, such as tuition fees, textbook costs, and living expenses, which can impact their ability to continue their studies.

Parental education levels have also been found to impact student dropout rates. A study by Diaz-Artiles et al. (2021) found that parental education levels were positively associated with student academic achievement and negatively associated with dropout rates in Spanish universities. Similarly, a study by Zhang et al. (2020) found that parents' educational background and socioeconomic status were significant predictors of student dropout in Chinese universities. Parents with higher levels of education are more likely to value education and provide a supportive home learning environment, which can improve their children's academic performance and reduce their likelihood of dropping out.

Family size has been found to impact student dropout rates, with larger families being associated with higher dropout rates. A study by Shamim et al. (2021) found that family size was a significant predictor of student dropout in Pakistani universities. Students from larger families may have to share resources, such as computers and textbooks, and may have less academic support at home, which can impact their academic performance and increase their likelihood of dropping out.

The distance between a student's home and the institute has also been found to impact student dropout rates. A study by Núñez et al. (2021) found that distance to the university was a

significant predictor of student dropout in Spanish universities. Students who have to travel long distances to attend school may face transportation challenges and higher costs, which can impact their ability to continue their studies. They may also have less time for academic work and extracurricular activities, which can impact their academic performance.

In addition to these factors, there are other family factors that have been found to impact student dropout rates. For example, a study by Karaman and Hamarat (2021) found that family support was a significant predictor of student dropout in Turkish universities. Students who received more support from their families were less likely to drop out. Similarly, a study by Al-Mohaithef and Al-Harthi (2020) found that family expectations and involvement were positively associated with student academic achievement and negatively associated with dropout rates in Saudi Arabian universities.

In conclusion, family factors play a significant role in student dropout rates in higher education. Financial constraints, parental education levels, family size, and distance to the institute have all been found to impact student dropout rates. Interventions that target these factors, such as financial aid programs, academic support services, and family engagement initiatives, can help to reduce student dropout rates.

The significance of the Study

The significance of studying the dropout of female students in the undergraduate level of the tea garden community is to address the unique challenges and barriers that these students face in pursuing higher education. Tea garden communities are often located in remote and rural areas, with limited access to education and resources. Female students in these communities may face additional gender-based barriers, such as cultural norms and expectations, gender discrimination, and lack of support and encouragement to pursue higher education.

Studying the dropout of female students in the tea garden community can help to identify the specific factors that contribute to their dropout rates, such as family income, parental education, family size, distance to the institute, and other cultural and social factors. This can inform the development of targeted interventions and programs to support female students and reduce dropout rates, such as financial aid programs, academic support services, mentoring and counseling, and community engagement initiatives.

Moreover, studying the dropout of female students in the tea garden community can contribute to the broader literature on gender and education, particularly in the context of marginalized and disadvantaged communities. It can provide insights into the complex interplay between gender, class, culture, and education, and highlight the need for intersectional and holistic approaches to addressing educational disparities and inequalities.

Overall, studying the dropout of female students in the undergraduate level of the tea garden community is significant for advancing gender equity and social justice in education, and for promoting the empowerment and agency of female students in pursuing their academic and career goals.

Objective

1. To systematically investigate and analyze the factors contributing to the dropout of female students from the tea tribe community at the undergraduate level. The study aims to identify the primary reasons behind the dropout rates.

Methodology

A random sampling technique was used to select 100 dropout female students belongs to Amguri Block. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered to the 100 dropout female students to collect information. The questionnaire included both closed-ended and open-ended questions, and took approxi-

mately 30 minutes to complete. Some statistical tools are used to analysis the data.

Analysis and Result

1. Financial problems were the most frequently reported cause of dropout, with 21.11% of the respondents citing this reason. This suggests that financial constraints are a significant barrier to higher education for female students in the College of Assam.
2. Marital obligations were the second most common cause of dropout, with 16.66% of the respondents reporting this reason. This indicates that married female students may face challenges in balancing their academic and personal responsibilities.
3. Time management was a significant challenge for 13.33% of the respondents, suggesting that effective time management strategies and support services may be beneficial in promoting student retention.
4. Difficulties in understanding of education were reported by 11.11% of the respondents, highlighting the need for effective communication and support from the College to help students adapt to this mode of education.
5. Admission to another institute, and conversion to another program were also reported as reasons for dropout, with 6.66% of the respondents citing each of these reasons.
6. Illness, dissatisfaction, personal reasons, and parent transfer were each reported as reasons for dropout by 5.55%, 4.44%, 3.33%, 1.11%, and 1.11% of the respondents, respectively.

Overall, the data suggests that financial problems, marital obligations, and time management challenges are the most significant causes of dropout among female undergraduate students in the College of Assam. These factors are often interre-

lated, as financial constraints may limit students' ability to manage their time effectively and may influence their decisions regarding marriage and career.

Possible Strategies to Counter Dropout

Here are some measures that the government can take to address the dropout reasons of undergraduate female students in the tea garden community:

Increase access to education: The government can invest in building more college in tea garden communities, providing transportation for students, and offering distance learning programs to make education more accessible for female students.

Improve the quality of education: The government can invest in teacher training programs, provide resources for college, and implement curriculum reforms to improve the quality of education.

Provide financial assistance: The government can offer financial aid, scholarships, and grants to help students pay for tuition, books, and other expenses. This can be targeted towards female students from low-income families in tea garden communities.

Address social and cultural barriers: The government can work to address social and cultural norms that discourage female education, such as early marriage, gender stereotypes, and discrimination. This can be done through public awareness campaigns, community outreach programs, and policies that promote gender equality.

Provide support services: The government can offer academic and emotional support services, such as tutoring, counseling, and mentoring, to help students succeed in their studies and overcome personal and academic challenges.

Implement policies that promote work-life balance: The government can implement policies that support female students

who are also caregivers, such as flexible work schedules, on-campus childcare, and family leave policies.

Monitor and evaluate progress: The government can monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these measures, and make adjustments as needed to ensure that they are meeting the needs of undergraduate female students in tea garden communities.

In conclusion, this paper has explored the various reasons why undergraduate female students in the tea garden community drop out of college. The research has identified several factors that contribute to this issue, including financial constraints, family responsibilities, and lack of academic support. These factors can create significant barriers for female students, making it difficult for them to continue their education.

Conclusion

The findings of this study highlight the need for targeted interventions and support services to address the unique challenges faced by undergraduate female students in the tea garden community. Financial aid programs, academic support services, mentoring, and counseling can all play a vital role in promoting student retention and success. Additionally, addressing social and cultural norms that discourage female education is essential to ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to pursue higher education.

The government and educational institutions have a critical role to play in addressing the dropout crisis among undergraduate female students in the tea garden community. Providing financial support, flexible academic schedules, academic and personal support services, childcare services, and promoting a safe and inclusive campus environment can all contribute to improving student retention and success.

Finally, it is essential to monitor and evaluate retention strategies to ensure they are effective. Collecting and analyzing data on student retention, such as dropout rates, graduation

rates, and student satisfaction, can help identify areas for improvement and adjust strategies accordingly.

In summary, addressing the dropout crisis among undergraduate female students in the tea garden community requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. By providing targeted interventions and support services, promoting a safe and inclusive campus environment, and addressing social and cultural norms that discourage female education, we can help ensure that all students have equal opportunities to succeed in higher education.

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An Analysis of Public Distribution System of India

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Introduction

Public Distribution System (PDS) is an important food security scheme implemented by the Government of India under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to distribute food and non-food items to India's poor at subsidized rates. PDS has played an important role in a country like India where a large section of population is still suffering from malnutrition. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) aims to eradicate hunger from the world by the year 2030 and eliminate malnutrition. But India is still far away to achieve this target set by the SDG. As of 2021, India is the largest contributor of undernourished people in the world with around 194.4 million people, or 14.37% of its people not receiving enough nutrition. Moreover, as per the Government of India's National Family Health Survey 5, 36% of children under age five are stunted, 19% are wasted and 32% are underweight. Under such circumstances, the proper implementation of food security schemes like Public Distribution System is very crucial. In this context, the importance of PDS is in great demand for ensuring food security among Indian households.

Objectives

The main objectives of this paper are-

1. To make a study of the existing Public Distribution System in India.
2. To find out the loopholes in the system.
3. To recommend policy measures for PDS reforms and conclusion.

Methodology

The paper is completely based upon secondary data collected from various journals, books, published papers etc.

Discussion

The Existing PDS in India, an outline, The origin of the public Distribution System dates back to the Second World War period when the Government of India for the first time ordered the setting up of Fair Price Shops in several major states and undertook many steps to stabilize prices of foodgrains (Singh 2006; Swaminathan 2003). In the post-independence period the PDS initially focused on price stability in urban and food deficit areas and ensuring the standard of living of the emerging working class. It was only from the Sixth Plan that the Government laid emphasis on complete regional coverage (Geetha & Suryanarayana 1993). The Eighth Plan saw the introduction of the Revamped Public Distribution System, which focused on granting special privileges to people in 1775 blocks in tribal, hilly and drought prone areas. In 1997, the Government of India launched the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which sought to target the benefits towards the BPL households.

Public Distribution System is a completely government scheme under which subsidized food and non-food items are distributed among poor households. Major commodities distributed include rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene through a network of retail outlets called Fair Price Shops (popularly known as 'ration shops') established in several states across the

country. Food Corporation of India, a Government-owned corporation, procures and maintains the PDS. Through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) the government procures grain at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and then stores and transports it to the various states. The state governments buy the food grains from the FCI based on their allocations at the Central Issue Price (CIP) and transport it to the Fair Price Shops (FPS). The central government allocates food grains from the central pool to the state governments for distribution to BPL, AAY and APL families. Allocation for BPL and AAY families is done on the basis of the number of identified households. On the other hand, allocation for APL families is made on the basis of: (i) the availability of food grains stocks in the central pool, and (ii) the past offtake (lifting) of food grains by a state from the central pool. Under TPDS CIP was initially fixed at 50 percent of economic cost for BPL households and 90 percent of economic cost for APL households. However, whereas the economic cost of rice and wheat has been rising APL and BPL prices have fallen or remained constant. For AAY households, CIP for rice and wheat has remained constant at Rs. 3 and Rs. 2 for rice and wheat respectively. Apart from the food grains requirement for immediate distribution under TPDS, the central government also maintains minimum buffer reserves of food stocks for emergencies.

Drawbacks of PDS

The Public Distribution System has come under severe criticism in recent years due to various reasons which are given below-

1. Targeting error: A major problem is associated with whole idea of 'BPL targeting'. Mahamallik & Sahu (2011) summarizes the critiques of the BPL criterion into four broad categories-(1) lack of clarity in the criterion, (2) methodological drawbacks in scoring and aggregation, (3) data quality and

corruption, and (4) increasing probability of wrong selection. The problem is particularly serious in states like Bihar, Assam, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. (Planning Commission 2008). A study made on 2022 found that more than 90 million eligible people have been excluded from legal entitlements under TPDS (Down to Earth, 2022). These inaccuracies in the targeting process undermine the system's effectiveness and result in misallocation of resources.

2. Diversion of foodgrains from PDS: Another area of concern is the large scale diversion of grains from the public distribution system. These leakages can transpire at different stages, including procurement, storage, transportation, and distribution. The leakage or diversion of foodgrains is defined as the proportion of foodgrains not reaching the beneficiary households under the programme. The extent of diversion is especially high in states like Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. While Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan report moderate diversion, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are categorized as low-leakage states.

3. Viability of Fair Price Shops: With the introduction of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the APL consumers have been virtually excluded from the PDS which appears to have adversely affected the economic viability of FPSs. With a smaller number of ration cards to serve, and upper bounds on margins that can be charged to BPL consumers, the net profits of fair price shop owners/dealers are likely to be lower under the TPDS than before. Since some economies in costs are also likely, such as in the case of transport, the distribution of smaller quantities is likely to make many shops unviable. Lack of viability may induce the FPS owners to divert foodgrains or indulge in other related malpractices.

4. Lastly but not least the operational cost of PDS is also very high. The cost of operation of the PDS consists of two major components, namely, Subsidy costs and administration cost. The subsidy cost occurs because the cost at which foodgrains are procured is higher than the price at which they are sold in the PDS. Administration costs occurred due to storage, procurement operations and transportation of foodgrains from farmers to consumers. Theft, wastages and damages in storage and transit add to these costs. Studies have shown that the costs like labor charges, interest charges and administrative costs are comparatively higher for FCI whereas transport costs are relatively higher for private traders compared to FCI.

PDS Reform:

Several measures have also been to strengthen the present structure of TPDS notable among them being the introduction of UIDAI Aadhaar and technology- based reforms initiated by the states. The government has put an effort to link the TPDS with the UID Aadhaar scheme and expects that the scheme would play an important role in addressing inclusion/ exclusion errors, checking diversion and leakages, assisting foodgrain management and ensuring accountability. The states which have successfully completed the PDS reform are- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. Several other states have also undertaken various technology-based reforms to TPDS. We mention some of these below-

Table 1
Technology-based reforms to TPDS

Type of Reform	Benefits of Reform
Digitization of ration cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for online entry and verification of data Online storing of data related to beneficiaries
Computerized allocation to FPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computerizes FPS allocation, declaration of stock balance, web-based truck challans, etc.
Issue of smart cards in place of ration cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure electronic devices used to store beneficiary data Prevents counterfeiting
Use of GPS Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of GPS technology to track movement of trucks carrying food grains from state depots to FPS
SMS based monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows monitoring by citizens so they can register their mobile numbers and send/receive SMS alerts during dispatch and arrival of TPDS commodities
Use of web-based citizens portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicizes grievance redressal machinery, such as toll free number for call centres to register complaints or suggestions

The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted on July 5, 2013 in order to ensure that all people, at all times, can get access to the basic food for their active and healthy life is characterized by availability, access, utilization and stability of food. This act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under TPDS. 'One Nation One Ration Card' is another initiative which has been working since April 2018 which aims at providing eligibility to the people to receive subsidized food grain from any FPS shop in any city of the country. Studies have revealed that while the old-style PDS suffered from a number of problems like large-scale diversion and exclusion errors, the new-style PDS has been able to tackle these interrelated problems through various state level initiatives notable among them being expansion of coverage, price reduction and the introduction of modern IT-based technology. Most importantly, people now are much more aware of their rights and entitlements and are more willing to defend them.

Conclusion:

Despite receiving a high priority in the Constitution and

policy objectives, the food security situation in the country has been more or less dismal. The Public Distribution System, being the largest food security scheme in the country has an important role to play in this direction. However the scheme has been plagued by a number of problems and has not been able to yield its intended benefits. Studies have however revealed a revival of the PDS in recent years especially in states that have taken a number of policy initiatives in this direction. However there is much that still needs to be done in this respect. It is high time that the lagging states take a cue from their better performing neighbors and undertake policy reforms on their own.

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Unlocking Potential: Act East Policy and Prospect of Foreign Direct Investment in North-East India

Nirmali Borkakoty

Introduction

The North East region of India, although isolated from mainland India, is in a strategic location and flanked by five Asian countries - Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh, where it can act as a land bridge between South East Asian countries and the rest of India. India has been putting great effort into strengthening her relationship with growing South East Asian economies and Eastern neighbourhoods over the past few years. India's search for economic space which resulted in the Look East Policy (hereafter LEP) in 1990 today has turned into a dynamic and action-oriented Act East Policy (hereafter AEP). The AEP was launched at the East Asia Summit in Myanmar in November 2014. The primary goal of the LEP was to reorient the nation's trade priorities from the West and its neighbours to the developing nations of South East Asia. While the focus of the LEP was to increase economic integration with the South East Asian countries and the area was confined

to South-East Asia only, the focus of the AEP is economic and security integration and the focus area increased to South East Asia as well as East Asia. Under the AEP the government is relying on the 4 C's (Culture, Connectivity, Commerce and Capacity Building) to develop better relations with ASEAN nations. The policy aims to promote economic cooperation, and cultural ties, and develop a strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at regional, bilateral, and multilateral levels; to increase the interaction of the North-Eastern states of India with other neighbouring countries; to find out the alternatives of the traditional business partners; more focus on the Pacific countries in addition to the South East Asian countries and to curb the increasing impact of China in the ASEAN region. This policy, which is synergistic with Foreign Direct Investment (hereafter FDI), aims to create a conducive environment for economic collaboration through improved connectivity, trade facilitation, and cultural exchanges, attracting foreign investors to the northeastern region of India. It enhances regional connectivity, making it more accessible and attractive for investment. It also promotes trade and economic cooperation with Southeast Asian nations, encouraging cross-border investments in sectors like agribusiness, tourism, and manufacturing. The policy also positions North East India as a gateway to Southeast Asia, attracting investments in sectors like logistics, creating employment opportunities, and fostering economic growth. The synergy between the Act East Policy and FDI holds immense potential for North East India's economic development.

FDI in North Eastern Region: Current Scenario

Recent RBI data show significant regional variations in cumulative FDI inflows over the last nineteen years. The Guwahati Region of the RBI includes Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura. Sikkim,

despite being a part of North Eastern Region (NER), falls under the RBI's Kolkata region. Table 1 depicts the flow of FDI into the region by fiscal year. In the period 2000-2008, the NE states were able to attract FDI worth Rs. 52.38 crore; however, the amount of inward FDI increased to Rs. 176 crores in the fiscal year 2008-09, the highest receipt of all time. The following years show a lot of variation in FDI inflows into the region. The amount fell to Rs. 51 crores in 2009-10, Rs. 37 crores in 2010-11, and Rs. 5 crores in 2011-12. Following an increase in FDI inflows of Rs. 27 crores in 2012-13 over the previous fiscal year, the region could only attract Rs. 4 crores in FDI in the following year 2013-14, the lowest of the current decade. Except for 2016-17, FDI inflows have been gradually increasing since 2014-15. Thus, the flow of FDI to NER fluctuates over the study period.

Table 1
The trend of FDI in NER

Financial Year	FDI* Inflows (Amount Rupees in Crore)
April 2000- March 2008	52.38
2008-09	176
2009-10	51
2010-11	37
2011-12	5
2012-13	27
2013-14	4
2014-15	29
2015-16	66
2016-17	15
2017-18	82
2018-19	48

* Includes 'equity capital components' only.

Source: FDI factsheets, Various Issues, DPIIT, Ministry

of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

The regional distribution of cumulative FDI inflows to India is presented in Table 2. Perception of Table 2 depicts the presence of regional disparities in the inflow of FDI across states. However, for a vast country like India, the existence of regional disparities is a common phenomenon as each region is blessed with different resources or the lack of them. Thus, it brings disparity in the level of regional economic development and also influences various policy decisions of the government. The Northeastern states of the Guwahati region of RBI received a mere 0.03 per cent of cumulative inward FDI worth Rs. 638 crores from April 2000 to September 2019. The regional distribution shows that 29 per cent of cumulative FDI from April 2000 to September 2019 had gone to the Mumbai Region, comprising Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar-Haveli, Daman and Diu. The second most important destination is the New Delhi Region comprising New Delhi, parts of U.P. and Haryana which got 21 per cent of cumulative FDI worth Rs. 5,34,193 crores during the same period. The share of Bangalore Region of RBI which covers Karnataka is 9 per cent during this period with an amount worth Rs. 2, 57,941 crores. Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, which come under the Chennai Region, received 7 per cent of cumulative inward FDI worth Rs. 1,83,290 crores. Gujarat, represented by the Ahmedabad Region of RBI, has a share of 5 per cent worth Rs. 1,41,167 crore and Andhra Pradesh, which comes under the Hyderabad region, has a share of 4 per cent of cumulative FDI worth Rs. 1,09,824 crores from April 2000 to September 2019.

The data summarised in Table 2 shows that about 50 per cent of total inward FDI has been received by five states and three union territories of Western and Southern India. The concentration of FDI is taking place in regions which are already industrially advanced, have a sound infrastructural base and have

many opportunities for employment generation in various fields. Thus, it clearly shows that the NER is lagging much behind in attracting investments from foreign investors than the other economically advanced states. Whatever investment flowed into the region, largely came from Thailand as part of the extension of the look east policy to the NER in 2004 by flagging off the Indo-ASEAN car rally and subsequent effort made by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Govt. of India to promote foreign investment in the region (Goswami & Saikia, 2012).

Table 2
Regional Distribution of Inward FDI in India (2000-2019)
(Amount Rupees in Crore)

Region*	States covered	Cumulative Inflows* (April, 00 - September, 19)	Share in total Inflows
Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	739,306	29 %
New Delhi	Delhi, Part of Up and Haryana	534,193	21%
Bangalore	Karnataka	257,941	9%
Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	183,290	7%
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	141,161	5%
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	109,824	4%
Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	34,069	1%
Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	13,749	0.5%
Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	13,998	0.5%
Jaipur	Rajasthan	12,167	0.5%
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh	7,575	0.3%
Panaji	Goa	4,972	0.2%
Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand	3,863	0.2%
Bhubaneswar	Orissa	3,275	0.1%
Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura	638	0.03%
Patna	Bihar, Jharkhand	675	0.03%
Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir	40	0.00%
Region not recognised		499,617	20%

* Includes 'equity capital components' only.

*The Region-wise FDI inflows are classified as per RBI's - Regional Office received FDI inflows, furnished by RBI, Mumbai.

Source: FDI factsheets, Various Issues, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

Economic landscape of NER and factors behind low FDI in the region

Historically, FDI has flowed from developed countries to other developed or developing countries and multinational enterprises (MNEs) tend to set up their plants in metropolitan areas of developing countries, where infrastructural facilities are easily available. This implies that foreign investors are easily attracted to the already flourishing business environment. The North-Eastern region of India has got physical, economic and socio-cultural characteristics. It is a treasure house of various resources which ensures that the region has enormous potentialities for economic development yet, it is regarded as one of the economically backward regions of India with diverse problems. The problems that this region has to face are very much genuine as these problems are long-standing and deep-rooted. A brief economic profile of NER is presented in Table 3 which provides information on some selected indicators like Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), the share of the industrial sector in NSDP, existing rail route length, length of National Highways (NHs), per capita availability of power and state's rank in 'Ease of Doing Business Index'. This will help us to understand why the NER is lagging in attracting foreign investors to the other states of the country. The per capita NSDP in NE states is not satisfactory. The per capita NSDP in the NE states is much below the national average level of Rs. 96,563 except Sikkim (Rs. 2, 48,691), Mizoram (Rs. 1,30,741) and Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 1,13,057). It is a clear representation

of the low standard of living of the people of NER in comparison to other advanced states of India as well as the prevalence of a high degree of backwardness in the region.

Table 3
Economic Profile of the NER

State	Per Capita NSDP (2019-20)	Share of industry in NSDP* (2019-20)	Rail route length in km. (2018-19)	Length of NH* in Km. (2019)	Per Capita availability of power in Kilowatt/hour (2019-20)	Ease of Doing Business Rank
Arunachal Pradesh	113057	28.46	12	2537	539.2	34
Assam	61519	35.04	2519	3909	296.9	17
Manipur	49267	18.33	13	1750	341.0	32
Meghalaya	61755	18.58	9	1156	695.3	34
Mizoram	130741	20.97	2	1423	613.5	30
Nagaland	73361	12.78	11	1548	415.7	28
Sikkim	248691	60.79	-	463	885.7	33
Tripura	83985	24.99**	203	854	411.8	25
All India Average	96563	27.0	67415	132500	1042.6	-

*National Highway

Source: NER Databank and Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy, RBI

The primary factor responsible for low FDI in NER is the absence of adequate infrastructure in this region. The NE states are lagging behind most of the other states of India in respect of transportation, communication, electrification and credit facilities. The surface transport facilities of the region which include road transport, railways and waterways along with the links with the neighbouring states and the rest of India are inadequate and subject to severe hardship during monsoons. It harms both the movement of goods and people in the region. Except for Assam, and Tripura, other NE states lack a well-developed railway network. The total railway route length stood at 12 km in Arunachal Pradesh, 13 km in Manipur, 2 km in

Mizoram and 11 km in Nagaland whereas projects are ongoing to establish a railway-link in Meghalaya and Sikkim. Moreover, power and sufficient credit facilities have not been fully developed in the region. Despite having huge power potential, the entire NE region is suffering from a deficiency in power generation and consumption. The per capita availability of power in all the NE states, as of 2019-20, was below the national average of 1042.6 kWh. The inadequacy of basic infrastructure stands as a significant roadblock for foreign investors to start business in this region. Industrial development is also limited in the region. It is apparent from the fact that the contribution of the industrial sector to NSDP is much lower than the national average of 27.0 per cent as per the latest data in all the NE states except Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. This is mainly due to the geographical isolation of the region, infrastructural backwardness and lack of large investment in the industrial sector in the past. The volume of private investment in the region is low due to the involvement of natural as well as political risks. The limited industrialisation in the NER is concentrated around certain resources like coal, petroleum, natural gas, tea, forest products, some minerals and micro and small-scale sectors and most of these are concentrated in Assam. Some institutional factors are also responsible for the lower inflow of FDI to NER than other parts of India. The long-standing insurgency in the region has not only restricted the inflow of private investment but also sometimes resulted in heavy capital outflow from the scanty capital stock of the region resulting in a fall in the rate of investment and rate of growth in the economy of NER. It, thus, follows that the region lacks a healthy domestic business environment which could attract private investment as well as FDI. The NE states except Assam have scored low points on the Ease of Doing Business Index which is based on the implementation of the Business Reform

Action Plan (BRAP) recommended by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (earlier known as the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) to all States and UTs. This reflects the reluctance of these states in case of policy reform so that they could attract investment flows towards them at present.

The sector-wise potential of FDI in NER

Under the AEP, ambitious measures have been adopted by the Government of India to develop the NER as a gateway for South East Asian economies. Moreover, India has undertaken several bilateral and multilateral projects to boost connectivity between North-East India and South East Asia. The important among them are the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, India- Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, Trans Asian Highway, India-Myanmar rail linkages etc. The Asian Highway 1 and 2, connecting Asian countries, will pass through the NE region of India which provides our economy with increased business and trade with other Asian as well as border economies. There are ample possibilities for the NER to reap benefits from India's growing relationship with South East Asian economies due to its favourable geographical location. So far, the NER is receiving foreign investments mainly from Thailand. The important areas identified for foreign investment in this region are:

1. Infrastructure Development: One of the primary sectors ripe for FDI in North East India is infrastructure development. The region has immense potential for investments in roads, bridges, airports, and logistics. Improved connectivity will not only facilitate the movement of goods and people but also unlock the region's economic potential by linking it to national and international markets.
2. Agribusiness and Food Processing: North East India

boasts rich agricultural resources, making agribusiness and food processing lucrative sectors for FDI. Investments in modern farming techniques, agro-processing units, and cold storage facilities can enhance agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and create a sustainable value chain.

3. **Tourism and Hospitality:** The region's natural beauty, cultural diversity, and unique traditions make tourism a promising sector for FDI. Investments in hotels, resorts, adventure tourism, and infrastructure development for tourist destinations can contribute significantly to the economic growth of the North East, creating jobs and fostering cultural exchange.
4. **Renewable Energy:** North East India is endowed with abundant natural resources suitable for renewable energy production. Investments in hydroelectric power, solar energy, and wind energy projects can not only address the region's energy needs but also position it as a hub for clean and sustainable energy production.
5. **Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals:** The healthcare sector in North East India presents opportunities for FDI in establishing hospitals, clinics, and pharmaceutical manufacturing units. Investments in healthcare infrastructure, research and development, and the production of pharmaceuticals can improve healthcare access and contribute to the well-being of the population.
6. **Education and Skill Development:** The youth population in North East India provides a demographic dividend that can be harnessed through investments in education and skill development. FDI in setting up educational institutions, vocational training centres, and skill development programs can empower the

- workforce and address unemployment challenges.
7. Information Technology and Innovation: The digital revolution has the potential to transform the economic landscape of North East India. Investments in information technology, digital infrastructure, and innovation hubs can spur economic diversification, create employment opportunities, and position the region as a technology-driven destination.
 8. Manufacturing and Industry: Encouraging FDI in manufacturing and industrial sectors can lead to the establishment of production units, creating a conducive environment for economic growth. Focus areas may include textiles, handicrafts, and small-scale industries, leveraging the region's skilled workforce and cultural richness.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that the Act East Policy holds a transformative potential in catalysing FDI for the economic development of North East India. To take full advantage of the linkage with South East Asia as well as cross-border economies, the internal connectivity of the entire NER must be developed along with the governance system. A healthy domestic business environment must be created in this region by creating a world-class infrastructure for transport, logistics, and processing and value addition; preparing a skilled labour force and smoothening the credit, marketing and taxation issues. A corrupt-free institutional infrastructure, as well as a strong administrative body capable of maintaining stability in the law-and-order situation, is equally important to attract foreign investors into the region. Strategic implementation of policies, addressing challenges, and fostering a conducive business environment can unlock the region's untapped potential and contribute to the overall success of the Act East Policy.

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Employment Intensity of Agricultural Growth in Assam over the post reform period

Dr. Bichitra Hira

Introduction:

Employment is a major concern for the economy of a state or a country. It is the main way through which the fruits of economic growth and development of a region trickles into the poor section of the society. Since labour is the only resource which is relatively abundant for the poor. For effective utilization of such abundant labourforce, the economy of a region needs to grow significantly so as to pave sufficient number of the employment opportunities for the poor population. Hence, employment is an important linkage between the economic growth and poverty reduction. However, since the last few decades, the economy of Assam as that of the country (India) is growing, though at a moderate rate, without generating sufficient number of jobs in its different sectors. So, the present economic growth of the state cannot be described as job enabling growth to a large extent. Such kind of economic growth, however, could not reduce the poverty incidence for the state (Assam). Since

output growth alone is not sufficient for a country to improve the standard of living of its population (T. Ajilore & O. Yinusa, 2011, pp.27). So, a pro-poor growth strategy is necessary for ensuring poverty reduction.

The economists and policy makers have used various indicators and tools for measuring the employment absorptive capacity or potentiality of employment generation of an economy or a particular economic sector. These indicators are-employment rate, unemployment rate, and workforce participation rate and employment intensity. In this paper, the employment intensity measured through employment elasticity -a ratio between the percentage change in the gross domestic product of a country and the percentage in the volume of employment has been used. The employment intensity of economic growth - a measure of the employment absorptive capacity of economic growth for India at aggregate level is not only low; it is in a declining trend since the period of economic reforms of the country. For Assam too, it is found to be at low point. However, for both the country and the state (Assam), the service and industrial sectors have contributed significantly with a larger share to the economic growth. For Assam, the service sector has contributed with a share of more than 44% in the gross state domestic product of the state (at current price) in 2019, while it is 33.62% for the industrial sector of the state. In contrast, the share of the agriculture sector in the GSDP of the state is only 15.64% for the same year.

For Assam, Agriculture is the backbone of the state economy since the eve of independence. It continues to be largely an Agro- based economy even in the post-economic reforms and till the present period of the globalization. The gross cropped areas cover around 51% of the total geographical areas of the state (7844 lakh hectares) in 2018-19. However, the gross cropped areas in the state has increased from 34.46 lakh hectares

in 1980-81, to 37.97 lakh hectares in 1990-91, to 39.99 lakh hectares in 2008-09 and further to 40.04 lakh hectares in 2018-2019 indicating a moderate trend. Similarly, the net sown areas has increased from 26.55 lakh hectares in 1980-81, to 27.06 hectares in 1990-91, to 28.10 lakh hectares in 2008-09 which has marginally declined to 27.23 in 2018-19 .The total land areas under cultivation(29.77 lakh hectares) is estimated to be 37.95% of the of the total geographical areas of the state for 2015-20 . The area under the major food grain- Rice (24.25 lakh hectares) is estimated at the highest of 60.56% of the gross cropped areas of the state (40.04 lakh hectares) in 2018-19. Beside Rice, many other food and non-food grains such as tea, vegetables, fruits and spices have been produced in a vast quantum covering significant land areas of the state. However, except a few crops such as rice and tea, the state has not achieved self-sufficiency in many other crops. Among the allied agriculture activities, the livestock, animal husbandry and poultry play a significant role in generating employment and income for both rural and semi-urban areas. The cattle population with more than 1.09 crore has constituted the largest group in the livestock population in 2019.

Importantly, the contribution of the agriculture sector to the GSDP of the state continues to decline since the period of economic reforms till the present period of globalization. It has been declining from 48.5% in 1990-91 to 40.7% in 2000-01 to 19.89% in 2011-12 and further to 15.64% in 2019-20. However, this sector grows slowly from 1.9% in 2004-05 to 3.7% in 2007-08 and to 6.6% in 2010-11 showing a depressed performance of this sector . Among the sub-agriculture sectors, Crops sector has contributed with the highest share (11.09%) to the GSDP, followed by Fishing & Aquaculture (2.52%), Livestock (1.10%) and Forestry & Logging (0.93%) during 2019-20 . So far as the employment aspect of the agriculture

sector is concerned, the percentage of the total labourforce in the state employed in this sector for livelihood has been declining from more than 75% in 1980s to 69% in 1990s, to 56% in 2001, to 53% in 2011 and further to less than 50% in 2019.

However, for absorbing growing labourforce accruing from the increased population in the state, the agriculture sector as a labour-intensive sector should grow significantly. For generating sufficient employment opportunities, the economic growth must be in those sectors that have relatively high employment intensities such as agriculture and its allied sectors (T. Ajilore & O. Yinusa, 2011, pp.27). However, there is a contradiction among the views of the economists and policy makers on whether the growth in unskilled-intensive sectors such as agriculture is conducive to poverty reduction or not. Some economists views the growth in agriculture to be conducive to poverty alleviation (N. Loayza & C.Raddatz, 2010, pp.137-151), while some others view that growth in agriculture may increase in poverty and growth in urban sectors may lessen it (Satchi, M. & Temple, J., 2006).

Statement of the problem :

In the transitive economy of Assam, due to the advent of modern technologies in agricultural activities, the employment prospect of the workers in this sector has been decreasing as the demand for manual works is in a diminishing trend. However, the technological advancement along with the attainment of the higher education among the rural youths lead to the inter-sectoral transfer of labour from agriculture to other sectors of the economy. However, in the structural transformation process, the population of the state, particularly the educated youths has been shifting out of the low productivity agriculture to other sectors of the economy rendering higher returns, productivity and better standard of living.

Hence, though the agriculture sector of Assam is growing

moderately over the post reform period, the contribution of this sector to the GSDP of the state is in a decreasing trend. The percentage of the population employed in this sector is also in a declining trend. Against this backdrop, it is appropriate to examine the employment intensity of the agriculture sector of Assam for understanding the employment generating capacity of this sector with respect to the change in its contribution to the GSDP of the state. Parallel to the employment intensity, its inter-connected concept - the productivity intensity of agricultural growth has been examined. Then, the factors crucial for the change in employment and productivity intensity of agricultural growth of the state have been tried to identify for policy prescription.

Review of Literature :

Sangita Misra & Anoop K Suresh have estimated the employment elasticity of economic growth for India both at aggregate and sector specific level. In their study, they have found aggregate employment elasticity for the Indian economy to decline and vary from 0.18 to 0.20 during the post reform period. At the sector specific analysis, the agriculture sector has shown a negative elasticity, while the service sector including construction has witnessed an employment intensive growth. For manufacturing sector, though the employment elasticity is hovered around 0.3 at sectoral aggregate, it is in the range of 0.4-0.5 for the organized manufacturing sector (Sangita Misra & Anoop K Suresh, 2014, pp.1-20).

In an inquiry into the employment intensity of the sectoral growth of Botswana economy, T. Ajilore & O. Yinusa have found the low employment elasticity of the mineral-led growth of the economy. Being capital intensive in nature, the growth of the mining sector has been derived more from labour productivity, instead of labour employment. Such mineral- led growth of the economy has not been able to generate sufficient number of

employment opportunities to its labour force indicating a jobless growth of Botswana economy. In the study, the authors has suggested an effective mineral-led growth strategy for Botswana economy so as to diversify into sectors and activities that are relatively more labour-intensive (T. Ajilore & O. Yinusa, 2011,pp.26-42).

In examining employment absorptive capacity of growth in the economy of Nepal for the period of 1998-2018, the authors-M P Dahal& Hemant Rai have found that the economic growth in Nepal has contributed to employment growth together with productivity growth both at aggregate and sectoral level, except a few sub-sectors such as mining and quarrying, and transport and communication. Under such context, they opine that the economy of Nepal has not experienced the problem of jobless growth over the period of 1998-2018 (Dahal, Madhav Prasad & Hemant Rai, 2019,pp.34-47).

Based on cross-country data as well as a synthesis of the in-depth country studies, Rizwanul Islam in his empirical study has found that together with a high growth rate, its pattern, sources and distributive aspects are equally important for poverty reduction. Employment is an important way that links between the economic growth and poverty reduction. For poverty reduction, the economic growth must generate employment opportunities significantly along with rising productivity. For it, the structure of employment needs to be shifted towards those sectors or occupations with higher productivity such as manufacturing and other non-farm sectors (Islam, 2004,pp.1-33).

F Pattanaik & N C Nayak have tried to identify the major macroeconomic determinants of the employment elasticity of growth in India for the period of 1993-94 to 2009-10. In the study, they have found labour supply, economic structure, price instability and human capital to be the major influential factors.

They have suggested some measures for pro-employment growth in India such as the diversification of economic activities towards labour-intensive sectors, price stability and skill-based education (Falguni Pattanaik & Narayan Chandra Nayak, 2014, pp.137-154).

Hence, recognizing the importance of employment in economic growth for poverty reduction across the countries in the world, some authors have examined the employment elasticity of economic growth at aggregate and sectoral levels, while some others have tried to point out the factors influencing it for policy prescription. However, such kind of study has not so far been done for the economy of Assam, especially for agricultural growth. Despite the significant contribution of the service sector to the economic growth of the state as in the country (India) since the last few decades, majority of the labour force of the state concentrate on the agriculture sector. So, it is highly important to examine the employment absorptive capacity of this sector; and to suggest measures for gainful and sustainable employment opportunities to such vast labourforce of the state in this important sector.

Objectives of the study:

- i. To examine the employment elasticity of the growth in the agriculture sector of the state.
- ii. To examine the productivity intensity of agricultural growth of the state.
- iii. To suggest measures for gainful employment potentiality in the agriculture sector of the state.

Research Questions:

- i. Is the employment intensity of the growth in the agriculture sector of Assam in a declining trend in the post reform period?
- ii. Whether is the productivity intensity of the agricultural

growth of the state rising over the post reform period?

Research Methodology:

The methodology of the study contains mainly the conceptual, analytical and data framework.

The employment intensity is measured as employment elasticity with respect to economic output (Kapsos, 2005, pp.4). Employment Elasticity is the percentage change in the number of employed persons in an economy or a region or a sector in response to a percentage change in economic output as measured through GDP. Hence, it is a ratio between the % change in employment and the % change in output.

Usually, for calculating employment elasticity of output, two basic methods have been used- (i) the simple arithmetic method, termed as compound annual growth rate (CAGR) approach that gives 'arc elasticity' and

(ii) Regression method that gives point elasticity.

The formula for estimating arc elasticity is as follows-

$$\square = \frac{\Delta L/L}{\Delta Y/Y} \quad \text{(Equation-1)}$$

Where, L stands for employment and Y for output of the agriculture sector. The numerator gives the % change in employment, while the denominator gives the % change in output. In India, the CAGR method is widely used as the employment data is available once in five years.

The second alternative method for calculating employment elasticity of output is the regression method that gives point elasticity. In this method, a functional relationship between employment and output is postulated and estimated. However, this method is suitable when the lengthy and reliable time series data on employment and output are available (Lim, 1976, pp.305-316). Hence, this method is in little use for India

due to the non-availability of time series data on employment on annual basis. The regression equation for measuring employment elasticity of output is as follows-

$$\ln L = \alpha + \beta \ln Y + u \text{ (Equation-2)}$$

Where α stands for intercept term, β for regression coefficient and u for the error term.

The estimated value of the regression coefficient (β) gives the employment elasticity of growth. Hence, the estimate of β provides a measure of the response of the employment to the output growth in a sector or in an economy. However, output growth hinges on both the quantity of labour employed and labour productivity (Islam, 2004, pp.1-33). So, the relationship between employment elasticity, employment growth and productivity require to be identified. However, Kapsos (2005) provides an arithmetic identity between employment intensity and productivity intensity of growth as follows:

$$Y = L \times P \text{ (Equation-3)}$$

Where, Y stands for output, L for labour employed and P for productivity.

For any small change in output, the equation-3 gives following:

$$\Delta Y = \Delta L + \Delta P \text{ (equation-4)}$$

Dividing the equation-4 by output growth (ΔY), the relationship between employment intensity and productivity intensity of growth can be drawn as follows:

$$E = 1 - \Delta P / \Delta Y \text{ (Equation-5), where } E = \Delta L / \Delta Y$$

The equation-6 has clarified the relationship between the employment intensity and productivity of growth (Kapsos, 2005, pp.4) Based on this equation, the association between the employment intensity and changes in employment and productivity intensity in different scenarios of economic growth

can be interpreted. A summary of this relationship is shown in table-1:

Table-1: Interpretation of the employment elasticities:

Employment elasticity	GDP Growth	
	Positive GDP Growth	Negative GDP Growth
$\square < 0$	(-)employment growth (+)productivity growth	(+)employment growth (-)productivity growth
$0 \leq \square \leq 1$	(+)employment growth (+)productivity growth	(-)employment growth (-)productivity growth
$\square > 1$	(+)employment growth (-)productivity growth	(-)employment growth (+)productivity growth

Source: Steven Kapsos(2005): Employment intensity of growth-Trends and macroeconomic determinants, ILO,pp.4.

From the different cells of the table-1, the following inferences can be drawn-

If a country experiences positive GDP growth with negative employment elasticity, the employment in the country will be declining and productivity be increasing. If in a country with positive GDP growth, the employment elasticity lies between 0 and 1, both the employment and productivity in the country grow positively and the higher value of the elasticity (close to 1) correspond to more employment-intensive (lower productivity).If an economy experiences positive GDP growth with elasticity greater than 1, the economy would gain a positive employment growth at the cost of negative productivity growth. For the countries with negative GDP growth, the interpretation of employment elasticities in relation to employment growth and productivity growth is exactly the opposite.

Data: The study has utilized the secondary data from several official sources. The GSDP of the state and the share of the agriculture sector in it for the study period have been collected from various issues of the economic survey of Assam.

The time series data on the GSDP of the state and sectoral share in it are attainable as the data on these economic variables are published on annual basis by the government of the state.

However, the time series data on the employment size for the state both at aggregate and sectoral level are not available. NSSO through the employment-unemployment surveys has provided the data on the labour force participation rate (LFPR) and unemployment rate (UR) for the country (India) and the states both at aggregate and sectoral level. But these are available on quinquennial basis (once in five years) for a couple of years such as for years 1990-00, 2004-05, 2009-10, 2011-12 and 2015-16. With the data on LFPR and UR, however, the work force participation rate (WFPR) has been calculated as it is a difference between LFPR and UR. Through the interpolation and extrapolation techniques, the WFPR in the state for other years under the study period has been estimated.

However, WFPR gives employment data on rate basis; not the absolute figure on it. At first, the absolute figure on the employment in the state has been tried to estimate. This has been done through multiplying the WFPR by the population size in working age of the state for the years in consideration. Then, the absolute size of the employment in the agriculture sector of the state has been determined. For it, the percentage of the workforce engaged in the agriculture sector, i.e. the employment rate over time has been taken from the NSSO reports, Office of the registrar general of India and RBI publications. Finally, multiplying the aggregate employment of the state by the agricultural employment rate (share of the agriculture sector in the aggregate employment), the absolute figure on the employment in the agriculture sector of the state has been determined. This has been shown in the table-1 & 2.

Table-1: Estimation of the aggregate employment of the state (Assam):

Years	LFPR (%)	UR(%) (usual Status)	WFPR (%)	PSWA(,000)	Size of employment (,000)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)=(2) – (3)	(5)	(6)=(4) x (5)
1990-91	42.56	5.20	37.36	12121	4528.41
1994-95	42.25	6.50	35.75	13400	4790.50
1999-00	44.00	6.30	37.70	14980	5647.46
2004-05	45.40	9.40	36.00	17050	6138.00
2009-10	46.12	10.57	36.55	18620	6805.61
2014-15	47.20	9.33	37.87	20250	7668.68
2019-20	43.50	8.70	34.80	22808	7937.18
1990-20	44.43	8.0	36.58		

PSWA stands for Population Size in Working Age

Sources: (i) NSSO reports, 1993-94, 1999-2000, 2004-05, 2011-12 & 2017-18 ; (ii) Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of Assam; (iii) 5th annual employment-unemployment survey, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & employment, 2015-16; and (iv) Population projection by technical group, office of Registrar general of India.

Table-2: Estimation of the employment size in the agriculture sector in Assam:

Years	Share of agriculture in total employment (%)	Size of total employment of the state(,000)	Size of employment in the agriculture sector(,000)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)=(2) x (3)
1990-91	75	4528.41	3396.31
1994-95	72	4790.50	3449.16
1999-00	69	5647.46	3896.75
2004-05	60	6138.00	3682.80
2009-10	52.5	6805.61	3572.95
2014-15	44.5	7668.68	3412.56
2019-20	42.8	7937.18	3397.11

WFPR is measured as a percentage of the employed persons in the total population in working age of a state or a country for a year.

1994-95	72	4790.50	3449.16
1999-00	69	5647.46	3896.75
2004-05	60	6138.00	3682.80
2009-10	52.5	6805.61	3572.95
2014-15	44.5	7668.68	3412.56
2019-20	42.8	7937.18	3397.11

Sources: (i) Economic survey, Assam (various issues), (ii) NSSO (various rounds) and (iii) Office of Registrar General of India.

Discussion and Results:

Estimation of Aggregate Employment Elasticity of Growth in Assam using CAGR approach:

As against a small percentage increase in employment at 1.98% on an annual average, the GSDP of Assam grows significantly high at 7.45% on an annual average during the post reform period (1990-2020), which results in a low employment elasticity(0.31)for the state (table-3). For the country (India), the employment elasticity of growth is found to be at low point (0.20) for 1999-00 to 2011-12 . This indicates the fact that the economic growth of the state is not able to generate sufficient number of employment opportunities for its growing labour force. Hence, it cannot be described as a pro-poor growth strategy. However, the employment elasticity of growth in Assam was small at only 0.29 during the early part of the economic reform (1990-94), which has increased significantly to 0.75 for 1995 to 1999 period, and again, declined to 0.20 during 2000-04. For 2005-09 and 2010-14, it remained at 0.29 and 0.25 respectively. But, during the period of 2015-20, it has declined to a much small point (0.07). This indicates that 1% point growth in the GSDP of the state leads to only 0.07% point growth in employment during 2015-20(table-3).

This finding is supportive of the fact that the unemployment rate (at usual status) in the state is increasing at 8.0% on an annual average during 1990-2020. The reason behind this fact is that as against WFPR of 36.58% on an annual average, LFPR in the state is increasing at a higher rate of 44.43% during this period. Again, it is accompanied by the increase in the population size in working age in the state (table-1). During the period of 1990-20, the population size in working age has

increased almost by double (at a rate of 29.39% on a decadal average) (estimated from table-1). Hence, Assam has not experienced an employment enhancing growth during the post reform period.

Table-3: Estimation of aggregate employment elasticity of economic growth in Assam for the period of 1990 to 2020 using CAGR approach:

Years	Annual % increase in employment on an average	Annual % increase in GSDP on an average	Employment Elasticity
1990-94	1.16	3.95	0.29
1995-99	3.58	4.79	0.75
2000-04	1.74	8.84	0.20
2005-09	2.18	7.56	0.29
2010-14	2.54	9.98	0.25
2015-20	0.7	9.59	0.07
1990-20	1.98	7.45	0.31

* Annual % increase in employment has been calculated from the data set given in table-1 & Annual

% increase in GSDP has been estimated from data set on GSDP of Assam available at various issues of Economic survey of Assam.

Estimation of Employment Elasticity of Agricultural Growth in Assam:

CAGR Approach:

Despite the agriculture sector of Assam- the major economic sector of the state remains largely a labour intensive sector in the era of automation, the share of this sector in total employment of the state has drastically declined since the period of economic reform (table-2). Similarly, the contribution of this sector to the GSDP of the state is in a declining trend (table-4). The percentage increase in employment in agriculture sector of the state is in negative zone except in the periods of 1990-94 and 1995-99. However, in the early phase of the economic reform, the employment size in agriculture sector increased together with the increase in GSDP of this sector resulting

positive employment elasticity of growth in the sector. Note that in this period, the productivity intensity of agriculture growth was positive and high. This can be termed as an ideal situation of the state where positive agricultural growth associates with positive growth both in employment and productivity. But, this remains no longer. Since the beginning of the twenty century, the percentage increase in employment in agriculture sector of Assam's economy is in negative points and the GSDP from this sector radically falls down. As a result, the employment elasticity of growth in this sector remains negative. Given the positive growth in agriculture sector of the state, the negative employment elasticity corresponds with the negative employment growth and positive productivity growth. This finding supports the inference of Kapsos as shown in table-1.

The employment elasticity of agricultural growth in Assam is estimated to be negative and negligible (- 0.0068) for the study period 1990-2020. However; the employment elasticity of agri-sector remained positive up to the last part of the nineteen century. Since the beginning of the twenty century, it bears negative point till 2020. For the country (India), it is found to be positive (1.09) during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. But after 2004-05, it tends to be negative. During 1999-2000 to 2011-12, it has been negative (-0.08) in the country. The negative employment elasticity in the agriculture sector of the state indicates the shift of people out of agriculture to the non-farming activities for more productive and gainful employment. In Assam as in the country (India), the industrial and service sectors are growing significantly since the beginning of the twenty century. The share of industrial sector in the GSDP of the state has increased from 30.63% in 2011-12 to 33.62% in 2019-20 (at current prices). Similarly, the contribution of the service sector to GSDP of the state has increased from 43.97% in 2011-12 to 44.03% in 2019-20. Hence, a large number of labour forces previously engaged

in the agriculture sector tend to rush to these growing sectors out of the agriculture, indicating the structural change in the economy of Assam.

The crucial factors giving the negative employment elasticity of the agricultural growth .i.e. the shift of labour force out of agriculture to other economic sectors are founds as follows. In the agriculture sector of Assam as in other many states in India, the use of modern labour saving technologies in several agricultural tasks, particularly in ploughing and treading out of grain is in an increasing trend for the last two/three decades. Most of the tiny and large farmers in the state do not want to uphold their bullocks for long in future as the ploughing and treading of major food grain (paddy) by bullock become a tedious and hard job for them. Thus the advent of modern technologies in many agricultural activities has produced substitution effect in favour of machines and capital equipments; and has replaced many labour force out of agricultural employment. In other side, this contributes positively to the increase in the labour productivity.

Secondly, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) in the agriculture sector of the state as in the country has declined for the last few decades. This is mainly due to the increase in the students to population ratio in the rural areas and more among the female as we find evidence from the reports of NSSO (Thomas, 2012).

Hence, whatsoever growth in agriculture sector of the state has been achieved during the post reform period is mainly productivity driven; not employment driven. In the present study, the productivity intensity (labour) of agricultural growth is found to be greater than one for the twenty century onwards (table-4). This finding on labour productivity of agriculture growth is in line of the per hectare productivity growth in agriculture sector of the state. The per hectare productivity indices for all

agriculture commodities in Assam has been found to increase from 113.36 in 2009-10 to 133.21 in 2014-15 and further to 145.32 in 2019-20 .However, a number of factors such as the perennial floods, increased human habitations, urbanization and small size of land holdings have adversely affected the productivity in agriculture sector of the state.

Table-4: Estimation of employment and productivity intensity of Agricultural growth in

Assam for the period of 1990 to2020 using CAGR approach:

Years	% increase on an annual average in employment of in GSDP from Agriculture sector Agriculture sector		Employment Intensity of Agri-Growth	Productivity Intensity of Agri- Growth
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)= 1- (4)
1990-94	0.31	7.93	0.04	0.96
1995-99	2.60	7.33	0.35	0.65
2000-04	-0.24	4.64	-0.05	1.05
2005-09	-0.60	3.60	-0.17	1.17
2010-14	-0.9	4.63	-0.19	1.19
2015-20	-0.09	5.18	-0.02	1.02
2005-20	-0.53	4.47	-0.13	1.13
1990-20	-0.18	5.55	-0.0068	1.0068

* Annual % increase in employment in agriculture has been calculated from the data set given in table-

2 & Annual % increase in GSDP from agriculture has been estimated from data set available at

various issues of Economic survey of Assam.

Regression Approach:

Long-run employment elasticity .i.e. point elasticity of the agricultural growth in Assam for the period of 2004 to2020 has been calculated through Log-Log Regression technique. For it, the annual time series data on the employment size of the agriculture sector of the state has been generated through using interpolation technique on the quinquennial data set of agricultural employment as given in table-2. The time series data

on the GSDP from agriculture sector collected from various issues of the economic survey of Assam has been converted into real GSDP figures using wholesale price indices of the concerned years. Running Log-Log Regression on so generated time series of agricultural employment and GSDP from this sector, the regression coefficient (?) has been found to be -0.0063. This indicates that for 1% increase in GSDP from agriculture sector of the state, the employment in the agriculture sector is predicted to fall by 0.0063%. Hence; the long-run employment elasticity of agriculture growth is negative and much small. The p-value being 0.000 less than 0.05 indicates that the result is significant (table-5). Hence, the regression approach gives negative employment elasticity as that of the CAGR approach (-0.13) for the period of 2004-2020.

Table-5: Estimation of Employment Elasticity of Agricultural Growth in Assam for 2004-2020 using Log-Log Regression:

Dependent Variable: LOG(EMPLOYMENT)				
Method: Least Squares				
Date: 01/12/22 Time: 20:49				
Sample (adjusted): 2005 2020				
Included observations: 16 after adjustments				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	8.352373	0.012421	672.4442	0.0000
LOG(GSDP)	-0.006313	0.000836	-7.550387	0.0000
R-squared	0.802840	Mean dependent var		8.258643
Adjusted R-squared	0.788757	S.D. dependent var		0.003626
S.E. of regression	0.001667	Akaike info criterion		-9.839706
Sum squared resid	3.89E-05	Schwarz criterion		-9.743133
Log likelihood	80.71765	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-9.834761
F-statistic	57.00834	Durbin-Watson stat		0.381536
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000003			

However, for policy prescription, it is highly essential to understand the trend of the employment absorptive capacity of the different sub-agriculture sectors.i.e.which ones among various sub- agriculture sectors have been more labour intensive and have the potentiality for generating employment opportunities in future. But this task has to be remained

uncompleted in the present study due to the data limitation. Though the continuous annual income data on the sub-agriculture sectors are easily attainable in the government reports, the data on the employment size in various sub-sectors of the agriculture of the state are barely available on either annual or five years basis. So, it becomes a hard job for a researcher to estimate the employment elasticity for these sub-agriculture sectors of Assam.

Conclusion and Policy Prescription:

The employment elasticity of agricultural growth in Assam is negative and much small over the post reform period. This indicates the movement of people away from agriculture to non-farming activities in the state. The crucial factors for such negative employment elasticity in agriculture sector of the state are labour substitution by modern technologies and shift of growing educated youths in rural areas to higher productive activities in non-farming sectors. This structural change in agrarian economy of Assam is desirable, as the concentration of superfluous labourforce in the agriculture sector of the state was a norm in the earlier, which results in low productivity. Now, the agriculture sector of the state is growing a moderate rate mainly due to the increase in productivity (both per worker and per hectare). Given the stage of development in the state, it is highly essential to inquire to what extent the shift of employment away from agriculture to non-farming sectors is feasible and gainful. One remedy for it is to impart appropriate training and skills to the people involved in agriculture that enable them to shift to the non-farming activities. Moreover, given higher dependence of rural poor on agriculture, this sector should be developed properly furnishing with the requisites and suitable reforms. Under such circumstances, the following has been suggested for policy prescription-

- i. To facilitate the movement of rural youths away

from agriculture to non-farming activities, appropriate training and skills need to be imparted to them through effectively implementing suitable skill and training development schemes in rural areas of the state.

ii. For ensuring the gainful employment of the existing workforce in the agriculture sector of the state, they should be made acquaintance of proper knowledge and techniques of scientific cultivation, marketing, product diversification and cropping intensities.

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The Future of Bank Branches in the Age of Digital Banking

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INTRODUCTION

The financial services industry has undergone a significant transformation with the advent of digital banking. Over the past decade, advancements in technology have enabled banks to offer a wide array of services through digital channels, thereby enhancing convenience and accessibility for customers. This evolution has had a profound impact on the traditional banking model, leading to a marked decline in branch traffic and a re-evaluation of the role of physical bank branches. Digital banking, encompassing mobile and online banking, has seen unprecedented growth. The proliferation of smartphones and internet connectivity has made digital banking accessible to a broader population. According to a 2024 report by Statista, the number of mobile banking users worldwide has surpassed 2.8 billion, a significant increase from 1.8 billion in 2018. In the United States, the percentage of adults using mobile banking has surged from 38% in 2015 to 68% in 2024, as reported by the Pew Research Centre. Online banking has also experienced

substantial growth. Data from the Federal Reserve indicates that 88% of internet users in the United States utilized online banking services in 2024, up from 82% in 2020. Customers can access banking services anytime and anywhere, making it easier to manage their finances. A survey conducted by the American Bankers Association in 2024 found that 76% of respondents considered digital banking to be more convenient than traditional branch visits. Automated processes reduce the time required for transactions, enhancing customer satisfaction and operational efficiency for banks. According to a McKinsey report from 2024, banks could potentially reduce their operating costs by up to 30% by leveraging digital technologies. Advances in biometric authentication and encryption have made digital banking more secure, enhancing customer trust. A report by Juniper Research indicates that mobile banking fraud losses are projected to remain below 1% of total transactions by 2024 due to improved security measures. The shift towards digital banking has led to a significant decline in traditional branch traffic. Data from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) highlights that the number of bank branches in the United States decreased from approximately 92,000 in 2009 to around 68,000 in 2024, reflecting a reduction of nearly 26%. According to S&P Global Market Intelligence, U.S. banks closed a record 4,200 branches from 2020 to 2023 while opening only 1,200 new ones. A 2024 report by BAI Research indicated that 45% of consumers increased their use of digital banking during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the transition has persisted post-pandemic as customers have grown accustomed to the convenience of digital banking. Customers increasingly prefer the ease and speed of conducting transactions via mobile apps and online banking platforms. A survey by Deloitte in 2024 found that 85% of Millennials and Gen Z prefer using digital banking channels over visiting a branch. For banks, maintaining digital platforms is often

more cost-effective than operating a large network of physical branches. Research by Accenture in 2024 suggests that digital-only banks can operate at approximately one-third of the cost of traditional banks due to lower overhead expenses.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The future of bank branches in the age of digital banking is characterized by a blend of technological advancements and strategic shifts in the banking sector. Research by Gibbon Mardame P Tamba et al. (2022) examines the challenges faced by branchless banking in Indonesia during the digital disruption era, highlighting customer perceptions and the impact of digital acceleration. Yessie Fransiska Lydiana et al. (2022) offer a comprehensive literature review on digital transformation in banking, focusing on various aspects such as service design and customer satisfaction. Thuy Thu Pham et al. (2022) analyze the relevance of physical branches in Vietnam, finding that despite a digital shift, branches still contribute positively to profits. Dr. V. R. Soumady (2022) explores the rise of Neo banks in India and their potential to disrupt traditional banking models by offering fully digital services. Yalçın Turan (2022) investigates branchless banking through the case of Kuveyttürk bank, highlighting innovative customer acquisition methods. C. Giebe et al. (2022) discuss the strategic role of bank advisors and traditional branches in Germany amidst increasing digitalization. Suroso (2022) focuses on educational initiatives about digital banking in Indonesia, aiming to bridge the gap in digital literacy. Another study by Yessie Fransiska Lydiana (2022) provides insights into the future of banking by examining the parameters for digital transformation. Martin Schmitt (2022) investigates the effects of digitalization on savings banks in Germany, particularly in East and West Germany. Lastly, Raja Sebti (2022) discusses the challenges and opportunities faced by banks in the digital age, emphasizing the importance of digital transformation

plans.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER

1. To Analyze the Impact of Digital Banking on Traditional Bank Branches.

2. To Explore Future Scenarios and Adaptation Strategies for Bank Branches

THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL BANKING ON BRANCHES

The proliferation of digital banking has fundamentally reshaped the financial services landscape, profoundly impacting the role and operations of traditional bank branches.

Rise of Digital Banking Channels

Digital banking has seen exponential growth over the past decade, driven by technological advancements and changing consumer preferences. Key channels include mobile banking and online banking, both of which have become integral to modern financial services.

1. Mobile Banking : Mobile banking, in particular, has emerged as a dominant channel for financial transactions. According to a 2024 report by Statista, the number of mobile banking users globally has reached approximately 2.8 billion, up from 1.8 billion in 2018. In the United States, the percentage of adults using mobile banking has surged from 38% in 2015 to 68% in 2024, as reported by the Pew Research Centre. Mobile banking allows customers to perform transactions anytime and anywhere, providing unparalleled convenience. According to a survey by the American Bankers Association in 2024, 76% of respondents cited convenience as the primary reason for using mobile banking. Advances in biometric authentication and encryption have made mobile banking more secure, enhancing customer trust. A report by Juniper Research indicates that mobile banking fraud losses are projected to remain below 1% of total transactions by 2024 due to improved security measures. Mobile banking apps now offer a wide range of services,

including bill payments, fund transfers, loan applications, and investment management. These features have made mobile banking a comprehensive solution for personal finance management.

2. Online Banking: Online banking has also experienced significant growth, with the adoption of online bill payment services becoming increasingly widespread. Data from the Federal Reserve indicates that 88% of internet users in the United States utilized online banking services in 2024, up from 82% in 2020. Online banking platforms are accessible through any internet-enabled device, making them convenient for users across various demographics. The 2024 EY Global FinTech Adoption Index revealed that 70% of global consumers use fintech services, highlighting the widespread adoption of digital banking tools. Automated processes reduce the time required for transactions, enhancing customer satisfaction and operational efficiency for banks. A McKinsey report from 2024 indicated that banks could potentially reduce their operating costs by up to 30% by leveraging digital technologies. Online banking platforms have become more user-friendly, with intuitive interfaces and seamless navigation. This improvement in user experience has contributed to the increased adoption of online banking services.

B. Decline of Branch Usage

The rise of digital banking has led to a noticeable decline in branch usage. Data from the FDIC shows that the number of bank branches in the United States decreased from approximately 92,000 in 2009 to around 68,000 in 2024, reflecting a reduction of nearly 26%. This decline is primarily attributed to the increasing preference for digital channels among customers.

1. Preference for Digital Channels: Customers increasingly prefer the ease and speed of conducting transactions via mobile apps and online banking platforms. The COVID-19 pandemic further accelerated this trend, with a 2024 report by

BAI Research indicating that 45% of consumers increased their use of digital banking during the pandemic. The transition has persisted post-pandemic, as customers have grown accustomed to the convenience of digital banking. Younger generations, who are more tech-savvy, are driving the shift towards digital banking. A survey by Deloitte in 2024 found that 85% of Millennials and Gen Z prefer using digital banking channels over visiting a branch. Digital banking platforms have expanded their services, offering features like instant account opening, digital wallets, and robo-advisors. These services cater to the evolving needs of customers, reducing their reliance on physical branches.

2. Convenience and Cost Efficiency: Digital banking eliminates the need to visit a physical branch for routine transactions, saving time and effort for customers. According to a 2024 survey by J.D. Power, 53% of respondents cited convenience as the primary reason for using digital banking services. Additionally, digital platforms offer cost efficiencies for banks. Maintaining digital platforms is often more cost-effective than operating a large network of physical branches. Research by Accenture in 2024 suggests that digital-only banks can operate at approximately one-third of the cost of traditional banks due to lower overhead expenses. Digital platforms can easily scale to accommodate a growing number of users without the need for significant physical infrastructure investments.

C. Impact on Bank Operations

The reduced reliance on traditional branch services has led banks to re-evaluate their operational models. Key impacts include:

1. Self-Service Banking: The adoption of self-service technologies, such as ATMs, mobile apps, and online platforms, has increased, allowing customers to perform routine transactions without assistance from branch staff. Data from RBR's Global ATM Market and Forecasts to 2025 report

indicates that there were over 3.2 million ATMs worldwide in 2024, a number that continues to grow as banks invest in self-service infrastructure. Modern ATMs offer a wide range of services, including cash deposits, withdrawals, bill payments, and even video conferencing with bank representatives. This functionality reduces the need for teller interactions and enhances customer convenience.

2. Job Displacement: The shift towards digital banking has potential implications for employment within the banking sector. A report by McKinsey & Company in 2024 estimated that up to 35% of bank branch roles could be automated by 2025, potentially displacing a significant number of jobs. However, this also presents an opportunity for banks to reskill employees for more value-added roles, such as financial advisory services. Many banks are investing in reskilling programs to help employees transition to new roles within the organization. For example, JPMorgan Chase has committed \$350 million to reskill its workforce for the digital era, focusing on areas like data analysis, digital marketing, and financial planning.

3. Operational Efficiency: By reducing the number of physical branches and relying more on digital channels, banks can achieve greater operational efficiency and cost savings. This allows them to invest in technology and innovation to enhance customer experiences. According to a study by Bain & Company in 2024, banks that have successfully digitized their operations can achieve up to a 25% improvement in efficiency ratios. Reducing branch numbers can result in significant cost savings for banks. These savings can be redirected towards enhancing digital platforms, improving cybersecurity, and developing new financial products. With more resources available, banks can focus on innovation, such as developing AI-driven financial advice, blockchain-based transactions, and personalized customer experiences through data analytics.

THE FUTURE OF BANK BRANCHES: TWO POTENTIAL SCENARIOS

The future of bank branches is a topic of significant debate, with opinions divided between those who foresee their decline and those who envision a transformation to meet evolving customer needs.

A. Scenario 1: Decline of Branches

In this scenario, the number of physical bank branches continues to decrease, particularly in rural areas. Key developments include:

1. Reduced Branch Network: As digital banking becomes more prevalent, banks are increasingly consolidating their branch networks to cut costs and improve efficiency. This trend is evident in the actions of several major banks. For instance, Wells Fargo closed 329 branches in 2020 and has since continued reducing its branch count. By 2024, Wells Fargo plans to have closed an additional 500 branches. The bank's strategy reflects a broader industry trend accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to S&P Global Market Intelligence, U.S. banks closed a record 4,200 branches from 2020 to 2023 while opening only 1,200 new ones. A significant factor driving this consolidation is the shift in consumer behaviour towards digital banking. Customers now prefer the convenience of mobile and online banking, which allows them to conduct transactions from the comfort of their homes. This preference reduces the need for a widespread physical presence, particularly in rural areas where branch operations are less profitable. Maintaining physical branches involves substantial costs, including rent, utilities, staffing, and security. By reducing the number of branches, banks can allocate more resources to enhancing their digital platforms and other innovative solutions. For instance, Citibank has focused on reducing its physical footprint in favour of expanding its digital services, aiming to create a more streamlined and cost-effective

operational model.

2. Increased Automation: The introduction of self-service kiosks and advanced ATMs is part of the move towards increased automation. These machines can handle a wide range of transactions, from cash deposits and withdrawals to bill payments and check deposits, significantly reducing the need for human tellers. Furthermore, video conferencing technology is being used to provide personalized customer service and financial advice remotely. For example, Bank of America has implemented advanced ATMs that allow customers to have live video chats with bank representatives for more complex transactions. This technology not only provides convenience but also helps maintain a level of personal interaction that is often lost in digital banking. A survey by Temenos found that 70% of banks are investing in AI and machine learning to enhance customer experiences and streamline operations. AI can be used to offer personalized financial advice, detect fraudulent activities, and automate routine tasks. By integrating these technologies, banks can provide efficient and secure services, reducing the reliance on physical branches.

3. Potential Drawbacks: While automation and digital banking offer numerous benefits, they also pose challenges. The underbanked populations, who may lack access to digital devices or internet connectivity, could find it difficult to access banking services. According to the Federal Reserve's 2023 report, 20% of U.S. adults are either unbanked or underbanked. This demographic relies heavily on physical branches for their banking needs, and the closure of branches could exacerbate their financial exclusion. Furthermore, the lack of human interaction in banking could erode customer trust and satisfaction. A study by PwC in 2023 found that 57% of consumers feel that personalized interactions are essential for maintaining their banking relationships. The impersonal nature of digital banking

may not meet the needs of customers who prefer face-to-face interactions, particularly for complex financial decisions. Additionally, rural areas and older populations may be disproportionately affected by the decline of branches. Many older customers are less comfortable with digital banking and prefer in-person services. The closure of rural branches can lead to decreased access to financial services, potentially impacting local economies and community engagement.

B. Scenario 2: Transformation of Branches

Alternatively, branches could transform to meet evolving customer needs, shifting from transactional services to advisory roles. This transformation involves several key components:

1. Advisory Services: Banks are increasingly positioning their branches as advisory centres. For instance, Bank of America has introduced "Financial Centres" which provide a range of advisory services, including financial planning, investment advice, and mortgage consultations. These centres are designed to offer personalized services that cannot be replicated through digital channels. According to a report by Oliver Wyman, branches that focus on advisory services can generate up to three times more revenue than traditional transactional branches. This transformation is driven by the recognition that complex financial decisions often require personalized advice and human interaction. Customers seeking guidance on investments, retirement planning, or mortgage options benefit from face-to-face consultations with knowledgeable advisors. By focusing on advisory services, banks can enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty while driving higher revenues from advisory fees and cross-selling opportunities. For example, HSBC has revamped its branch network to emphasize advisory services, providing private meeting rooms for consultations and specialized advisors for wealth management and retirement planning. This approach allows HSBC to cater to affluent

customers seeking tailored financial advice, differentiating itself from purely digital competitors.

2. Human Interaction: Despite the growth of digital banking, human interaction remains critical for complex financial transactions. A study by Accenture found that 80% of consumers prefer dealing with human advisors for complex financial products such as mortgages and investment planning. This preference underscores the importance of maintaining a human touch in banking to build trust and address customers' nuanced financial needs. Branches can focus on providing high-quality, personalized interactions that digital platforms cannot offer. For instance, Citibank's "Citi Priority" program offers personalized financial advice and dedicated relationship managers to its customers, enhancing the value of in-branch visits. By training staff to provide expert advice and fostering a consultative approach, banks can create a more engaging and valuable customer experience. Moreover, human interaction plays a crucial role in building trust and long-term relationships. Customers facing significant financial decisions often seek reassurance and personalized advice, which can be best delivered through face-to-face interactions. Banks that prioritize human interaction in their branches can differentiate themselves by offering a superior customer experience.

3. Community Hubs: Transforming branches into community hubs can strengthen customer relationships and enhance brand loyalty. For instance, Umpqua Bank has reimaged its branches as community centres, offering free meeting spaces for local groups, hosting financial literacy classes, and partnering with local businesses for events. This approach helps banks to engage with their communities and build a loyal customer base. According to a study by Deloitte, banks that successfully integrate community engagement into their branch strategies can achieve higher customer satisfaction and retention rates.

Community-focused branches can serve as venues for financial education and social engagement, positioning the bank as a valuable community partner. For example, Capital One Cafes blend banking services with a coffee shop environment, providing a relaxed setting for customers to receive financial advice, attend workshops, and interact with bank staff. These cafes also host community events and partner with local businesses, fostering a sense of community and enhancing brand loyalty. Additionally, branches as community hubs can drive foot traffic and create opportunities for cross-selling financial products. By offering a welcoming and engaging environment, banks can attract a broader audience and provide value beyond traditional banking services. This approach can help banks differentiate themselves in a competitive market and build stronger connections with their customers.

STRATEGIES FOR BANKS TO ADAPT

As digital banking continues to rise and customer expectations evolve, banks must adopt strategic measures to ensure their branches remain relevant and valuable.

A. Embrace Technology

Leveraging technology is essential for banks to enhance efficiency, improve customer experiences, and reduce operational costs. Key technological strategies include:

1. Self-Service Kiosks: Self-service kiosks can streamline branch operations and improve customer service. These kiosks can handle tasks such as cash deposits, withdrawals, and bill payments, reducing the need for teller interactions. According to a study by NCR Corporation, the adoption of self-service kiosks can reduce transaction times by up to 50% and increase customer satisfaction. In 2024, the global market for self-service kiosks is projected to reach \$35 billion, driven by increasing demand for automation and convenience in banking. Banks such as BBVA and HSBC have already deployed these kiosks

extensively, allowing customers to perform routine transactions quickly and efficiently. By investing in self-service kiosks, banks can free up staff to focus on more complex customer needs and advisory services.

2. Video Conferencing: Video conferencing technology can enhance customer service by providing remote access to financial advisors. This approach can help banks reach customers who prefer digital interactions while still offering personalized advice. A report by Gartner predicts that by 2024, 70% of customer interactions will involve emerging technologies such as AI, chatbots, and video conferencing. Banks like Bank of America have implemented advanced ATMs equipped with video conferencing capabilities, allowing customers to speak with live representatives for more complex transactions. This technology not only provides convenience but also helps maintain a level of personal interaction that is often lost in digital banking. By utilizing video conferencing, banks can offer high-touch services remotely, catering to customers' needs without requiring them to visit a physical branch.

3. Digital Signage: Digital signage can enhance the in-branch experience by delivering targeted messages and promotions to customers. For instance, HSBC has implemented digital signage in its branches to display personalized content based on customer profiles and preferences. This approach can improve customer engagement and drive cross-selling opportunities. The global digital signage market is expected to reach \$37 billion by 2024, reflecting growing demand for interactive and personalized customer experiences. Digital signage can be used to promote new products, provide financial education, and highlight special offers, creating a dynamic and engaging environment for customers. By investing in digital signage, banks can enhance the in-branch experience and effectively communicate with their customers.

B. Focus on Human Interaction

Despite technological advancements, human interaction remains crucial for complex financial transactions and building long-term customer relationships. Key strategies to enhance human interaction include:

1. Staff Training: Training staff to offer advisory services can enhance the value of branch interactions. For example, Santander Bank has implemented a comprehensive training program for its branch staff, focusing on financial planning, investment advice, and customer relationship management. This approach has helped the bank differentiate its branch services and build stronger customer relationships. According to a study by The Financial Brand, banks that invest in staff training and development can achieve up to a 20% increase in customer satisfaction and retention rates. By equipping staff with the skills and knowledge to provide expert advice, banks can ensure that their branches offer personalized and high-quality services that meet customers' complex financial needs.

2. Consultative Approach: Adopting a consultative approach can help banks build long-term customer relationships. For instance, TD Bank has implemented a "Financial Wellness" program, which involves personalized consultations and financial planning services. This approach has helped the bank engage with customers on a deeper level and address their unique financial needs. A report by Bain & Company found that banks that adopt a consultative approach can achieve higher customer loyalty and profitability. By focusing on personalized advice and long-term financial planning, banks can differentiate themselves from digital-only competitors and create a more valuable and engaging customer experience.

3. Customer Relationships: Prioritizing personal connections can enhance customer loyalty and retention. For example, Citibank has introduced a "Relationship Banking" model, which

involves dedicated relationship managers who provide personalized services and support to customers. This approach has helped the bank build stronger customer relationships and increase customer satisfaction. According to a study by J.D. Power, banks that prioritize customer relationships can achieve higher customer loyalty and advocacy. By fostering personal connections and understanding customers' individual needs, banks can create a more loyal and engaged customer base. This focus on relationship-building can help banks maintain their relevance and competitive edge in an increasingly digital world.

C. Optimize Branch Network

Banks should strategically manage their branch networks to align with changing customer needs and preferences. Key strategies include:

1. Data Analysis: Leveraging customer data can help banks optimize their branch networks. For instance, Wells Fargo uses data analytics to identify optimal branch locations and services based on customer demographics, usage patterns, and market trends. This approach has helped the bank optimize its branch network and improve operational efficiency. According to a report by McKinsey & Company, banks that use data analytics to optimize their branch networks can achieve up to a 15% reduction in operating costs. By analysing customer data, banks can make informed decisions about where to maintain branches, what services to offer, and how to allocate resources effectively.

2. Alternative Formats: Adopting alternative branch formats can help banks reduce costs and improve efficiency. For example, Bank of America has introduced "Express" branches, which are smaller, technology-driven branches designed to handle basic transactions and provide digital banking support. These branches require less space and staff, reducing operational costs. A study by Deloitte found that alternative branch formats can reduce operating costs by up to 30% while maintaining a physical

presence in key locations. By exploring smaller and more agile branch formats, banks can maintain accessibility and convenience for customers while optimizing operational efficiency.

3. Rightsizing: Rightsizing the branch network involves adjusting the number and size of branches based on customer demand and usage patterns. For example, HSBC has undertaken a rightsizing initiative, reducing its branch network by 25% while investing in digital banking channels. This approach has helped the bank align its physical presence with customer needs and improve operational efficiency. According to a report by Accenture, banks that undertake rightsizing initiatives can achieve up to a 20% improvement in efficiency ratios. By rightsizing their branch networks, banks can ensure that their physical presence aligns with changing customer behaviours and preferences, optimizing costs and resources.

D. Data-Driven Approach

Harnessing data can enhance branch effectiveness and personalization, leading to improved customer satisfaction and operational efficiency. Key strategies include:

1. Personalization: Personalizing branch experiences can enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty. For instance, U.S. Bank uses data analytics to offer personalized services and recommendations to customers based on their financial behaviours and preferences. This approach has helped the bank improve customer engagement and drive cross-selling opportunities. According to a study by Salesforce, 76% of consumers expect companies to understand their needs and expectations, highlighting the importance of personalization in banking. By leveraging customer data, banks can tailor their services and interactions to meet individual needs, creating a more engaging and valuable customer experience.

2. Service Tailoring: Tailoring services to meet customers' financial goals can improve customer satisfaction and retention.

For example, BBVA uses data analytics to offer tailored financial solutions and advice to customers based on their financial goals and behaviours. This approach has helped the bank build stronger customer relationships and improve customer loyalty. A report by EY found that banks that offer tailored services can achieve up to a 10% increase in customer satisfaction and retention rates. By understanding customers' unique financial situations and goals, banks can provide personalized advice and solutions that drive loyalty and satisfaction.

3. Efficiency Improvement: Using data analytics to optimize branch operations can improve efficiency and reduce costs. For example, JPMorgan Chase uses data-driven insights to streamline its branch operations and improve service delivery. This approach has helped the bank enhance operational efficiency and improve customer satisfaction. According to a study by McKinsey & Company, banks that use data analytics to optimize their operations can achieve up to a 15% improvement in efficiency ratios. By leveraging data to identify inefficiencies and opportunities for improvement, banks can streamline their operations and provide a more seamless and efficient customer experience.

CONCLUSION

The future of bank branches in the digital age depends on their ability to adapt to evolving customer preferences and technological advancements. By 2024, digital banking has surged, with 2.8 billion mobile banking users globally and 68% of U.S. adults using these services, leading to a significant decline in traditional branch traffic—from 92,000 U.S. branches in 2009 to 68,000. To remain relevant, banks must integrate technology through self-service kiosks, video conferencing, and digital signage, enhancing convenience and operational efficiency. Simultaneously, they must prioritize human interaction by training staff for personalized advisory services and fostering

strong customer relationships. Optimizing branch networks through data analytics to identify ideal locations, adopting smaller branch formats, and aligning services with customer needs are critical strategies. Leveraging data-driven approaches for personalized customer experiences and operational improvements will also be essential. By balancing technological innovation with a personalized, human touch, branches can continue to play a vital role in the financial services landscape, meeting complex customer needs and building long-term relationships.

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India's Startup Ecosystem : Present Trends and Future Prospects

Chandini Sonowal

Introduction:

The Indian startup ecosystem has undergone significant transformations, marked by a surge in entrepreneurship, technological advancements, and a supportive policy environment. Over the past years, India has been gradually developing its startup ecosystem, with the public and private sectors collaborating to foster an atmosphere that encourages entrepreneurship. India is now the hub of the 'Start-up' ecosystem in the world. The term "Startup Ecosystem" refers to the interconnected network of resources, organizations, and individuals that collectively support the growth and development of startup companies within a specific geographic region or industry. This dynamic system is made up of many different components, such as government regulations, infrastructure, entrepreneurs and investors. The ecosystem encourages a culture of risk-taking, experimentation, and adaptation to foster innovation. Funding is sometimes needed for startups to support their expansion, and a thriving ecosystem offers a range of funding possibilities, including government subsidies, crowdfunding, and venture capital. Funding sources that are

easily accessible assist startups in growing and launching their goods and services. A well-established startup ecosystem often has global connections and partnerships that enable startups to expand their reach and access international markets. India has emerged as the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups globally as of 31st May 2023. India ranks 2nd in innovation quality with top positions in the quality of scientific publications and the quality of its universities among middle-income economies. As per Startup Genome's (2021) Global Startup Ecosystem Index ranking, the Indian startup ecosystem holds the 20th position globally.

By embracing fresh, little changes in the market, startups can be the most dynamic companies in the industry. The Indian economy continues to be robust, significant, and hardworking by giving the economic system additional improvements and affordability.

Objectives and Methodology:

The objectives and research methodology are as follows:

Objective:

The study has been made to achieve the following objectives:

1. To have an overview of the Indian Startup Ecosystem.
2. To study the current scenario and future prospects of the Indian Startup Ecosystem.
3. To study the challenges that need to be faced by Startups.

Research Methodology:

The study has been carried out with secondary data only, collected from various such as websites, reports published from relevant sources, journals, articles, newspapers, etc. Data mentioned from the sources have been analyzed and implemented wherever required.

Overview:

In the contemporary world, startups are receiving much attention all over the world. The numerous elements that control the Indian startup ecosystem can be classified as either internal or external. India's change and progress can be attributed to startups that are expanding globally through advancements in technology, modernization, and improvement. The government has implemented various policies and initiatives to encourage startups, such as the Startup India campaign launched in 2016. Several Government schemes for the promotion of startups in India have been launched off late like Pradhan Mantri Laghu Udyog Yojana 2016, Mudra Yojana, Startup India Learning Program, and India Aspiration Fund. It is the development of various digital infrastructures, which has fueled much of the growth of start-ups in India. Access to funding is a significant component in the expansion of startups in India. Although getting capital was once a big obstacle for Indian businesses, things have changed for the better in recent years. India is currently home to an increasing number of angel investors and venture capital firms, and the past few years have seen a sharp increase in startup investment in the nation. The staggering \$42 billion in funding that Indian entrepreneurs drew in 2022-a significant increase from \$16 billion the year before-underlines their critical role in the country's ambition to reach its \$5 trillion economy target. The government's plan calls for actions that include emphasizing inclusive growth, encouraging fintech, digital economy, technology-enabled development, energy transition, and climate action, as well as depending on a positive feedback loop of investment and growth, in order to build India's GDP to \$5 trillion.

Startups frequently create novel goods and services to fill gaps in the market or create entirely new industries. They introduce new ideas, generate employment, and boost the economy's competitiveness.

Current scenario of startups in India:

With this encouraging environment, startup culture is growing in India. While top metropolises still account for the majority of the country's startup concentration, Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities have been catching up (see figure) [1]

State	Startups	State	Startups
Maharashtra	2587	Assam	106
Karnataka	1973	Punjab	102
Delhi	1833	Jammu and Kashmir	63
Uttar Pradesh	1129	Goa	61
Telangana	748	Chandigarh	52
Gujarat	712	Himachal Pradesh	27
Haryana	710	Pondicherry	19
Tamil Nadu	709	Manipur	11
Kerala	461	Nagaland	7
West Bengal	417	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4
Madhya Pradesh	384	Arunachal Pradesh	4
Rajasthan	371	Tripura	4
Andhra Pradesh	269	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
Orissa	251	Daman and Diu	2
Bihar	178	Meghalaya	2
Chhattisgarh	168	Mizoram	1
Jharkhand	116	Sikkim	1
Uttarakhand	108		

Fig 1: Geographical distribution of the recognized startups, 2018. [1]

In the Indian economy, startups are now recognized as major drivers of innovation and employment development. Approximately one million direct employment were created by them, and in 2022, that number rose by 64%. Nearly half of the 99,000 startups that have been formally recognized by the government in India as of May 2023, have their headquarters located in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. These startups are dispersed over 36 states and union territories, including 669 districts. This vibrant startup scene is evidence of India's inventiveness, spirit of entrepreneurship, and rise to prominence as a global startup powerhouse.

Sector Wise, the Distribution of Indian Startup Businesses is highlighted in the table mentioned below [2]:

Technology-Based	Non-technology Based
E-Commerce - 33%	Engineering- 17%
B2B - 24%	Construction-13%
Internet - 12%	Agri- products- 11%
Mobile apps - 10%	Textile - 8%
SaaS - 8%	Printing & packaging – 8%
Other – 13%	Transport & logistics- 6%
	Outsourcing & support -5%
	Others-32%

Source: Startups India- An Overview, Grant Thornton, 2018 [2].

There are multiple government and semi-governmental initiatives to help startups. Some of them are Start-Up India, MUDRA Yojana, SETU (Self Employment and Talent Utilization) Fund, E-Biz Portal, etc.

India's diverse market offers immense opportunities to tech entrepreneurs in a variety of sectors that are ready for disruption, such as healthcare, finance, biotechnology, and more. The contemporary period proves an advantageous moment for startup growth. Indian Startup Ecosystem is about to set up as a strong foundation that can withstand future tests.

Challenges faced by the startups:

Some of the major challenges are discussed below:

1. Funding Constraints: Even while the Indian startup scene has expanded greatly, getting finance may still be very difficult, particularly for fledgling companies. Indian startups witnessed a 65.8% drop in funding in terms of value between January and November 2023, according to a report by the Times of India. Financing accessibility is essential for companies, yet obtaining adequate funding is never easy. Obtaining angel or venture capital funding is a challenge for many startups.

2. Lack of Mentorship: People require mentoring when they embark on their entrepreneurial journeys. In order to get their products to market, the majority of entrepreneurs lack the industry, business, and market experience necessary to implement

their amazing ideas and/or products. This proves as one of the major drawbacks.

3. Regulations: For startups, navigating through complicated and even unclear regulatory regimes can be difficult. Although things are improving on the regulations front, it is still challenging to register your company, which takes anywhere between a month to 6 months [3]. According to the World Bank's annual report on the Ease of Doing Business (EODB), 'Doing Business 2020: Comparing Business Regulations in 190 Economies', India ranks 63rd out of 190 countries which is an upward movement by 14 spots this year [4].

4. Infrastructure Support: The success and longevity of startups are greatly impacted by the presence of various support structures. Incubators, science and technology parks, and business development centers are among the key institutions that provide critical support to budding enterprises. These entities offer resources, guidance, and infrastructure that are essential for the growth and sustainability of new businesses. Without such support, startups may struggle to survive. Organizations like the National Chemical Laboratory stand out for offering these necessary services, which can significantly enhance the chances of a startup's success by providing a robust foundation for its operations. Adequate access to these support mechanisms is a crucial factor in determining the fate of emerging companies.

5. Awareness: Most of the new Startups lead themselves to failure because they don't pay enough attention to market constraints no matter how much they delve into innovative solutions for the customers. For a new product, the situation is more challenging because the startup must create everything from the ground up.

6. Market Competition: India has a lot of highly competitive industries, which makes it difficult for startups to gain market share.

Conclusion

In the Indian context, startups possess immense opportunities to cater to local and specialty markets, which may prove to be durable and successful with early income generation potential. There are many success stories in the thriving and dynamic Indian startup ecosystem. Initiatives are also being taken by the government and other groups to solve some of these issues and foster a more favorable atmosphere for startups in the nation. Investments by many successful entrepreneurs in startups are helping to improve the economy and employment generation. New startups are growing keeping in the notice of overcoming the flaws and challenges. India's huge population offers a good number of opportunities for startups to thrive and grow for a better future.

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PROBING THE POTENTIALITY OF *Cricula trifenestrata* HELPER COCOON :AN APPROACH TO TRANSFORM PEST TO VALUABLE PRODUCT

**Mrigakshee Phookan
Tarali Kalita**

INTRODUCTION

Cricula trifenestrata is a species of wild silk moth of the family Saturniidae (Dutta et al., 2011). It is found from India to the Philippines, Sulawesi, Java and Sri Lanka. It is abundantly found in the North Eastern states of India and it produces golden coloured fine silk moth with a net-like cocoon. This silkworm completes its lifecycle 4-5 times a year and is thus considered multivoltine. Sometimes it completes its life cycle twice a year and is thus considered bivoltine (Tikader et al., 2014).

The insect is polyphagous in nature and feeds primarily on *Mangifera indica* (Mango), *Persea bombaysina* (Som), *Amomium subulatum* (Large cardamom) and *Cinnamomum Zeylancium* (Cinnamon) (Tikader et al., 2014). Some of the secondary food plants are *Anacardium occidentale* (Kaju), *Spondias cynthera* (Sonnerat plum), *Careya arborea* (Kumbhi),

Bischofia trifoliata (Bishop Wood), Quercus serrata (Oak), Zizyphus jujuba (Bogori) etc. (Tikader et al., 2014).

The golden silk, make it very attractive for the silk designers. Suvahana is a company which deals in making handicrafts, accessories and various crafts from the wild cocoons of Cricula trifenestrata and Attacus atlas.

The insect is holometabolous in nature and completes its life cycle through egg, larva, pupa and the adult. The total length of the single life cycle of Cricula varies between 45-50 days depending on the environmental conditions and the type of feed. In winter it extends to about 120-124 days. The seasonal appearance of the adults is from April to November (Choudhary et al., 2004).

The study was obtained with the following objectives -

Morphological characterization of cocoons of Cricula trifenestrata collected from two different sites of Assam.

Scanning electron microscopic observation of silk fibres of the collected samples.

Tensile strength study of degummed silk from Cricula cocoon.

Assessment of dyeability of the Cricula trifenestrata silk fibre.

Development of handicrafts from the Cricula cocoon.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

COLLECTION OF SAMPLE :

Table 1: Geographical Details recorded from Indian Meteorological Department, Borjhar.

Site of sample collection	Latitude	Longitude	Host plant	Temperature	Rainfall
Tangabari:boko	25.9778°N	91.2356°E	<i>Persea bombycina</i> (Som)	26°C	312cm
Greenwood tea estate: Dibrugarh	27.4705°N	94.9125°E	<i>Persea bombycina</i> (Som)	22°C	299cm

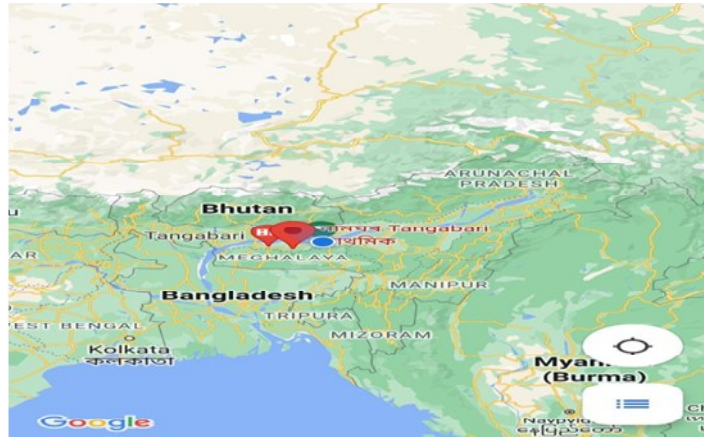


Plate 1: Map of Boko (Kamrup Rural)

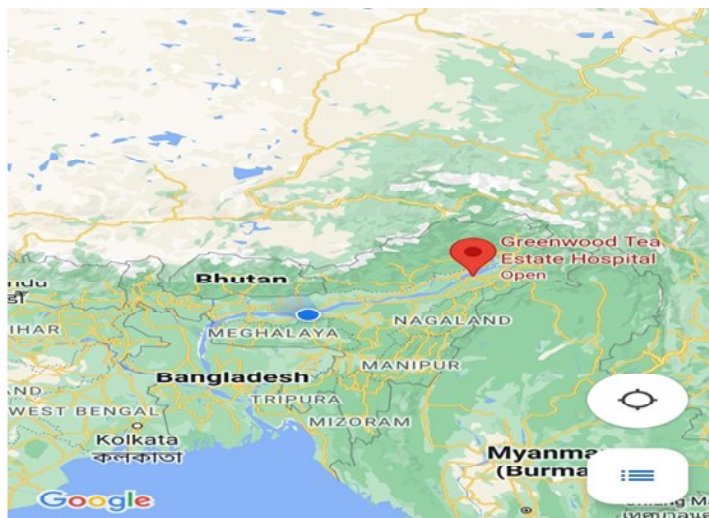


Plate 2: Map of Dibrugarh District of Assam

INDOOR REARING OF THE COCOONS -

The egg and the first instar larvae were placed on the young leaves of the twigs. One end of the twig was submerged in water and larvae were provided with new twig at each alternate day.

PHYSICAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE COCOONS -

Twenty cocoons were randomly selected and documented with photographs. The parameters considered for physical observations were-

- Color
- Shape
- Texture

MORPHOMETRIC STUDY:

For morphometric observation twenty *Cricula trifenestrata* cocoons of both male and female respectively were taken-

A) SIZE-The length and the breadth of 20 cocoons were measured using a Vernier Caliper.

B) WHOLE COCOON WEIGHT -The whole cocoon weight is the weight of a single cocoon containing the pupa.

C) SHELL WEIGHT -The weight of the 20 cocoons without the pupa were calculated using an electronic balance and the results are noted.

D) SHELL RATIO:

Shell ratio % = $\frac{\text{shell ratio of 20 cocoons}}{\text{weight of 20 cocoons}} \times 100$

SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPIC STUDY

Sample pieces of 2mm sizes were sliced from the cocoons of each population. The samples were then washed out thoroughly for 4-5 times to remove the dirt particles and fixed in 3% glutaraldehyde. After fixation, samples were washed in 0.1 M Sodium Cacodylate buffer for 3 changes, each for fifteen minutes at 4°C. The samples were then processed for dehydration

passing through 30-100% Acetone, each for 15 minutes and 2 Changes. Then the specimens were immersed in Tetra Methyl Silance for 5-10 minutes for two times at 40°C. These were brought to room temperature (25-26°C) to dry. After drying the specimens were mounted on aluminium stubs and coating of 35 nanometre (nm) was carried out using gold in Fine Coat Ion Sputter JFC1100. The gold coated samples were then observed under Scanning Electron Microscope (JEOL JSM 6360) connected to a voltage of 15KV in 30X, 150X, 500X and 2000X in SAIF, NEHU, Shillong and in Chemistry Department of Gauhati University.

EDX analysis: Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDX) analysis was done for identifying the elements of crystals that were found in the cocoon. The cocoons were further treated with kolakhar (alkali) and Lemon juice (Acid) for the removal of crystals.

DEMINERALIZING METHOD: Many agents including aqueous solutions of ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (EDTA), citric acid (lemon juice, orange juice), formic acid, aluminum nitrate, and phosphate ions are known to remove calcium oxalate by chelating calcium ions or by directly dissolving it. We used the natural demineralizing method by using kolakhar and lemon and let them rotate for 24 hours in a shaking incubator.

PREPARATION OF BANANA PLANT EXTRACT ('KOLAKHAR'): The alkaline extract of banana, locally known as 'kolakhar' in Assam, has been prepared by the method of Deka and Talukdar (2007). The trunk, rhizome and peels of banana plant were slashed into pieces and sun dried for several weeks. After drying, the materials were burnt into ashes and later extracted with normal tap water to form the desired kolakhar extract.

PREPARATION OF LEMON JUICE: The pulps of lemon

were squeezed in a beaker to obtain pure concentrated lemon juice.

TREATMENT WITH KOLAKHAR: The trunk, rhizome and peels of banana plant were sliced into pieces and sun-dried for several weeks. The dried materials were burnt to ashes and extracted with water, to obtain the required alkaline extract, which is locally known as 'kolakhar' in Assam. Muga cocoons were treated in this alkaline solution measuring pH 10.5 for 72 h at 45 °C in shaking incubator (MLR 1:50).

TREATMENT WITH LEMON JUICE: Juicy pulps of fresh lemon fruit were squeezed in distilled water to make a 20% lemon solution. Muga cocoons were immersed in this acidic solution of pH 2.5 (MLR 1:50) similar to the above-mentioned demineralizing conditions.

3.8.DEGUMMING: The cocoons were boiled in Sodium Carbonate for 30 min (standard degumming), in terms of degumming efficiency and effects on silk fibroin structure. First, a qualitative evaluation of degumming efficiency was performed using microscopic images. The silk fibroin samples degummed by the standard method were perfectly smooth and thus completely freed from sericin. Furthermore, no remnants of the previous sericin layer could be observed. Degumming with microwave treatment showed a comparably good picture in terms of degumming efficiency and also the silk fibroin fiber showed a smooth surface. In addition, no obvious signs of damage to the fiber surfaces in the degummed silk fibroin samples from either method were visible under the microscope. Cocoons were boiled in 2 L of water for 20 min, then 2 g of sodium carbonate and 0.1 g of sodium hydroxide were added and cooked for 15 min. Degummed cocoons were washed in water to remove

the traces of alkali and squeezed properly to form a lump.
Plate 11: Process of Degumming and silk fibre extraction

3.9. DEGUMMING LOSS: Degumming loss is the amount of sericin that is present in the raw silk.

SILK FIBRE PROPERTIES:

SINGLE COCOON FILAMENT LENGTH: After degumming, the threads were extracted from the cocoons and the total filament length obtained from single cocoon were measured using a measuring tape. The tensile strength, compressive strength, And the other mechanical properties are checked in the Universal Testing Machine (UTM) in Central Silk Board, Bangalore.

LINEAR DENSITY : Linear Density is the weight of 900 meters of fibres.

Linear Density = weight of filament (gram) / Length of filament (meter) $\times 900$

TENACITY: Tenacity is the stress at breaking point of a fiber. The stress was calculated by dividing the force applied with cross section of the fiber. The value was expressed in gram/Denier.

ELONGATION : The formula for elongation is the deformation or the increase in length of a sample divided by the original length of the sample, multiplied by 100 (to convert to percentage).

DYEABILITY : We took 1g of fiber with MLR 200 and dyed it in natural dye using myrobalan as a natural mordant in acidic, basic solution and neutral solution at temperature 85° C for 45 minutes.

Making handicrafts from the Cricula cocoon

We collected the cocoons comprising stained, unstained and pierced cocoons and washed them. Then the cocoons were air dried for 1 day and made into ornaments.

RESULTS

The results obtained from the study of cocoons of Cricula

trifenestrata collected from Tangabari and Greenwood Tea Estate are mentioned below -

COLOUR - The sample collected from Tangabari (Boko) was found to be of off-white colouration while the sample collected from Greenwood Tea Estate(Dibrugarh)was found to be of fine golden coloration.

SHAPE: The shape was almost similar in both the places from which the samples were collected.

It was found to be of spindle or peanut shaped cocoon.

TEXTURE : The sample collected from Tangabari(Boko) was found to be less porous or finely porous.

The sample collected from Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh) was found to be more porous and very uneven in texture.

COCOON SIZE : 20 cocoons were measured and their values were recorded. Their mean values are represented in table 2-

TABLE 2: The size of cocoons of *Cricula trifenestrata*

Cocoon size	Length (cm)		Breadth(cm)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Tangabari, Boko	2.3±0.12	3.6±0.08	0.8±0.2	1.5±0.15
Greenwood tea estate, Dibrugarh	4.0±0.13	4.7±0.17	1.2±0.19	2.1±0.22

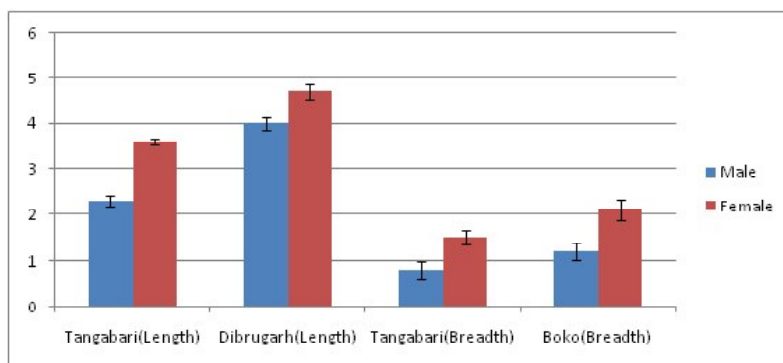


Figure1: Graph showing the cocoon size of Male and Female

of Tangabari (Boko) and Greenwood Tea estate respectively.

2. Whole cocoon weight: The whole cocoon weight of both the places are recorded in table 2-

Table 3: Table showing the Whole Cocoon weight of Male and Female of Tangabari (Boko) and Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh).

Sites	Weight(g) Male	Weight (g) Female
Tangabari(Boko)	14.2±0.45	11.8±0.38
Greenwood Tea Estate	13.8±0.33	17.1±0.28

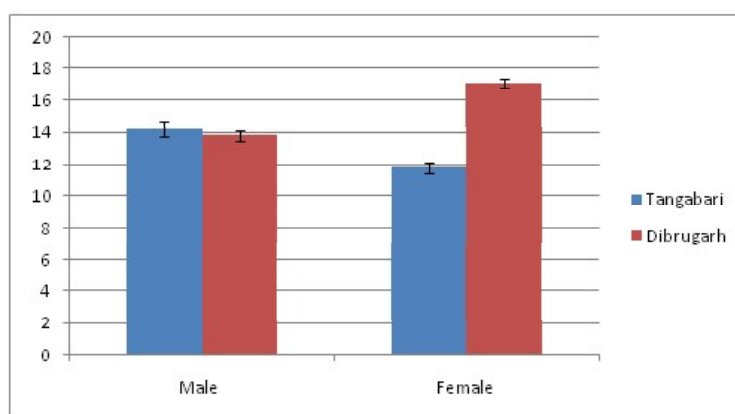


Figure 2: Graph showing the Whole cocoon Weight of Male and Female of Tangabari (Boko) and Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh)

3. Shell weight - The shell weight obtained are given below-

Table 3- Graph showing the shell weight of Male and female in Tangabari (Boko) and Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh)

Sites	Weight(g)Male	Weight (g) Female
Tangabari(Boko)	6.10±0.15	5.8±0.23
Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh)	4.7±0.26	4.6±0.18

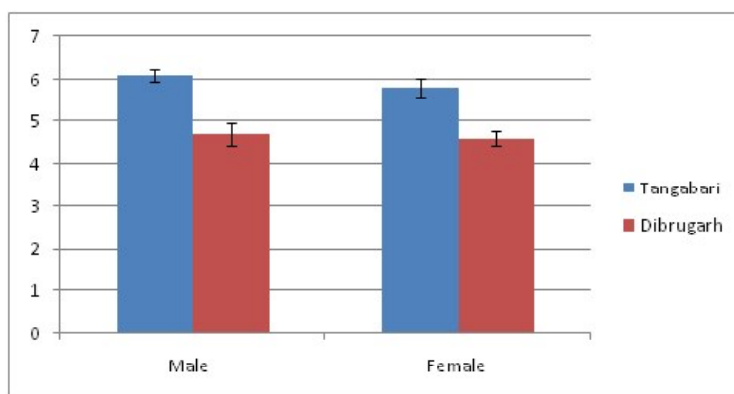


Figure 3: Shell weight of cocoons of Male and Female of Tangabari(Boko) and Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh)

Sites	Weight (Female)	Weight (Male)
Tangabari (Boko)	44%±0.75	48%±0.68
Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh)	59%±0.51	60%±0.65

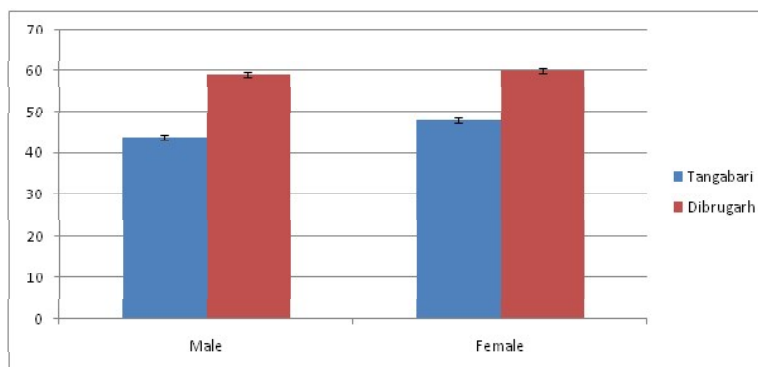


Figure 4-Graph showing the Shell Ratio of Male and Female of

Tangabari (Boko) and Greenwood Tea Estate .

SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPIC OBSERVATIONS:

Scanning electron microscopic (SEM) observation showed cross binding and bifurcation of filaments forming an intricate network and Y- shaped structures. The filaments were loosely arranged in a cocoon sample collected from Tangabari(Boko) and compactly arranged in the sample collected from Greenwood Tea Estate(Dibrugarh) .The average diameter of the bave was found to be 17-19 micrometer for the cocoons collected in Boko (Tangabari) and 12-14 micrometer in the samples collected from Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh) . The study also revealed the presence of irregular shape of the crystals on the surface of the fibres .The crystal deposition was found more in the samples collected from Boko comparatively than the samples of Dibrugarh . Further analysis of crystals with EDAX showed that the crystals are composed of elements like carbon, oxygen, nitrogen,calcium and potassium.

Treatment with kolakhar (alkali)and lime juice(acid) showed the complete removal of crystals from silk fibres .For checking the amount of crystals that were removed certain treatments were performed which included Citric acid treatment (Acid), Kolakhar treatment(Base) and lastly Non Treated /Native Treatment.

The observations regarding the structure of the fibres of the silk of Tangabari (Boko)and Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh) were-

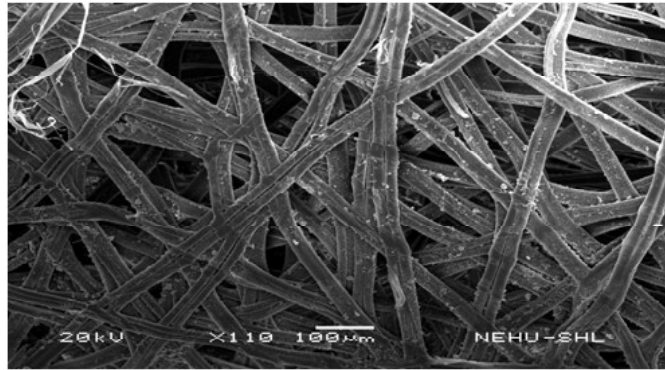


Plate 3: SEM observation showing the arrangement of the fibres of Cricula samples collected from Tangabari (Boko).

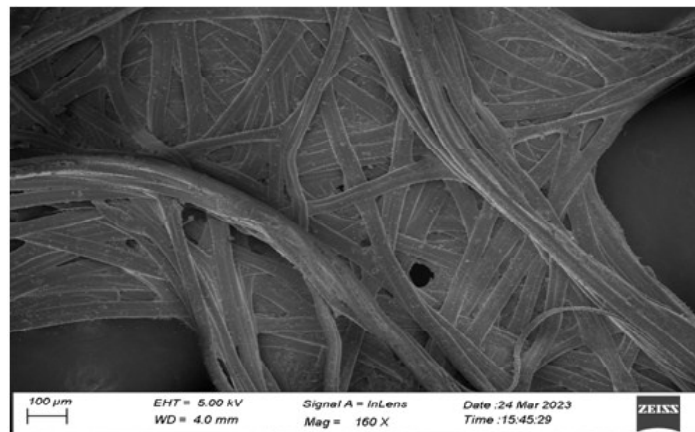


Plate 4: SEM observations showing the arrangement of the fibres collected from Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh)
Scanning Electron Microscopic images regarding the presence of crystals in Boko and Dibrugarh were-

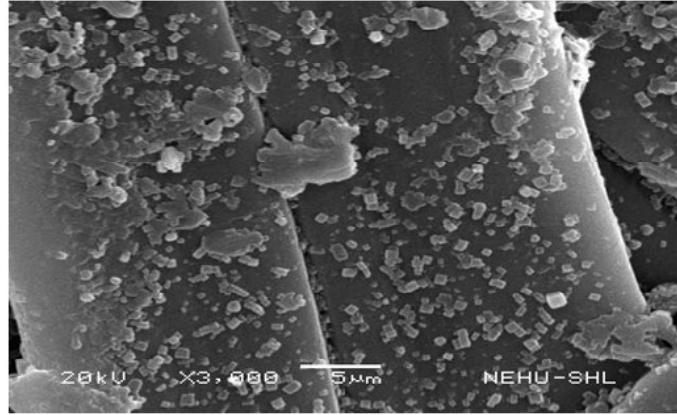


Plate 5: SEM photograph showing the presence of crystals from the samples collected from Tangabari(Boko).

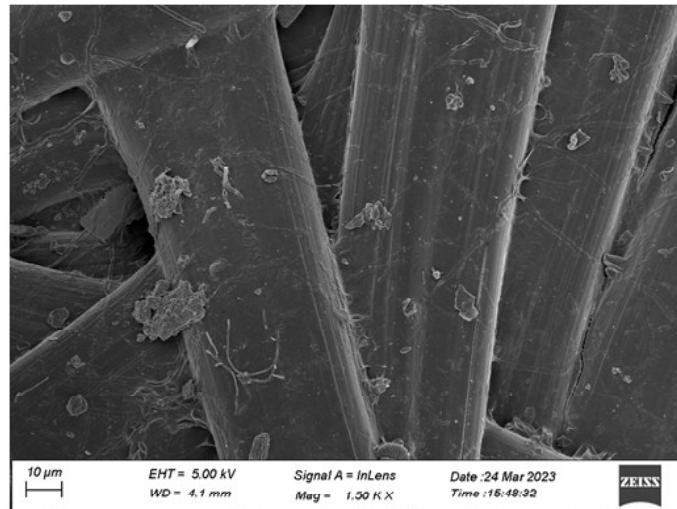


Plate 6: SEM photograph showing the presence of crystals from the samples collected from Dibrugarh

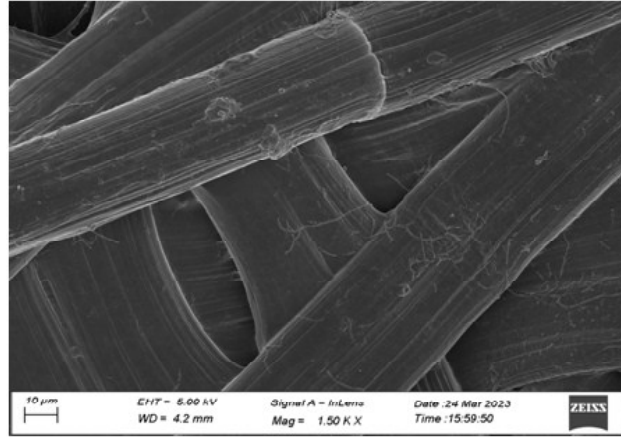


Plate 7: On treatment with Kolakhar (basic)

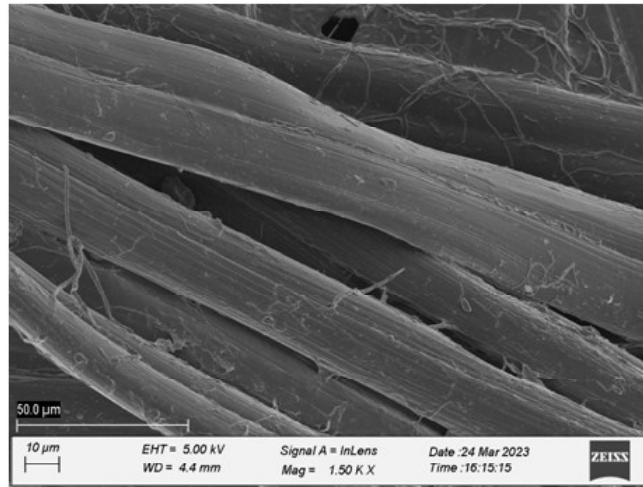
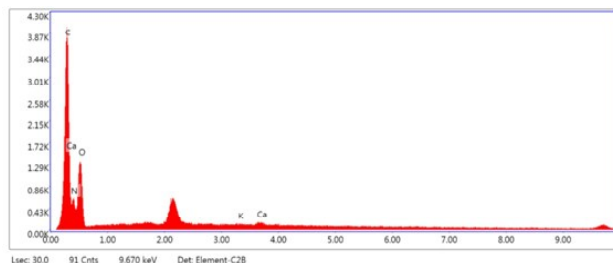


Plate 8 : On treatment with Lime (acidic)



9: EDX analysis of the cocoon sample collected from Greenwood Tea Estate(Dibrugarh)

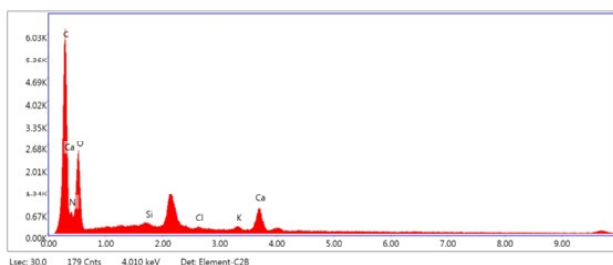


Plate 10-EDX analysis of the cocoon sample collected from Tangabari (Boko)

SILK FIBRE PROPERTIES:

Degumming loss-Degumming loss is the estimation of sericin that is present in the raw silk. The degumming loss was found to be 19%.

Single cocoon filament length- The single cocoon filament length was found to be 113cms in the samples observed in Tangabari(Boko). And the samples from Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh) were found to be 80 cms.

Linear Density-The linear density found was 864.9 Denier.

Tenacity-The tenacity observed was 0.09 g/Denier.

Elongation-The elongation found was only 4%.

Dyeability-Dyeing the fibre in Bixa orellana or archiote

gave us orange colour thread which means that the silk can be dyed and has dyeing properties.

In neutral solution, orange colouration was found, whereas in acidic solution (HCL) dark orange colour was found. And in basic solution (NaOH) similar orange colouration was found.

Making handicrafts from *Cricula trifenestrata*-

The handicrafts made from *Cricula* are as follows-



Plate 11: Decorative night lamp



Plate 12: Cocoon infused resin earrings

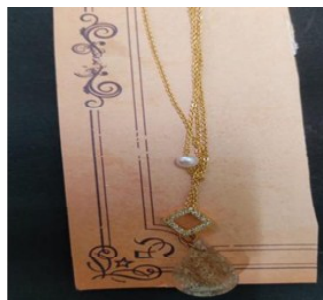


Plate 13: Cocoon infused resin necklace



Plate 14: Cocoon infused resin pendant

DISCUSSION

The North Eastern region of India is a home to dozens of wild silk producing insects that are economically important not from only the economic point of view but also from aesthetical point of view. In the present study, the cocoons were off-white to golden colored as collected from Tangabari(Boko) and Greenwood Tea Estate (Dibrugarh) respectively. The sample collected from Boko were less porous or finely porous while the sample collected from Greenwood Tea Estate were soft. Such porosity in the textures were studied in the Muga and Bombyx mori by Mondal et al.,(2013) and similar textures were found in Muga. Durability similar to that of the *Antherea assamensis* Helfer which is endemic to the Assam province(Ahmed et al.,(2011). The cocoon size observed were almost similar to the other silkmooths where the male cocoon are smaller than the female cocoons and produce better silk as studied by Xiao Xu et al.,(2011). The whole cocoon weight observed was 14-17g which is a common weight observed in other silkmooths as studied by Teshome et al., (2014). The shell ratio, shell weight has obtained similar results in this way. The cocoons were subjected to the degumming and the golden lustrous feature is lost looking at the affinity of the golden fibre which was very high in sericin content and low in fibroin content. Bath et al., (2004) reported crystallinity data, determined by X-ray diffraction and infrared spectroscopy, of Muga silk fibroin and residues obtained after partial hydrolysis. Freddi et al.,(1994) suggested that the amino acid composition of silk is characterized by the predominance of amino acids residues with small side chains, glycine, alanine, serine which is a general feature of the fibrous component of the silks. The primary structure of the silk is responsible for the regular secondary structure of silks. An efficient degumming agent was added in retaining the golden colour of the yarn and may result in high demand of the fabric. The recovery percentage

was found to be higher in the Muga silk as reported by Fuji Chen et al.,(1998) and was conventionally 40-48 percent and the higher yield was found to be in the Muga silk around 55%. The whole cocoon filament length was found to be 80-120cms which showed the extent to which it can be stretched. Studies on Muga by Kakati and Chutia 2009, shows huge filament length stretching the fibre upto 400cms. The tenacity observed was 0.09 gms /Denier and the elasticity found was only 4 % which interprets that it is breakable and cannot be stretched to an extreme amount lacking its quality to be neither used for reeling nor weaving purposes. The mass per unit length of a single strand of Cricula silk fibres was found to be 864.9 Denier that shows that due to the high linear density the yarn produced during the reeling of the fibres will have a wider yarn diameter as compared to the lower linear density yarn. The cocoon filaments were examined under the Scanning Electron Microscope and the fibers were found to be loosely packed in the cocoons of the Cricula while in the cocoons of Bursa beyazi the fibers were tightly packed. Difference was found on the surface of the silk fibers as more voids were found in the fibers of the Bursa beyazi as compared to that of the Cricula. Mondal et al.,(2013) has determined that the fibers are tightly packed in the pure Bivoltine breeds while fibers are loosely packed in the pure multivoltine breed.

Cricula trifenestrata is rarely studied and a very less people know about the possibilities of the Cricula silk. In India rarely people consider it as a possibility for economic use, it is usually regarded as a waste and usually people tend to get rid of it. But knowing its importance can be of great use and a great initiative to turn the non -useful item to a useful product.

CONCLUSION

The conversion of a pest into a valuable product is regarded as a notable innovation. Thus we aim to explore the

potentiality of *Cricula trifenestrata* Helfer cocoon so that they can be used in multiple product development leading to sustainable growth towards human livelihood.

Thus through our study we identify the most promising economic characters of *Cricula trifenestrata* cocoon to make sure its diverse use for sustainable development and entrepreneurship development.

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Notes from the Field : Understanding present scenario of the child protection system in Assam

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Introduction

The article is an attempt to understand the child protection system in Assam through themes identified from field-based learning. It seeks to describe the ways in which the system functions, and responds to social realities, and the role of various stakeholders. The findings are a part of month-long interactions with district and local level protection officials, civil society, caregivers, and survivors in 5 districts of Assam namely Sonitpur, Darrang, Baksa, Barpeta, and Dhubri.

The need for protecting children and women emerged after WWII as they were left vulnerable with the loss of family and a safe future. Since then, many conventions and acts have been passed at the national and international levels for the protection of children. Notable among them are the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child(UNCRC) ratified by India in 1992, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, Child

labor(prohibition and regulation) 2016, POCSO Act 2012, and Juvenile Justice Act 2015. The child protection system in India is a tiered system of response to cases of child abuse, integral to its social welfare framework. Under the system, children below 18 years are legally recognized to be vulnerable and provided with protection and care. The family is considered the primary institution of caregivers followed by the community and state.

Without proper appraisal of the problem its seriousness cannot be understood. In most of the developing countries children of in appropriate age are forced to take part in productive activities due to economic distress.

A large number of children are found to be working in rural areas and in the same way numbers of children struggling to live in urban areas as child labours. Sizeable numbers of them work in city petty shops, restaurants, canteen, garages workshop etc.

Studies shows in several mega cities child labour are found to working in factories in several cities much against the prevailing laws, the poor economic conditions of the child are such that they are found even in the so called organized sector that is in hazardous industries and factories like Glass industries, Firework, Matchbox units, Brass ware industries.

During the study, we met Masooma(name changed). Masooma is studying and staying in a private hostel. She has a mother, elder brother, sister-in-law, nephews-nieces, and a married younger sister. She has resisted marriage proposals. She wishes to study and do something for herself. She recalls her teenage stories of rebellion, of how she liked dancing and performing without letting her family know. She has stories of resilience and hope. She was trafficked into West Bengal at 15 years and managed to escape. She recalls the day when a few people had come up to her and offered her something to eat while she was waiting for her computer tuition. She was drugged,

held captive, and abused. She managed to escape and take the course of her future into her own hands. She was kept in a Childcare institution in West Bengal for some time. When she came home, her family members and neighbours did not treat her the same. She received monetary, skill-based, and counselling support from World Vision and other support from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC). However, she awaits the victim compensation from the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA). She is a leader and is vocal about her rights, she expects society ensures her 'protection' and reintegration.

Current observable trends of child abuse

On the field, household-level understanding of the term 'child' implied children below the age of 12-13 years and anyone above that age are recognised as productive labour. Many children of that age start a family of their own. It has also been observed that, once a child drops out of school, they are vulnerable to abuse. The Right to Education 2009, ensures free education. However, children drop out to contribute to household income, low-quality education, lack of support for learning difficulties, and social discrimination. The current education system aims at universal enrollment but it is not able to counter the problem of drop-outs and 'protect' the children from the abuse that follows.

Cases of elopement are in abundance in rural areas. A child rights activist shared that the nature of child abuse cases involving children above 11 years of age is mostly elopement. The limited scope for access to resources and agency compels the girls to elope and take refuge in marriage. According to a stakeholder, elopements mostly occur in March-April, which coincides with the board examination.

It is followed by a rise in POCSO cases in May and thereafter. These 'lovers' may be the traffickers or sometimes

may engage in consensual activity. The Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2006 impairs self-arranged marriages or elopements, although the couple may engage in consensual sexual activity, charges are laid on the male partner under sexual abuse, or kidnapping. The definition of a child currently does not consider childhood, adolescence, and adulthood as processes but rather as strict milestones¹. Society is unable to accept consensual sexual activity among adolescents. It is also unable to develop the vocabulary to identify forced sexual behaviour or abuse by close relatives or elderly caregivers towards children. A caregiver identified such an act as 'giving love' but recognised the child was uncomfortable.

Current child protection framework and rehabilitation efforts

The study revealed officials of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), CWC, the police, and child rights activists go out of their way to ensure protection of the children. They conduct rescue operations around the clock, awareness sessions in highly inaccessible areas, and incur personal costs to ensure rescued children safely reach the Child Care Institutions (CCI)/ families. The CPOs, social workers, and other field staff were insightful and resourceful. The community-level response groups were not strong enough and in some places did not exist. The Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCPC), Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC), or ward-level committees have not been formed yet or are not active. In terms of community response, the Anganwadi worker, ASHA (Accredited social health activist), VDP (Village defence person), and PLV (Para legal volunteer), act as mouthpieces of the child protection framework. Since these community workers already exist, leveraging their role is important but since child protection is a sensitive issue requiring specific training, the existence, and activeness of committees like BLCPC, and VLCPC are

important. The DCPU mentioned unavailability of an official vehicle for rescue operations. It had to coordinate with the police every time it had to move a child to the CCI/ One-stop centre.

Another issue highlighted was the child rights / protection- related training organised by NGOs and the State Child Protection Committee aimed at educating the top officials. It do not percolate down to the ground staff who need to be sensitive and trained effectively to respond quickly. A Railway Police Force (RPF) official mentioned the need for a 24*7 control room for child protection at major railway junctions as that is the mode used by most traffickers.

Central database

Another observation is that there was no centralized data available at the district level for school dropouts, cases of child abuse like child marriage, POCSO, trafficking, missing/ kidnapped, and child labour. The data is available in a scattered form at various stakeholder departments. Most of the cases registered by parents with the police are of a missing/kidnapping nature which when investigated take other forms of trafficking or elopement. Data needs to be captured regarding how are cases of abuse being reported and what mechanisms are most often used so that the existing means of reporting can be strengthened to be made accessible to the victims. Another data point to better address needs of survivors is to capture the stage in trafficking cycle in which they are rescued. Depending upon if the survivor was rescued before transit, in transit, from destination areas and the age, etc, the counselling provided and rehabilitation efforts can be tailor-made.

Conviction rate

The Police department had a huge number of pending child abuse cases. A senior police official attributed the reason to the focus on rescuing the child than on convicting the accused. An activist remarks about this low conviction rate," It is as if no

trafficking has happened". Activists and CWC have stated that a large number of POCSO cases can be attributed to cases of personal grudges or property disputes. The CWC, JJB, and the POCSO Court stated that these cases increase their workloads. It raises the number of cases lodged in the district and thus puts it under a vulnerable category. As stated by an Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) of the POCSO Court, the genuine nature of the case is revealed within the initial days of the case proceedings. Genuine cases are given priority. At times, the personal lawyer hired, complicates and prolongs a case. This in their view denies a genuine case of its due attention. Another issue regarding POCSO cases is that sometimes they are a product of child marriage/eloping. And in such cases, where both parties are minors, it becomes difficult to identify a 'culprit'. In some cases, the 164 statement of the survivor which is recorded immediately after the rescue does not match with later statements which also causes delays. This mismatch in statements may result from the survivor's traumatised state of mind during the recording or external factors like involvement of family and land disputes.

Responsibility of caregivers

In society, a child's liability has been primarily confined to guardians and parents. However, in hard economic conditions, parents may take immediate steps to 'protect' their children which is not beneficial for them in the long term. Hence, the state and the community must take more responsibility and be proactive. The community is aware of the 'safe' and 'unsafe' spaces in the locality and can take steps collectively to ensure the protection of children. The recent amendment of 2021 to the JJ Act makes child abuse by CCI officials a non-cognizable offense. CCIs may themselves turn into unsafe places for children. These stakeholders should be made more accountable.

Need for convergence & suggestions

The child protection framework requires many

government departments, NGOs, and citizens to work together in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the programs. However, it was found that the different agencies tended to work in silos to complete departmental targets. A framework for collaboration is required between the various stakeholders with specified roles and responsibilities taking into account private players like NGOs, activists, etc.

Community-level response for rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors into society can also be strengthened through training and capacity building of youth volunteers or creation of balpanchayats. The youth from the community can serve as first responders for the survivors. Children are often lured as labors for employment opportunities. Vocational training and safe employment options at the local level could reduce instances of trafficking for labour. Steps should also be taken to prevent survivors especially girls from eloping into marriages or staying away from the public sphere due to stigma when they can instead be the beacon of hope for a society infested with violence. They should be provided with assistance to develop a strong sense of agency to make informed choices about their future.

The Assam State Commission for protection of Child Rights has been constituted under section 17 of the commission for protection of Child Rights Act 2005 for all Round development of the children.

ASCPCR is committed to protection of childcare and development of education and their security. Another steps has been taken through POSCO (Protection of child against sexual offence). It is a law that come into enforcement in 2012 to protect children - Boys and Girls below 18 years of age from sexual offences.

State Research Centre for Women (SRCW) under State Government (WCD/Social Welfare) will work towards

implementing gender sensitive programmes, laws and schemes. The SRCW in constitution with key stakeholders will prepare state action plans for respective state with a focus on women issues.

1. <https://feminisminindia.com/2020/04/03/elopements-child-marriages-full-story/>. The National Commission for protection of children's rights recommends consensual sexual exploration among adults by determining the Romeo Juliet proximity clause.

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Prose and Reason of the Eighteenth century English Literature

Indra Sen Baro

Introduction :

The eighteenth century is a great period for English prose. English prose began in the 14th century and Geoffrey Chaucer and John Wycliffe are the two initiators of the English prose. John Wycliffe is called "the father of English prose" because the clarity and the popularity of his writings and his sermons in the Middle English dialect did much to shape our language today. Then Prose developed in a typical way and in the 18th century, it grew rapidly. Many great writers wrote prose in the 18th century. Gibbon, Addison, Dr Johnson, Swift, Goldsmith and Steel are some of the greatest essayists of the age. That is why, Mathew Arnold describes the age as "the age of prose and reason". In his Study of Poetry, Mathew Arnold calls Dryden and Pope "the classics of not our poetry but prose". This very fact shows that the age gave much importance on prose. Prose flourished in this age. During this period, we find the completion of the reaction against the Elizabethan romanticism which was started in the period of Dryden.

The Eighteenth century Prose :

The eighteenth century was undoubtedly an age of prose. In the Elizabethan age drama and poetical works were given more importance. But later on, for the first time in the history of English literature, prose occupied the front position. Poetry became polished, artificial and even prosaic during eighteenth century. It has no love for the humble humanity and the lower creatures. It lacked the poetic glow of the Elizabethan age and also the moral earnestness of the puritan age. The Poetry of the age deals with the court and the country circles. It lacked emotion and imagination which was the notable quality of the Romantic poetry. Therefore, the chief literary glow of the 18th century age was prose which developed in the hands of great masters of the time.

Several factors contributed to the rapid growth of prose in the eighteenth century which are given as follows-

The Restoration period was the age of social and political controversies. The age witnessed the rise of two political parties. They were the Whigs and the Tories. These parties gave a fresh importance to writers. The prominent authors took an active part in political activities. Both the political parties tried to enlist their support and rewarded the writers with places and pensions. Hardly a writer of the day is free from this political bias. Dryden, for example, was a Tory and he advocated the cause of his monarch, while Shadwell was on the side of the Whigs. As a result, a number of political pamphlets were written. Similarly, several journals and magazines were written for the people who found interest in politics. Poetry was considered inadequate for such a task. The religious controversies were also bitterer during this period. The hatred for the Catholics colours all the writers of the time. Therefore, it proved to be a reason for the rapid growth of prose during the period.

The establishment of the Royal Society was another factor which contributed to the development of prose. The

society laid down certain rules for improving Natural knowledge. The society rejected digressions and swellings of style. The members of the society emphasized simplicity, shortness and plainness. They preferred the language of common people like artisans and countrymen. In short, they wished to have natural way of writing and prose was a suitable form for it.

Rise of a class of general readers also inspired the prose writers. They were common people who had interest in literature. They needed to be satisfied with the themes dealt with the life of common people and their problems. So, the writers had to write in simple and pleasant manners. The common people felt happy to read the prose dealt with their life and problems written in simple manner. So, they supported the prose. They could not understand and pedantic and obscure poetry of the puritan age.

Development of science was also another factor for the growth of English prose during the 18th century. The century saw significant advancement of medicine, mathematics and physics. It contributed to simplicity, brevity and perfection of form. Newton and Boyle belong to this period. Scientific knowledge can be expressed better through prose rather than poetry. So, prose got more importance during this period. The prose became more simple and comprehensible for the readers.

The French influence also renovated the English prose. The French writers since the time of Montaigne have been supreme in prose and in literary criticism. Montaigne was one of the most significant philosophers of the French Renaissance. He is known for popularizing the essay as a literary genre. His essays were widely read during the time of Bacon. Bacon's essays are also presumed to be directly influenced by Montaigne. Abraham Cowley was also influenced by Montaigne. His essays are short talks on moral subjects with anecdote. His style is virtuous. His essays contain allusions. Dr Johnson has evaluated the poetry of Cowley.

Pascal was a French Mathematician and Physicist. His works were read with interest and taken by the English writers as models. Many books of Monsieur Boileau and Bossuel were translated into English. Writers of the period were also influenced by Malherbe and Racine. Thus English prose was enriched.

The rise of the periodical writing and the Newspaper Press added to the growth of prose in the Restoration period. The first periodical published in Europe was the Gazette which appeared in Venice in 1536. It was a manuscript newspaper, intended for public reading and it contained the general informative news regarding the war of the Venetians and the Turks. Journals and weeklies also were then published. After the Freedom of Press (1682), a large number of periodicals flourished in different fashions. Advertisements began to be a feature of the papers. Soon there were published daily newspapers. The first regular English daily newspaper, The Daily Courant, was launched with the reign of Queen Anne in 1702. Prose narratives and prose forms were published in big numbers. The most important contributors in 18th century English prose were Richard Steele and Joseph Addison. The well known periodicals of the period were- The Tatler, The Spectator, The Guardian, The Englishman, The Reader, The Plebeian. Steele is remarkable for his witty prose and humorous style. His characters are also humorous. Addison wrote four hundred essays in all which are of almost uniform length, of nearly unvarying excellence of style and of a wide variety of subject. Most of his compositions deal with topical subjects-fashion, head dresses, practical jokes, and polite conversation

A number of writers wrote historical during the 18th century. Their prose has rare charm and excellence. Edward Gibbon, Robertson and Hume are some of the great historians of the age. Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Hume's History of England and Robertson's History of Scotland

are some of the masterpiece of historical prose.

Some literary genres of the period also contributed much to the rapid development of prose. The Restoration Age is often called the age of satire, history and comedy. The facts of everyday life were recorded. There were many writers of diaries and memories. For example, the Earl of Glarendon wrote the History of the Civil War. Peppy wrote his diary and Fox kept his journal. They have given vivid account of the life of the times. Similarly, the Restoration Age is also a great era of English biography. Sir William Temple is famous for writing biographical work. All these genres needed prose as their medium of expression. In addition, the dramatists of the age also contributed much to prose. They wrote their comedies in polished and refined prose.

Further, the chief outlets for the periodicals and the soil in which the ideas introduces in the essays took root were the coffee houses, the intellectual and social centres of the eighteenth century. Coffee had been brought into England about the middle of the preceding century and by the early 1700's had become an institution. Coffee houses were the chief gathering places for men of letters and were the natural centres for the dissemination of ideas and information. Each coffee house had its own clientele and discussion was on topics of interest and import to the particular trade or social group that belonged there.

Finally, Like the readers, the publishers too emerged on the scene in the 18th century. The great increase in the readers caused increase in the number of the publishing houses. The book sellers emerged as the new patrons of literature. The writers choose prose to write easily and speedily. They wrote according to the new readers of common standard. They wrote bulky books as they were paid by pages.

Thus, a number of factors made far reaching changes in the English prose. These can be noted in the works of the prose writers of the period. Dryden wrote fine prose. Dr Johnson

called him the 'father of modern prose'. His prose style is flexible and simple. Essay on Satire and Preface to Fables can be given as examples of his fine prose works. In his prose, he developed a clear, professional style, in which he adhered to the patterns and the rhythm of ordinary speech.

Jonathan Swift attained a mastery of English prose. He wrote excellent prose. One of his excellent works is The Battle of Books. It deals with the dispute between the ancient and modern authors. Swift's style is lucid, terse, precise, satirical and allegorical. He selects words that convey his intended meaning perfectly. His Gulliver's Travels is a highly satirical work. It is liked by both children and adults.

Various types of prose were written in the 18th century. The prose of the 18th century has great variety. Critical prose was found during this period. Dr Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare serves as an example of this fact. , Biographical prose too was written during in the age. Dr Johnson's work Lives of the Poets and Boswell's Life of Dr Johnson are the best example of such type of prose. Addison, Steele, Dr Johnson and Goldsmith contributed a great deal to the periodical essays. The Tatler, The Spectator, The Rambler, The Idler etc. are periodicals of the period. Prose was also used in writing letters and memoirs in the period. Horace Walpole, Mary Clavering, Philip Stanhope etc. are the major writers of this kind of prose. The name of Dr Johnson can also be mentioned in this regard. His letter to Letter to Lord Chesterfield shows himself as a writer of letters and memoirs. It is a monumental work in itself. A number of writers wrote historical prose during the 18th century. Their prose has rare charm and excellence. Edward Gibbon, Robertson and Hume are some of the great historians of the age. Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Hume's History of England and Robertson's History of Scotland are some of the masterpieces of historical prose. The age of Johnson produced

political prose. Edmund Burke and Bolingbroke are the prominent writers of the age who wrote political prose. Their works have political insight.

The 18th century is the age of prose fiction. It is the golden age of fiction. Many writers wrote prose fiction in the age. The greatest of all are the four wheels of the novel- Richardson, Smollett, Sterne and Fielding who contributed a great deal to English Fiction in prose. It was also in this age that the Gothic Novel was written with enthusiasm. Mrs. Radcliffe, Horace Walpole and M. G. Lewis are some of the writers of Gothic novel of the age.

Thus prose developed very rapidly during the eighteenth century. Several factors contributed to its growth and it developed in the hands of great prose masters of the period. It was not so great in the previous period or in the succeeding one. It laid down the base for modern prose.

Reason of the eighteenth century English literature:

The Restoration period is mainly the age of prose and the fact was caused by the simplicity of language. The fancy of the Elizabethan age was opposed by the reason of this age. Dryden writes with his reason in a simple and lucid language. So he is called "the father of modern English prose".

The eighteenth century literature was mainly the product of reason and intellect. Pope and his followers gave more importance to reason in their modes of thinking and expressing. Reason may be interpreted as intellect, rationalism or good sense. It was an intellectual and cultural movement in the eighteenth century that emphasized reason over superstition and science over blind faith. Philosophers and scientists of the period widely circulated their ideas through meetings at scientific academics, Masonic lodges, literary salons, coffee houses and in printed books, journals and pamphlets. It was in opposition to sentimentalism and even to imagination. The search for

rationality began in the age of Dryden and culminated in the age of Pope. The supremacy of reason was rarely challenged. The reign of reason marks the literature of the period. People believed in the advancement of human mind. W. H. Hudson describes the age in the following line-

"It is a literature of intelligence, of wit, and fancy not a literature of emotion, passion or creative energy."

Some critics like A. C. Ward and Edith Sitwell do not agree to call the age "an age of reason." According to them this age too has eccentricities. This may be true but the dominant mood of the age was one of "Reason and Intellectuality".

The above mentioned glorification of reason in the Neo-classical age also manifests itself in the form of the stress laid on the imitation of the ancients (Greek and Roman authors). It was thought contrary to be led by one's own eccentricities. Too much subjectivity was considered irrational. The writers of the age copied good taste and reason of ancients. The ancients were taken as guides and models. Thus, reason was mostly borrowed from the ancient masters.

The scientific spirit of the age also contributed a great deal to the rationality and realism in poetry. The Royal Society for science affected the poetry of the age. Poetry as a result, became intellectual and argumentative.

The doctrines like "first-follow Nature" and "natural morality" of the eighteenth century reflect reason. Pope's Nature was not "Nature" like that Wordsworth or of Coleridge. The new-classical poets were not much interested in forests, trees and birds. For them "Nature indicated" a rational and intelligible moral order in the universe. Even in the field of religion, reason ruled the roost. The doctrine of the reason-loving priests was repudiated by orthodox theologians not passionately but with reason. The product of a search for a natural-rational-religion was Deism, which, although never an organized cult or

movement, conflicted with Christianity for two centuries, especially in England and France. For the Deist, a very few religious truths sufficed, and they were truths felt to be manifest to all rational being.

One more factor which contributed to reason is the adherence of the authors to rules derived from the ancients. This made the literature of the time formal and artificial. "Correctness school" also contributed to the element of reason. "Correctness" means strict care and accuracy in poetic technique. The use of reason made the authors of the age formal and artificial. They lost their individuality which then became the hallmark of the Romantic Age.

Conclusion :

Thus, the eighteenth century is doubtlessly called the Age of Prose and Reason. Prose developed very rapidly in the century. It was a popular form of expression for the famous writers such as Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, Jonathan Swift, Edmund Burke, Dr Johnson, Daniel Defoe, John Arbuthnot, Edmund Burke, Gibbon etc. It was a time of reason, enlightenment and social change and these values were reflected in the 18th century English prose. Arnold rightly says, "The Restoration marks the real moment of birth of our modern English Prose."

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Digital Payments in India and its Impact on the Indian Economy

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Introduction

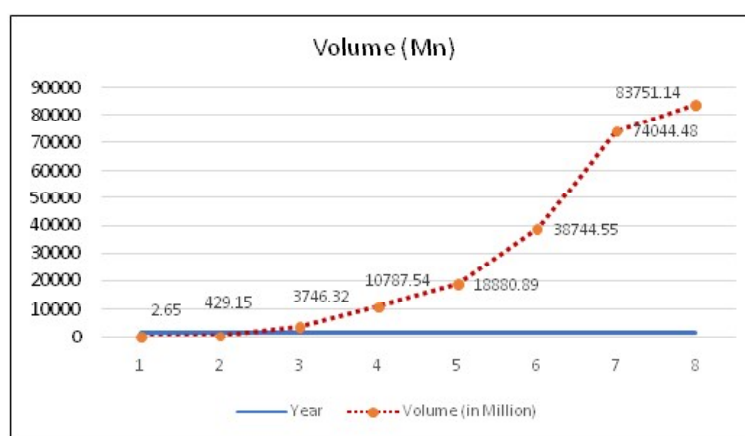
Digital payments have become integral part of modern financial landscapes, offering swift, secure, and convenient electronic transactions that transcend traditional methods. This global shift towards digital transactions have been accelerated by the widespread adoption of internet and mobile technologies, reshaping financial practices across the world.

According to a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total value of digital payments in the country increased from Rs. 2,070 billion in March 2016 to Rs. 4,375 billion in March 2017, a growth of 111%. The growth continued in subsequent years, and the total value of digital payments reached Rs. 6,207 billion in March 2018 and Rs. 8,207 billion in March 2019.

One of the main drivers of this growth has been the adoption of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). UPI has emerged as a popular digital payment system in India. UPI is a real-time payment system that allows users to transfer money between bank accounts instantly. UPI was launched by the

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016 and has seen tremendous growth since then. UPI has become a globally recognised success story in India. According to data from NPCI, the total number of UPI transactions grew from 0.9 billion transactions in 2017 to 22.3 billion transactions in 2021, a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 213.7%. The following graph shows the growth of UPI transactions in India from 2016 to 2023.

Graph 1 Showing Digital Payments in India



Source: National Informatics Centre, Govt of India

* 1= 2016, 2= 2017, 3= 2018, 4=2019, 5=2020,
6=2021, 7=2022, 8=2023

Review of Literature

Kartikeya Bolar (2014) in his research paper "End-user Acceptance of Technology Interface in Transaction Based Environment" stated that evaluation of their technology interface based on the features and various quality dimensions to make strategic decisions in improving technology interfaces and

compete on various quality dimensions.

A.Martina Franciska & Dr. S. Sahayaselvi (2017) the payment through digital mode has developed in a number of ways and customers are being benefited by digitisation. As the infrastructure to support digital mechanism is expanding, the digital payments to increase in future.

M. Dadhich, M. S. Pahwa, S. S. Rao (2018) studied the issues influencing the acceptance of digital payment system in general and findings of the study depicted four independent variables namely security system, government regulations, convenience, productivity & flexibility were significantly associated with consumer's intention towards using digital payment mode than technical know-how and internet access.

V. Achutamba, Dr. CH. Hymavathi (2022) stated that despite of various challenges in order to move towards digital payment mechanism, the Covid19 pandemic has taken one step ahead for venturing into cashless economy.

Objectives of the Study

The study which is based on the secondary data aims to study the following objectives:

1. To study the evolution of digital payment infrastructure in India.
2. To study the impact of digital payment system in the economy.

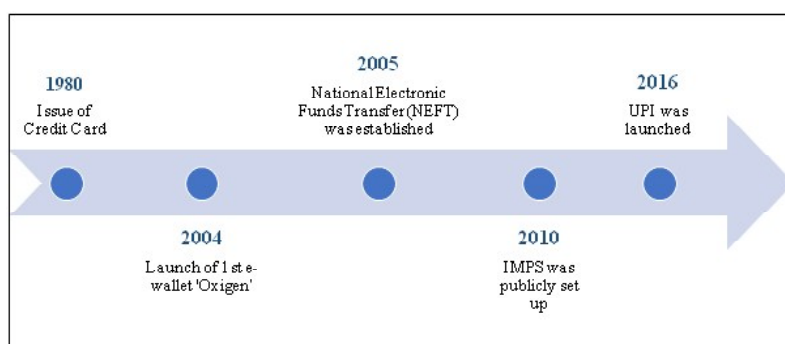
Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data. The data were collected from research articles, websites of Reserve Bank of India, National Informatics Centre, National Payments Corporation of India and web articles. The data were presented mostly in descriptive form.

Evolution of Digital Payment Infrastructure

The payment mechanism which has been prevailing in the country today are not the result of one day. It started with

barter system and subsequently changed to metal and paper currency. With the innovation in technology, economy has seen tremendous shift in payment and transfer of money from one individual to another. Banking sector has integrated and utilised digital technologies to enhance customer experiences, streamline operations and improve overall efficiency.



India has witnessed significant growth in the number of digital transactions since 2010. During financial year 2010-11, the number of digital transactions in the country was 4.98 billion, valued at Rs. 96 lakh crores (approximately US\$ 1.3 trillion). In financial year 2020, the number of transactions surged to 16.23 billion, with the value increasing to Rs. 3,435 lakh crore (approximately US\$ 45.9 trillion). This represented a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 43% in value and 12.54% in the volume of transactions over financial year 2010-2020 (the last 10 years).

The launch of Unified Interface Payment (UPI) mechanism in the economy has played a significant role towards promotion of virtual monetary transactions. Currently, a total of 297 banks are linked to the UPI platform; there are around 46 payment service providers and 251 issuers.

When the UPI was launched, the number of transactions was barely 0.10 million in October 2016. Driven by the rise in

the awareness of the importance of the UPI and its accessibility, the transactions volume increased rapidly. The number of transactions increased sharply in October 2017 (almost 800x than that in 2016). The trend continued in the following years, with the number increasing more than two times. In October 2021, the number of transactions was around 4.2 billion. This represented a CAGR of more than 700% from 2016. The UPI is mostly used for making low-value payments, and hence, the number of transactions is high in India.

Impact of Digital Payment Mechanism

The Indian economy is growing fast, and digitalization will play a major role in driving the Indian economy. With digitalization, the amount of black money in the market can be reduced. Also, it helps to control unauthorized transactions that can be conducted easily through cash. Moreover, digital payments would also boost the number of taxpayers in the country.

One of the major benefits of digital payments and transactions is efficiency. With improved efficiency, new businesses can be set up. The MSME sector can benefit largely from digital payments and the UPI. As the MSME sector heavily contributes to the Indian economy, digital payments can create a huge positive impact on the Indian economy.

However, it is also to be worth mentioning that digital payment infrastructure has also brought major challenges such as security, digital literacy along with the benefits. As per a report (Lyra, 2021), 52% of people in India does not know how to protect themselves against cyber fraud and cyber-crime. India comes on second position after US as far as hacking is concerned. Although fraud on big scale is limited in India but overall security for online payment is in infancy in India. The reasons for frauds in online payments are due to insufficient investment in security technology and lack of awareness of people with respect to cyber

frauds and cyber-crimes.

Conclusion

Digital payments have grown sharply in the past few years and the payments industry in India is expected to grow to US\$ 700 billion in 2022 (as per India Brand Equity Foundation). The pandemic gave a strong boost to the Indian digital payments industry and increasingly more users are switching to digital modes every day. As part of aggressively working towards achieving a digital economy, the government of India has launched various initiatives to promote the use of digital payments. The DigiDhan, Cashless India etc are some of the schemes launched with aim of accelerating digitalization. In anticipation of growth in the adoption of cryptocurrencies, the Indian government, in its recent budget, announced the acceptance of cryptocurrency, with a solid tax regime in place.

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RECONSTRUCTION OF HISTORY IN THE NOVEL KALPURUSH

Dr. Montu Kumar Borah
Dr. Bidisha Buragohain

History is the reconstruction of past. The approaches to the interpretation of the past and the methods of constructing it have differed from civilization to civilization. So too have the methods of constructing it. The aim of the history has been to bare the past completely on the basis of a neatly articulated frame of reference. Each civilization's perception has depended on its peculiar conceptions of time, space, change and self or identity. A historian does not use all the references of the past that he has collected. The constitution of historical facts has always been a matter of selection and point of view. Therefore, the idea is gaining ground that a wholly objective historical record is a fallacy. There cannot be perfectly true past but only competing construction of it with various levels and kinds of empirical support. History is increasingly being seen as different from the past as only one possible mode of constructing it. There is a close relationship between Literature and History. The historians

have to depend on literature while they have written the incidents of past. For example, the Indian Itihasas and Puranas are set in the timeless dimension of the ever present.

RECONSTRUCTION OF HISTORY IN NOVEL

Novel is one of the popular genres of modern literature. Besides the historians, the novelists have attempted to reconstruct the past from indigenous perspective. When a novelist has introduced the incidents of past in his novel, then the three layers of time period have connected there- the determined time period when the historical incidents have been happened, second is the writer's time period and the third is the reader's time period. Sometimes; we have seen the differences between the writer's time period and the reader's time period distinctly in the novel. That is why a novelist can reconstruct the history by his novel. Sometimes the novelist reconstructs the unseen past with the help of myth and legends. On the other hand, novel is a creative literature, so we have seen the writer's imagination in it. The writers can include different characters, themes and incidents in their novel. Therefore different novelist can adopt different type of skill to introduce the subject matter in their novel. For these reasons, we have seen so many differences between two novels in same background and same subject matter but written by two different writers. The novelists can reconstruct the historical incidents in their novel. The writer's time period, their perception and their writing skill play an important role while they reconstruct the past in their novels. There is a difference between historical novel and reconstruction of history in novel. All historical novels are the reconstruction of past but all the novels where we have seen the reconstruction of past are may not be historical novel.

Sir Walter Scott's Waverley (1814) is the first historical novel in western literature. In Indian literature, reconstruction of history in novel is commenced through Durgeshnandini (1865)

written by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay. (Sen 2011:165) In Assamese literature, the method of reconstructing the history by novel is commenced through Padmanath GohainBarua's Bhanumoti (1814) and Lakshminath Bezbarooa's Padumkonwari (1814). The method of reconstructing the history through novel in Assamese literature is established by Rajanikanta Bordoloi. He reconstructed a part of historical time in his novels Manomoti (1900), Rangili(1925), Radha Rukminir Ran (1925), Nirmal Bhakat (1926), Tamreswarir Mandir (1926), Danduwa Droh (1928) and Rahdoi Ligiri (1930).

RECONSTRUCTION OF HISTORY IN KALPURUSH

Debendranath Acharya is a renowned name of Assamese literature through his novels, short stories, poems and articles. But he is basically known as a novelist. He wrote popular Assamese novels like Anya Yug Anya Purush (1970), Kalpurush (1976) and Jangam (1982). Debendranath Acharya was posthumously awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 1984 for his novel Jangam. In his novels, Acharya attempted to explain the history with his own perception. We'll try to discuss the reconstruction of history in KalPurush through this paper.

The narration of the novel Kalpurush is starts with the description of the war between Jayantia-Kacharis and Ahoms and it ends with the description of the war time of Mughal and Ahoms in Saraighat. The various incidents of the history of Assam between 1639 AD and 1673 AD are presents in the novel.

The character Nadai Sanjati plays an important role in the novel Kalpurush. It is also the main character of the novel. According to the novel, Sanjati means the most faithful person of the Ahom Swargadeo. The word Sanjati have seen in the Assam Buranji found in Sukumar Mahanta's house .(Bhuyan 2010:78) The word Sanjati is also found in Ahomor Din by Hiteswar Barbaruah.(Barbaruah 2013:127). When Lachit Borphukan was sick in the time of the war Saraighat; Nadai

Sanjati helped him to go to war through the boat.(Rajkumar 2013:551). The Novelist reconstructs the character Nadai Sanjati to describe that special time period of Assam History from 1639 AD and 1673 AD. The writer's thinking is also reflects in the novel- "It is not the real history written by the Likharus with their own perspective. It is not the real history with the number of horse-elephant or counting of day-month-year or other materials. The real reference of the history is the mind of the people, their thinking, their wish, their greed, jealousy etc." (Acharya 2007:01).

Generally, the political incidents are written in history. There is not found the mental situation of the people. But the novel reflects the mental situation of the characters. For example, Swargadeo Jaydhwaj Singha had sent the Pikchai Chetia Phukan into prison. It is the true incident of the history. According to the novel, Aikunwari (the queen) requested Swargadeo to make him free from the prison. The novelist describes that there is a relation between Aikunwari and Morongi Patar and Pikchai Chetia Phukan had known about the relation. So Aikunwari requested Swargadeo to free him from the prison. It is the addition of the novelist in the novel. The novelist reconstruct the incident through his imagination. Describing the incident, the novelist also reconstructs some character like Foringa, Gendhela etc. which have not seen in history.

After the death of King Pratap Singha, his son surampha became King. But the Dangariyas were displeased on him. So they had to drive away him from the reign and his son Su-Ten-Pha became king. With this true incident of the history, the novelist add some another incidents through his imagination using the character Nodai Sanjati.

According to the history, when Mirjhumla invaded Assam, Swargadeo Jaydhwaja Singha had gone away from his Capital Garhgaon. In the novel, the writer describes that before

going from Gargaon, King Jaydhwaja Singha had hide his Hengdan, Kalhira and Somdeo to cover with earth underground in the witness of Nodai Sanjati. When the King had to abscond from Garhgaon, his mental condition is also narrates in the novel. (Acharya op.cit:72)

The novelist tries to draw the mental situation of the historical characters in the novel which is ignored in the history. It is definitely true that there is always written about the king or nobles in the history, the general people are really ignored. Though the Sanjatis are the faithful Khels of the Ahom period, but there is no clear description about them in history. The novelist describes the loyalty and importance of the Sanjatis during the Ahom period through the character Nodai Sanjati.

The novelist narrates the incidents of the novel in first person. Nodai Sanjati is the narrator of these incidents. Narrating the incidents through a narrator is an ancient tradition of Assamese folk culture. For example, we have seen this tradition in Ojapali, one of the oldest performing arts of Assam. Ojapali focuses on the stories from the epics and puranas through the conversations of Oja and Pali. Similarly, we can compare the character of ascetic in Assamese culture. An ascetic narrates the incidents through the song. To follow such folk cultures, the author used the character named Nodai Sanjati who is not so popular in history.

In the novel, the author analyzed the historical past in the context of present time. The narration of the novel is originated through the recollection of Nodai Sanjati. Nodai Sanjati narrates his speech by various style of speaking. The historical incidents are narrated by the opinion of a narrator, so the traditional order of describing historical events are not followed in the novel.

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Promoting Quality Culture in Higher Education : Role of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan in Assam

Noni Rajkhowa

Introduction:

Education is a life-long process. It starts from birth to till death. It is a potent tool for individual and social development. It is a vital component of human capital formation and is also a prerequisite for the growth and development of a nation. Education is considered as basic right. It is also the essential tool to identify, develop and transform the human capacities and potentialities into an efficient human resource. Besides human resource development, education extends its contribution to each and every aspect of the society including economic development. It is a means of empowerment and potent tool of bringing desirable social change and to promote modernisation.

Among the different stages and phases of education, higher education plays a significant role in this regard. Because, it enables individual to expand their knowledge and skills, express their thoughts clearly, comprehend abstract concepts and theories along with improving their quality of life. It is that level of

education which provides top level manpowers like doctors, engineers, scientists, bureaucrats, technocrats and teachers etc. who are responsible for accelerating the process of development of future. Through higher education, a nation can address the issues relating equality, accessibility, quality, values and development. One cannot think of development of a nation without quality development of education, particularly in higher education.

After independence, India has made several efforts to improve and promotes higher education. The Report of the University Education Commission popularly known as the Radhakrishnan Commission (1948-49) emphasized to develop wisdom and knowledge, democratic values, peace and harmony, dynamic and changeable attitude, social efficiency as well as national and international fraternity among the students through higher education with quality concern of higher education. The Report of the Education Commission-1964-66, Government of India is also considered a landmark of Indian higher education. The main objectives of the commission were to increase the productivity and fostering modernization of education in the country. It has recommended that the higher education is a potent tool through which an individual can cultivate new knowledge and to interpret old knowledge and beliefs in the light of new needs and discoveries, develop his or her potentialities fully by cultivating physical fitness, right interest, attitudes, moral as well as intellectual values. Moreover, the objectives of higher education is to provide society with competent and trained manpower in arts, science, agriculture, medicine, technology and various other professions. Higher education is also a means to promote equality and social justice in the society. Higher Education provides people with an opportunity to reflect on the critical, social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues that changing humanity. It contributes to the national

development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skill. Being at the apex of the educational ladder, it has also a key role in producing teachers for the education system (The National Policy on Education, 1986). The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 also emphasized five principles of goals for higher education which include greater access, equality, quality and excellence, relevance and social values. NPE-1986 also suggested to invest in education and to promote research at the University level. Gnanam Committee (1993) recommended flexibility and autonomy for ensuring academic excellence in higher education. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC), 2005 took into account the economic and social forces operating in the country. The NKC further recommended the expansion, excellence as well as the inclusion of higher education. The commission also suggested to restructuring of curricula to meet the demand for multidisciplinary professionals, criteria-based resources allocation to ensure maintenance to promote excellence in higher education. Regarding the quality status of higher education survey conducted by University Grant Commission (2007) reveals that all the indicators like faculty strength, library facilities, computer availabilities students-teacher ratio in higher education is below standard and is in need of up gradation. It is also seen that 90% of the college and 68% Universities across the country are of poor quality and the dropout rate among ST is maximum (61.5%) followed by SC (51.21% and OBC (50.9%). The fact indicates the need for improving the quality of higher education in our country (Gupta; 2012).

Now the question is how far the higher education in India, is producing manpower of high quality. Quality higher education is considered as one of the major element that guarantees sustainable economic and social development at the regional and national levels. Quality education is possible when

facilities, resources and technologies are upgraded. Moreover, adequate buildings, classrooms, laboratories and equipments are some of the basic components of effective learning environment in college and universities but quality gap is seen in Indian higher education system with respect to infrastructure and learning resources, curriculum design and development, teaching, learning and evaluation, research consultancy and extension, student support and progression, governance, management and leadership.

So, India suffers from quality challenges in higher education. Hence, it needs to take a hard look into its educational system and work towards quality enhancement especially in higher education. To meet those challenges, assessment and accreditation of higher education institutions by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is essential for enhancing quality improvement. RUSA (Rastriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) is a centrally sponsored flagship, integrated and comprehensive scheme for the upliftment of higher education in the Country. The MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) approved the NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) on 29th September, 2015 to rank the higher education institutions across the country.

Review of Related Literature:

Gupta (2012) studied on quality assurance and role of different stakeholders to observe the issue of higher education in the India. The study revealed that in the present competitive world, the basic considerations of higher education are the quality and relevance to the masses. The study pointed that quality improvement is the prime concern of the contemporary times. The study also mentioned that growth and development of a nation largely depends upon the quality of education, especially the higher education.

Majaw (2015) conducted a study on progress and

problems of higher education in Meghalaya: A case study of North Eastern Hill University and its affiliated colleges. The study adopted the interview schedule and self developed questionnaire for collecting the required data. The findings of the study revealed that there is a lack of necessary facilities in class rooms such as furniture and fixtures and others in the department. 52% of the university teachers viewed that there is a lack of facilities in laboratories in respect of furniture, fixture, equipments and good laboratory practices. The study mentioned about the lack of additional facilities for sports and co-curricular activities also. The study also mentioned that the facilities for differently abled students are still lacking behind.

Thamarasserri (2016) studied the Indian higher educational institutions and their thrust areas with contemporary changes. The study examined the quality gaps of higher education with respect to curriculum design and development, teaching-learning and evaluation, research consultancy and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, student support and progression, governance, management and leadership. The study also emphasised the need for reforms in the higher education in relation to enrolment rate, financial resources, academic growth and excellence, teachers' quality, better utilisation of ICT, infrastructure in academic and administration, promote employability of graduates, need of continuous assessment of higher educational institutions and efficient and effective managerial system etc.

Dahal and Behara (2016) studied on significance of RUSA in higher education level. The study mentioned that to provide better quality in higher education in India, introduction of RUSA was a crucial step. The study also explained that to attain greater access and quality in higher education, RUSA was the most significant initiatives. The study highlighted the challenges prevalent in the higher education system, along with

suggestions to make higher education accessible, equitable and quality oriented.

Devi and Bushan (2018) studied about RUSA and its significance as well as challenges in the process of attaining inclusive growth of higher education. The study explained the conceptual framework of RUSA. The study revealed that RUSA was a completely novel approach to provide strategic funding to eligible state level higher educational institutions. Besides, it focuses on equity based development in teaching cum learning, research and quality in higher education. The study observed that after successful implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in the primary and secondary education respectively, RUSA is a flagship programme of Government of India for overall development of the higher education in India to compete with rapid global changes.

Bankira (2019) conducted a study on higher education in Jharkhand: imagining access and excellence in the light of RUSA and stated that, regarding required adequate infrastructural facilities and innovation in the institutions 70% students were agreed, 17.5% students were neutral and only 12.5% were disagreed. The study also pointed out that in relation to the facilities provided by the institutions, 84.5% of the students were agreed, 5% students were neutral and only 10.5% were disagreed. Regarding the adequacy of student welfare measures, personal enhancement and development schemes i.e. scholarships, coaching classes, counseling and soft skill courses etc., 65% of the students were agreed, 15% of the students were neutral and only 20% were disagree.

Laltlanzauvi (2020) conducted a study on perception of stakeholders on quality of higher education in Mizoram in the context of RUSA. The study aims to know about the status of implementation of RUSA project/programme in general degree

college of Mizoram and to find out the perceptions of the stakeholders mainly students and teachers on the quality of colleges in Mizoram with respect to infrastructural facilities. 88% of the students reported that it was good, 14.44% of the students opined that it was poor and only 16.7% reported it as very poor. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the students were satisfied with the quality of the infrastructure and instructional facilities. The study also revealed that regarding the computer facilities and internet connections in the colleges' majority of students viewed that it is very poor. The findings of the study revealed that the transportation facilities in the general degree college of Mizoram were very poor. In this study regarding teachers' perceptions on the quality infrastructure and infrastructural facilities, only 10% teachers revealed that the overall quality of infrastructure were very good. While majority of them i.e. 52.75 % perceived that facilities are good.

Significance of the Study:

RUSA is a significant programme which has been launched to bring a national mandate to reform higher education. Therefore, an attempt has been made by the author to give overview of RUSA. Inclusion of different aspects i.e. finance, infrastructure, research, teaching-learning, innovation and equity initiatives etc. will give a holistic view about the stated aspects. The study will be helpful to have an understanding of the historical perspectives, inherent philosophies and modes of operation of the RUSA scheme. The study will also provide an insight regarding the relevance of the RUSA in the contemporary higher education scenario in Assam.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To give an overview of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)
2. To study the initiatives under RUSA 1.0 in higher education, Assam

Methodology:

The study is descriptive in nature based on secondary sources of data collected from books, journals, articles, periodicals, reports published from relevant sources. Besides, data has been collected from websites and internet also.

Analysis:**Emergence of RUSA:**

The 12th Five Year Plan adopted during 2012-2017, proposed a holistic, flagship and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) named as Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). The purpose of the scheme was to impart and ensure access, equity and quality higher education in the nation. The Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE), Government of India which is the apex advisory body regarding policy matters in the education sector, provided in-principle approval to RUSA in its meeting held on 8-11-2012. As a part of 12th FYP, the National Development Council (NDC) has approved this scheme and placed in the Cabinet for final approval. Subsequently it was approved by the Cabinet on 20-06-2013 for implementation in the 12th FYP period. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved the scheme on 11th September, 2013. Finally, with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 3rd October, 2013, RUSA became the final tire of the CCSs of the MHRD presently known as Education Ministry which started with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) progressed eventually to Rashtriya Madhaymik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA). All the states have been addressed regarding the implementation of RUSA and their willingness to participate in the project/scheme.

Vision:

The vision of RUSA, intends to attain three aspects of higher education i.e.

- Access
- Equity

- Excellence

To achieve these three aspects of higher education, the Vision of RUSA has given stress on performance, clarity, liability and generosity of State higher education sector.

Objectives:

The Major objectives are to:

- i) Improve the overall quality of existing state institution by ensuring that all institution conform to prescribed norms and standards and adopt accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework.
- ii) Usher transformative reforms in the state higher education system by creating a facilitating institutional structure for planning and monitoring at the state level promoting autonomy in state universities and improving governance in institutions.
- iii) Ensure academic and examination reform in the higher educational institutions.
- iv) Enable conversion of some of the Universities into research universities at par with the best in the world.
- v) Create opportunities for states to undertake reforms in the affiliation system in order to ensure that the reforms and resource requirements of affiliated colleges and adequately met.
- vi) Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels of employment.
- vii) Create an enabling atmosphere in the higher educational institutions to devote themselves to research and innovations.
- viii) Expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions, in order to achieve enrolment targets.
- ix) Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education

by facilitating access to higher quality institutions in Urban and Semi-Urban areas, creating opportunities for students from rural areas to get access to better quality institutions and setting up institutions in un-served and un-deserved areas.

- x) Improve equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially backward classes promote inclusion of women, minorities and differently abled persons.

Component of RUSA:

The followings are the primary components of RUSA that capture the key action and funding areas that must be pursued for the fulfilment of the targets. (Source: RUSA, Draft guidelines for consultation, MHRD, 2013, India)

- Upgradation of existing autonomous colleges to universities.
- Conversion of colleges to cluster Universities.
- Infrastructure grants to Universities.
- New Model Colleges (General).
- Upgradation of existing degree colleges to model colleges
- New colleges (professional).
- Infrastructure grants to colleges.
- Research, innovation and quality improvement.
- Equity initiatives.
- Faculty recruitment support
- Faculty improvement.
- Vocationalisation of higher education.
- Leadership development of Educational Administrators.
- Institutional restructuring & reforms.
- Capacity building & preparation, data collection and planning.

Funding Strategy of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA):

For implementation of plan and programmes at any level of education system fund is considered as the most essential component. Funding for RUSA is shared between centre and state. The funding is provided in the ratio of 60 : 40 for general category states, 90 : 10 for North Eastern States, J & K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, 100% for Union Territories and 65 : 35 for other states and 50 : 50 for private aided institutions (source : Report of MHRD, 2013). The central funding would be norm based and outcome dependent. The funding would flow from the Central Ministry through the State Governments or Union Territories to the State Higher Education Councils. The funding to states would be made on the basis of Critical Appraisal of State Higher Education Plans (SHEPs), which would describe each state's strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education.

Requisite Criteria to Receive Grant from Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA):

State Governments would have to fulfil some conditions to receive grant from RUSA. These conditions are as

- They would have to create State Higher Education Council.
- Filling up of faculty position
- Having mandatory accreditation
- Governance and administrative reform.
- Academic reform.

State Universities would have to introduce Semester System, Choice-Based Credit system, being curriculum development and overall admission procedure in a transparent manner. Moreover, each institution will have to prepare an Institutional Development Plan (IDP).

Grants of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan in Assam:

RUSA focuses on state higher education institutions by ensuring that all higher education institutions must adopt accreditation as a part of quality assurance framework. So, NAAC accreditation is the main criteria for receiving RUSA's grants in phase wise by the state higher education institutions. NAAC has accredited the colleges of Assam which have been receiving RUSA's grants in phase-wise. In Assam, Rusa has completed the process of providing financial assistance to the colleges in the first phase (i.e. RUSA -1.0) under its various components. These components are

- Infrastructure grants to colleges.
- Infrastructure grant to Universities.
- Up gradation of existing degree colleges to model degree colleges.
- Establishing new model degree colleges.
- Equity initiatives.
- New professional colleges.

(source: RUSA, Assam)

The total fund has approved for Assam for the plan period (from 2014-17) is Rs 230.00 crore of which central share is Rs 207.00 crore and state share is Rs. 23 crore (Source: Hand Book of RUSA, Assam, 2016-17)

Initiatives of RUSA in Assam:

The Assam State Higher Education Council Act, 2017 has received the assent of the Governor of Assam on 6th April, 2017. The constitution of this Act is the prime need for receive grant from RUSA as a funding scheme for higher educational institution of Government of India. The Assam State Higher Educational Council Bill was passed to undertake strategic intervention for the improvement of higher education in the state.

RUSA, a comprehensive, integrated and flagship scheme

has been implemented by the Government of Assam to ensure access, equity, expansion and excellence in higher education in the state. Under the Higher Education Department, RUSA, Assam Plays a vital role in mobilizing the education towards research and development through its various key components. In Assam various initiatives have been taken by RUSA 1.0 under its different components. (Source: RUSA, Assam) These initiatives are

i) Infrastructural Grants to the Colleges:

In Assam 87 number of institutions has received financial assistance of Rs. 2.00 crore each from RUSA 1.0 under the component of infrastructure grants to colleges for filling up the infrastructural gaps of the institutions. Out of these 87 number of colleges, 68 number of college has constructed new classrooms. During RUSA 1.0, 76 numbers of colleges has received sports facilities, laboratories and lab equipment. During RUSA 1.0, 20 numbers of colleges has received financial support for laboratories and lab equipment. 16 number of computers lab has constructed. During RUSA 1.0, 85 number of colleges has purchased e-resource facilities and books for their libraries. (Source: RUSA Assam)

ii) Establishment of New Model Degree Colleges and up gradation of existing Degree Colleges to Model Degree Colleges.

In Assam, during RUSA 1.0, to reduce the regional imbalances in Higher Education, 12 number of New Model Degree Colleges were approved for establishment at educationally backward districts. Out of these 12 number of New Model Degree Colleges, 5 Model Degree Colleges were renamed as Pandit Deendayal Upadhaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya and are functioning from academic session 2018-19. 5 number of existing degree colleges situated at rural areas, tea-garden areas, scheduled Tribe/Scheduled Caste prone areas were

supported for grants of Rs. 4.00 crore each under the component of up gradation of Existing Degree Colleges to Model Degree Colleges of RUSA.

iii) Filling up the Infrastructural Gap of Universities of the State

During RUSA 1.0 phase in Assam, 2 number of Universities has received financial support under the component of infrastructure grants to Universities. With these financial support, the Universities have constructed new girl's hostel, separate toilets for girls and boys, astronomical observatory centre, renovated the laboratories and university play grounds, renovated academic buildings and computer centres, purchased computers, laboratory equipments, books and journals etc.

iv) Equity Initiatives

One of the most important components of RUSA is equity initiative. Equity means giving everyone what they need to be successful. In education it means that personal or social circumstances such as gender, family background are not barriers to achieving education potential and that all individual reach at least a basic minimum level of skills. 8 number of colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University has received financial assistance under equity initiative component of RUSA 1.0. The followings are the some initiatives taken by RUSA 1.0 under this component.

- a) Disable friendly facilities.
- b) Transportation facility for the female and differently abled students.
- c) Finishing school.
- d) Language laboratory etc.

a) Disable friendly facilities:

To ensure equity in higher education 29 number of colleges has received financial assistance under the Equity Initiative component of RUSA 1-0 phase. Under this component of RUSA 1-0 special facilities have been provided for differently

abled students and girls students of poor socio-economic standards under higher education. Various facilities like Braille books, wheelchairs, hearing aids, disabled friendly toilets, ramp, audio books, disabled friendly equipments etc. have been provided for differently abled students of higher education.

b) Transportation facility for the female and differently abled students:

During RUSA 1-0 phase, under the Equity Initiative component free bus services for girls and differently abled students has been provided at Dibrugarh and Kokrajhar District on pilot basis.

c) Finishing School:

A finishing school is defined as "a school for students that emphasize training for all-round personality development, cultural as well as social activities. Specific skills are imparted as value addition. The types of courses of finishing school are soft skill, communication skills, work culture and ethics, development of positive attitude towards work, interview skills, role of technology, group discussion, mock interviews, public speaking, networking with people, incorporating spirituality etc. The targeted groups of student are economically and socially backward under graduate students of colleges.

d) Language laboratory:

The language laboratory gives every learner of any language freedom to learn at their own pace. The objective of language laboratory is to uplift the poor and backward students to give them equality of opportunity. The basic read, write and speak ability on English Language can help a poor and backward youth with a employability option. In Assam during RUSA 1.0, 4 number of colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University has received financial assistance under this component.

The salient features of a language laboratory under RUSA are:

- It is a tool designed for teaching any language.

- It helps one to learn pronunciation, accent, stress and all other aspects of the phonetics of a language.
- Effective communicative training programmes on the English language for the aspiring rural youth to enhance their employability.
- General documentation, software documentation and all forms of technical documentation can be done.
- Online courses and paperless examinations can be conducted through the language laboratory.
- The language laboratory enables one to conduct courses for various groups of people like students, faculties, business people etc.

v) Bringing Technologies to the Higher Education Institute

During RUSA 1-0 phase, 41 number of colleges has received financial assistance for providing facilities of modern technologies to the students under the component of Infrastructure Grants to College and Universities. 41 number of colleges has purchased equipment for digital classrooms, 68 number of colleges has newly constructed digital classrooms and 16 number of Computer Centers has purchased computers.

Conclusion:

The schemes of RUSA in general and RUSA Assam in particular, have ushered in a new era of development for the higher educational sector in Assam. All important issues of higher education have been addressed by the schemes through the various phases i.e. the schemes through RUSA 1.0, RUSA 2.0 and PM-USHA. It can be expected that the implementation of National Education Policy 2020 along with RUSA Assam will improve the overall quality of higher education in Assam and bring out many unforeseen, qualitative changes to higher education in Assam as much as they bring changes to the national counterpart.

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নলিনীবালা দেৱীৰ ‘এৰি অহা দিনবোৰ’ ঃ এক চমু অৱৰোকন

ড° মানজিৎ গগৈ

১৯৭৬ চনত লয়াৰ্ছ বুক ষ্টল, পাণবজাৰৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত পুথিখন হৈছে নলিনীবালা দেৱীৰ ‘এৰি অহা দিনবোৰ’। আগকথাত তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে জীৱনৰ হেজাৰ সংঘাতৰ কোব খাই স্মৃতিৰ ভঁৰালৰ বহু অভিজ্ঞতা আত্মপ্ৰত্যয় লাভ কৰা মানুহসত্ত্বা পূৰ্ণ কৰি তোলাত সহায় কৰে। তেওঁ ‘নৱযুগ’ কাকতত ধাৰাবাহিকৰূপে কেইবাটাও সংখ্যাত ‘এৰি অহা দিনবোৰ’ প্ৰকাশ পাইছিল। আধ্যাত্মিক কবি গৰাকীৰ জীৱনৰ বিভিন্ন স্তৰ তিনিটা ভাগত ভাগ কৰি উপস্থাপন কৰিছে। এই ভাগ কেইটা হৈছে — আগছোৱা, মাজছোৱা আৰু শেষ ছোৱা। বিশাল অসমী আইৰ পৰ্বত-ভৈয়াম, ঋষি-মুনিৰ আশ্ৰমৰ দৰে তপোবন ৰূপৰ শান্তিময় পূণ্য পৰিৱেশ যত প্ৰাচুৰ্য্যৰে ভৰি আছে আৰু ভোগ কৰিও শেষ কৰিব নোৱাৰি তেনে এখন অসম দেশ। কিন্তু এইবোৰো স্থায়ী নহ’ল বুলি ক্ষোভ প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। মৌসনা সুৰদী মাতে জাতিৰ ভৱিষ্যত উঠি অহা প্ৰজন্মক গুণী-জ্ঞানীসকলক আহ্বান জনাইছে প্ৰাণৰ ভাষাটিক মৰম কৰিবলৈ।

গ্ৰন্থখনৰ প্ৰথমছোৱাত তেওঁ জন্মৰ পৰা বিয়া হোৱালৈকে আৰু তাৰ পিছৰ কিছু স্মৃতি ধৰি ৰাখিছে। তেওঁৰ জন্ম ১৮১৯ চনৰ চ’ত মাহৰ মদন ব্ৰয়োদশী তিথিৰ সূৰ্যোদয়ৰ আগে আগে বুলি উল্লেখ কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ

ককাদেউতাকৰ নাম আছিল মাধৱ চন্দ্ৰ বৰদলৈ। তেখেতৰ আদি বাসভূমি শিৱসাগৰত আছিল সেই সময়ত তেওঁলোকৰ ঘৰখনৰ পৰিৱেশ দাঙি ধৰি বিভিন্ন ফলমূলৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে যিবিলাক এতিয়া লুপ্ত হ'বলৈ ধৰিছে। সেই সময়ত ভদ্ৰ ঘৰৰ ছোৱালীবোৰৰহে পৰ্দা প্ৰথা আছিল। সমাজৰ নিম্নশ্ৰেণীৰ লোকৰ পৰ্দাপ্ৰথা নাছিল। ককাদেউতাকৰ অতীত জীৱনৰ কথাবোৰ উল্লেখ কৰি অতীতৰ দুখৰ কথা আৰু শিৱসাগৰতে তেওঁ আছিল বুলি উল্লেখ কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ দেউতাক নবীন চন্দ্ৰ বৰদলৈৰ চাৰিজন ককাই-ভাই আছিল। সৰুকালৰ স্কুলীয়া শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ পৰা তেওঁ বিৰত আছিল পৰিয়ালৰ সু-পৰামৰ্শৰ বাবে।

“শৈশৱ-যৌৱনৰ দোমোজাত ভৰি দিছোঁ নৱবসন্তৰ আগমণে কিশোৰী মনত ৰং সানিছে। কেউপিনে উলহ-আনন্দ ৰসে গন্ধে ভৰা পৃথিৱীৰ সোণোৱালী ৰ'দালিৰ জিলমিলনিত জিলিকি উঠিছে। গছে-পাতে, নৈয়ে-বিলে যেনিয়েই চাওঁ তেনিয়েই দেখো নতুন ৰং, নতুন ৰূপ। ফাগুনী বতাহৰ সতে মতলীয়া মন উৰো উৰো কৰে’ এনে ভাৱত বিভোৰ হৈছিল কবি গৰাকী।

১৯০৯ চনৰ ১৬ জুলাই তাৰিখে তেখেতৰ বিবাহ সম্পন্ন হৈছিল। সেইদিনাই শিক্ষাণ্ডৰুৱে ‘চিৰায়ুস্মীত হোৱা আই বুলি আশীৰ্বাদ দিছিল। প্ৰথম শত্ৰুৰ ঘৰলৈ আহোঁতে লামডিঙৰ পৰা শিলমুণ্ডৰিলৈ ট্ৰেইনেৰে আৰু শিলমুণ্ডৰিৰ পৰা দহমাইল শিৱসাগৰলৈ গৰুৰ গাড়ীৰে গৈছিল।

তেখেতৰ প্ৰথম সন্তান উপেন্দ্ৰৰ জন্ম হৈছিল চৈধ্যবছৰ বয়সত। তাৰ পাছত ক্ৰমে পৰিত্ৰ, পুতলী আৰু উষাৰাণীৰ জন্ম হয়। ১৯১৭ চনত তেখেতৰ স্বামীৰ মৃত্যু হয়। দুৰ্গাপূজাৰ মহা অষ্টমীৰ দিনা তেখেতে পাঁচোটি সন্তানক অনাথ কৰি গুচি গ'ল। তেওঁৰ মৃত্যুৰ পাছত পুনৰ গুৱাহাটীলৈ ঘূৰি আহি পঢ়া-শুনাত ব্যস্ত হয়। দেউতাকে মহাশ্বেতা বুলি কোৱাৰে পৰা নিজকে আধ্যাত্মিকতাৰ গভীৰ তত্ত্ব অন্বেষণত আত্ম-নিয়োগ কৰিবলৈ ধৰিলে। তাৰ পাছতে তেওঁ এৰি মুগাৰ সাজ সলকাই বগা সাজ পিন্ধিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিলে। সেয়ে উল্লেখ কৰিছে ‘দুখে জুৰুলা কৰা কাঁইটীয়া বাটত বাট বোলোতেই অশান্ত প্ৰাণৰ মাহত জাগি উঠে পৰমতৃষণ, সংঘাতময় জীৱনৰ সূক্ষ্ম অনুভূতি, গৈৰিক পথৰ পৰম বাঞ্ছনীয় তৃষণত মন বিয়াকুল হৈ উঠে।’

ভাৰতৰ স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলন আৰু অসমৰ প্ৰতিনিধিৰ লগুন যাত্ৰাত তেখেতৰ পিতৃ প্ৰয়াত কৰ্মবীৰ নবীন চন্দ্ৰ বৰদলৈ সভাপতি আছিল অসম এছ'চিয়েচনৰ। মহাত্মা গান্ধী অসমলৈ আহোঁতে তেখেত তেওঁলোকৰ ঘৰত পদাৰ্পণ কৰিছিল।

১৯৩৬ চনৰ ১৬ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰীৰ কৃষ্ণ নৱমী তিথিত পুৱা দহ বজাত অসমৰ বীৰপুত্ৰ কৰ্মবীৰ নবীনচন্দ্ৰ বৰদলৈৰ মৃত্যু হয়।

তেজপুৰত থকা সময়ত তেওঁ জ্যোতিপ্ৰসাদ আগৰৱালাৰ লগত সময় অতিবাহিত কৰিছিল আৰু এটি নতুন সুৰৰ জন্ম দিলে।

শিৱসাগৰ ছোৱালী কলেজৰ মুকলিৰ বাবে শিৱসাগৰৰ জীয়াৰী হিচাপে নলিনীবালা দেৱীক আমন্ত্ৰণ জনাইছিল। সেই মতেই তেওঁ আহি এই অনুষ্ঠানভাগিত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। তেখেতে কলিকতাত থকা সময়ত প্ৰৱাসী অসমীয়াসকলে অসম সংঘ স্থাপন কৰিছিল।

অসম প্ৰাদেশিক মহিলা সমিতিৰ নগাঁও অধিৱেশনৰ সভানেত্ৰীৰ বাব লৈ অসমীয়া ভাষা শিক্ষাৰ উন্নতিৰ বাবে সকলোকে আহ্বান জনোৱাৰ লগতে নাৰী সমাজক এই সম্পৰ্কে সচেতন কৰিছিল। অসমত শিশু অনুষ্ঠান পাৰিজাত কানন মইনা মেল পৰৱৰ্তী পৰ্যায়ত মইনা পাৰিজাত গঠন হয়। ১৯৫২ চনত প্ৰথম এই অনুষ্ঠান কৰ্মবীৰ নবীন চন্দ্ৰ বৰদলৈদেৱৰ আবাসতে অনুষ্ঠিত হৈছিল। ১৯৫৪ চনত ড° ৰাজেন্দ্ৰ প্ৰসাদ গুৱাহাটীলৈ আহোঁতে পাৰিজাত কাননৰ শিশুসকলে চাৰ্কিট হাউচত তেওঁক লগ কৰিছিল। পাৰিজাতৰ প্ৰথম অধিৱেশন অনুষ্ঠিত হৈছিল ডিব্ৰুগড়ত।

অসমৰ গাঁৱৰ কথা ক'বলৈ গৈ তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে যে পাঁচ বছৰীয়া ছোৱালীৰে পৰা সকলো ছোৱালীয়েই এৰীসূতা, পাটসূতা, মুগাসূতা কটাত ব্যস্ত থাকে। কাকো ধেমালি কৰি সময় নষ্ট কৰা পৰিলক্ষিত নহ'ল। ঘৰে ঘৰে শালৰ খটখটনি।

সাহিত্য একাডেমীৰ সদস্য হিচাপে ১৯৫৫ চনত সেৱা আগবঢ়াবলৈ সৌভাগ্য ঘটে তাৰ পৰৱৰ্তী পৰ্যায়ত ১৯৬৫ চনত কিছুদিনৰ বাবে সঙ্গীত একাডেমীৰ বিষয় ববীয়াও আছিল।

১৯৫৪ চনৰ অসম সাহিত্য সভাৰ সভানেত্ৰীৰ দায়িত্ব গ্ৰহণ কৰে।

যোৰহাটত অনুষ্ঠিত হোৱা এই সাহিত্য সভাৰ সম্পাদক আছিল অতুল চন্দ্ৰ হাজৰিকাদেৱ। এই ভাষণত তেওঁ কৈছিল যে কেৱল কল্পনা স্বপ্নই সাহিত্য নহয়। মহাভাৰত সংস্কৃতিৰ সন্তান আমি, আমাৰ স্বপ্ন প্ৰেৰমাত অতীত অমৰ ভাৰত সংস্কৃতিৰ ৰক্তবীজ লুকাই আছে। সাহিত্যৰ আমোঘ মন্ত্ৰৰে দেশত শক্তিশালী জাতি গঢ়ি তুলিব পাৰিলেহে প্ৰকৃত সাহিত্য সাধনা হয়।

তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে ‘জন্মৰে পৰা ভাল পাঁও মোৰ অসমী আইৰ আকাশ বতাহ, মনোমোহাৰূপ। পৃথিৱীৰ ক’তো বিচাৰি নোপোৱা এইখন মানস স্বৰ্গ হেমন্তৰ অস্পষ্ট কুঁৱলীয়ে ঢকা পুৰতিৰ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নদৰ পাৰত থিয়হৈ মোৰ সোণৰ অসমৰ অপৰূপ শোভা চাই মুগ্ধ মন আকুল হৈ উঠে দূৰৈত লাহে লাহে দেখা দিয়া বিশাল ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ মাজত পঞ্চতীৰ্থ, উমানন্দ, ভৈৰৱ, ভদ্ৰাচল, উৰ্বশী কৰ্মশালা। পোহৰৰ তাপত কুঁৱলী আঁতৰি জিলিকি উঠে অশ্বক্লান্ত মণিকৰ্ণিকা কামাখ্যা, ভূৱনেশ্বৰী সিটো পাৰে।

এয়ে মোৰ জন্মভূমি, এয়ে মোৰ পৃথিৱীৰ ক’তো বিচাৰি নোপোৱা ওপজা ঠাই। মোৰ অসমৰ সুৱদি সুৰীয়া শুৱলা ভাষাই কাণত মৌ বৰষে, প্ৰাণত আবেগৰ কঁপনি তোলে, মনৰ বনত কল্পনাৰ সপোন ৰচে।

তেখেতে লগতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে যে সাহিত্য সাধনা মানৱ জীৱনৰ পবিত্ৰ জ্ঞান যন্ত্ৰ, সাহিত্যৰ সমজ্জ্বল পোহৰত পবিত্ৰ হেতাসকলৰ নিপ্প্ৰাণ হিয়াত ঐশ্বৰিক শক্তিয়ে সৃষ্টিৰ প্ৰেৰণা যোগায়। সাহিত্যৰ নীৰৱ ইঙ্গিত প্ৰতিফলিত হয় কবি সাহিত্যিকৰ ধ্যানী মনোজগতত, গ্লানিযুক্ত জ্ঞানৰ উধাৰ বেদীত সাহিত্যৰ বিশুদ্ধ আলোক ৰশ্মিয়ে নৱ সৃষ্টিত নতুন প্ৰেৰণা যোগায়।

প্ৰসঙ্গক্ৰমে নেফাৰ উচুপনিত উল্লেখ কৰিছে যে শিক্ষিত জনজাতীয় যুৱক লুপ্তৰ দাইয়ে অসমীয়া শুৱলা ভাষাত পৰ্বতৰ শিলে শিলে আৰু পৃথিৱীৰ হাঁহি নামৰ দুখন ডাঙৰ উপন্যাস ৰচনা কৰাৰ কথা সেই একে সময়তে অসমৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী লোকপ্ৰিয় গোপীনাথ বৰদলৈদেৱে নেফাত শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰৰ কাৰণে বহুত চেষ্টা কৰিছিল আৰু শিক্ষা বিভাগত অসম জীয়াৰী ইন্দিৰা মিৰিক নিযুক্তি দিছিল। সেই সময়তে নেফাত বহুত অসমীয়া স্কুল স্থাপন হৈছিল। ১৯৪৭ চনৰ পৰা ১৯৫০ চনলৈকে এইজন মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ দিনতে কানি অভিযানেৰে অসমত কানি নিৰ্মূল কৰি আজিৰ এই সোণৰ অসম

গঢ়িছিল।

১৯৫০ চনৰ বৰভূঁইকপৰ দিনাই তেওঁৰ মৃত্যু হোৱাত তাক পাহৰিব নোৱাৰা স্মৃতি বুলি অভিহিত কৰিছে।

বিপদে আৱৰা স্বাধীনোত্তৰ অসমত দুখন পাতনি মেলা বুলি উল্লেখ কৰি ১৯৬২ চনৰ চীনৰ আক্ৰমণৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। দ্বিতীয় পাকিস্তানৰ কাশ্মীৰ অসম আক্ৰমণ। যাৰ ফলস্বৰূপে অসমত লোকসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধিৰ বিপদ বঢ়াই তুলিলে।

তদুপৰি তেওঁ পণ্ডিত জৱাহৰলাল নেহেৰুলৈ কেইবাখনো চিঠি লিখি অসমীয়া ভাষা ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত গুৰি ধৰিছিল। নেফাৰ পৰা অসমীয়া ভাষা আঁতৰাই যেতিয়া হিন্দী ভাষা জাপি দিয়া হৈছিল তেতিয়াও তেওঁ দুখ পাইছিল আৰু সেই সময়ৰ গৃহমন্ত্ৰী গোবিন্দ বল্লভ পন্তলৈ চিঠি লিখি প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছিল। প্ৰধানমন্ত্ৰী ইন্দিৰা গান্ধীলৈ অসমৰ অখণ্ডতা ৰক্ষাৰ হেতু আহ্বান জনাইছিল।

অসমৰ কবিসকলক সুঁৱৰি লিখিছে— ‘অগ্নি কবি কমলাকান্ত ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ বিষয়ে যিজনে শুই থকা জাতি এটাক জগাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰাৰ প্ৰসঙ্গ। কবি ৰঘুনাথ চৌধুৰী দেৱৰ কথা যিজনে গোটেই জীৱন ভাষা জননীৰ সেৱাত কটালে, লক্ষ্মীনাথ বেজবৰুৱা, চন্দ্ৰকুমাৰ আগৰৱালা, পদ্মনাথ গোহাঞি বৰুৱা, আনন্দ চন্দ্ৰ আগৰৱালা, দুৰ্গানাথ চাংকাকতিৰ নাম উল্লেখ কৰিছে।

১৯৫৮ চনত তেখেতক ৰাষ্ট্ৰপতিৰ দ্বাৰা পদ্মশ্ৰী উপাধি প্ৰদান কৰা হয়। যিহেতু ভাৰতীয় দৰ্শনেই তেখেতৰ কাব্যৰ উৎস আছিল আৰু ইয়াৰ ওপৰতেই তেওঁ সাহিত্য একাডেমীত এক সাৰগৰ্ভ ভাষণ প্ৰদান কৰিছিল।

শেষত মেলানী মাগিলো বুলি গ্ৰন্থখনিত উল্লেখ কৰিছে সকলোৱে প্ৰশ্ন কৰে জীৱন বাটত কি পালো, উত্তৰত কবি গৰাকীয়ে কয়— বহুত পালোঁ সকলোতকৈ শ্ৰেষ্ঠ ধন পালোঁ, মোৰ স্বৰ্গতো অধিক জীৱনৰ সাধনাতীৰ্থ জনমভূমিয়ে মোৰ শিৰত সিঁচি দিয়া স্নেহ সিন্ত পবিত্ৰ পদধূলি। এই পদধূলিয়েই মোৰ জীৱনৰ পৰশমণি।

মোৰ জীৱনৰ সুন্দৰ সত্তাৰ জীৱনৰ সজাগ প্ৰহৰীজনৰ মোৰ এই অকিঞ্চিৎকৰ জীৱনৰ আঁৰে আঁৰে প্ৰতিচিন্তাৰ পাৰে পাৰে এটি উজ্জ্বল সুন্দৰ

স্নিগ্ধ স্নেহ কোল দৃষ্টিৰ পৰশ। অতুলনীয় এই অনুপম দৃষ্টিয়েই মোৰ জীৱনৰ
প্ৰতি কৰ্মৰ পথপ্ৰদৰ্শক।

নলিনীবালা দেৱীৰ এই গ্ৰন্থখনে মোক প্ৰেৰণা দিয়াৰ লগতে
আধ্যাত্মিকতাৰ প্ৰতিও আকৃষ্ট কৰে। লগতে ধৈৰ্যৰ পৰিসীমা বঢ়োৱাৰ যত্ন
কৰি আহিছে আৰু উঠি অহা প্ৰজন্ময়ো অধ্যয়ন কৰিলে নিশ্চয় সু-ফল পাব।

শেষত তেখেতৰ এটি কবিতাৰে সামৰণি মাৰিব বিচাৰিছো—

মেলিলো প্ৰথম চকু তোমাৰ কোলাতেই আই
জনমৰ আদিম পুৰাত
মুদিম আকৌ চকু তোমাৰ কোলাতেই শুই
জীৱনৰ শেষ সন্ধিয়াত।

লেখক : অধ্যক্ষ, জাঁজী হেমনাথ শৰ্মা মহাবিদ্যালয়

প্ৰাচীন ভাৰতীয় শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাত নৈতিক মূল্যবোধ আৰু বৰ্তমান ইয়াৰ প্ৰাসংগিকতা

ড° অনুপমা মহন্ত

প্ৰাচীন ভাৰতীয় শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাত ছাত্ৰৰ শাৰীৰিক, মানসিক আৰু
আধ্যাত্মিক ক্ষেত্ৰৰ সৰ্বতোভাৱে বিকাশ সাধন কৰাই এজন সুনামগৰিক তথা
সমাজৰ হিতকাৰী ব্যক্তি হিচাপে গঢ় দিব পৰাটোৱেই শিক্ষাৰ প্ৰধান উদ্দেশ্য
আছিল। শুল্কযজুৰ্বেদ বা বাজসনেয়ী সংহিতাৰ অন্তৰ্গত এশটা অধ্যায়যুক্ত
‘শতপথ ব্ৰাহ্মণ’ প্ৰাচীন শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাৰ বিষয়ে এনেদৰে পোৱা যায়—

শিষ্যসকলে গুৰুগৃহৰ শিক্ষানুষ্ঠানত শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণৰ বাবে যোৱাৰ
পিছত গুৰু-আচাৰ্যই তেওঁৰ ‘ব্ৰহ্মচৰ্য’ পালনৰ নীতি-নিয়মসমূহৰ ওপৰত আৰু
তেওঁৰ কৰ্তব্য সম্পৰ্কে উপদেশ দিয়ে। শিষ্যই গুৰুৰ ওচৰলৈ আহোঁতে বৰ
বিনয়ী হৈ আহিব লাগিব। নিতৌ বেদ অধ্যয়ন কৰিব লাগিব। বেদ বুলিলে
পৰম জ্ঞানৰ আকৰ মন্ত্ৰ, ব্ৰাহ্মণ, আৰণ্যক আৰু উপনিষদৰ সমষ্টিক বুজায়।
‘ঋকবেদ’, ‘যজুৰ্বেদ’, ‘সামবেদ’ আৰু ‘অথৰ্ববেদ’— এই চাৰিখন বেদৰ
প্ৰত্যেকৰে ব্ৰাহ্মণ, আৰণ্যক, উপনিষদ আছে। গুৰুৰ নিবাসত থকা গুৰুকুলত
গুৰু আৰু শিষ্য উভয়ে প্ৰতিদিনে এটি শ্লোক উচ্চাৰণ কৰিছিল। সেই

চিন্তা-গুচ্ছ||২৩১

শ্লোকটো হ'ল —

ওঁ সন্নাহৰতু সহ নৌ ভুনক্তু
সহ বীৰ্যন কৰৱাহৈ।
তেজস্বিনাৰধীতমস্তু
মা ৰিদিয়াৰহৈ।।

ব্ৰহ্মাই যেন আমাক গুৰু-শিষ্য উভয়কে ৰক্ষা কৰে, আমাক যেন পালন পোষণ কৰে, আমি যেন একেলগে জ্ঞান (পাৰমাৰ্থিক) লাভ কৰাৰ শক্তি পাবোঁ, আমাৰ শিষ্যই যেন প্ৰকৃত সত্য প্ৰকাশ কৰিব পাৰে অথবা পোহৰৰ দৰে উজ্জ্বল হৈ উঠিব পাৰে, আমাৰ মাজত যেন কেতিয়াও বিদ্বেষৰ সৃষ্টি নহয়।

‘শতপথ ব্ৰহ্মাণ’ আৰু সমাবেদৰ অন্তৰ্গত ‘ছান্দোগ্য’ উপনিষদত (৭-১-২১)ত শিষ্যই পঢ়িবলগীয়া বিষয়ৰ তালিকা পোৱা যায়। শিষ্যই প্ৰতিদিনে ‘স্বাধ্যায়’ অৰ্থাৎ বেদ অধ্যয়ন কৰাটো বাধ্যতামূলক আছিল। এই অধ্যয়নে ছাত্ৰৰ মনত ধৰ্মীয় আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক ভাৱ আনিছিল। বেদৰ মন্ত্ৰসমূহ আচাৰ্যৰ মুখৰ পৰা শুনি ছাত্ৰই মনত ৰাখি থ’ব লাগিছিল। গুৰু-শিষ্য-প্ৰশিষ্য পৰম্পৰাগত বেদৰ মন্ত্ৰসমূহ সংৰক্ষিত অৱস্থাত আছিল। অন্যান্য শিক্ষণীয় বিষয়সমূহ হ’ল — অনুশাসনাৱলী বা বেদাংগসমূহ, বিজ্ঞান (বিদ্যা) বাক্যবাক্য, ইতিহাস, পুৰাণ, নাৰাশংসী গাথা বা মানৱ জীৱনৰ কাৰ্যাৱলী প্ৰতিফলিত হোৱা মালিতা (বেলাড) আৰু লোকগীতসমূহ।

বেদৰ ভাষ্যকাৰ সায়ণাচাৰ্যই ‘অনুশাসন’ শব্দই ছয়খন বেদাংগ যেনে— শিক্ষা, কল্প, নিৰুক্ত, ব্যাকৰণ, ছন্দ, জ্যোতিষক বুজোৱা বুলি কৈছে। দাৰ্শনিক দিশৰ পৰা ন্যায়, মীমাংসা আদিক বিদ্যা বুলি কৈছে। সেইদৰে বাক্যবাক্যই আধ্যাত্মিক বিষয়ৰ আলোচনা-বিতৰ্ক আদিক বুজাইছে। ‘ইতিহাস পুৰাণ’ বুলিলে বিশ্বৰ পৌৰাণিক কাহিনী আৰু ৰজাসকলৰ বিৱৰণসমূহক বুজাইছে।

সামবেদৰ অন্তৰ্গত ‘ছান্দোগ্য উপনিষদ’ৰ সপ্তম অধ্যায়ত (৭-১-২১) শিক্ষণীয় বিষয়ৰ এখন তালিকা আছে। সেই তালিকাখন হ’ল— বেদ, ইতিহাস-পুৰাণ, মৃতকৰ পূজাৰ বিধি, ৰাণী বিজ্ঞান বা অংক বিজ্ঞান,

জ্যোতিৰিজ্ঞান বা দৈৱবিজ্ঞান, আধ্যাত্মিক বিজ্ঞান, তৰ্ক-কলা-কুশলতা, ব্যৱহাৰ-নীতি, ঈশ্বৰ সম্বন্ধীয় জ্ঞান বা ভূতবিদ্যা, ৰাজনীতি বা শাসনবিদ্যা, (ক্ষত্ৰ-বিদ্যা), নক্ষত্ৰ বিদ্যা, সৰ্প বিদ্যা বা দেৱজনবিদ্যা ইত্যাদি। শংকৰাচাৰ্যই দেৱজনবিদ্যাক গন্ধদ্রব্য প্ৰস্তুত কৰা, নৃত্য, কণ্ঠ সংগীত আৰু যন্ত্ৰ সংগীত বুলি ধৰিছিল।

শিষ্যসকলে গুৰুৰ গৃহত, গুৰুৰ সান্নিধ্যত থাকি ব্ৰহ্মচৰ্য পালন কৰি যি নৈতিক, ধৰ্মীয় আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক শিক্ষা লাভ কৰিছিল, সেই শিক্ষাই শিষ্যৰ ব্যক্তিত্বৰ বিকাশ সাধনত সহায়ক হৈছিল। অথৰ্ববেদৰ অন্তৰ্গত ‘গোপথ ব্ৰাহ্মণ’ত বাহ্যিক আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক শিক্ষা লাভৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত বাধাপ্ৰাপ্ত নহ’বলৈ শিষ্যক কিছুমান ৰিপু জয় কৰিবলৈ কৈছে। যেনে — টোপনি, এলাহ, নাম, যশস্যা আৰু গৌৰৱলৈ হেঁপাহ, খং, গপ, অহংকাৰ ইত্যাদি।

প্ৰাচীন ভাৰতীয় শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাৰ অন্য এক মহান লক্ষ্য আছিল আত্ম উপলব্ধি। এই উপলব্ধিয়ে এজন ব্যক্তিক অসৎ পথৰ পৰা সৎ পথলৈ নিব পাৰে, আন্ধাৰৰ পৰা পোহৰলৈ আৰু মৃত্যুৰ পৰা অমৃত অৰ্থাৎ অমৰত্ব প্ৰাপ্ত কৰাব পাৰে। বৃহদাৰণ্যক উপনিষদ (১.২.২৩)ত এনেদৰে পোৱা যায় —

‘অসতো মা সদ্ গময়।

তমসো মা জ্যোতিৰ্গময়।।

মৃত্যুৰ্মামৃতং গময়।।

শিক্ষাকালৰ অন্তত শিষ্যসকলে জ্ঞান কৰে। তেতিয়া তেওঁলোক স্নাতক হয়। তেতিয়া গুৰুৱে শিষ্যসকলৰ আগত দীক্ষান্ত ভাষণ দিয়ে। তৈত্তিৰীয় উপনিষদত দীক্ষান্ত ভাষণৰ বিষয়ে এনেদৰে পোৱা যায় —

‘সত্যংৱদ — সত্য কথা ক’বা।

ধৰ্মংচৰ — ধাৰ্মিক হ’বা।

স্বাধ্যায়ান্মা প্ৰমদ — স্বাধ্যায় ত্যাগ নকৰিবা।

প্ৰজাতন্তুং মা ব্যৱসেৎসীঃ — বৈবাহিক জীৱনধাৰাক অবিচ্ছিন্ন কৰি ৰাখিবা।

সত্যান্মা প্ৰমদিতব্যম্ — সত্য পথৰ পৰা আঁতৰি নাযাবা।

ধৰ্মান্মা প্ৰমদিতব্যম্ — ধৰ্ম পথৰ পৰা আঁতৰি নাযাবা।

কুশলান্ প্ৰমদিৰ্যম্ — মংগলময় পথ ত্যাগ নকৰিবা। মংগলজনক
কাৰ্য কৰিবা।

মাতৃ দেৱো ভৱ — মাতৃক দেৱতা জ্ঞান কৰিবা। অৰ্থাৎ পিতা-
মাতাক শ্ৰদ্ধা-ভক্তি কৰিবা।

আচাৰ্য দেৱো ভৱ — আচাৰ্যক দেৱতা জ্ঞান কৰিবা।

অতিথি দেৱো ভৱ — অতিথিক দেৱতা জ্ঞান কৰিবা।

শ্ৰিয়া দেয়ম্ — নিজৰ শক্তি অনুসৰি দান কৰিবা।

হ্ৰিয়া দেয়ম্ — লজ্জাহীন হৈ দান কৰিবা।

যানি যানি অনবদ্যানি তানি তানি অনুষ্ঠেয়ানি —

শাস্ত্ৰসম্মত আৰু জ্ঞানীজনৰ অনুমোদিত কামহে কৰিবা। নো
ইতৰাণি—

কু-কাৰ্য নকৰিবা।

এষ উপদেশঃ — এষ আদেশঃ — এয় হ'ল উপদেশ

এষ আদেশঃ — এয়াই আদেশ।

শিষ্যসকল স্নাতক হৈ নিজ গৃহলৈ প্ৰত্যাবৰ্তন কৰি নিজ পিতৃৰ
ওচৰতো শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। ব্ৰহ্মচৰ্যৰ সময়তে তেওঁলোকৰ শাৰীৰিক,
মানসিক, নৈতিক, আধ্যাত্মিক প্ৰভৃতি বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত উৎকৰ্ষ সাধন হৈছিল।
ব্ৰহ্মচৰ্য শব্দৰ অৰ্থ হৈছে — ভাৱ-চিন্তা, কথা-বতৰা, কাম-কাজ সকলোতে
সুশৃংখলতা। কিন্তু গুৰুৱেও সকলোকে শিক্ষা প্ৰদান কৰা নাছিল। যোগ্যতা
চাইহে ব্ৰহ্মচৰ্য গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ দিছিল। গুৰুগৃহত সুশৃংখলিত জীৱন যাপন
কৰি, গুৰুৰ উপদেশ মানি চলি ভৱিষ্যত জীৱনত ব্যক্তিগত আৰু সামাজিক
ক্ষেত্ৰত শিষ্য এজনে নিজৰ কৰ্তব্য সুচাৰুৰূপে সম্পাদন কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম
হৈছিল। কিয়নো ছাত্ৰসকলে কঠোৰ অনুশাসন, সুশৃংখল আৰু এক মহান
আদৰ্শেৰে অনুপ্ৰাণিত হৈ সৰল জীৱন যাপন কৰি শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল।
নৈতিকতাৰ ভেঁটিত প্ৰৱৰ্তিত শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাই ছাত্ৰক বিনয়ী কৰিছিল। সেয়ে
কোৱা হৈছিল — ‘বিদ্যা দদাতি বিনয়ম্’।

গছ-গছনিৰে ভৰা প্ৰকৃতিৰ সুন্দৰ পৰিৱেশক, সুস্থ বাতাবৰণৰ মাজত
ঋষিতুল্য আচাৰ্যৰ ওচৰত নৈতিক আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক শিক্ষা আহৰণ কৰোঁতে

ছাত্ৰৰ আত্ম উপলব্ধি হৈছিল আৰু পাৰ্থিৱ প্ৰলোভনৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰভাৱান্বিত হৈ সত্যৰ পৰা আঁতৰি গৈ বিপথগামী হোৱা নাছিল। কঠোৰ শ্ৰমেৰে নিজ নিজ কৰ্তব্য সম্পাদন কৰোঁতে ধৈৰ্য, সহিষ্ণুতা, দয়া, প্ৰেম, সত্যতা, মানৱীয়তা আদি মানৱীয় গুণসমূহৰ বিকাশ সাধন হৈছিল।

প্ৰাচীন ভাৰতীয় শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাৰ নৈতিক মূল্যবোধৰ আদৰ্শৰ বৰ্তমান সময়তো প্ৰাসংগিকতা আছে। বৰ্তমান যুগ বিজ্ঞান আৰু প্ৰযুক্তিবিদ্যাৰ যুগ। বিজ্ঞানৰ নতুন নতুন আৱিষ্কাৰে মানুহৰ জীৱন যাত্ৰাত স্বচ্ছলতা আনি দিছে। পশ্চিমীয়া সংস্কৃতিৰ প্ৰতি আকৃষ্ট হৈ ভোগ সৰ্বস্ব জীৱনক নতুন প্ৰজন্মই আকোঁৱালি লৈছে। পাৰ্থিৱ সম্পদৰ প্ৰতি লালসা বেছি হোৱাৰ বাবেই নৱপ্ৰজন্মৰ সৰহ সংখ্যকেই বিপথগামী হৈছে। যান্ত্ৰিক জীৱন যাপন কৰাৰ বাবে মানৱীয়তা গুণৰ অভাৱ ঘটিছে। চুৰি-ডকাইতি, ধৰ্ষণ, অপহৰণ, হত্যা, নিৰ্যাতন আদি বিভিন্ন অপৰাধমূলক কাৰ্য বৃদ্ধি পাইছে। সুশৃংখলিত মানৱ জীৱনৰ আধাৰ নৈতিক আৰু আধ্যাত্মিক জ্ঞানৰ অভাৱৰ বাবে বহু ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী দিশহাৰা হৈ পৰিছে। যুৱ প্ৰজন্মৰ মাজত উচ্ছৃংখলতা বৃদ্ধি পাইছে। দয়া, ক্ষমা, সহিষ্ণুতা, সহানুভূতি আদি মানৱীয় গুণসমূহৰ অভাৱ হৈছে। পাৰ্থিৱ সুখৰ প্ৰতি বেছি আগ্ৰহী হোৱাৰ বাবে সামাজিকভাৱে অনুমোদিত কাৰ্য সাধনত ব্ৰতী হোৱাত বহুতৰে নৈতিকতাৰ স্থলন ঘটিছে। কথা-বতৰা, আচাৰ-ব্যৱহাৰ সকলোতে যেন পৰিৱৰ্তন আহিছে। বহুতেই জ্যেষ্ঠজনকও সন্মান কৰিবলৈ পাহৰিছে। বহু পিতৃ-মাতৃয়ে সন্তানৰ মৰম-চেনেহ, আদৰৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হৈ অৱহেলিত হৈ বৃদ্ধাশ্ৰমত আশ্ৰয় ল'ব লগা হৈছে। নিজৰ আপোন ঘৰখনতে বোজাস্বৰূপ জ্ঞান কৰাত দুৰ্দশাৰ সন্মুখীন হ'ব লগা হৈছে।

কিন্তু পিতৃ-মাতৃৰ প্ৰতি শ্ৰদ্ধা-ভক্তি থকাটো মানুহৰ প্ৰধান কৰ্তব্য। প্ৰাচীন শাস্ত্ৰত আছে —

‘পিতা স্বৰ্গ, পিতা ধৰ্ম, পিতাহি পৰমং তপঃ।

পিতৰি প্ৰীতিমাপনে প্ৰিয়ন্তে সৰ্বদেৱতা।।’

মাতৃ গংগানদীৰ দৰেই পবিত্ৰ।

‘মাতা গংগা’

‘যং মাতা-পিতৰৌ ক্লেশং সহতে সন্তরে নৃণাম্।

ন তস্য নিষ্কৃতিঃ শক্যা কৰ্ত্ত্বং বৰ্ষশতৈৰপি।।’

যি পিতৃ-মাতৃয়ে সন্তানৰ কাৰণে ক্লেশ সহ্য কৰিবলগা হয় তেওঁ শতবৰ্ষতও তাৰ পৰা পৰিত্ৰাণ পাব নোৱাৰে। প্ৰাচীন কাব্যত ছয় প্ৰকাৰৰ ঋণৰ কথা পোৱা যায়। যেনে — দেৱঋণ, পিতৃঋণ, ঋষিঋণ বা গুৰু ঋণ, নৃঋণ আৰু ভূত ঋণ। এই ঋণ পৰিশোধ কৰাটো মানুহৰ কৰ্তব্য। সমাজৰ মংগলৰ বাবে কিবা এটা অৰিহণা আগবঢ়োৱাটো, পৰোপকাৰী হোৱাটোও মানুহৰ কৰ্তব্য। সংস্কৃতত এয়াৰ কথা আছে —

‘পৰোপকাৰায় ফলন্তি গাৱঃ।

পৰোপকাৰায় দোহন্তি গাৱঃ।

পৰোপকাৰায় বহন্তি নদ্যাঃ।

পৰোপকাৰার্থমিদং শৰীৰম্।।’

অৰ্থাৎ পৰোপকাৰৰ অৰ্থে গছে-ফলে দিয়ে, পৰোপকাৰৰ বাবেই গাই বিলাকে গাখীৰ দিয়ে, পৰোপকাৰৰ অৰ্থেই নদীসমূহ বৈ যায়। এই শৰীৰটো পৰোপকাৰৰ অৰ্থেই।

প্ৰাচীন কালত বৰ্তমান যুগৰ দৰে বিদ্যালয়, মহাবিদ্যালয়, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আদিৰ দৰে শিক্ষানুষ্ঠান নাছিল যদিও গুৰুকুল বা গুৰু নিবাসস্থানতেই গুৰুৱে নৈতিক আৰু মূল্যবোধৰ শিক্ষাৰে শিষ্যক মানৱীয় প্ৰমূল্যৰ গঢ় দি ব্যক্তিত্বৰ বিকাশ সাধন কৰিছিল।

বৰ্তমান কালত শিক্ষানুষ্ঠানসমূহত ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক মানৱ সম্পদৰূপে গঢ়িবলৈ বিভিন্ন পাঠ্যক্ৰমৰ জৰিয়তে শিক্ষা প্ৰদান কৰা হৈছে। শিক্ষা নীতিও সময়ে সময়ে সলনি কৰা হৈছে। পৰীক্ষা কেন্দ্ৰিক শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাত নম্বৰৰ ওপৰত গুৰুত্ব দিয়াৰ বাবে বহুতো সমস্যাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে আৰু নৈতিক মূল্যবোধসম্পন্ন ব্যক্তি গঢ়ি তোলাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত জটিলতা আহিছে। প্ৰাচীন ভাৰতীয় শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাৰ পুনৰাবৃদ্ধি কৰাটো সম্ভৱপৰ নহয় যদিও সেই ব্যৱস্থাত নিহিত হৈ থকা নৈতিক মূল্যবোধৰ আদৰ্শক নুই কৰিব নোৱাৰি। আজিৰ বিজ্ঞানৰ যুগত উপকাৰী সম্পদখিনি গ্ৰহণ কৰিও, সকলোখিনি মানৱীয় প্ৰমূল্য আগত ৰাখি নৈতিক চৰিত্ৰৰ প্ৰতি সচেতন হৈ ব্যক্তিত্বৰ বিকাশ ঘটাই সমাজৰ, দেশৰ মংগলৰ বাবে সেৱা আগবঢ়াব পৰাকৈ শিক্ষা প্ৰদান, শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণৰ

সুব্যৱস্থা হ'লে জীৱন সাৰ্থক হ'ব বুলি ধাৰণা কৰিব পাৰি। কিয়নো সমাজৰ
সৰহ সংখ্যক ব্যক্তিয়েই শান্তি নোহোৱা হৈছে, অসুখী হৈ পৰিছে। ইয়াৰ
পৰিত্ৰাণৰ বাবে নৈতিক আৰু মূল্যবোধৰ শিক্ষাৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা আহি পৰিছে।

লেখিকা : অৱসৰপ্ৰাপ্ত সহযোগী অধ্যাপিকা তথা মূৰব্বী, সংস্কৃত
বিভাগ, জাঁজী হেমনাথ শৰ্মা মহাবিদ্যালয়

সাহিত্যৰ বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমি

ড° ৰুবী বৰা

সাহিত্য হ'ল মানুহৰ সমাজ জীৱনৰ প্ৰতিবিম্ব। মানুহৰ জীৱনৰ লগত সম্পৰ্কিত হৈ থকা বিষয়সমূহ সাহিত্যৰ মাজেৰে দাঙি ধৰা হয়। অৰ্থাৎ সাহিত্য হ'ল এনে এক প্ৰকাৰৰ ৰচনা য'ত বিষয়বস্তু আৰু পৰিবেশন ৰীতিৰ মাজেৰে মানবীয় আত্মাৰ সহযোগত জীৱন আৰু জগতৰ পৰা লাভ কৰা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ প্ৰকাশ ঘটে। সাহিত্যৰ মাজেৰে মানুহৰ ভাৱ আৰু ভাষাৰ মিলন ঘটে। কিন্তু ভাৱ আৰু ভাষাৰ মিলনতে সাহিত্যৰ সৃষ্টি হ'ব পাৰেনে? সংস্কৃত আনুশাৰিকৰ ভাষাত সাহিত্য — 'সহিত্য ভাৱঃ সাহিত্যম' হ'লেও এই দুটাৰ সংযোগত সাহিত্যৰ সৃষ্টি নহয়। সাহিত্যৰ সৃষ্টি হয়, যেতিয়া জীৱন আৰু জগতৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ সৈতে কল্পনা প্ৰতিভা আৰু প্ৰজ্ঞাদৃষ্টিৰ মিলন ঘটে। কাৰণ কল্পনা প্ৰতিভাই অভিজ্ঞতাক গভীৰ চিন্তন মননৰ জৰিয়তে সাধাৰণ বিষয় এটিকো অনিৱৰ্চনীয় ৰূপত তুলি ধৰিব পাৰে। মানৱ জীৱনৰ আবেগ-অনুভূতি, কল্পনা, জীৱন অভিজ্ঞতা আদিক সামৰি মেথিউ আৰ্ণল্ডে কৈছিল, 'সাহিত্য হ'ল জীৱন বীক্ষা।' সেইদৰে ৰাফি অৰবিন্দৰ মতে, 'সত্য আৰু সুন্দৰৰ বোলসনা জীৱন অভিজ্ঞতাৰ প্ৰকাশেই হ'ল সাহিত্য।' সেয়ে সাহিত্য বুলিলে সেই সমূহ ৰচনাকেই বুজা যায়, য'ত জীৱন প্ৰবাহৰ বিচিত্ৰ আৰু জটিল অভিজ্ঞতাসমূহৰ মন্থনৰ দ্বাৰা যি বিশেষ ৰূপৰ সৃষ্টি হয়, সেয়াই সাহিত্য।

ইংৰাজী 'Literature' শব্দৰ অৰ্থ ব্যাপক। 'লিটাৰেচাৰ'ৰ ব্যাপক অৰ্থৰ মাজৰ পৰা সৃজনী ৰচনাসমূহক পৃথকভাৱে বুজাবলৈ T.S. Eliot য়ে এটা নতুন পৰিভাষিক শব্দ 'Autoletic' শব্দৰ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছিল। Eliot ৰ মতে সাহিত্য হ'ল, 'ভাৱ-ভাষা-ৰূপৰ জৰিয়তে গঢ়ি উঠা এক নিৰ্মাণ বৃত্তান্ত'। বিশ্বকবি ৰবীন্দ্ৰনাথ ঠাকুৰৰ মতে, 'সাহিত্য হ'ল অন্তৰৰ ভাৱনাক বাহিৰৰ সৈতে, ভাৱক ভাষাৰ সৈতে, নিজক বিশ্বমানবৰ সৈতে, ক্ষণকালক চিৰকাললৈ পৰিবৰ্তন কৰাই হ'ল সাহিত্য।' আন এগৰাকী বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিৰ মতে, 'জীৱনৰ কল্যাণৰ বাবে, মানুহৰ সুখৰ বাবে জগতৰ মাজেৰে যি কথা ব্যক্ত কৰে, সেয়াই সাহিত্য।'।

সাহিত্যৰ পৰিসৰ ব্যাপক। কাৰণ কলা, সংস্কৃতি, সভ্যতা এই সকলোৰে মূলত মানৱ জীৱন। মানুহৰ কাৰ্য-কলাপ কিদৰে পৰিচালিত আৰু নিয়ন্ত্ৰিত হয় তাৰ পুংখানুপুংখ বিশ্লেষণতে কলা, সংস্কৃতি, সাহিত্য আদিৰ মূলতত্ত্ব প্ৰকাশ হয়। মানুহৰ কাৰ্য-কলাপৰ ইতিহাসেই এই সমূহৰো ইতিহাস। মানুহ যিহেতুকৈ সমাজপ্ৰিয় আৰু সমাজবদ্ধ, গতিকে সমাজ অবিহনে মানুহ বৰ্তি থাকিব নোৱাৰে আৰু মানুহ অবিহনেও সমাজ একোখনৰ জন্ম হ'ব নোৱাৰে। সময় আৰু সমাজৰ প্ৰভাৱ লেখকসকলৰ ওপৰত অত্যন্ত প্ৰবল। সামাজিক বিধি ব্যৱস্থাৰ ওপৰত লেখকসকলৰ ৰচনাসমূহ নিৰ্ভৰশীল। লেখকসকলে সমাজ এখনক নতুন ৰূপত গঢ় দিবলৈ প্ৰয়াস কৰে আৰু সমাজৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰভাৱিত হৈয়ো সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ বাবে সৃজনী শক্তি আহৰণ কৰে। সাহিত্যৰ মাজেৰে সমাজত ঘটি থকা বিভিন্ন ঘটনাৱলীৰ চিত্ৰণ কৰা হয়। এনেদৰেও ক'ব পাৰি যে সাহিত্যত সমসাময়িক সময়ৰ ছবি প্ৰতিফলিত হয়। সময় অনুসৰি লেখকসকলে বিশেষ বিশেষ ঘটনা বা বিষয়ক সাহিত্যৰ পটভূমি ৰূপে গ্ৰহণ কৰি আহিছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে উল্লেখ কৰিব পাৰি যে, আদিকবি বাল্মিকীৰ চকুৰ আগতে ঘটা ঘটনা এটিক কেন্দ্ৰ কৰিয়েই জগতৰ প্ৰথমটো শ্লোক ৰচনা হৈছিল। প্ৰথম শ্লোকটো ৰচনা কৰি বাল্মিকীয়ে নিজকে প্ৰশ্ন কৰিছিল, 'কিমিদং ব্যাহত ময়া' — অৰ্থাৎ এয়া মই কি ৰচনা কৰিলো। চকুৰ আগতে ঘটা ঘটনাটিয়ে হ'ল বাল্মিকীৰ সেই শ্লোকটি ৰচনাৰ মূল আধাৰ। হৃদয়ত ধাৰণ কৰা ভাৱনা ৰাশিয়েই হ'ল সাহিত্য সৃষ্টিৰ পটভূমি।

মানুহৰ চিন্তন-মননৰ জৰিয়তে ৰচনা হোৱা সাহিত্যসমূহৰ ধাৰণা, পটভূমি আদিৰো সময়ে সময়ে পৰিবৰ্তন হয়। পুনৰ নতুন বিষয় একোটাক সাহিত্যৰ বিষয়বস্তু হিচাপে গ্ৰহণ কৰি তাৰ আধাৰতে সাহিত্য ৰচনা হ'বলৈ ধৰে। সাহিত্য কেৱল মনোৰঞ্জনৰ বাবে সৃষ্টি নহয়, সাহিত্যই সম সাময়িক সময়ৰ বাৰ্তা প্ৰেৰণ কৰে। লেখকসকলে সময়ৰ ঘটনাৱলীক উদ্দেশ্য কৰি সাহিত্য সৃষ্টি কৰে আৰু সেই ঘটনাৱলীক সাহিত্যৰ পটভূমি ৰূপে গ্ৰহণ কৰে। মানুহৰ চিন্তন মননেৰে প্ৰতিপালিত সাহিত্যত সময়ে সময়ে সাহিত্যৰ ধাৰণাসমূহৰ মাজত পৰিবৰ্তনে দেখা দিয়ে। পুনৰ একোটা নতুন ঘটনাৰ আধাৰত সাহিত্যৰ সৃষ্টি হ'বলৈ ধৰে। সাহিত্যৰ ইতিহাস বিচাৰ কৰিলে দেখা যায়, কোনো নিৰ্দিষ্ট বিষয়ক কেন্দ্ৰ কৰি ৰচনা হোৱা সাহিত্যই সমাজ একোখনৰ বিভিন্ন দিশসমূহত আলোকপাত কৰে। এনেদৰে সমাজ আৰু সাহিত্য এটা আনটোৰ পৰিপূৰক ৰূপত বিস্তৃতি লাভ কৰিবলৈ ধৰে।

সাহিত্যৰ বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমি বুলিলে বুজা যায়, বিশেষকৈ গভীৰ আলোচনাৰে পৰিপুষ্ট সাহিত্যৰ কথা। সাহিত্য বা দৰ্শনৰ সৈতে সম্পৰ্কিতভাৱে 'বৌদ্ধিক' শব্দটো 'যুক্তি আৰু গভীৰ চিন্তাধাৰা'ক বিশ্লেষণ কৰাৰ অৰ্থতহে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা হয়। বৌদ্ধিক ইতিহাস হৈছে মানৱ চিন্তাৰ ইতিহাস আৰু বুদ্ধিজীৱিসকলৰ অধ্যয়ন। অৰ্থাৎ 'যি সকলে ধাৰণা কৰে, আলোচনা কৰে, বিষয় সম্পৰ্কে লিখে আৰু সচেতনভাৱে চিন্তা কৰে।' বৌদ্ধিক ইতিহাসৰ ভিত্তি হ'ল যে, ই ইতিহাসৰ অনুসন্ধানমূলক ধাৰণা আৰু সেই ধাৰণাক প্ৰয়োগ কৰা চিন্তাবিদসকলৰ সু-গভীৰ চিন্তনেৰে পুৰিপুষ্ট ৰচনা। বৌদ্ধিক চিন্তাচৰ্চাৰ লগত জৰিত হৈ থকা বিষয় সমূহৰ দুটা বিশেষ ধাৰণা হ'ল -

১. সমালোচনাত্মক বিশ্লেষণ, আৰু
২. সংস্কৃতি, জীৱন আৰু ইতিহাসৰ গভীৰ অধ্যয়ন।

সাহিত্যৰ বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমি সম্পৰ্কে আলোচনা কৰাৰ আগতে সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ সময় আৰু স্তৰসমূহলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিলে দেখা যায় প্ৰাচ্য, পাশ্চাত্যৰ সাহিত্যই ৰচনাৰ আদি সময়ৰে পৰা বৰ্তমানলৈকে এছোৱা বিশাল আৰু বিস্তৃত সময়ক আৱৰি আছে। বাংলা সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ দীৰ্ঘ সময়ছোৱাক যিদৰে প্ৰাচীন যুগ, মধ্যযুগ আৰু আধুনিক যুগ ৰূপে তিনিটা ভাগত ভগোৱা

হৈছে, সেইদৰে ইংৰাজী সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ সুদীৰ্ঘ পৰিক্ৰমাটোক আঠোটা ভাগত ভগোৱা হৈছে —

১. এংলো চেকচন পিৰিয়দ বা প্ৰাচীন যুগ (৪৫০-১০৬৬)
২. মধ্যযুগ (১০৬৬-১৫০০)
৩. ৰেনেচাঁ বা নবজাগৰণৰ যুগ (১৫০০-১৬৬০)
৪. নিউ ক্লাছিকেল বা ধ্ৰুপদী যুগ (১৬৬০-১৭৯৮)
৫. ৰোমাণ্টিক যুগ (১৭৯৮-১৮৩৭)
৬. ভিক্টোৰিয়ান যুগ (১৮৩৭-১৯০১)
৭. মৰ্ডান যুগ (১৯০১-১৯৪৫)
৮. পোষ্ট মডাৰ্ন বা উত্তৰ আধুনিক যুগ (১৯৪৫ ৰ পৰা বৰ্তমানলৈকে)

অসমীয়া সাহিত্যতো বিভিন্ন জন পণ্ডিতে অসমীয়া সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ সময়ক কেন্দ্ৰ কৰি সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ সময়সমূহক একো একোটা যুগৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰিছে। সাহিত্যসমূহৰ বিষয়বস্তু আদিলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰি অসমীয়া সাহিত্যক কেইবাটাও যুগত বিভক্ত কৰিছে যদিও মূলতঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ যুগ তিনিটা— আদি বা প্ৰথম স্তৰ, মধ্যযুগ বা দ্বিতীয় স্তৰ আৰু আধুনিক যুগ বা তৃতীয় স্তৰ। সময় অনুসৰি যুগসমূহক এনেদৰে বিভাজন কৰা হৈছে —

১. আদি যুগ — খৃষ্টীয় দশম শতিকাৰ পৰা ত্ৰয়োদশ শতিকালৈ,
২. মধ্য যুগ — চতুৰ্দশ শতিকাৰ পৰা ঊনবিংশ শতিকাৰ তৃতীয় দশকলৈ,
৩. আধুনিক যুগ — ঊনবিংশ শতিকাৰ তৃতীয় দশকৰ পৰা বৰ্তমান সময়লৈকে।

সময়ৰ পৰিবৰ্তন আৰু মানুহৰ চিন্তাচৰ্চা— এই দুটা বিষয়ৰ আধাৰত সাহিত্যৰ পটভূমি নিৰ্মাণ হয়। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে, ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যৰ যাত্ৰা আৰম্ভ হৈছিল এংলো চেকচন পিৰিয়দৰ মাধ্যমেৰে। মানুহৰ সভ্যতাৰ ক্ৰম বিবৰ্তনৰ ফলত সভ্যতাৰ দিশে আগুৱাই অহা মানুহে নতুন নতুন বিষয়ৰ লগত পৰিচিতি লাভ কৰিছিল। এইছোৱা সময়ৰ সাহিত্যত দুঃসাহসিক, সমুদ্ৰ যাত্ৰা অথবা বীৰত্বৰ কাহিনীয়ে গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ ভূমিকা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। পৰৱৰ্তী

সময়ছোৱাক কেইবাটাও ভাগত ভগোৱা হৈছে — এংলো নৰমান (Anglo-Norman Age) , চ'চাৰৰ যুগ আৰু অন্ধকাৰ যুগ আদি। চ'চাৰক ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যৰ জনক বুলি কোৱা হয়। সেইদৰে ৰেনেচাঁচৰ সময়খিনিৰ আটাইতকৈ উল্লেখযোগ্য সময় হ'ল, এলিজাবেথীয়ান যুগ বা স্বৰ্ণ যুগ। এইছোৱা সময়ৰ সাহিত্যত মানুহৰ জীৱনৰ সুখ-দুখ, হাঁহি-আনন্দ আদিৰে পৰিপূৰ্ণ হৈ আছিল। এইছোৱা সময়ক স্বৰ্ণযুগ বোলাৰ কাৰণ হ'ল ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যৰ প্ৰতিভাবান নাট্যকাৰ উইলিয়াম শ্বেক্সপীয়েৰৰ অতুলনীয় অবদানসমূহ।

১৬৬০ ৰ পৰা ১৭৯৮ চনলৈ এইছোৱা সময়ক নিউক্লাছিকেল বা নব্য ধ্ৰুপদী যুগ হিচাপে চিহ্নিত কৰা হৈছে। এইছোৱা সময়ৰ সাহিত্যসমূহ আছিল মূলত বাস্তৱবাদী আৰু ব্যঙ্গাত্মক। ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যৰ আটাইতকৈ সমৃদ্ধ সময়ছোৱা হ'ল ৰোমাণ্টিক যুগ। এই যুগৰ পূৰ্বৱৰ্তী সময়ছোৱাত ৰচনা হোৱা ধ্ৰুপদী সাহিত্যৰ মাজত অভিজাত শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহৰ জগতখন প্ৰতিফলিত হৈছিল। সেই সাহিত্য আছিল সংযত আৰু নৈব্যক্তিক। ১৭৮৯ ৰ ফৰাচী বিপ্লৱৰ ফলত ইউৰোপৰ জনমানসৰ লগতে জনজীৱনৰ যাত্ৰাৰ প্ৰণালীৰো পৰিবৰ্তন ঘটিল। এইছোৱা সময়ৰ ঐতিহাসিক পটভূমি অতি গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ। এই সময়তে ইংলণ্ডৰ ৰাজনৈতিক উত্থান-পতন, ৰাজনৈতিক ঘটনাৱলীৰ সৈতে জৰিত অৰ্থনৈতিক দিশটো, দাসত্ব প্ৰথাৰ অপসাৰণ, ৰোমান কেথলিকসকলৰ ৰাজনৈতিক অধিকাৰ সাৰ্বভূম্য আদিৰ লগতে নতুন নতুন যন্ত্ৰৰ আবিষ্কাৰত শিল্প প্ৰধান নগৰৰ সৃষ্টি হ'বলৈ ধৰিলে। ইয়াৰ লগে লগে আৰম্ভ হৈছিল মানুহৰ নতুন জীৱনধাৰাৰ লগতে নতুন দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰ। ইয়াৰ লগতে ফৰাচী দাৰ্শনিক ৰুছোৰ 'Return to Nature' বাণীয়ে জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত জনপ্ৰিয়তা লাভ কৰিছিল। ইংৰাজ ৰমন্যাসিক কবি ৱৰ্ডচৱৰ্থ আৰু কলেৰিজৰ কবিতাত প্ৰকৃতিৰ অনন্য ৰূপ উদ্ভাসিত হৈছিল, অন্যহাতে শ্যেলী আৰু বায়ৰণৰ কবিতাই কঢ়িয়াই আনিছিল বৈপ্লৱিক ভাবাদৰ্শ। 'ফৰাচী বিপ্লৱৰ তিনিটা বেলেগ দিশৰ প্ৰভাৱ ইংৰাজ ৰমন্যাসিক কবিসকলৰ ওপৰত তিনিটা বেলেগ ৰীতিৰে পৰিছিল। ইয়াৰ ভাৱ প্ৰৱণ দিশটোৰ প্ৰভাৱ ৱৰ্ডচৱৰ্থ আৰু কলেৰিজৰ ওপৰত সুস্পষ্ট। শ্যেলীক অনুপ্ৰাণিত কৰিছিল ইয়াৰ বৌদ্ধিক দিশটোৱে। আনহাতে বায়ৰণৰ কাৰণে ইয়াৰ ৰাজনৈতিক দিশটোৰ অৱদানেই

আছিল প্ৰবলতম।”^{১০} মহাৰাণী ভিক্টোৰিয়াৰ শাসন কালছোৱাৰ ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যিক সাধাৰণতে ভিক্টোৰিয়ান সাহিত্য বুলি কোৱা হ’লেও মহাৰাণীৰ সমগ্ৰ শাসন কালছোৱাক সামৰি লোৱা হয়। এইছোৱা সময়ত যিসকলে কাব্য-সাহিত্য চৰ্চা কৰিছিল, তেওঁলোকৰ সাহিত্য সামাজিক আৰু বৌদ্ধিক আন্দোলনৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰত্যক্ষভাৱে প্ৰভাৱান্বিত হৈছিল। ভিক্টোৰিয়ান যুগৰ সাহিত্যৰাজিৰ মাজত বিশেষভাৱে ‘বিজ্ঞান আৰু প্ৰযুক্তিবিজ্ঞানৰ অগ্ৰগতি, যুক্তিবাদী চিন্তাধাৰা, বিভিন্ন ধৰ্মীয় আন্দোলন আৰু ধৰ্মীয় সংঘাত, দ্ৰুত উদ্যোগীকৰণ আদিয়ে সমসাময়িক সাহিত্যৰ ধাৰণা আৰু কৰ্মৰাজিৰ ওপৰত প্ৰত্যক্ষভাৱে প্ৰভাৱ পেলাইছিল। এই যুগ আছিল সংঘাতৰ যুগ, এই যুগতে যুক্তিবাদ আৰু ৰহস্যবাদ, বিজ্ঞান আৰু বিশ্বাস আৰু প্ৰযুক্তিবিদ্যাৰ অগ্ৰগতি আৰু ধৰ্মীয় গোড়ামিৰ মাজত সংঘাত অতি প্ৰকট হৈ উঠিছিল। স্বাভাৱিকতে সেই সময়ৰ লেখকসকলৰ ৰচনাৰাজিত এই সংঘাতসমূহ সন্দৰ্ভত তেওঁলোকৰ দৃষ্টিভংগী, প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া আদি প্ৰকাশ পাইছিল।’^{১১}

বিংশ শতিকাৰ আৰম্ভণিৰে পৰাই ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যৰ আধুনিক যুগৰ সূচনা হয়। ‘পশ্চিমীয়া আধুনিক সাহিত্য কিছু কালোত্তীৰ্ণ হৈ ইতিমধ্যে আধুনিক ধ্ৰুপদী সাহিত্য হিচাপে স্থান লাভ কৰিছে। তথাপি এই সময়ৰ সাহিত্যই এক বিশেষ সময়ৰ জীৱনবোধ, ক্ৰিয়া-প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াৰ আটোৰ অংগত বহন কৰিছে কালোত্তীৰ্ণ হৈছে। এই জীৱনবোধত সচেতনভাৱে ঐতিহ্যৰ পুনৰ্বিচাৰ হৈছে, প্ৰচলিত মূল্যবোধত অনাস্থাৰ মাজেদি অতীতৰ প্ৰতি সমালোচনামূলক দৃষ্টি পেলোৱা হৈছে। এইবিধ আধুনিক মানসিকতাই বিশেষভাৱে চিহ্নিত হৈ আধুনিকতাবাদ হিচাপে প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হৈছে।’^{১২} আধুনিক যুগ হ’ল এহাতে দ্ৰুতগামী আৰু অন্যহাতে অস্থিৰতাৰ যুগ। কুৰি শতিকাৰ পূৰ্বে মানুহে জীৱনৰ প্ৰতিটো দিশত পৰিবৰ্তন, বিজ্ঞানৰ দ্ৰুত উন্নয়নৰ জীৱন ধাৰণাত প্ৰভাৱ, আধুনিক জীৱন যাত্ৰা, উদ্যোগিক উন্নয়ন আদি বিষয়সমূহৰ স’তে মুখামুখী হোৱা নাছিল। কিন্তু লাহে লাহে এনেবিলাক বিষয় সাহিত্যত প্ৰতিফলিত হ’বলৈ ধৰে। ৰাজনৈতিক বাতাবৰণ, সামাজিক সংঘাত-সমস্যা, অৰ্থনৈতিক অস্থিৰতা, বিজ্ঞান-প্ৰযুক্তিবিদ্যা, মানুহৰ মানৱীয় প্ৰমূল্যৰ অৱক্ষয় ইত্যাদি সমূহ সাহিত্যৰ বিষয় হৈ পৰে। ইংৰাজী কবিতাত অকল যে ইংলণ্ডত

সংঘটিত হোৱা ঘটনাৰাশিহে প্ৰতিফলিত হৈছে, এনে নহয়, সমগ্ৰ মানৱ জাতিৰ জীৱন চুই যোৱা সকলো ধৰণৰ পৰিবৰ্তনে কবিতাত ঠাই পাইছে। যুদ্ধ-বিগ্ৰহ, অৰ্থনৈতিক পতন, সমাজবাদ, ফেচিবাদ, গণতন্ত্ৰ, মনোবিজ্ঞান, যৌনবিজ্ঞান আৰু অন্যান্য বহুতো ধাৰণা আৰু ঘটনাৰ প্ৰভাৱ কুৰি শতিকাৰ ইংৰাজী কবিতাৰ ওপৰত পৰিছে।^{১৪} এনেদৰেই সময়ে সময়ে নতুন নতুন চিন্তাৰে পৰিপুষ্ট হৈ সাহিত্যৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে আৰু সাহিত্যৰ মাজেদিয়ে লেখকৰ নতুন চিন্তা, দৃষ্টিভংগী আদিয়ে এক বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমিক প্ৰতিফলিত কৰিছে।

অসমীয়া সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ বিভিন্ন স্তৰসমূহলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিলেও সাহিত্যত লেখকৰ ৰুচি, বিষয়, উদ্দেশ্য, প্ৰকাশভংগী আদিৰ মাজেৰে নতুন নতুন দিশ উন্মোচিত হোৱা দেখিবলৈ পোৱা যায়। মৌখিক সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ সময়ৰে পৰা অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ প্ৰাথমিক নিদৰ্শন দাঙি ধৰা ‘চৰ্যাপদ’, বড়ু চণ্ডীদাসৰ ‘শ্ৰীকৃষ্ণ কীৰ্তন’, ‘শূন্য পুৰাণ’, ‘ময়নামতীৰ গান’ আদিয়ে অসমীয়া সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ সময়ক প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰি আহিছে। প্ৰাসংগিকভাৱে উল্লেখ কৰিব পাৰি যে, পাশ্চাত্যৰ গ্ৰীক, ৰোমান অথবা ইউৰোপীয় সাহিত্যৰ মাজেৰে সাহিত্যৰ গুণাগুণ নিৰ্ণয় কৰা হৈছিল আৰু বিষয়সমূহক বিভিন্ন দৃষ্টিকোণৰ পৰা পৰ্যালোচনা কৰি দেখুৱাইছিল। চক্ৰেটিছ, এৰিষ্টটল, লংগিনাচ আদিৰ দৰে বিদ্বানে সাহিত্য সৃষ্টিৰ সম্পৰ্কত বহু আলোচনা-বিলোচনা আগবঢ়াই থৈ গৈছে। সেইদৰে প্লেটোৰ বাবে সাহিত্য আছিল এক ভ্ৰমাত্মক বিষয়, যাৰ দ্বাৰা আদৰ্শ ৰাষ্ট্ৰ নিৰ্মাণত কোনো অৱদান আগবঢ়াব নোৱাৰি। কিন্তু সেই বুলিয়ে সাহিত্য স্থবিৰ হৈ পৰা নাই। সময়ে সময়ে নতুন চিন্তাধাৰা, বিষয়বস্তুৰে সমৃদ্ধ হৈ সাহিত্য ৰচনা হৈয়ে আছে। ‘সাহিত্যই পাঠকক ৰস আত্মদানৰ সুযোগ দিয়াৰ লগতে মানুহৰ চিন্তাধাৰাক গভীৰভাৱে বিকশিত হোৱাৰো সুযোগ দিয়ে। সাহিত্যক সময়ৰ বাৰ্তা প্ৰেৰণ কৰাৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় আধাৰ হিচাপে গ্ৰহণ কৰা হয়। এনেদৰেই সাহিত্যত নিৰ্মাণ হয় বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমিৰ। অসমীয়া সাহিত্যত লিখিত পূৰ্ণাংগ কাব্যৰ ৰচনা হয় প্ৰাক্ শংকৰী যুগত অৰ্থাৎ দ্বাদশৰ পৰা চতুৰ্দশ শতিকাৰ ভিতৰত। এই সময়ৰ সাহিত্যৰ মাজত প্ৰাদেশিক ভাষাৰ সুকীয়া গঢ় সুস্পষ্ট হৈ উঠে। কামৰূপী ভাষাৰ বৈশিষ্ট্য দেখা পোৱা যায়। এই যুগত মহাভাৰত আৰু ৰামায়ণৰ পদ ভাঙনি আৰম্ভ হয়।^{১৫} প্ৰাক্ শংকৰী

যুগৰ সময়ছোৱাত অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ ভেটি নিৰ্মাণ হয়। পুৰাণ, উপ-পুৰাণ, ৰামায়ণ-মহাভাৰত আদিৰ কাহিনী আধাৰত, বিদ্যানুৰাগী ৰজা আৰু মহান ব্যক্তিৰ পৃষ্ঠপোষকতাত কবিসকলে কাব্যচৰ্চা কৰিছিল আৰু পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ত সাহিত্যচৰ্চাৰ বাবে এটি পথ প্ৰশস্ত কৰি তুলিছিল। সেই পথক লক্ষ্য কৰিয়ে মহাপুৰুষ শংকৰদেৱে সাহিত্য চৰ্চা কৰাৰ সুবিধা লাভ কৰিছিল। শংকৰদেৱৰ সাহিত্য আছিল উদ্দেশ্যধৰ্মী। সেই উদ্দেশ্য হ'ল জাতি ধৰ্ম নিৰ্বিশেষে একশৰণ ধৰ্মত দীক্ষিত হৈ জাতীয় একতাৰ ভেটি গঢ়ি তোলা। অন্যহাতে, 'বহুদেৱতাৰ পূজা উপাসনাৰ ঠাইত এজন ঈশ্বৰক প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰি বিক্ষিপ্ততা আৰু বামপন্থী আচাৰ অনুষ্ঠানৰ পৰা জনতাক আঁতৰাই আনি ভগৱৎমুখী কৰি তোলা, জনতাক আধ্যাত্মিক আৰু সামাজিক জীৱনৰ এক উজ্জ্বল পবিত্ৰ ছবি দাঙি লগতে সাম্যবাদৰ আদৰ্শ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা, গীত-নাট অভিনয় আদি কলাৰ জৰিয়তে কলা-সংস্কৃতিৰ এক নতুন জাগৰণ আনি জনসাধাৰণৰ মনত সৌন্দৰ্যবোধ জগাই সংস্কৃতি সচেতন কৰি তোলা'ৰ এক গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ দায়িত্ব গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতাৰ দৃষ্টিভংগীৰে শংকৰদেৱে অসমীয়া সমাজত প্ৰচাৰ কৰিছিল বৈষ্ণৱ ধৰ্মৰ মাহাত্ম্যৰ কথা। ধৰ্মৰ জটিল তত্ত্বকথাসমূহ সহজ আৰু সাধাৰণভাৱে প্ৰকাশ কৰিবৰ বাবে ভক্তিধৰ্ম প্ৰচাৰ আৰু প্ৰসাৰত সাহিত্যক এক মাধ্যমৰূপে গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। বৌদ্ধিক চিন্তন-মননেৰে সৃষ্টি হোৱা সাহিত্যৰ মাজত শংকৰদেৱে যি উদ্দেশ্যৰ কথা প্ৰকাশ কৰিছিল, সেয়া সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ বাবে বোধগম্য হৈ উঠিছিল। সেয়ে শংকৰদেৱ তেওঁৰ আৰ্হি আৰু আদৰ্শৰ মাজত আজিও অমৰ হৈ আছে। শংকৰদেৱে ধৰ্ম প্ৰচাৰৰ উদ্দেশ্যক আগত ৰাখি ৰচনা কৰা 'কীৰ্তন', 'দশম' অথবা মাধৱদেৱৰ 'নামঘোষাৰ' দৰে গ্ৰন্থ আমাৰ অসমীয়া জাতীয় জীৱনৰ পৰিচায়ক। শংকৰদেৱে মৰ্মে মৰ্মে উপলব্ধি কৰিছিল যে, সেই সময়ৰ অসমীয়া সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাত থকা, অন্ধসংস্কাৰ, গোড়ামি, বহু দেৱতাৰ উপাসনা, বলি বিধান আঁতৰ কৰিবলৈ হ'লে ধৰ্মৰ জটিল তত্ত্বকথাক সহজ-সৰলভাৱে সকলোৰে বোধগম্য হোৱাকে প্ৰচাৰ কৰিব লাগিব। সেইবাবে শংকৰদেৱৰ হাতত ৰচনা হৈছিল অংকীয়া নাট, বৰগীত-ভটিমা, বিভিন্ন তত্ত্বমূলক গ্ৰন্থ, গীত-নৃত্য-বাদ্যৰে মানুহৰ মনোযোগ আকৰ্ষণ কৰি বৈষ্ণৱ ধৰ্মৰ প্ৰচাৰ আৰু প্ৰসাৰৰ বাট সুগম কৰিছিল।

সেইদৰে উদ্ভৱ শংকৰ যুগৰ সাহিত্যতো যুগোপযোগী ভাষা সাহিত্যৰ চৰ্চা অব্যাহত আছিল। সপ্তদশ শতিকাৰ প্ৰাৰম্ভৰ পৰা অসমৰ ৰাজনৈতিক আৰু আৰ্থ-সামাজিক জীৱনত ভালেখিনি পৰিবৰ্তনৰ সূচনা হয়। ‘ৰাজনৈতিক সংঘৰ্ষ আৰু অস্থিৰ অৱস্থাৰ ফলত কোচবেহাৰে অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ কেন্দ্ৰস্থল ৰূপে মৰ্যাদা হেৰুৱালে।’^{৭১} ফলত অসমীয়া সাহিত্য চৰ্চাৰ অনুপ্ৰেৰণাৰ থল হেৰাই গ’ল। তথাপিও অসমীয়া সাহিত্য চৰ্চা নোহোৱাকৈ থকা নাছিল। শংকৰ-মাধৱৰ তিৰোধানৰ পাছত গদ্য সাহিত্যৰ উদ্ভৱ আৰু বিকাশ, মহাভাৰত-ৰামায়ণ, ভাগৱত, পুৰাণ আদিৰ আংশিক অনুবাদ, বুৰঞ্জী আৰু চৰিত সাহিত্য আদি ৰচনা হ’বলৈ ধৰে। ‘মাধৱদেৱৰ তিৰোধানৰ পিছৰ এশ বছৰত যি সাহিত্য গঢ়ি উঠিছিল, সেই সাহিত্যৰ কেন্দ্ৰস্থল ৰাজসভা নাছিল, বৈষ্ণৱ সত্ৰ আৰু সমাজেহে সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ অনুকূল পৰিৱেশ ৰচনা কৰিছিল।’^{৭২}

পাশ্চাত্য সাহিত্য জগততো মিল্টনৰ ‘পেৰাজাইজ লষ্ট’, আৰু পেৰাডাইজ ৰিগেইনড’ আদিৰ দৰে গ্ৰন্থৰ ৰচনা হৈছিল সেই সময়ৰ বিদ্ৰোহমুখৰ ইংৰাজ সমাজৰ পটভূমিতহে। ইংৰাজ নাট্যকাৰ শ্বেক্সপীয়েৰৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো তেনে কথাই খাটে। তেওঁ সেই সময়ত ইংৰাজ সমাজৰ অভিক্ৰটি আৰু প্ৰয়োজনৰ কথা সুন্দৰভাৱে বুজি উঠিছিল আৰু সমাজেও তেওঁৰ মাজেদিয়ে আকাঙ্ক্ষা আৰু তৃপ্তিৰ স্বৰূপ বিকশিত হোৱা দেখিছিল। এক কথাত ক’বলৈ গ’লে যুগেও সাহিত্যৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে আৰু সাহিত্যকসকলেও সাহিত্যত যুগৰ নিৰ্মাণ কৰে।

সাহিত্যৰ বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমিৰ আলোচনাৰ প্ৰসংগত সাহিত্যত সময়ে সময়ে ধৰা দিয়া বিশেষ ধাৰা বা ‘বাদ’ (ism) ৰ বিষয়টিৰ আলোচনাও বিশেষ গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ। ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যত Classicism ৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি Post Modernism ইত্যাদি লৈকে যি ধাৰাই সাহিত্যত কিছুমান বিশেষ বৈশিষ্ট্যৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে তাৰ অন্তৰালতে আছে সাহিত্য সৃষ্টিৰ পটভূমি। ইংৰাজী সাহিত্যৰ সৃষ্টিৰ নেপথ্যত থকা কিছুমান বিশেষ ঘটনাৰ দৰে অসমীয়া সাহিত্যতো ইয়াণ্ডাবু সন্ধিৰ পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ছোৱা যি দৰে সমস্যাজৰ্জৰ, সেই সমস্যাজৰ্জৰতাৰ মাজতে এক নতুন চেতনাৰে সাহিত্যই এক বিশেষ ৰূপ লাভ কৰিছিল।

সমাজৰ বিভিন্ন দিশসমূহক সাহিত্যৰ মাজেৰে প্ৰতিফলিত কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে লেখকসকলৰো বৌদ্ধিক চিন্তাচৰ্চাৰ প্ৰভাৱেৰে সাহিত্যই পৰিপুষ্টতা লাভ কৰিছিল। বৃটিছৰ শাসন কালত অসমৰ বিদ্যালয় আৰু কাৰ্যালয়সমূহৰ পৰা অসমীয়া ভাষা উঠাই দিয়াৰ পাছত এচাম জাতীয়প্ৰেমী লোকে অসমীয়া ভাষা-সাহিত্য-সংস্কৃতি জীয়াই ৰখাৰ অপ্ৰাণ চেষ্টা কৰিছিল। এনে এক সমস্যাজৰ্জৰ পটভূমিতে ৰচনা হোৱা অসমীয়া ভাষা সাহিত্যলৈ খৃষ্টান বেপ্তিষ্ট মিচনেৰীসকলে অনেক অৱদান আগবঢ়াইছিল। এই মিচনেৰীসকলে লুপ্তপ্ৰায় অসমীয়া ভাষা-সাহিত্যত জীপ দি পুনৰ সঞ্জীৱিত কৰি তুলিলে। ইয়াকে কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে মিচনেৰীসকলে ইংৰাজ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ লগত যুঁজ দি অসমীয়া ভাষাক পঢ়াশালি আৰু আৰু আদালতত পুনৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰাত সহায় কৰিলে। ব্যাকৰণ, অভিধান, পাঠ্যপুথি আদি যুগুত কৰি সাহিত্যৰ ভেটি বান্ধিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিলে। অসমীয়া ভাষাত প্ৰথম আলোচনী-কাকত প্ৰকাশ কৰি অসমীয়া মানুহক পাশ্চাত্য জগতৰ সন্ধান দিলে। ইংৰাজী শব্দৰ আধাৰত নতুন নতুন অসমীয়া শব্দৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিলে। মিচনেৰীসকলে ‘আমাৰ ভাষাক এটি সুৰ শিকাই গ’ল। সেই সুৰটি আগতে অসমীয়াই নাজানিছিল, ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ কোনো ভাষাই নাজানিছিল, ই পাশ্চাত্য সাহিত্যৰ নিজা সম্পত্তি। পাদুৰী চাহাবসকলে সাতসাগৰ তেৰনদী পাৰ হৈ আহি ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ ভাষা বোৰক শিকাই দিলেহি।’^৯

যদিও খৃষ্টান মিচনেৰীসকলে আধুনিক অসমীয়া সাহিত্য নিৰ্মাণৰ ভেটিটো উৰ্বৰা কৰি তুলিলে, প্ৰকৃততে সেই ভেটিটোক সুদৃঢ় কৰি তুলিলে হেমচন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা, আনন্দৰাম ঢেকিয়াল ফুকন, গুণভিৰাম বৰুৱা আদিৰ দৰে অসমীয়া ব্যক্তি কেইগৰাকীমানে। এইসকল ব্যক্তিৰ ভাষা-সাহিত্যৰ চৰ্চাত স্বদেশপ্ৰীতি আৰু জাতীয়তাবাদৰ সুৰ শুনিবলৈ পোৱা যায়। ইয়াৰ পৰবৰ্তী সময়ত অসমীয়া ভাষা-সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ পটভূমিত প্ৰাচ্য আৰু পাশ্চাত্যৰ সংযোগ সেতু স্থাপন হয়। অসমৰ অসমীয়া ছাত্ৰসকলে কলিকতাত উচ্চ শিক্ষা ল’বলৈ গৈ পাশ্চাত্যৰ সাহিত্যৰ লগত পৰিচিতি লাভ কৰে। অসমীয়া ভাষা-সাহিত্যক সমৃদ্ধ কৰি তোলাৰ প্ৰয়াসেৰে কলিকতাত গঠন হোৱা ‘অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ উন্নতি সাধনী সভা’ৰ মুখপত্ৰ হিচাপে ‘জোনাকী’ কাকত প্ৰকাশ কৰে। পাশ্চাত্যৰ সাহিত্যত ফৰাচী বিপ্লৱৰ সাম্য, মৈত্ৰী আৰু

স্বাধীনতাৰ ধ্বনি আৰু ভাৱাদৰ্শ, ৰুছোৰ প্ৰকৃতিৰ বুকুলৈ প্ৰত্যাবৰ্তন কৰাৰ আহ্বান, কাণ্ট-হেগেলৰ অতিদ্বৈতবাদী দৰ্শন আদিয়ে নৱন্যাস আন্দোলন গঢ়ি তুলিছিল। অসমীয়া সাহিত্যতো ‘জোনাকীৰ পৃষ্ঠপোষকসকলে এই কাকতৰ যোগেদি আৰু স্বতন্ত্ৰ পুথি ৰচনাৰ যোগেদি অসমীয়া সাহিত্যলৈ প্ৰবাহিত কৰিলে ইংৰাজী ৰোমাণ্টিক ভাৱাদৰ্শ আৰু ৰূপ।’^{১০} অৱশ্যে পাশ্চাত্য সাহিত্যত সৃষ্টি হোৱা নৱন্যাস আৰু অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ নৱন্যাসিক ৰচনাৰ পটভূমিত পাৰ্থক্য আছিল। সময়ৰ আহ্বান আৰু লেখক-সাহিত্যিকৰ বুদ্ধিদীপ্ততাৰ মাজেৰে সাহিত্যত বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমি একোটাই জন্ম লাভ কৰে। ৰমন্যাসবাদী ভাৱাদৰ্শও তেনে আহ্বান আৰু বুদ্ধিদীপ্ততাৰ মাজতে সৃষ্টি বৌদ্ধিক চিন্তন। এইছোৱা সময়ত ৰচনা হোৱা অসমীয়া সাহিত্য ফলে-ফুলে বিকশিত হৈ উঠিছিল। অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ ইতিহাসত ৰমন্যাসিক সময়ছোৱাক আধুনিক অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ ‘সোণালী যুগ’ অথবা ‘বেজবৰুৱাৰ যুগ’ হিচাপে অভিহিত কৰা হৈছে।

জোনাকী যুগৰ লেখকসকলে বিংশ শতিকাৰ তৃতীয় দশকমানলৈ একেটা ধাৰাতে সাহিত্য চৰ্চা কৰি আছিল যদিও ৰাজনৈতিক অস্থিৰতা, অৰ্থনৈতিক বিপৰ্যয়, মানুহৰ মানসিক অৱস্থা আদি নানান কাৰণত সাহিত্য চৰ্চাত স্থবিৰতা আহি পৰিছিল। অৱশ্যে মহাযুদ্ধৰ শেষ, ভাৰতৰ স্বাধীনতা লাভ, কিন্তু স্বাধীনতাই আনি দিয়া সাম্প্ৰদায়িক সংঘৰ্ষ আদিৰ কথা পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ৰ সাহিত্যত প্ৰতিফলিত হ’ল। অৱশ্যে এনে সময়ৰ যি আনন্দ আৰু হতাশাই মানুহৰ মাজত চৰম ৰূপ লাভ কৰিছিল, সেই বিষয়সমূহকো সাহিত্যৰ মাজেৰে আশাবাদী দৃষ্টিৰে প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ ধৰিলে। সেয়ে জোনাকীৰ সাহিত্য আৰু যুদ্ধোত্তৰ সাহিত্য ৰচনাত পৰিবৰ্তন আহি পৰিল। ‘বৰ্তমান যুগ প্ৰশ্ন, সমস্যা, দ্বিধা, সন্দেহ, যুক্তি আৰু বিজ্ঞানৰ যুগ। এই যুগক প্ৰতিফলিত কৰিবলৈ হ’লে কেৱল ফুল, চৰাই, বসন্ত, মলয়া, নাৰী সৌন্দৰ্যক ৰূপ দিলেই নহ’ব। আধুনিক জগতৰ প্ৰতিভূস্বৰূপ সকলো বস্তুকে উপাদান স্বৰূপে গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগিব।’^{১১} সেয়ে চৌপাশৰ পৃথিৱীখনক নিৰীক্ষণ কৰি সকলো বিষয়কে সাহিত্যৰ মাজেৰে প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ প্ৰয়াস কৰিলে। ইংৰাজ কবিসকলৰ আদৰ্শক আগত ৰাখি কবিতা সৃষ্টি কৰা অসমীয়া কবিসকলে

মায়াভক্ষি, মাৰ্লামে, ৰিল্কে, ইলিয়ট, বোদেলিয়াৰ, ওডেন আদি কবিসকলক আদৰ্শ হিচাপে গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে। অসমীয়া লেখকৰ ৰচনাত প্ৰতিফলিত হ'ল ফ্ৰয়েডৰ মনোবিজ্ঞান, সমাজবাদী চিন্তাধাৰত আস্থা, নগৰকেন্দ্ৰিক সভ্যতা, প্ৰাচীন ছন্দসজ্জাৰ পৰিবৰ্তে নতুন ছন্দসজ্জাৰ প্ৰয়োগ, প্ৰতীক, চিত্ৰকল্পৰ প্ৰয়োগ আদিৰে কবিতা ৰচনা হ'বলৈ ধৰিলে। কেৱল কবিতাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতে নহয়, সাহিত্যৰ বিবিধ ৰচনাৰ মাধ্যমেদি লেখকসকলৰ নতুন নতুন দৃষ্টিভংগীৰ লগত সময়ৰ ঘটনাৱলীৰ সংমিশ্ৰণ ঘটি সাহিত্যৰ ৰচনা হ'বলৈ ধৰিলে।

সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰ লগত জৰিত হৈ থকা 'বাদ' বা 'ism' সমূহৰ অন্তৰালত থাকে লেখকৰ সৃজন-মননৰ সঙ্ক্ৰতিসুক্ষ্ম বিশ্লেষণ আৰু সময়, পৰিৱেশ আৰু মানুহৰ জীৱনৰ লগত সেই সমূহৰ যোগসূত্ৰ। প্ৰসিদ্ধ লেখকসকলে অন্তৰ্দৃষ্টিৰ জৰিয়তে কিছুমান নিৰ্দিষ্ট বিষয় সাহিত্য ৰচনাৰে আধাৰ হ'ব পাৰে তাকে আঙুলিয়াই দেখুৱাইছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে, আধুনিকতাবাদৰ প্ৰসংগত 'আধুনিক' শব্দটো হ'ল সময়সাপেক্ষ শব্দ। আধুনিক চিন্তাৰে 'উনবিংশ শতিকাত জন্ম লাভ কৰা কাৰ্লমাৰ্ক্সে পদাৰ্থ বিজ্ঞানৰ সূত্ৰ আৰু হেগেলীয় দৰ্শনৰ আধাৰত কেৱল ইন্দ্ৰিয়গ্ৰাহ্য আৰু প্ৰমাণসাপেক্ষ তথ্য আৰু যুক্তিৰ আধাৰত সমাজ-জীৱনক ব্যাখ্যা কৰাৰ আৰু সমাজ পৰিবৰ্তনৰ বাবে প্ৰয়োগ কৰাৰ এক নতুন বস্তুবাদী সমাজ দৰ্শন প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিলে।'^{১২} যাৰ প্ৰভাৱে সাহিত্যইয়ো পুৰিপুষ্টি লাভ কৰিলে। সেইদৰে ছিগমাণ্ড ফ্ৰয়েডৰ মনোবিজ্ঞান, ফ্ৰেডেৰিক নীৎসৰ ঈশ্বৰ অস্তিত্ব সম্পৰ্কে প্ৰশ্ন, প্ৰকৃতিবাদীসকলৰ মানুহৰ বৰ্হিজীৱনৰ লগত অন্তৰ্জীৱনৰ সম্পৰ্ক, অষ্ট্ৰিয়ান কাব্য ইতিহাসত আৰম্ভ হোৱা 'কলা-কৈৱল্যবাদী' আন্দোলন, ইউৰোপৰ শিল্প আন্দোলনৰ ফলত গঢ়লৈ উঠা অভিব্যক্তিবাদ, মানুহৰ চেতন আৰু অবচেতন মনৰ সীমা ভাঙি নতুন শৈলীৰে সৃষ্টি হোৱা অধিবাস্তৱতাবাদ, জীৱনৰ যুক্তিহীনতা আৰু সংলগ্নহীনতাৰ আধাৰত গঢ় লৈ উঠা এবছাৰ্ডবাদ, জীৱন সম্পৰ্কীয় দাৰ্শনিক দৃষ্টিভংগীৰে সৃষ্টি হোৱা অস্তিত্ববাদ আদি ধাৰণাসমূহৰ নেপথ্যত এক বৌদ্ধিক চিন্তাচৰ্চাই ক্ৰিয়া কৰি আছে। সাহিত্যৰ বিশাল ক্ষেত্ৰখনত সামাজিক, মানসিক, বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমিৰ গুৰুত্ব অধিক। কিয়নো ভাৱ আৰু ভাষাৰে ৰচনা হোৱা সাহিত্যৰ বাবে প্ৰয়োজন হয় পটভূমিৰ। সেয়ে গতিশীল সময়ৰ লগে লগে

সাহিত্য সৃষ্টিৰ পৰিক্ৰমাত এনে বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমিৰ গুৰুত্বই মুখ্য স্থান অধিকাৰ কৰি আছে।

প্ৰসংগ টোকা :

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| ১. বৰা, মহেন্দ্ৰ | ঃ বমন্যাসবাদ, পৃষ্ঠা - ১২ |
| ২. কনিতা, অমৰেন্দ্ৰ | ঃ ইংৰাজ কবি আৰু কবিতা, পৃষ্ঠা - ১৬ |
| ৩. ডেকা, হৰেকৃষ্ণ | ঃ আধুনিকতাবাদ আৰু অন্যান্য প্ৰবন্ধ,
পৃষ্ঠা - ১৯/২০ |
| ৪. কনিতা, অমৰেন্দ্ৰ | ঃ ইংৰাজ কবি আৰু কবিতা, পৃষ্ঠা - ১৯ |
| ৫. গোস্বামী, যতীন্দ্ৰনাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ চমু বুৰঞ্জী, পৃষ্ঠা - ৫৯ |
| ৬. শৰ্মা, সত্যেন্দ্ৰ নাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ সমীক্ষাত্মক ইতিবৃত্ত,
পৃষ্ঠা - ১৩১ |
| ৭. শৰ্মা, সত্যেন্দ্ৰ নাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ সমীক্ষাত্মক ইতিবৃত্ত,
পৃষ্ঠা - ১৭৭ |
| ৮. শৰ্মা, সত্যেন্দ্ৰ নাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ সমীক্ষাত্মক ইতিবৃত্ত,
পৃষ্ঠা - ১৮১ |
| ৯. শৰ্মা, সত্যেন্দ্ৰ নাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ সমীক্ষাত্মক ইতিবৃত্ত,
পৃষ্ঠা - ২৮৩ |
| ১০. শৰ্মা, সত্যেন্দ্ৰ নাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ সমীক্ষাত্মক ইতিবৃত্ত,
পৃষ্ঠা - ৩০৭ |
| ১১. শৰ্মা, সত্যেন্দ্ৰ নাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ সমীক্ষাত্মক ইতিবৃত্ত,
পৃষ্ঠা - ৪৩০ |
| ১২. শইকীয়া, নগেন | ঃ সাহিত্য-বাদবৈচিত্ৰ্য, পৃষ্ঠা - ৩০ |

সহায়ক গ্ৰন্থপঞ্জী :

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| ১. কনিতা, অমৰেন্দ্ৰ | ঃ ইংৰাজ কবি আৰু কবিতা |
| ২. গোস্বামী, যতীন্দ্ৰনাথ | ঃ অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ চমু বুৰঞ্জী |
| ৩. ডেকা, হৰেকৃষ্ণ | ঃ আধুনিকতাবাদ আৰু অন্যান্য প্ৰবন্ধ |

৪. বৰা, মহেন্দ্ৰ : ৰমন্যাসবাদ
৫. বৰা, মহেন্দ্ৰ : সাহিত্য উপক্ৰমণিকা
৬. বেজবৰা, নীৰাজনা মহন্ত : সাহিত্যৰ সমাজতত্ত্ব সিদ্ধান্ত আৰু প্ৰয়োগ
৭. শইকীয়া, নগেন : সাহিত্য-বাদবৈচিত্ৰ্য
৮. শৰ্মা, সত্যেন্দ্ৰনাথ : অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ সমীক্ষাত্মক ইতিবৃত্ত

Internet

[https://as.m.wikipedia.org>wiki](https://as.m.wikipedia.org/wiki)

লেখক : সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, অসমীয়া বিভাগ,
জে.ডি.এচ.জি. মহাবিদ্যালয়, বোকাখাত
ফোন : ৮৪০৪০০৬৭৯৮

লোক সাহিত্যৰ এক অনুপম সৃষ্টি জুনা গীত

বীণা বৰুৱা

পৃথিবীৰ সকলো সাহিত্যতে লোক সাহিত্যৰ এক বিশিষ্ট ভূমিকা আছে আৰু এই লোক সাহিত্যসমূহ লোক জীৱনৰ মৌ কোঁহ স্বৰূপ। চহা জীৱনৰ হাঁহি আনন্দ আৰু অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পয়োভৰেৰে চহকী হৈ থকা এইবিধ সাহিত্য জনজীৱনৰ লগত অতি নিবিড়ভাৱে সংপৃক্ত হৈ থকাৰ মূল কাৰণ হ'ল ইয়াৰ সৰলতা আৰু সাৰ্বজনীনতা।

কৃষিজীৱী সংগ্ৰামী জীৱনৰ প্ৰতিফলন ঘটাই লোক সাহিত্য সমূহৰ আটাইতকৈ চহকী আৰু জনপ্ৰিয় শাখাটোৱেই হৈছে লোকগীত আৰু এই লোকগীতৰ অন্তৰ্গত এবিধ অনুপম সৃষ্টি হ'ল জুনা গীতসমূহ। কাল্পনিক কাহিনীযুক্ত আৰু গীতিধৰ্মীতাৰে সিন্ত জুনা গীতসমূহৰ প্ৰচাৰ উজনি অসমত কিছু কম যদিও মধ্য আৰু নামনি অসমত ইয়াৰ বহুল জনপ্ৰিয়তা আছে। জুনা গীতক দৰঙী বিয়াসৰ ওজাৰ একচেতীয়া সম্পদ বুলিও কোৱা হয়। অৱশ্যে দৰঙী ভাষাত ইয়াক বুনা বুলিহে জনা যায়।

হেমকোষ অভিধানৰ মতে জুনা শব্দৰ অৰ্থ হ'ল ছচৰি গাই নাচিবৰ আগেয়ে গোৱা চুটি পদ। গীতবোৰ ছচৰিৰ লেখীয়া চুটি হ'লেও ইয়াত বিহুগীতত থকাৰ দৰে লাজ লগা কথা নাথাকে।

যেনে— ভলুকা বাঁহৰে আঁথি
বতাহ বৰষুণে ওন্দোলাই অনিছে
আমাকো নথবা ৰাখি।।

ড° মহেশ্বৰ নেওগ দেৱে ইয়াক কাহিনী গীতৰ শাৰীত পেলোৱাৰ
বিপৰীতে প্ৰফুল্ল দত্ত গোস্বামীদেৱে আকৌ জুনা গীত সমূহক ধেমেলীয়া
গীত পদৰ শাৰীতহে ধৰিছে। চন্দ্ৰকান্ত অভিধানৰ মতে জুনা বা বুনা অসমীয়া
সাহিত্যৰ ছন্দ বিশেষহে। ড° লীলা গগৈ দেৱে অসমীয়া লোক সংস্কৃতিৰ
ৰূপৰেখা গ্ৰন্থত জুনাৰ সংজ্ঞা চন্দ্ৰকান্ত অভিধানৰ দৰেই দিছে যদিও নিজে
ইয়াক এবিধ কাল্পনিক গীত বুলিহে কৈছে। যেই কি নহওক অভিধানে জুনাক
এবিধ চুটি পদ বুলি ক'লেও প্ৰচলিত সকলো জুনাই এই সংজ্ঞাক সামৰি
নলয়। কাৰণ কোনো কোনো জুনাত ২১ৰ পৰা ৪৩ টা পৰ্যন্ত পদ আছে।
ড° নবীন চন্দ্ৰ শৰ্মাদেৱে ইয়াক ব্যাসসংজ্ঞীতৰ পঞ্চম আৰু শেষ ক্ৰম বুলি
অভিহিত কৰি জুনাৰ পৰিবৰ্তে বুনা শব্দ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে। নৱকান্ত বৰুৱাদেৱে
তেখেতৰ অসমীয়া লোক কবিতাৰ সৌন্দৰ্য্য বিচাৰ গ্ৰন্থত কৈছে যে, হাস্যৰস
সৃষ্টি কৰিবলৈ চুটি চুটি পংক্তিয়ে ৰচা ধেমেলীয়া নিৰৰ্থক আখ্যানযুক্ত
গীতবোৰক ছন্দটোৰ বাবেই জুনা বোলা হৈছিল আৰু অৱশেষত বিষয়বস্তুৰে
প্ৰাধান্য পাই অৰ্থান্তৰ ঘটি ব্যঙ্গ কাহিনীযুক্ত গীতক জুনা বুলিবলৈ ধৰিলে।
এই মন্তব্য গ্ৰহণযোগ্য যেন লাগে এইবাবেই যে, জুনা হিচাপে প্ৰচলিত
বেছিভাগ গীতৰে ছন্দ মূলতঃ বুনা বা একাৱলী। অৰ্থাৎ ৬+৫ = ১১/ ৬+৫
= ১১।

যেনে— আনন্দে মোহন বাংশী বজাই।

গৈলন্ত গোঁসাই তাঁতীৰ ঠাই। (তাঁতীৰ জুনা)

মহাপুৰুষ শংকৰদেৱৰ কীৰ্তন ঘোষাতো এই ছন্দ সজ্জাৰ বহুল
ব্যৱহাৰ দেখা যায়—

গোপাল গোবিন্দ যদুনন্দন।

কৃষ্ণৰ চৰণে লৈলো শৰণ।। (কীৰ্তন)

বৰুৱাদেৱৰ মতে মহাপুৰুষ জনাই কীৰ্তনত কৰা বহুল ব্যৱহাৰৰ
ফলত জনপ্ৰিয় হোৱা এই ছন্দত লোক সমাজে কেতবোৰ ধেমেলীয়া লোক

কবিতা ৰচনা কৰিছিল আৰু পৰবৰ্তী পৰ্যায়ত বুনা চন্দত ৰচিত এই কবিতা সমূহে বিভিন্ন বিষয় বস্তুক সামৰি লৈছিল। এইখিনিতে এটা কথা প্ৰাধান্যযোগ্য যে লোক সাহিত্যসমূহ গীতিসাহিত্যৰ যুগৰ পৰাই প্ৰচলিত হৈ আহিছে যদিও সংগৃহীত জুনাসমূহৰ বিষয়বস্তু বা ৰচনা ৰীতিলৈ চাই এইবোৰ শংকৰ পূৰ্ব সময়ৰ ৰচনা বুলি কবলৈ টান। সেই দিশৰ পৰা মহাপুৰুষজনাই ৰুক্মিণীহৰণ কাব্যত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা জুনাটোকহে প্ৰাচীনতম জুনা বুলি লোকসংস্কৃতিৰ গৱেষক সকলে ঠাৱৰ কৰিছে। অৱশ্যে শংকৰদেৱেও এই ছন্দটো কোনো লোক অনুষ্ঠানৰ পৰা সংগ্ৰহ কৰিছিল বুলি ভবাৰ অৱকাশো নোহোৱা নহয়। ৰুক্মিণীহৰণ কাব্যত মহাপুৰুষজনাই ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা জুনা টো শিৱৰ জুনা হিচাপে জনা যায়।

শংকৰে ভনিলে শিৱৰ জুনা।

সব সমাজে কান পাতি শুনা।।

প্ৰচলিত জুনা গীত সমূহত তিনিটা ধাৰা লক্ষ্য কৰা যায় -

(ক) উজনি অসমত ছচৰিৰ দৰে গোৱা গীত।

(খ) নামনি অসমৰ নিংনি ভাৱৰীয়াৰ মুখত চলি অহা গীত।

(গ) মঙ্গলদৈ অঞ্চলৰ ওজাপালি অনুষ্ঠানৰ লগত জড়িত গীত।

এই আটাইবোৰ গীতৰ বিষয়বস্তু বেলেগ যদিও ইয়াত থকা সাধাৰণ বৈশিষ্ট্য হ'ল - গীতসমূহ লঘু হাস্য ৰসাত্মক আৰু ইয়াৰ লগত লোকৰঞ্জনৰ উদ্দেশ্য জড়িত হৈ থাকে।

তদুপৰি প্ৰায়বোৰ গীতৰে ছন্দ আৰু গঠন প্ৰণালী একেধৰণৰ আৰু লোক কবিৰ দ্বাৰা ৰচিত।

সংগৃহীত জুনাসমূহক সাধাৰণভাৱে দুটা ভাগত ভাগ কৰা হৈছে—

(১) ধৰ্মীয় জুনা

(২) সামাজিক জীৱনৰ জুনা।

ধৰ্মীয় জুনাসমূহৰ ভিতৰত কৃষ্ণ বিষয়ক জুনা, শিৱ বিষয়ক জুনা আৰু কৃষ্ণ গোপীৰ জুনা সমূহক ধৰা যায়। আনহাতে সামাজিক জুনাসমূহ বিবিধ বিষয়ৰ।

কপাহৰ জুনা, পচলাৰ জুনা, চাহপাতৰ জুনা, পৰুৱাৰ জুনা, ওকনি

মৰা জুনা, নাঙলৰ জুনা, ঔষধৰ জুনা, ভুঁইকপৰ জুনা, বানপানীৰ জুনা আদিত
বাস্তৱ জীৱনৰ প্ৰতিফলন সুন্দৰ ৰূপত ফুটি উঠা দেখা যায়।

ধৰ্মীয় জুনা সমূহৰ ভিতৰত তাঁতীৰ জুনা টো বিশেষ ভাৱে জনপ্ৰিয়।
ইয়াত ব্যঙ্গাত্মক কথাবতৰা নাই আৰু কাব্যিক গুণৰ ফালৰ পৰাও অতি উৎকৃষ্ট
মানৰ। এই জুনাত ৰাধাক পিন্ধাবলৈ এখন সুন্দৰ কাপোৰ বোৱাবৰ বাবে
কৃষ্ণক তাঁতীৰ ঘৰত উপস্থিত কৰোৱা হৈছে।

আনন্দে মোহন বাংশী বজাই।

গৈলন্ত গৌঁসাই তাঁতীৰ ঠাই।

দুৰতে দেখিয়া তাঁতী হাসয়।

আমাৰ গৃহক হৰি আসয়।।

কৃষ্ণৰ ভৰি হাত ধুৱাই কপুৰ তাম্বুলেৰে শুশ্ৰষা কৰাৰ পাছত
তাঁতীয়ে সুধিছে—

কিবা প্ৰয়োজনে আসিলা গৌঁসাই।

পাছে তযু কিবা শুনো অভিপ্ৰায়।।

কৃষ্ণয়ো উত্তৰ দিছে—

সি হেতু আসিলো তোহোৰ ঠাই।

আমাক পঠাইছে মোৰ ৰাধিকাই।।

শুন তাঁতী মই কহো কথাক।

কাপোৰ লাগে মোৰ ৰাধিকাক।।

তাঁতীয়ে কেনে কাপোৰ বব লাগিব, সুধিছে—

কেমন কাপোৰ কেমন ঠান

কলেহে বুজো মই তাৰ প্ৰমান।।

কৃষ্ণই কৈছে - পথালি দুকাঠি লৈবা বেগত।

দীঘলে লৈবা তিনি ততেক।।

পৃথিবীত আছে যতেক ফুল

শুন তাঁতী তই কাপোৰত তোল।

কাপোৰখনত কি কি থাকিব লাগিব সেই বিষয়ে অন্য এঠাইত
নিজৰ কলাসুলভ মনৰ পৰিচয় দাঙি ধৰি চহা কবিয়ে কৈছে—

দীঘলে সাৰঙ্গ পুতলে বৰ।
তাৰ আগে দিবা গুনা বিস্তৰ।।
খোঁচনিত লিখিবা নেজালি ম'ৰা।
আঁচুতে লিখিবা আকাশী তৰা।।

সমস্ত সৃষ্টি যাৰ ইচ্ছাৰ অধীন সেই পৰম ব্ৰহ্ম কৃষ্ণক লোক কবিয়ে
আনি তাঁতীৰ ঘৰ পোৱাইছেহি ৰাধাৰ কাপোৰ বোৱাবলৈ আৰু এই কাপোৰ
কেনেদৰে বৰ লাগিব তাকো কোৱাইছে কৃষ্ণ মুখেদিয়েই। সামাজিক মৰ্য্যদা
অনুসৰি কাপোৰ খনত শালু-শলুৰ, দাদা, মামা, সকলোকে নিদিষ্ট স্থানত
বাছিবলৈও কৃষ্ণেই তাঁতীক পৰামৰ্শ দিয়াৰ উপৰিও প্ৰাণৰ ৰাধাৰ কাপোৰখনৰ
হৃদয়তে তেওঁৰ ছবি দিবলৈও অনুৰোধ কৰিছে।

শিৰত লিখিবা বাসুদেৱ পিতা।
ওৰণিত লিখিবা দৈৱকী মাতা।।
বাহুতে লিখিবা দাদা বলাই।
হৃদয়ত লিখিবা কৃষ্ণ কানাই।
সেই কাপোৰ নিয়া ৰাধাক পিন্ধাও।
ৰাধাৰ সহিতে বৃন্দাবন যাওঁ।।

তাঁতীৰ জুনা দুটা পোৱা যায়। এটা চুটি এটা দীঘল। দীঘল জুনাটোত
শংকৰদেৱৰ ভনীতা আছে।

শংকৰে ৰচিলা কাপোৰৰ জুনা।
সমস্ত সমাজে কান পাতি শুনা।।

তাঁতীৰ জুনাৰ বাহিৰেও কৃষ্ণ সম্পৰ্কীয় গীতবোৰত কৃষ্ণৰ লৱনুচোৰৰ
কাহিনীৰ লগতে দুপ্তালি ভৰা কাহিনীও সন্নিবিষ্ট আছে। ব্যাস-সঙ্গীতৰ লগত
জড়িত শিৱ পাৰ্বতীৰ গীত সমূহতো কিছু লঘু হাস্যৰস আছে যদিও গহীন
ধৰণৰ গীতো আছে। বিয়া কৰাবলৈ যোৱা শিৱৰ জুনা হাস্য ৰসেৰে ভৰা—

সাজোনে সাজিল শিৱ বিহাৰ কাৰণ।
আগে পাছে চলি যাই যত দেৱগন।।
বৰ নহয় বৰ নহয় যদিয়াৰ সঁচ
চাৰিওফালে সৰ্পগণে কৰে ফচ ফচ

হাতে লৈয়া তহনায় ত্ৰিশূল ডম্বৰু

ঘৰে বাহিৰে এক গুটি গৰু।

আন এটা গীতত আকৌ শিৱ পাৰ্বতীৰ দৰিদ্ৰ অৱস্থাবো বৰ্ণনা কৰা
হৈছে যিটো জুনাৰ মাজত গ্ৰাম্য সমাজৰ ভঙুৱা কানিয়া লোক সকলৰ
দুৰৱস্থাৰ ছবিও ফুটি উঠিছে।

যেনে—

ভাঙু যে ধতুৰা খালোঁ পাৰ্বতী

মাথাত ধৰিছে টান

আজি সাঁজৰ চাউল মুঠি তই

ধাৰ ঋণ কৰি আন।।

শিৱৰ নামত প্ৰচলিত আন এটি জুনা উজনি অসমত বিহু নাম আৰু
বিয়া নাম উভয়তে গোৱা হয়।

তেতেলীৰ তলতে কৰো তাতে বাটি

পাহৰি আহিলো কুচি।

কুচিৰ লগতে পগলাই কলাব

যাঁৱে আইৰ ঘৰলৈ গুছি।।

মাৰৰ ঘৰলৈ যাৱ তই পাৰ্বতী

বাটত খাপে পাতি ধৰো

বাটত খাপে পিটি ধৰ তই পগলা

হাবিত লৰে মাৰি সাৰো।

হাবিত লৰে মাৰি সাৰ তই পাৰ্বতী

হাবিত জুয়ে লগাই ধৰো

হাবিত জুয়ে লগাই ধৰ তই পগলা

ধোৱাঁৰ লগতে উৰো।। ইত্যাদি।

য'ত দাম্পত্য প্ৰীতিৰ মান-অভিমান, দাম্পত্য-কলহ, প্ৰেম-প্ৰীতিৰ
এখন নিটোল ছবি পোৱা যায়।

সামাজিক জুনাসমূহতো গ্ৰাম্যজীৱনৰ অভিজ্ঞতা, বাস্তৱ জীৱনৰ খুটি
নাটি, ব্যঙ্গ আদিৰ নিখুঁত ছবি পোৱা যায়। কপাহৰ জুনাত কাপোৰ বৰৰ

কাৰণে প্ৰয়োজন হোৱা পিজলি কপাহ সোণাপুৰ হাটত আছে বুলি জানি
তঁাত বব নজনা অকাজীয়েহে কপাহ আনিবলৈ যাবলৈ তত নোহোৱা কৰে।
লোকক সুধি পুছি সোণাপুৰ হাটলৈ গৈ ৰূপ টকাৰ ছপোৱা কপাহ আনিলে
হয় কিন্তু বব নেজানি কপাহখিনি ধোৱাঁ চাঙত তুলি থৈ গাল বিয়াইছে বুলি
ছমাহলৈ শুলে। ছমাহৰ মূৰত দেখে যে কপাহৰ জোলাত নিগনিৰ বাঁহ। ধোৱাঁ
চাঙৰ পৰা কপাহখিনি নমাই পুনৰ দুৱাৰ চুকত থলে। এইবাৰ তাতে হাঁহে কণী
পাৰিলে। বৰজনাকৈ জাবৰ বুলি পেলাই দিলেগৈ আৰু অলপমান পঘা বাটিলে।
এনেকুৱা তঁাত বব নজনা থুপৰী তিৰোতাক ব্যঙ্গ কৰা হৈছে কপাহৰ জুনাত।

সৰুজনীয়ে বুলিলে বৰজনী বাই।

পিজলি কপাহ ক'তনো পাই।।

কপাহ আছে সোণাপুৰ হাটে।

শহুৰে দেখি আহে পানী অনা ঘাটে।।

পিজলি কপাহৰ বাতৰি পাই।

অকাজীয়ে যাবলৈ তত নেপাই।।

কপাহ আনি ধোৱাঁ চাঙত থলে

গাল বিয়াইছে বুলি ছমাহলৈ শুলে।।

ছমাহৰ মূৰত মেলি চাই।

বাৰে বুৰি শলীয়া কপাহত পাই।।

ছপোৱা কপাহক কৰে ঠাই ঠাই

এনুৱা কাজি সংসাৰত নাই

এঘেউ কাটিলে মাজনিশা ৰাতি/

তাৰে বান্ধিলে দঁতাল হাতী

এঘেউ কাটিলে সবাতোকৈ সৰু

তাৰে বান্ধিলে ভোটোৰা গৰু।।

অৱশেষত মাক জীয়েক লগ লাগি তঁাত এখন লগালে। তাতো
আকৌ

ছমাহৰ মূৰতহে কাপোৰ বেগেত হয়।

মাকে জীয়েকে বগিয়াকৈ বয়।

মাকতকৈ জীয়েক কাজী
ডেকী থোৰাৰে বাটে পাঁজী
ছাঁতে শুকুৰা মুঠিতে লুকুৰা কাপোৰবোৰা শিপিনীৰ দেশৰ অকাজীয়ে
বোৰা কাপোৰখনত আকৌ—

এমোৰ মাৰিলে কৰকৰা খাই
তাৰ মাজে হালোৰা গৰু যায়।
এমোৰ মাৰিলে মাজৰাতি
তাৰ মাজে সৰকিলে বনৰীয়া হাতী।

এই কপাহৰ পৰা এনেকুৱা সুতা কাটিলে যে সুতাৰ আসি মাৰোতে
লৰাহঁতৰ বাপেকৰ কঁকাল গাঁথি লাগিল।

এনেদৰে কপাহৰ জুনাত গ্ৰাম্য সমাজত তঁত বৰ নজনা তিৰোতাৰ
ঘৰখনত বা সমাজত কেনে দুৰ্গতি হয় তাৰ এখন ব্যঙ্গ চিত্ৰ বাস্তৱ সন্মত
ভাৱে দাঙি ধৰা হৈছে।

পৰুৱাৰ জুনা— পৰুৱাৰ জুনাটোক বহুতে শিপিনীৰ গীত বুলিও কয়। এই
জুনা কোনো কোনো ঠাইত বিহু গাঁওতে গোৱা হয়। এই জুনাটোত কোনো
বিহুৱাই পৰুৱা শিপিনীক হাঁচটি বিচাৰিছিল। পৰুৱাই টোলোঠা নাই বুলি উত্তৰ
দিয়াত পৰুৱাৰ তঁতশালৰ বাবে টোলোঠা বিচাৰি যোৱা কাহিনীটো ইয়াত
বৰ্ণনা কৰা হৈছে।

ভাতে বান্ধি দিয়া খাওঁ এই পৰুৱা
পানী আনি দিয়া খাওঁ।
চাউল মুঠিচেৰেক বান্ধি দিয়া পৰুৱা
টোলোঠা বিচাৰি যাওঁ।।
উজনি ৰাজ্যতে টোলোঠা পালেগৈ
ষোল্লহাত এমুঠন বেৰা
পৰুৱা শিপিনীৰ তোলোঠা কাটোতে
গাঁৱৰ মৰিল চাৰিবুঢ়া
অৱশেষত পৰুৱা শিপিনীৰ তঁতশাল হয়গৈ।
সদিয়া দেশৰে কপাহ কিনি আনি

দিনেহি পৰুৱাৰ হাতত
এসেৰ কপাহক ছমাহ ছন্দিয়াই
ছমাহত লগালে তাঁত।

তাৰ পাছত

পৰুৱাই ৰান্ধিলে পৰুৱাই বাঢ়িলে
পৰুৱাই নেখালে ভাত।
ৰাতিৰে ভিতৰত কাটে সৰু সুতা
পুৱালৈ লগালে তাঁত।।
কুকুৰা যুঁজাবৰ কাঠি মোৰ বুঢ়ী আই
কুকুৰা যুঁজাবৰ কাঁঠি
গাঁৱৰ বাই ভনী মাতি আন বুঢ়ী আই
কৰোগৈ হাঁচটি বাতি।। ইত্যাদি।

মধ্য আৰু উজনি অসমত প্ৰচলিত আন এবিধ জুনা হ'ল পচলাৰ জুনা। দৈনন্দিন জীৱনৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় অৰ্হতা সমূহ আয়ত্ব কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে কেনে অথন্তৰ ঘটে তাক অতি সৰস ভাবে বৰ্ণনা কৰা হৈছে পচলাৰ জুনাত। বাৰিষা কলপুলিৰ মাজত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণৰ পানী সোমাই থাকে গতিকে পচলা খাবলৈ কাটি অনাৰ পাছত পানীখিনি যাবলৈ কিছু সময় কলপাতেৰে মেৰিয়াই বাহিৰতে থিয়কৈ ৰখা হয়। তাকে নকৰিলে পচলাৰ পানীয়ে মজিয়া তিয়াই পেলোৱাৰ সম্ভাৱনা।

পচলাৰ জুনাত কোৱা হৈছে -

- (১) সৰুজনী বোলে বৰজনী বাই।
পচলাৰ আঞ্জা খাবৰ মন যায়।।
কাটিলেক পছলা আনিলেক টানি
তাঁতত খোঁছ খাই ৰান্ধনী হ'ল কাণী।
কাটি আনি পচলা মজিয়াত থলে।
পচলাৰ পানী গৈ ঘৰ তল গৈলে।।

পচলা কুটা ৰন্ধাৰো কৌশল আছে। তাক ভালকৈ নাজানিলে পচলা নিসিজে আৰু খাওঁতে শব্দ হয়।

কুটিলেক পচলা নুগুচালে চেঁচু
মাজত থাকিলে জেলুকীয়া কেঁচু।।
এজনীয়ে ৰান্ধে বাঢ়ে
এজনীয়ে দিয়ে পানী
আনজনীয়ে নিমখ দিয়ে
বাতিয়ে বাতিয়ে আনি
সিজালেক পচলা নিসিজিলে পাগে
পচলা খাঁওতে শোৱা লৰা জাগে।

খাবলৈ বেয়া হলে ৰান্ধনীৰ গালত কিল পৰাৰ কথাও পচলাৰ জুনাত
আছে। এই জুনাৰ সামৰণিত কোৱা হৈছে -

যিবা জনে শুনে পচলাৰ আঁতি গুৰি।
নিষ্ঠ কৰি কৈলো সিটো নাযায় যমপুৰী।।

বিসঙ্গতিপূৰ্ণ বৰ্ণনাৰে হাস্যৰস সৃষ্টি কৰাটোৱেই ৰচকৰ প্ৰধান উদ্দেশ্য
যদিও চহা কবিৰ কবিত্ব শক্তিৰ প্ৰকাশ ইয়াত অতি মনোৰম।

আন এবিধ জনপ্ৰিয় জুনা হ'ল নাঙলৰ গীত বা নাঙলৰ জুনা। ইয়াৰ
বিষয়বস্তু ধেমেলীয়া। হালৰ বস্তুবোৰৰ আত্মপৰিচয় দিবলৈ যাওঁতে এই গীতৰ
জন্ম। নাঙল, ফাল, ডিলামাৰি, শলমাৰি, আউতজৰী, এচাৰি, মৈ সকলোৰে
নিজৰ নিজৰ শ্ৰেষ্ঠত্ব প্ৰতিপন্ন কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতেই এই হাস্যৰসাত্মক গীতৰ
জন্ম। কৃষিজীৱী মানুহৰ হালখনৰ এপদ বস্তু নহলেই কেনে বিপৰ্যয় হয়
তাৰো এখন বাস্তৱ চিত্ৰ ইয়াত বিদ্যমান।

হাবিতে আছিলে কেৰোঁৰা কাঠ
বাঢ়ৈয়ে পাই তাত লগালে চাঁচ।।
নাঙলে বোলে মোৰ পিঠিতে কুঁজ।
পুৱাহলে পৃথিৱীৰে লাগি যাওঁ যুজ।।
গৰুৱে বুলিলে দীঘল নেজা।
মই নহলে সকলো মিছা।।
ডিলা মাৰিয়ে বোলে মই নাকতকৈ পোন
মই নহলে মাটি পৰি থাকে চন।।

শল মাৰিয়ে বোলে আমি চাৰি ভাই ককাই
চাৰিও চাৰিওলৈ আছো বাট চাই
এছাৰিয়ে বোলে মই সকলোতকৈ সৰু
মই নহলে নচলে গৰু।।
ভদ্রসেনে ৰচিলে নাঙলৰ জুনা
সমস্ত সমাজে কান পাতি শুনা।

নামনি অসমত প্ৰচলিত এবিধ জুনা হল ভুঁইকপৰ গীত। আকস্মিক
ভাৱে অহা ভূমিকম্পৰ ফলত হোৱা সাধাৰণ মানুহৰ বিপয়্য আৰু
ভূমিকম্পৰ আগমনৰ বাস্তৱ উপলব্ধিক চহা কবিয়ে সজাই পৰাই উলিয়াইছে
এনেদৰে—

চাৰি পাঁচ জনে বাপা
কৰি আছিল মেল।
জেঠৰ একদিন থাকাত
ভুঁইকপটো গেল।।
পশ্চিমৰ পেৰে আহিল
হৰৌ হৰৌ কৰি
তিৰি চলিৰ হাতত ধৰি
কৰে লৰা লৰি।।
হাঁহ ভাঁহিল পাৰা ভাঁহিল
আৰু ভাঁহিল গৰু।
ঘিৰ মিৰ কৰে ভাঁহি পৰিল
ভাত ৰন্ধা চৰু।
শ্যামৰায় গহঁয় ঘৰত
আমি আছলু ৰাতি।
আপিস্তা কঠালগিলা
খাছলু কাটি কাটি।।

ড° লীলা গগৈ দেৱে নাহৰৰ গীত নামেৰে প্ৰচলিত মালিতাটোকো
এসময়ত নাহৰৰ জুনা বুলা হৈছিল বুলিয়ে উল্লেখ কৰিছে।

ভাত ৰান্ধি দিয়া খাওঁ মই বুঢ়ী আই
পানী আনি দিয়া খাওঁ
লগৰ সমনীয়া যায় মহঙ বেহাবলৈ
মইও বেহাবলৈ যাওঁ। (নাহৰৰ গীত)

ৰচকৰ উপস্থিত বুদ্ধি আৰু বৰ্ণনা নৈপুণ্যৰ পৰিচয় থকা এই জুনা গীতবোৰৰ মূখ্য উদ্দেশ্য হাঁহিৰ সমল যোগোৱা যদিও ইয়াৰ মাজত কৃষিজীৱী সমাজ এখনৰ সুন্দৰ প্ৰতিচ্ছবি ফুটি উঠে। তদুপৰি জুনাত বৰ্ণিত কথাবোৰ বৰ্তমান সময়ত অপ্ৰাসঙ্গিক যেন লাগিলেও সেই সময়ৰ পটভূমিত ইয়াৰ যথেষ্ট তাৎপৰ্য আছিল; ই লোকজীৱনত সংঘটিত অনেক সৰু বৰ কথাৰ সন্তোদ দিয়াৰ লগতে দৈনন্দিন জীৱনৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় বহু কাম কাজৰ সন্তোদ দিয়ে।

কাব্যিক কল্পনাৰে ৰঞ্জিত এই জুনাবোৰ ছচৰিৰ গীত, বিয়ানাম বা আন ধৰ্মীয় অনুষ্ঠানতো পদ হিচাপে পৰিবেশন কৰা দেখা যায়। বিশেষকৈ তাঁতীৰ জুনাক ভক্তিধৰ্মৰ গীত হিচাপে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাৰ উপৰিও ছচৰিৰ পদ হিচাপেও ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে।

নামনি অসমত খুলীয়া ভাওৰীয়া বা ভাইৰা অনুষ্ঠানত বহুৱাই ধেমেলীয়া জুনাবোৰ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে।

সদৌ শেষত ইয়াকে কব পাৰি যে, সময়ৰ প্ৰবাহমান গতিত এনেধৰণৰ হৃদয়ৰ ভাবানুভূতিৰে পৰিপূৰ্ণ হৈ থকা গীত মাতবোৰ হেৰাই যাবলৈ উপক্ৰম কৰাৰ সময়ত সচেতন সকলে ধৰি ৰখাৰ প্ৰয়াস নকৰিলে অদূৰ ভবিষ্যতে গীতিসাহিত্যৰ এই অমূল্য সম্পদ সমূহ পাহৰণিৰ গৰ্ভত বিলীন হৈ যাবলৈ বেছি পৰ নালাগিব।

প্ৰসঙ্গ গ্ৰন্থ :

- (১) অসমীয়া লোক সাহিত্য : সম্পাদনা : ড° প্ৰহ্লাদ কুমাৰ বৰুৱা।
- (২) অসমীয়া লোক সংস্কৃতিৰ ৰূপৰেখা : ড° লীলা গগৈ।
- (৩) লোক সাহিত্য : অতুল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা।
- (৪) অসমীয়া কবিতাৰ সৌন্দৰ্য্যবিচাৰ : নৱকান্ত বৰুৱা।

লেখিকা : অৱসৰ প্ৰাপ্ত শিক্ষয়িত্ৰী, জাঁজী উ. মা. বিদ্যালয়

উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতা এক চমু অৱলোকন

ৰাজীৱ দত্ত

জনসাধাৰণ বা পাঠকে যি জানিবলৈ বিচাৰে তাক জনোৱাটোৱেই হ'ল সাংবাদিকতা বা যি সত্য পাঠকৰ জনাটো প্ৰয়োজন তাক জনোৱাৰ পদ্ধতিয়েই হৈছে সাংবাদিকতা। সত্য উন্মোচনেই সাংবাদিকৰ পবিত্ৰ ধৰ্ম। সমাজৰ প্ৰকৃত বাস্তৱ ছবিখনত নিখুঁতভাৱে পাঠকৰ আগত সফলভাৱে তুলি ধৰিবৰ পৰাটো এজন দায়বদ্ধ সাংবাদিকৰ মূল কৰ্ম। এনে এক প্ৰেক্ষাপটত সংবাদ পঢ়ুৱৈয়ে সাংবাদিকজনৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। আজিৰ সামাজিক প্ৰেক্ষাপটত সহজেই জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত চাঞ্চল্য আৰু আবেগ সৃষ্টি কৰিব পৰা ঘটনা বা পৰিঘটনা সদায়ে ঘটি থকা দেখা যায়। এই বিলাকৰ বিষয়েও জনসাধাৰণৰ জনাৰ প্ৰয়োজন আছে। কিন্তু তাৰ বিপৰীতে সমাজত এনে কিছুমান ঘটনাও ঘটি আছে বা থাকে যিবোৰে অহৰহ যোগাত্মক প্ৰভাৱ পেলাই থাকে। কিন্তু এনেবোৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত সাধাৰণতে কাৰোৰ চকুত নপৰে। লোকচক্ষুৰ আঁৰত নীৰৱে ঘটি থকা ঘটনা প্ৰৱাহৰ এনেবোৰ দৃশ্য উন্মোচিত হ'লে মানুহৰ মাজত সাংঘাতিক ধৰণে প্ৰভাৱ পেলাব পাৰে। উদাহৰণস্বৰূপে আজিকালি খুউব কম সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে মানুহৰ মাজত জনপ্ৰিয় হৈ পৰা তান্ত্ৰিক ব্যক্তি অথবা মঠ-মন্দিৰ আদি কথা আমি সততে (বুঢ়া ডাঙৰীয়া) শুনিবলৈ পাওঁ।

য'লৈ দৈনিক শ শ ভক্তৰ লানি-নিচিগা সোঁত বয়। কিন্তু আমি এটা কথা জানিও নজনাব দৰে যে মহামাৰী ক'ভিডৰ সময়ত যেতিয়া লকডাউন হৈছিল তেতিয়া সেই মানুহ বা ব্যক্তি বা অনুষ্ঠানৰ পৰা জনসাধাৰণে কি পৰিত্ৰাণৰ উপায় পাইছিল। সেই সময়ৰ শিক্ষা হ'ল এই যে এই সকলো মিছা বা ভুৱা। প্ৰকৃততে চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানেহে আমাক প্ৰকৃততে মৃত্যুৰ পৰা পৰিত্ৰাণ দিব পাৰে। যি ক'ভিড বিধি অতি কঠোৰভাৱে পালন কৰা হৈছিল আজি সেই ক'ভিডৰ ভাইৰাচ থকা স্বত্বেও ক'ভিড বিধি উলংঘা কৰি এনে ব্যক্তি বা অনুষ্ঠানৰ কাষলৈ মানুহে ঢাপলি মেলিছে। ইয়াৰ মূলত কাৰণ হ'ল প্ৰকৃত সত্যক বাস্তৱসন্মতভাৱে উন্মোচন কৰিবলৈ ব্যৰ্থ হোৱা আৰু এনেদৰে বাতৰি পৰিৱেশন কৰা যাতে যুক্তিযুক্ততা পৰিহাৰ কৰি মানুহে মোহাচ্ছন্ন হৈ ঢাপলি মেলে। এনেধৰণৰ সংবাদৰ পৰা সমাজৰ কিবা লাভ হ'ব বুলি আশা কৰিব নোৱাৰি। বাতৰিয়ে সৃষ্টি কৰা ক্ষণিক উন্মাদনাৰ ফলত সন্তিয়া জনপ্ৰিয়তা পোৱাটো সহজ। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ প্ৰভাৱ সমাজ, দেশৰ বাবে অতি ক্ষতিকাৰক। তেনেই নগণ্য বা লঘু বিষয় এটাকে অতি গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ বিষয় হিচাবে বহণ সানি পৰিৱেশন কৰাৰ ফলত জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত বিভ্ৰান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি হোৱাটো স্বাভাৱিক। যিহেতু সকলো বিষয়ৰ ধনাত্মক আৰু ঋণাত্মক দুয়োটা দিশেই থাকে। বাস্তৱিকতে ঋণাত্মক দিশটোৱেহে প্ৰাধান্য লাভ কৰা দেখা যায়। যাৰ ফলশ্ৰুতিত সমাজ প্ৰকৃত সত্য উন্মোচন হোৱাটো সম্ভৱ নহয়। উদাহৰণস্বৰূপে চলিত বছৰৰ জানুৱাৰী মাহত গোলাঘাট জিলাৰ আঠখেলীয়াৰ পৰা তিনিচুকীয়াৰ বৰডুবিৰ টিলিঙা মন্দিৰ দৰ্শনৰ বাবে অহা বনভোজৰ দলটোৱে দেৰগাঁও বালিজনৰ ৩৭ নং ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় ঘাইপথৰ ওপৰত এখন ট্ৰাকৰ সতে মুখামুখী সংঘৰ্ষ হয়। ইয়াৰ ফলত প্ৰায় ১২ জন মানুহে অতি কৰুণভাৱে মৃত্যুক সাৰটি লৈছিল। কিন্তু অতি পৰিতাপৰ বিষয় যে বাছখন কাৰ পৰা, কোনে কেইবাৰ কিনিলে, দ্ৰাইভাৰজনে ৰাতি শুলে নাই, অহাৰ আগতে মদ্যপান কৰিছিল নেকি? কোনো তীৰ্থ যাত্ৰীয়ে দ্ৰাইভাৰজনক বেয়া ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছিল নেকি ইত্যাদি অজস্ৰ প্ৰশ্নৰে সংবাদ মাধ্যমে সেই সময়ত গৰম বতাহৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিলে। কিন্তু অতি ৰহস্যজনকভাৱে ট্ৰাকখন ক'ৰ পৰা আহিলে, ট্ৰাকখন কিমান টন কয়লা বোজা আছিল, প্ৰকৃততে ট্ৰাকখন কাৰ? এই কথাবোৰ

বিতংভাবে পোহৰলৈ নাহিল বুলি ৰাইজে মুকলিকৈ সংবাদ মাধ্যমক সমালোচনা কৰিছিল। যাৰ ফলত দুৰ্ঘটনা সংঘটিত কৰা কয়লা ভৰ্তি ট্ৰাকখনৰ বিষয়টো গৌণ হৈ পৰিল। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰকৃত সত্যক জানিব পৰা অধিকাৰৰ পৰা জনসাধাৰণ বঞ্চিত হোৱাটো চৰম দুৰ্ভাগ্যজনক।

জানিব পৰামতে পশ্চিমীয়া তথা উন্নত দেশবোৰত সংবাদ জগতৰ ভূমিকা অতি গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ আৰু সদায় উন্নত আৰু প্ৰগতিবাদী চিন্তা-চৰ্চাৰে সমৃদ্ধ। বাতৰিয়ে জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত সন্ধিয়া জনপ্ৰিয়তা বা বিভ্ৰান্তি সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ পৰিৱৰ্তে পঢ়ুৱৈক যুক্তিনিষ্ঠভাৱে বিচাৰ বিশ্লেষণ কৰিবলৈ পৰাৰ সুবিধা প্ৰদান কৰে। এজন নাগৰিকে এখন বাতৰি কাকতৰ পৰা পাব লগা যিখিনি প্ৰয়োজনীয় তথ্য পাতি সেইয়া বৰ্তমান যুগৰ লগত এনেদৰে সামঞ্জস্য ৰাখি প্ৰকাশ কৰা হয় যে নিত্য প্ৰয়োজনীয় সামগ্ৰী বিজ্ঞাপনৰ পৰা কৰ্পৰেট গোষ্ঠী ব্যৱসায়িক অগ্ৰগতি, দেশ-বিদেশৰ ঘটনা-প্ৰবাহ আদি সকলো প্ৰয়োজন অনুসাৰে উপলব্ধ হয়। এনে প্ৰেক্ষাপটত আমাৰ ৰাজ্যখনৰ উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতাৰ ধাৰাটো তেনেকৈ চালুকীয়া হৈ আছে বুলি ক'ব পাৰি। গতিকে এজন স্পষ্ট সাংবাদিকক শক্তিশালী কৰাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত ৰাইজেই এক শক্তিশালী ভূমিকা ল'ব লাগিব। যিহেতু সংবাদ মাধ্যম আক্ষৰিক অৰ্থত সেৱাৰ মাধ্যমেৰে এক ব্যৱসায়। ইয়াত লাভ-লোকচানৰ প্ৰশ্ন জড়িত হৈ আছে আৰু থাকিব। যি সংবাদ পত্ৰই পঢ়ুৱৈৰ ৰুচিবোধৰ গঠন কৰিছে সেই পঢ়ুৱৈয়ে সংবাদপত্ৰক নতুন চিন্তাৰ খোৰাক দিবলৈ বাধ্য কৰিব লাগিব। আজিৰ তাৰিখত এইটোৱেই হ'ব সাংবাদিকতাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰখনত এক নতুন চিন্তা।

পেছা আৰু ব্যৱসায় হিচাবে সাংবাদিকতাৰ স্বৰূপ আৰু প্ৰকৃতি গোটেই বিশ্বতে চকুত লগা ধৰণে পৰিৱৰ্তন হৈছে। সাংবাদিকতাৰ নীতি-আদৰ্শ, দায়িত্ব-কৰ্তব্যবোধ আদিৰ বিষয়ে সঘনে চৰ্চা হৈছে। আদৰ্শ আৰু নীতিবৰ্জিত সাংবাদিকতা কেতিয়াও সমাজ দৰ্শনৰ ৰূপত প্ৰতিফলিত হ'ব নোৱাৰে। প্ৰকৃতি ধবংস কৰি, মানুহ আৰু জীৱ-জন্তুক উচ্ছেদ কৰি, বৃহৎ আকাৰৰ কল-কাৰখানা বা বান্ধ নিৰ্মাণ কৰাটোৱেই প্ৰকৃত উন্নয়ন নুবুজায়। প্ৰকৃত উন্নয়নে মানুহক আত্মনিৰ্ভৰশীল হোৱাতহে সহায় কৰে। “ডেভেলপমেন্ট জাৰ্নেলিজিম” যিহেতু “ডেভেলপমেন্ট কমিউনিকেছন”ৰ অন্যতম অংগ।

সেয়ে উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতা উন্নয়নৰ সামগ্ৰিক প্ৰক্ৰিয়াটোৰ এটা এৰাব নোৱৰা অংগ। আমাৰ দেশৰ সৰহ সংখ্যক মানুহেই গাঁৱত বাস কৰে। সেয়ে গ্ৰামাঞ্চলৰ উন্নয়ন মানেই দেশৰ সৰহ সংখ্যক জনসাধাৰণৰ উন্নয়ন। উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতাই জনসাধাৰণৰ অংশগ্ৰহণ আৰু সন্তুষ্টি তথা প্ৰসন্নতা নিশ্চিত কৰিব বিচাৰে। উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতা বা জাতীয় সাংবাদিকতা (*Development Journalism or National Journalism*) এটা নতুন ধাৰা। ইয়াৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তাও অপৰিসীম। উন্নয়ন হৈছে এটা সামাজিক পদ্ধতি। সাংবাদিকতাৰ অন্যতম নীতি হৈছে সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতা। উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতা হ'ল দায়বদ্ধতাৰ ফল। সংবাদ মাধ্যমবোৰে সামাজিক পৰিৱৰ্তনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ ভূমিকা গ্ৰহণ কৰে। উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতা সেই পৰিৱৰ্তনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ সহায়ক। উন্নয়নমূলক খবৰ লেখা মানেই কোনো ব্যক্তি, সংগঠন বা চৰকাৰক বিজ্ঞাপন কৰা নুবুজায়, প্ৰয়োজনবোধে উন্নয়নৰ নামত অন্যায়, অবিচাৰ, বঞ্চনা, শোষণ আৰু ভুল-ভ্ৰুটিবোৰ সংশোধন কৰি দিয়াৰ লগতে সঠিক পথৰ সন্ধান দিয়াত সহায় কৰে। উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতাৰ ধাৰা ইতিবাচক বা নেতিবাচক যিয়েই নহওঁক উদ্দেশ্য কিন্তু সকলো সময়তে ইতিবাচক।

According to Elbert L Hester-- The development journalist must have some idea of the vision held for the development of his her nation. The story... can be exciting, not just the dull reporting or routine events of reporting the doings of a leader with a big ego... To catch this vision and to expand the dream of a free and good life is a wroth while task. The telling of the story of national development does not imply that we must tell a story of just positive achievement.

মহিলাসকলৰ উন্নয়ন, শিশুৰ মানসিক বিকাশ, জাতি সত্তাৰ উন্নয়ন, বৰ্ণ বৈষম্যবোধ আদি হৈছে উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতাৰ আদৰ্শ বিষয়। উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতাৰ আন এটা নাম হৈছে শিক্ষা। পানীত আৰ্ছেনিকৰ প্ৰভাৱ, এইডছৰ ভয়াবহতা তথা নিৰ্মূল, স্বাস্থ্য আৰু সচেতনতাৰ আৱশ্যকতা,

সংযত আৰু ভদ্ৰ আচাৰ-ব্যৱহাৰ, বিজ্ঞানসন্মত আদৰ্শ, চিন্তাধাৰাৰ প্ৰকাশ, কু সংস্কাৰ আৰু অন্ধবিশ্বাসৰ কুফল, সাংস্কৃতিক বিকাশৰ গুৰুত্ব আদি বিষয়ত ঠাই পাব লাগিব পৰিস্থিতি সাপেক্ষে। কাৰণ সুস্থ আৰু স্বাভাৱিক জীৱনৰ স্বাৰ্থত কোনো সাংবাদিকেই নীৰৱে থকা উচিত নহয়। উন্নয়নমূলক সাংবাদিকতা মানে কেৱল প্ৰতিবেদন প্ৰস্তুত কৰাই ইয়াৰ একমাত্ৰ উদ্দেশ্য নহয়। প্ৰত্যক্ষভাৱে নিৰ্দিষ্ট ক্ষেত্ৰত উপস্থিত থাকি মানৱীয় মূল্যবোধেৰে গৱেষণাধৰ্মী, তদন্তমূলক মানসিকতাৰ পৰিচয় দাঙি ধৰি সাংবাদিকতাৰ প্ৰতিচ্ছবি উপস্থাপন কৰা। উন্নয়নৰ ফলত সমাজ আৰু ব্যক্তিৰ জীৱনৰ যে না না পৰিৱৰ্ত্তন ঘটিব সেই সম্পৰ্কে জনসাধাৰণক সচেতন কৰা। উন্নয়নমূলক সংবাদ যে কেৱল প্ৰচাৰধৰ্মী নহয় সিও যথেষ্ট সমালোচনামূলকসেই কথা জনসাধাৰণক অৱগত কৰোৱাতো এই ধাৰাটোৰ অন্যতম দিশ।

লেখক : বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক, গৌৰীসাগৰ, শিৱসাগৰ

ড° বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ কাব্য-চৰ্চা ঃ এক আলোচনা

জীৱমণি নাথ

জীৱনৰ পূৰ্বাহ্ন, মধ্যাহ্ন আৰু অপৰাহ্ন এই কেওটা বেলাত কাব্য চৰ্চা কৰি আহিলেও ড° বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ কাব্য জীৱনক পিছলৈ ঔপন্যাসিক, গল্পকাৰ অথবা সাংবাদিকতাৰ জীৱনলৈ অহা বিপুল খ্যাতিয়ে একপ্ৰকাৰ ঢাকি পেলোৱাৰ উপক্ৰম নকৰা নহয়। অৱশ্যে তুলনামূলকভাৱে ভট্টাচাৰ্যদেৱৰ কবিতা অথবা এইবোৰৰ সংকলন যথেষ্ট কম। মৃত্যুৰ মাত্ৰ সাতোটা বছৰ আগেয়েহে কবিৰ একমাত্ৰ কবিতা সংকলন সাক্ষ্যস্বৰ (১৯৯০) প্ৰকাশ পাইছিল। কবিয়ে নিজে কোৱা মতে কবিতাবোৰ কিতাপ আকাৰে প্ৰকাশ কৰাটোৱেই তেওঁৰ বাবে আটাইতকৈ টান কাম আছিল। ব্যক্তিগতভাৱে জীৱনৰ সন্ধ্যাকালত সাক্ষ্যস্বৰ প্ৰকাশ পোৱাৰ যুক্তিত কবিয়ে কৈছে - মোৰ সৃষ্টি সুলভ চেতনা আৰু সমালোচনামূলক চেতনাৰ মাজত অনবৰত এটি তীব্ৰ সংঘৰ্ষ চলি থাকে। ফলত মোৰ লেখা, কথা, কাম কেতিয়াও সময়মতে প্ৰকাশ নাপায়। এটা কৰুণ নীৰৱতাই মোৰ সাহিত্যিক জীৱন। কবিতা কি? এই প্ৰশ্নটো কৰি তাৰ উত্তৰ-প্ৰত্যুত্তৰতো মনৰ ভিতৰত এক সংঘৰ্ষৰ উমান দি একপ্ৰকাৰ নিৰন্তৰ হৈ পৰা কবিয়ে সেইবাবেই নিজৰ কবিতাবোৰ কবিতা হয়নে নহয় তাক লৈও যেন একপ্ৰকাৰ অনিশ্চিত আছিল - 'এইবোৰ কাৰণতে কবিতাবোৰ (সকলোবোৰ অৱশ্যে নহয়) প্ৰকাশ কৰোঁতে জীৱনৰ প্ৰায়

চিন্তা-গুচ্ছ||২৬৯

সম্ভাৱ্যকাল উপস্থিত হ'লহি। 'সাম্ভ্য' শব্দটো ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাৰ কাৰণ ইয়ো এটা। ঐতিহাসিক দৃষ্টিত মোৰ কবিতাবোৰ সন্ধিকালৰ। 'সাম্ভ্য' শব্দটোৱে দুটা অৰ্থ প্ৰকাশ কৰে। 'সম্ভ্যা' শব্দৰ আৰু এটা অৰ্থ হ'ল - সম্যক চিন্তা, সন্ধান, সংশ্লেষণ। এই অৰ্থ শব্দটোৰ যোগে প্ৰকাশ কৰা টান হ'লেও এই ভাবাৰ্থবোৰ পৰোক্ষভাৱে সূচিত কৰিবলৈ মই বৰ আগ্ৰহান্বিত।

'জয়ন্তী', 'পছোৱা' আৰু 'ৰামধেনু'ৰ পাতত কাব্য চৰ্চা কৰা বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ কবিতাসমূহতো কথাশিল্পসমূহৰ দৰেই প্ৰখৰ সমাজ সচেতন দৃষ্টিভংগী বিদ্যমান। প্ৰীতিপূৰ্ণ আৰু শ্ৰদ্ধাশীল গণদৃষ্টি আৰু সংগ্ৰামী সমাজ চেতনাৰ উদ্দীপনাক তেওঁ আন্তৰিকতাৰে কাব্যৰূপ দিছিল। সেয়েহে হয়তো তেওঁ কৈ উঠিছিল —

পুৰণি দৈন্য জুইৰে পুৰিম নতুন সাহস ঢালি
শত জাতি মিলি গুঁঠিম লগেৰে মহাজীৱনৰ ছবি।

কবিতা সকলো সাহিত্য ৰূপৰ মাতৃ স্বৰূপা হিচাপে কবিতাৰ প্ৰতি দুৰ্বাৰ আকৰ্ষণৰ কথা কৈ প্ৰসংগক্ৰমে তেওঁ কৈছে - কবিতা লিখিলে ভিতৰৰ ক্ষত-বিক্ষত 'মই'টো নিৰোগী হয়। বুকুৰ খালী ঠাইবোৰ পূৰ হয়। কিন্তু 'মই'টো 'আমি'ও। নিৰ্জন মুহূৰ্তত মই জনতাৰ। জনতা বহুখিনি মোৰ কবিতাৰ উৎস। ইয়াৰে পৰা কবি বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰৰ কবিতাৰ সমাজ চেতনাৰ স্বৰূপ উদ্ঘাটন কৰিব পৰা যায়।

সমাজবাদী চেতনাই বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰৰ অন্যান্য সাহিত্যত দৰেই কাব্যমানসকো আচ্ছন্ন কৰি ৰখাৰ প্ৰমাণ তেওঁৰ অনেক কবিতাত পাব পাৰি। আফ্ৰিকাৰ যন্ত্ৰণা জৰ্জৰিত ছবি তেওঁৰ কলমত মূৰ্ত হৈছে এনেদৰে —

হে কৃষ্ণ আফ্ৰিকা, তোমক কৰিছোঁ নমস্কাৰ
মই লুইতৰ কবি
দেখিছোঁ সকলো পৰ্ব বস্ত্ৰ হৰণৰ ওৰে ৰাতি
সেই দীপ্ত সূৰ্যৰ লুণ্ঠনকাৰীৰ বিলাস সভাত।

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মই জানো আজি অৰণ্যৰ কাৰাগাৰ কৃষ্ণৰ জন্মেৰে কম্পিত।
শেষ হ'ব ৰাতিৰ আন্ধাৰ।

শেষ হ'ব দৃষ্টিহীন চাৰনিৰ সি বিকাৰ বৰ্ণ বিভেদৰ। (আফ্ৰিকা)
একেটা কবিতাটি কবিৰ মানৱতাবাদী চেতনাও প্ৰখৰ ৰূপত প্ৰকাশিত
হৈছে—

মৃত্যুক জয় কৰা অমৃত মাৰ্গেৰে
য'ত আছে মুক্তিৰ মুকলি আৰু

দীনতম মানৱৰ চিৰ নিৰ্ভয়ৰ শান্তি আৰু সবৰো আনন্দ।

উল্লেখযোগ্য যে, দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধকালীন আৰু তাৰ পৰৱৰ্তী অসমৰ
বিক্ষুদ্ধ সামাজিক, ৰাজনৈতিক আৰু অৰ্থনৈতিক পৰিস্থিতিত এক সামাজিক
মনোভাৱাপন্ন বন্ধুত্বমূলক (অমূল্য বৰুৱা, হেম বৰুৱা, ভৱানন্দ দত্ত)ৰ সান্নিধ্যই
বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ সমাজ সচেতন মানসিকতাৰ গঢ় দিছিল। ইয়াৰ
বাহিৰেও সমসাময়িক কালত সমগ্ৰ বিশ্বতে মাৰ্ক্সবাদী চিন্তা চেতনাৰ যি
জোৰাৰ উঠিছিলিয়েই বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যক তীব্ৰ সমাজ চেতনায়ুক্ত
কবিত পৰিণত কৰিছিল। এনে প্ৰেক্ষাপটত প্ৰথম পৰ্বৰ কবিতাসমূহত
কাব্যসুলভ সংবেদনশীলতা আৰু তীব্ৰ সমাজ সচেতন দৃষ্টিভংগী এই দুই
বৈপৰীত্যৰ সমন্বয় সাধনৰ চেষ্টা দেখা যায়। মই এতিয়াও জনতাৰ, জনতা
আদি কবিতাৰ মাজত সংগ্ৰামী জনতাৰ জীৱনৰ গতিশীলতা স্পষ্টৰূপত
প্ৰকাশিত হৈছে। ক্ষুধিত, নিৰন্ন পৰিচয়েৰে শোষণ, অন্যায় আৰু অৱহেলা
সহি সেই জনতায়েই সভ্যতাৰ মহাভাৰ কঢ়িয়াই ত্ৰিলোকৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি অনন্ত
বিচিত্ৰ ৰূপলোক সৃষ্টি কৰে।

আমি বলিশাল শত কোটি সাম্ৰাজ্যৰ

আমি পিতৃ গান্ধী লেনিন লিংকনৰ

আমি মাতৃ কুশল কোঁৱৰ হামিদৰ

সত্যৰ সমৰে কৰে আমাক অমৰ (জনতা)

সমাজ সচেতন কবিৰ দৃষ্টি মাজুলী, পাগলাদিয়াৰ পাৰৰ পৰা
আফ্ৰিকা, আলজেৰিয়ালৈকে বিস্তৃত। সেয়া ভাত এমুঠিৰ বাবে চিৎকাৰ কৰা
পাগলাদিয়াৰ পাৰৰ কৃষকজনেই হওক বা পেৰিছৰ ঐশ্বৰ্যৰ আঁৰত লুকাই
থকা আলজেৰিয়াৰ দৰিদ্ৰ কৃষকজনেই হওক কবিৰ দৃষ্টিত এয়া কেৱল ধনবাদ
বা পুঁজিবাদৰ প্ৰভাৱ। এই পুঁজিবাদৰ বিৰুদ্ধাচৰণ তেওঁৰ বহু কবিতাত স্পষ্ট—

চান্দ সদাগৰৰ ডিঙাত
চোৰাং ধান যায়

.....

ভোকৰ ভাত বিচাৰিলে
চমতাৰ কোব পিঠিত পৰে।

জেৰেঙাৰ কোটকোৰা গছজোপা এতিয়াও আছে। (ভাত
এমুঠিৰ বাবে)

কবিৰ দৃষ্টিত পৃথিৱীক যন্ত্ৰণাময়, অশান্তিময় পৰিৱেশৰ মূল পুঁজিবাদ।
পুঁজিবাদৰ বক্তৃক্ষুধা অপূৰণ, তাৰ দ্বিপদী বাঘৰ লোভী চিকাৰী চকু থাকে
মানে পৃথিৱীত শান্তিৰ কপৌ উৰিব নোৱাৰে। সেয়ে কবিয়ে কৈছে -
এতিয়া জ্বলিছে জুই লুণ্ঠনকাৰীৰ চোঙে চোঙে।

মই জানো সেই সূৰ্য প্ৰিয়া কৃষ্ণভূমি শীঘ্ৰে হ'ব লুণ্ঠনবিহীনা।। (আফ্ৰিকা)

পুঁজিবাদৰ প্ৰতি তীব্ৰ হুংকাৰ দি সেয়ে তেওঁ কৈছে -

ভঁৰাল নাভাঙিলে/পৰাণ নৰয়। (ভাত এমুঠিৰ বাবে)

বিপ্লৱী চেতনাৰ প্ৰকাশ বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰৰ কবিতাৰ অন্যতম উল্লেখযোগ্য
দিশ। বৰফুঁইকপ, ফেঁচা আদি কবিতাত ইয়াৰ প্ৰকাশ স্পষ্ট। বিশেষভাৱে
চীনা বিপ্লৱক সুঁৱৰি ৰচনা কৰা 'বৰভুঁইকপ'ত দূৰক আপোন কৰা, ওচৰক
বৰ কৰা, দুখীয়াক বীৰ কৰা নতুন পৃথিৱীৰ নৱ বিক্ৰমৰ গুণগান কৰা হৈছে—

আশাৰ জোনাক দশোদিশে
নতুনৰ তলী উলিয়াই হেজাৰ কৃষকে
নানা ধুনে নানা ছেৰে
পৰাণে আকুলি মাতে
জিলমিল জীৱনৰ সোণালী সীমাত

.....

তোমাৰ মুখত হে মহাচীন
ফুটক পূৰ্ণ মানৱৰ কণ্ঠস্বৰ।

বিপ্লৱৰ বাহিৰে সুন্দৰৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰাৰ আন দিশ হয়তো আমাৰ
সমাজত নাই। এনে দৃষ্টিভংগীৰেই কবিয়ে বৰভুঁইকপৰ কঁপনি অনুভৱৰে

নিজৰ মাতৃভূমিতো আহাৰ-আধোন জুৰি সৃষ্টিৰ প্ৰয়াসেৰে পৰাণ উতলাই
তোলা আশাৰ ৰেঙনি দেখিছে।

সমাজ চেতনা জনিত আশাবাদ বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ কবিতাত
ধ্বনিত হৈছে। কবিয়ে বিশ্বাস কৰে পৃথিৱীত এদিন বঞ্চিতজনৰ জয় হ'বই;
হেজাৰ নৰ-নাৰীৰ ত্ৰন্দন হাঁহিত পৰিণত হ'বই। এই আশা আৰু বিশ্বাসৰ
ভেটিতেই তেওঁ কৈ উঠিছে —

মই মধ্যবিভ, ক্ষত বিক্ষত চিত্ত
অভাৱৰ মোৰ তাড়নাত
তথাপিতো সন্মুখত দেখিছোঁ মাথোন
এই ৰণতেই জ্বলা আশাৰ পোহৰ
অভাৱৰ অচিৰে মৰণ (মোৰ মুক্তি নাই)

প্ৰবল মানৱতাবাদে বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰ কবিতাসমূহৰ অনেককে টোৱাই
ৰাখিছে। দৃঢ় পদক্ষেপ শুনো, ত্ৰুশৰ বন্ধুলৈ, বহুদিন হ'ল ভাই আদি কবিতা
ইয়াৰ সাৰ্থক উদাহৰণ।

হে পৃথিৱী, ইহঁতৰ বাবে শস্য-শ্যামলা হোৱা
হে আকাশ, তুমি ইহঁতৰ আত্মাক সঞ্জীৱনি দিয়া
কুলিৰ উন্মাদ কণ্ঠস্বৰ কপৌ ফুল ফুলি
বাউলী বৰদৈচিলা আহিল হিল দল ভাঙি
আমি সিহঁতৰ লগত মিলি গ'লো,
আনন্দত আমাৰ চকুলো বৈ আহিল (লখাইতৰাৰ পাৰ)

‘ত্ৰুশৰ বন্ধুলৈ’ কবিতাটিৰ মানৱতাবোধৰ তীব্ৰ প্ৰকাশ ঘটিছে। যুদ্ধ
বিক্ষত পৃথিৱীত মানৱতাৰ চৰম স্থলনে কবিৰ সংবেদনশীল মনে যীশুৰ মহান
দানৰ কথা স্মৰণ কৰিছে আৰু প্ৰেমেৰে অন্তৰ পূৰ্ণ কৰাৰ আকুল আহ্বান
জনাইছে। এটম বোমাৰ এক আঘাতত ঢলি যোৱা পৃথিৱীলৈ আলোকিত
দৃষ্টি ঘূৰাই আইনবলৈ আহ্বান জনাইছে, শত কেৰেলেৰে কাকূতি কৰিছে —

পাখি ভগা এই তীখা হিয়াবোৰে
তোমাৰ স্বপ্ন পাওঁক
উৰি ফুৰা সেই হাইঠাবোৰেও

মাটিলৈ আহক নামি
জেট বোমাৰুৰ গৰ্জন হওক বন্ধ
কেৱল জ্বলক পঁজা ঘৰে ঘৰে
আশাৰ দীপিকা গছি।
পৃথিৱীৰ এই মাটিৰ বুকুত যত কেৰেলুৰা আছে
সিহঁতৰ হওক পদলেহনৰ শেষ
তোমাৰ একণ দীপ্ত প্ৰেমেৰে সিহঁতক কৰা অৰ্জুন বন্ধু
সিহঁতক কৰা বাল্লিকী।

কবিতাটিত তথাকথিত হিন্দু, খৃষ্টান আদি ধৰ্মৰ ধৰ্মীয় উপাদানৰ এক সমন্বয় লক্ষ্য কৰা যায়, যাৰ যোগেদি তেওঁ এইবোৰৰ উদ্ধৃত যেন এক সাৰ্বজনীন মানৱ ধৰ্মৰ পোষকতা কৰিছে। সমালোচক ৰবীন্দ্ৰ বৰাই এইখিনিতে ইংৰাজ কবি টি. এচ. ইলিয়টৰ কবিতাৰ সামান্য আভাষৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। ইলিয়টেও যুদ্ধ বিধ্বস্ত পৃথিৱীত অৱসাদগ্ৰস্ত মানৱৰ হাঁহকাৰৰ মৰ্মস্পৰ্শী বৰ্ণনা তেওঁৰ কবিতাসমূহত কাব্যময়তাৰে কৰা দেখা যায়।

মোৰ বহুখিনি কবিতাৰ উৎস জনতা বুলি স্বীকাৰোক্তি দিয়া বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰৰ কবিতাত জনতা জনাৰ্দনে বিশেষ ঠাই অধিকাৰ কৰিছে। কবিৰ উপলব্ধি, যিমনেই শোষণ, নিৰ্যাতন, বঞ্চনাৰ বলি হওক, শেষত জয় জনতাৰেই। ধৰণী সুন্দৰ হয় জনতাৰ স্পৰ্শত; সাহিত্যকলাই জনতাৰেই কীৰ্তিৰ যশ গান গায়। মৃত্যুৰ মাজতো অমৃত পিয়াসী হৈ জনতাই মানুহৰ অসীম অস্তিত্বক যুগে যুগে দেশে দেশে প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰি আহিছে। তেওঁৰ দৃষ্টিত মানুহৰ স্বৰ্গৰাজ্যৰ অধিপতি জনতাই। ‘মই এতিয়াও জনতা’ৰ কবিতাত কবিয়ে জনতাৰ মাজতেই নিজৰ অস্তিত্ব নিশ্চিত কৰি কৈ উঠিছে —

মই ক’বলৈ আহিছোঁ সেই বাণীবোৰ
যিবোৰ সিহঁতে ক’বলৈ সংকোচ কৰিছে
মই মৰিলেও, মোৰ মৰণ নাই
জনতাই জানে, মই বৰ্তমানেই নহয়
মই মহা ভৱিষ্যত।

গদ্য সাহিত্যত মাৰ্ক্সবাদ আৰু গান্ধীবাদৰ সু-সমন্বয় আনিবলৈ চেষ্টা

কৰা বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যই তেওঁৰ কবিতাৰ মাজত মাৰ্ক্সবাদৰ জয় গান
গোৱা দেখিবলৈ পোৱা যায়। এয়া অৱশ্যে নিতান্তই স্বাভাৱিক। আগবয়সৰ
কবিতা কেইটামানত ই অতিশয় স্পষ্ট। নলিনীধৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যই তেওঁৰ এই
কেইফাঁকি কবিতাত ডায়েলেক্টিক দৃষ্টি আৰু ইতিহাসৰ অৰ্থনীতিমূলক
ব্যাখ্যাৰ অনুৰাগ লক্ষ্য কৰিছে —

কালিলই নোহে যদি মানুহৰ মেল পৃথিৱীত
বঞ্চিত পীড়িতৰ জয়,
নেযায় নেযায় মৰি নৰ-নাৰীৰ শিশুৰ ত্ৰন্দন
মানুহৰ শত পৰাজয়।

‘বিষুৰোভা এতিয়া কিমান ৰাতি’ত বিষুৰোভাৰ প্ৰতি তেখেতৰ শ্ৰদ্ধা,
আদৰ্শৰ প্ৰতি সন্মানৰ সমান্তৰালভাৱে মাৰ্ক্সবাদৰ প্ৰতি গভীৰ আস্থাৰ ভাৱ
প্ৰকাশিত হৈছে—

ডাচ্ কেপিটেল এঘাৰ পৃষ্ঠা বাকী
মাজ নিশা কোন ত্ৰিনয়নে পঢ়ে
পোহৰ, পোহৰ, উদয়াচল ৰবি।

উল্লেখযোগ্য যে উল্লিখিত কবিতাটোৰ লয়, আবেগ আৰু ধ্বনিময়তাই
বিষুৰোভা আৰু কবি বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰ দুয়োকে অসমীয়া মানুহৰ মনত বিশেষভাৱে
প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰা বুলিব পাৰি। বহু আলোচিত এই কবিতাটোত গণজীৱনৰ শিল্পী
বিষুৰোভাৰ বন্দিত জীৱনৰ বেদনা প্ৰকাশৰ সমান্তৰালভাৱে চিৰজাগ্ৰত জনতাৰ
উপলব্ধি আৰু আশা-আকাংক্ষা সংবেদশীলভাৱে প্ৰকাশ পাইছে। তথাকথিত
বৃহত্তম গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশ ভাৰতৰ জনগণৰ ‘গণতান্ত্ৰিক অধিকাৰ’ৰ প্ৰতি ভ্ৰুকুটি
বিষুৰোভাৰ মাধ্যমেদি আজিও প্ৰাসংগিক হৈ আছে—

‘তুমি য’ত আছা সৰু কাৰাগাৰ।
থিয় একেখনি ইটাৰ দেৱাল।
আমি যত আছো বৰ পোতাশাল।
শত নাগ পাশে বন্ধা।’

সমাজ চেতনাজনিত মানৱতাবোধ প্ৰকাশৰ সমান্তৰালভাৱে বীৰেন্দ্ৰ
কুমাৰৰ কবিতাত ইতিহাসচেতনা, স্মৃতি কাতৰতা, আধুনিক জীৱনৰ যন্ত্ৰণা,

অখ্যাতজনৰ আশা আৰু বেদনাৰ প্ৰতি বাস্তৱসন্মত সহানুভূতি আদি
সাৰ্থকৰূপত প্ৰকাশিত হৈছে। সবাৰে শেষত এক প্ৰবল আশাবাদেৰে
ভালেখিনি কবিতাৰ সামৰণি মাৰিছে। আধুনিক জীৱনৰ যন্ত্ৰণাত কবি দগ্ধ—

কেৱল কাণত লাগিছেহি জুইৰ শব্দ

মোৰ ঘৰত

জুই জ্বলিছে

বতাহত পোৰা ঘৰত গোন্ধ।

কবিৰ কাম্য শান্তি, মাথোন শান্তি। সেয়ে কবিক লাগে এজাক বৰষুণ

‘জুই নুমাবলে ভেটিত জীপ দিবলে।’

কবিৰ ইচ্ছা হিয়াত হিয়া দি কামি বৈ, ৰুৱা তুলি ঘৰবোৰ পুনৰ
সাজি হাইমু গোৱাৰ, খেৰাই পূজা পতাৰ, লুগাং নচাৰ, ঈদ-বিহু, বৰ সবাহ
পতাৰ। এই প্ৰবল আশাবাদেই বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ কবিতাক জনতাৰ ওচৰ
চপাই নিবলৈ যেন সক্ষম হৈছে। ইয়াতেই যেন বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কাব্যৰ সাৰ্থকতা।

অসমীয়া জাতীয়তাবোধ তথা ঐক্যচেতনা কেইবাটাও কবিতাৰ
মাজেদি প্ৰকাশ পাইছে। জাতি উপজাতি মহামণ্ডিত মিলাই, হৃদয়ে হৃদয়ে
অক্ষয় প্ৰদীপ জ্বলাই নামঘৰত সিংহাসন পতাই কবিয়ে আজানেৰে টোপনি
ভঙায়। সোৱণশিৰিয়েদি ক্ৰমি অহা আইৰ হিয়া দিখৌ, ধনশিৰি, কলং,
কপিলী, কৃষ্ণাই দুখনেয়েদি, ভৰলী, ললৈ, পাগলাদিয়া, মানাহেদি হিয়াত হিয়া
মিলাই লুইতেদি সাগৰ ধিয়াই যায়। একেখনি বেউলাৰ ভুঁৰত যাত্ৰীৰূপে
ৰাভা-বড়ো, কাৰ্বি-মিচিং-টিৱা, ৰাজবংশী, চাহ বনুৱা নেপালী-খাছিয়া, গাৰো
নগা চৰুৱা, হিন্দু মুছলিম, শিখ বৌদ্ধ আৰু যত থলুৱা, ব্ৰাহ্মণ-অব্ৰাহ্মণ,
ৰাজস্থানী বঙালী, হজুৱা-বন্ধুৱা একে সাগৰৰ বাটৰুৱা ৰূপে যায়। এনে সময়ত
কবিৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস—

এই ভুঁৰ জীৱন জগোৱাৰ।

বিভেদৰ কুমন্ত্ৰ অকাল মৃত্যুৰ তন্ত্ৰ

শক্তিৰ হিংসা প্ৰচণ্ড

সংস্কৃতি হাটৰ মন্দ

দুৰ্বাৰ লুইতৰ প্ৰচণ্ড বানত

হ'ব লগুভণ্ড। (সোৱনশিৰিয়েদি নামি আহে আইৰ হিয়া)

‘সাক্ষ্যস্বৰত’ অসম তথা ভাৰতীয় জাতীয় জীৱনৰ কেইবাজনো বৰেণ্য ব্যক্তিৰ স্মৃতিত বা তেওঁলোকক উপলক্ষ কৰি ৰচনা কৰা কেইবাটাও কবিতা সন্নিৱিষ্ট হৈছে। তেওঁলোক হ'ল - জয় প্ৰকাশ নাৰায়ণ, অম্বিকাগিৰি, হেমবৰুৱা, প্ৰসন্নলাল চৌধুৰী, শৰৎ চন্দ্ৰ আৰু ৰঞ্জিত বৰপূজাৰী। এই সশ্ৰদ্ধ সৌৰৰণে বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰ দেশ-মাতৃৰ প্ৰতি তথা জীৱন জীৱনৰ প্ৰতি তীব্ৰ ভালপোৱা তথা দায়িত্ববোধকে সূচাইছে। এইলানি কবিতাৰ প্ৰতিটোতে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তিকেইজনৰ ব্যক্তিত্বত উজ্জ্বল হৈ থকা গুণৰাজিক তেওঁলোকৰ কৰ্ম সহজ কাব্যময়তাৰে প্ৰকাশ কৰাত কবি সফল হোৱা বুলি ক'ব পাৰি। উদাহৰণস্বৰূপে, ‘এতিয়াও শুনো কাৰগাৰ ভণ্ড তোমাৰ মুক্তিৰ গান’ কবিতাত অম্বিকাগিৰিৰ জাতীয়তাবোধ, দেশাত্মবোধৰ প্ৰকাশৰ লগতে কবিতাৰ লগত ব্যক্তিগত সান্নিধ্যৰ স্মৰণ কৰিছে—

তোমাক মই দেখিছিলোঁ এডাল লাখুটি লৈ চেউনী আলিত ফুৰা
বাটে-পথে ডেকা গাভৰু ভব্য গব্যক সেৱাত উদ্বুদ্ধ কৰা।

এদিন দেখিছিলোঁ উদাৰ নিঃশ্বাস হৈ মোৰ ঘৰলৈ অহা

দেশ যায় বীৰেন বোপা, সকলো যায়, কিবা এটা কৰা।

‘জীৱন স্মৃতি’ নামৰ নটি খণ্ডত ৰচিত দীঘল কবিতাটি সম্পূৰ্ণ আত্মজীৱনীমূলক। কবিতাটিত জন্মস্থান চফাইৰ চাহ বাগিছাৰ নৈসৰ্গিক পৰিৱেশ, ঘাই ঘৰ দিহা নৈৰ পাৰৰ টেকীয়াখোৱাৰ শান্ত সমাহিত গ্ৰাম্য পৰিৱেশ, শৈশৱ-কৈশোৰৰ যোৰহাট নগৰৰ স্মৃতিকাতৰ বৰ্ণনাৰ লগতে গুৱাহাটীৰ শিক্ষা আৰু কৰ্ম জীৱনৰ আভাস কাব্যৰ ভাষাৰে দিয়া হৈছে। তেওঁৰ উপন্যাসৰ কেইবাটাও চৰিত্ৰৰ লগত জীৱনৰ একাত্ম অনুভৱবোধ কবিৰ শেষ সময়ৰ উপলব্ধি অতি মৰ্মস্পৰ্শী।

অশান্ত আত্মাত এতিয়াও হাঁহকাৰ, একো মোৰ নাই, অনন্ত
প্ৰত্যয় মোৰ সাৰ।

সাৰ্বিক সত্যৰ আঘাতত ভাগি যায়, দিনে দিনে মেলা ক্ষুদ্ৰ
সত্যৰ পোহাৰ।

বাকা-বাপ, অৰ্জুন-মোহন আৰু সাদৰীৰ প্ৰাণ মিলি হোৱা

এক মহা সৰ্বপ্ৰাণ।

মোৰ প্ৰাণ লুইতৰ অন্তৰ সুঁতিল মিলি কৰে অবিৰাম সত্য
সুন্দৰৰ অভিযান।

‘সাক্ষ্যস্বৰ’ৰ প্ৰথম ভাগতে স্থান দিয়া, কবিয়ে নিজে কোৱা মতে
উমাশংকৰ যোশী, সচ্ছিদানন্দ হীৰানন্দ বাৎসায়নে ভাল পোৱা চুটি কবিতাটি
জীৱনৰ বিচিত্ৰ অভিজ্ঞতা আৰু সমকাল চেতনা প্ৰকাশৰ দিশৰ পৰা অত্যন্ত
গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ। ‘সেই তিনিজাঁই গুলিৰ কথা’ত মহাত্মা গান্ধীৰ মহত্ব, আদৰ্শ আৰু
ত্যাগ, ‘ঘৰ’ত জীৱনৰ বিষাদ গ্ৰস্ততা আৰু প্ৰাচীন পৰম্পৰাৰ বিপৰীতে নতুনৰ
চল, ‘শব্দ’ত আশাধাৰী মানুহৰ স্বপ্ন, ‘মাজুলী’ত বানৰ বিভীষিকাৰ
সমান্তৰালভাৱে সংস্কৃতিৰ পোহৰ, ‘কি দুখ’ত কবিতাত ইতিহাস চেতনা, ‘মই
এখন লুইত’ত সমকালীন কঠোৰ সমাজ বাস্তৱতাৰ ব্যঞ্জনাধৰ্মী বৰ্ণনা প্ৰকাশিত
হৈছে। কাব্যিক সুষমাৰ দিশৰ পৰাও কবিতাকেইটি মনোৰম। এইখিনিতে মন
কৰিবলগীয়া যে, তীব্ৰ সমাজ সচেতন দৃষ্টিভংগী সাৰ্থক প্ৰকাশত কাব্যৰ শৰীৰ
নিমজ কৰাৰ ফালে কম গুৰুত্ব দিয়াৰ বাবে বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ
কেতবোৰ কবিতা বক্তব্যধৰ্মী বুলি কোনো কোনোৱে সমালোচকে মত পোষণ
কৰাৰ পৰতো কিন্তু সংবেদনশীল মনৰ তীব্ৰ প্ৰকাশ ঘটাব সৰু কবিতাকেইটিত
সাৰ্থক চিত্ৰকল্পৰ প্ৰয়োগ ঘটিছে। তেনে কেইটামান চিত্ৰকল্পৰ উদাহৰণ —

‘কাতি বিহুৰ পুৱা স্নিগ্ধ উষা
আকাশত দেখোঁ তেজৰ এখন কাঁহি
জিলমিলকৈ তাত জিলিকিছে
নতুন মুক্তিৰ অসি।’ (কঙালী বিহু)

(খ) গৈ যেতিয়া পাওঁ

ঘৰত দুৱাৰ মেলা
কাষৰ আঁহতৰ ডালত আছে
জীৱটি ওলমি (পানেশৈ)

(গ) চলন্ত ৰেলে উকিয়াই গতি কৰে

টেলিগ্ৰাফৰ দীঘলীয়া তাঁৰে

তাৰ প্ৰাণ জোকাৰে। (ৰেলৰপৰা স্কেছ) আদি।

এনেদৰে চালে দেখা যায় সংখ্যাত কম হ'লেও বীৰেন্দ্ৰকুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যই বিভিন্ন সময়ত অনেক সামাজিক পটভূমিক বিষয়বস্তু হিচাপে লৈ ৰচনা কৰা কবিতাকেইটাৰে অসমীয়া কাব্য জগতত এখনি ওখ আশন পাবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছে। সমাজবাদৰ প্ৰবল বিশ্বাসী ভট্টাচাৰ্যদেৱৰ আটাইবোৰ কবিতাতে যে সমাজবাদী বক্তব্য বিষয়েই ওৰা পাতি বহিছে এনে নহয়। মানৱতাবাদী তথা নীতিবাদী লক্ষ্য অনেক কবিতাৰ বিষয়বস্তু হিচাপে ধৰা দিছে। সহজ চিত্ৰকল্প আৰু অনায়াসলব্ধ উপমা, প্ৰতীকেৰে সহজবোধ্য কৰাৰ চেষ্টা এইবোৰত বিদ্যমান। তেওঁৰ কাব্যৰ সহজ আন্তৰিকতাৰ সুৰ তৎক্ষণাত চকু পৰে বুলি কৈ কবিৰ সংবেদনশীলতাক তৃতীয় দশকৰ অডেনবাদী কবিসকলৰ লগত ৰিজনি দিছে ড° মহেন্দ্ৰ বৰাই। তেওঁৰ অদ্ভুত সময়, চমৰখণ্ড, শংকৰদেৱ, বৰভূঁইকপ, আদি কবিতাকেইটাও পাঠক সমালোচকৰ দৃষ্টি কাঢ়িবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছে।

‘বোঁৱতী লুইতকে সৃষ্টিৰ আদৰ্শ’ হিচাপে গ্ৰহণ কৰি ‘সত্যক সুন্দৰ কৰা প্ৰক্ৰিয়া’ৰ অংশ হিচাপে ৰচনা কৰা ড° বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ দুকুৰিৰ কেইটামান অধিক কবিতা অসমীয়া সাহিত্যত নজহা নপমা সম্পদ।

সহায়ক গ্ৰন্থপঞ্জী

- ১। শোণিত বিজয় দাস, মুনীন বায়ন (সম্পা.) - বীৰেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য ৰচনাৱলী - ১, কথা ২০১৩
- ২। হোমেন বৰগোহাঁই, অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ বুৰঞ্জী (ষষ্ঠ খণ্ড) - আনন্দৰাম বৰুৱা ভাষা, কলা-সংস্কৃতি, গুৱাহাটী, অসম, ১৯৯৩।
- ৩। হেমন্ত কুমাৰ শৰ্মা, ৰাজেন্দ্ৰ মোহন শৰ্মা (সম্পা) : বীৰেন্দ্ৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্যৰ সাহিত্যকৃতি : চন্দ্ৰ প্ৰকাশ, গুৱাহাটী, ২০০৮
- ৪। গৰীয়সী, পঞ্চম বছৰ, দ্বিতীয় সংখ্যা, নৱেম্বৰ-১৯৯৭
- ৫। গৰীয়সী, পঞ্চম বছৰ, তৃতীয় সংখ্যা, ডিচেম্বৰ-১৯৯৭

লেখক : সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, অসমীয়া বিভাগ,
জাঁজী হেমনাথ শৰ্মা মহাবিদ্যালয়

মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ উপন্যাসত প্ৰতিফলিত নাৰীজীৱন

ড° বিজুমণি দত্ত

অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ বাস্তৱবাদী, শক্তিশালী লেখিকা মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামী অসমীয়া উপন্যাস জগতৰ ধ্ৰুৱতৰা সদৃশ। তেওঁৰ উপন্যাসৰাজি বাস্তৱ অভিজ্ঞতাৰে সিক্ত। সাহিত্যৰ মাজেদিয়েই লেখিকাৰ সুক্ষ্ম পৰ্যবেক্ষণ, মানবীয়তা, সংবেদনশীল আত্মবিশ্লেষণৰ উমান পোৱা যায়। ব্যক্তিগত জীৱনৰ দুখ-যন্ত্ৰণা, হতাশা-নৈৰাশ্যৰ পৰা পৰিত্ৰাণ পাবৰ বাবে মনক অধিক দৃঢ় কৰি সৃষ্টিৰ মাজতে জীৱন কটোৱা সাহিত্যিক গৰাকীৰ সৃষ্টিকৰ্মৰ বিষয় আছিল সমসাময়িক সমাজখন। তেওঁৰ অতুলনীয় সৃষ্টিকৰ্মৰ ভিত্তি বিশ্বজনীন হ'লেও নাৰীকেন্দ্ৰিক বাস্তৱ ছবিখন অতি সু-স্পষ্ট আৰু হৃদয়স্পৰ্শী। সম্ভৱতঃ সেয়ে তেওঁৰ সাহিত্যই পাঠকক দান কৰে নতুন দৃষ্টি, নতুন সোৱাদ।

অসমীয়া সাহিত্যত হিন্দু বিধৱাৰ ভয়াবহ ছবিখন মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ পূৰ্বেও বহু সাহিত্যিকে পাঠকৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰাৰ দৃষ্টান্ত আছে। ভোলানাথ দাসৰ কবিতা, গুণাভিৰাম বৰুৱাৰ নাটক, হেমচন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা আৰু লক্ষ্মীনাথ বেজবৰুৱাৰ সাহিত্যতো ভিন্ন ৰূপত এই সমস্যা প্ৰতিফলিত হৈছে। সম্প্ৰতি অসমীয়া সমাজত সমস্যা ৰূপেৰে দেখা দি থকা হিন্দু বিধৱাৰ জীৱনক কিদৰে সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাই অধিক দুখময় কৰি তুলিছে, তেওঁলোকৰ

স্বাধীনতা খৰ্ব কৰিছে, মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ উপন্যাসত সেই ছবি প্ৰতিফলিত হৈছে। মানৱদৰদী লেখিকা গৰাকীয়ে পৰিৱৰ্তিত সময়ে সলাব নোৱাৰা এই সমস্যাক লোকচক্ষুৰ আগলৈ অনাৰ লগতে সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতি প্ৰতিবাদ ৰূপে সাহিত্যত ইয়াৰ চিত্ৰায়ণ কৰিছে। তেওঁৰ ভাষাত “ বিপৰ্য্যস্ত জীৱন লৈ জীয়াই থকা বহুতো বিধৱাক মই শৈশৱৰ পৰা আজি পৰ্য্যন্ত লগ পাইয়েই আছো। বিধৱা সকলক ৰীতি নীতিৰ গণ্ডীৰে হেঁচা মাৰি ধৰা সমাজখনক মই ঘৃণা কৰো। তাৰেই প্ৰতিবাদ কৰো মোৰ সাহিত্যযোগে। ” (ভৰালী, হেমন্ত : পৃষ্ঠা ৪৪) মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ দুখন প্ৰখ্যাত উপন্যাস ‘নীলকণ্ঠী ব্ৰজ’ আৰু ‘দতাল হাতীৰ উয়ে খোৱা হাওদা’ ৰক্ষণশীল সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতি যেন প্ৰতিবাদেৰেই প্ৰকাশ।

আমাৰ এই আলোচনাত মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীয়ে উপন্যাস দুখনত কিদৰে বৈধব্য নাৰী জীৱনৰ চিত্ৰ অংকিত কৰিছে, সামাজিক ৰীতি নীতিয়ে কিদৰে নাৰীৰ স্বাধীনতা খৰ্ব কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ জীৱন দুৰ্বিসহ কৰি তুলিছে, সেই সম্পৰ্কে আলোচনা কৰাৰ প্ৰয়াস কৰা হৈছে।

‘দতাল হাতীৰ উয়ে খোৱা হাওদা’ উপন্যাসত প্ৰতিফলিত নাৰীজীৱন :

অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত লেখিকা মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ যুগজয়ী সৃষ্টি ‘দতাল হাতীৰ উয়ে খোৱা হাওদা’ উপন্যাসখনৰ সৃষ্টিৰ অন্তৰালত আছে দক্ষিণ কামৰূপৰ আমৰাঙা সত্ৰৰ পৰা লাভ কৰা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ নিৰ্মোহ বিশ্লেষণ। উপন্যাসখনত পুৰুষ প্ৰধান সমাজৰ নীতি নিয়মে নাৰীৰ জীৱনক কিদৰে শৃংখলিত কৰে তাৰে এক সুন্দৰ বাস্তৱ চিত্ৰ অংকন কৰা হৈছে। তাৰ বিপৰীতে সেই সমাজত পুৰুষে লাভ কৰে ইন্দ্ৰিয় বা ভোগৰ সকলো স্বাধীনতা। পৰিৱৰ্তনশীল সময়ে দামোদৰীয়া সত্ৰৰ পৰিৱেশনৰ ওপৰত ক্ৰমাৎ প্ৰভাৱ পেলাইছে। কিন্তু সেই পৰিৱৰ্তনে হিন্দু নাৰীৰ জীৱনৰ ওপৰত কোনো ধৰণৰ প্ৰভাৱ পেলাব পৰা নাই। পুৰুষতান্ত্ৰিক সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাত নাৰী মানেই সন্তানৰ মাতৃ, কোনো পুৰুষৰ পত্নী। নাৰীৰ সেই গতানুগতিক মৰ্যাদা পৰিৱৰ্তনৰ টোৱে সলনি কৰিব পৰা নাই। আলোচ্য উপন্যাসত দুৰ্গা, সৰু গোঁসানী, গিৰিৱালা চৰিত্ৰৰ মাধ্যমেৰে হিন্দু নাৰীৰ বৈধব্য জীৱনৰ কাৰুণ্য লেখিকাই প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে।

‘দাঁতাল হাতীৰ উয়ে খোৱা হাওদা’ উপন্যাসৰ অন্যতম চৰিত্ৰ দুৰ্গা। যোদ্ধা বছৰৰ দাম্পত্য জীৱনৰ অন্তত দুৰ্গাই বৈধব্য জীৱন সাৱটিব লগা হৈছিল। স্বামী জীয়াই থকাত দুৰ্গাই বোৱাৰী হিচাপে যি মৰ্যাদা পাইছিল স্বামীৰ মৃত্যুৰ পিছত নিঃ সন্তান দুৰ্গা হৈ পৰিছিল সেইখন ঘৰত অশুভৰ প্ৰতীক। সমাজে বান্ধি দিয়া কিছুমান অযুক্তিকৰ নিয়মে দুৰ্গাক জীৱন্তে মৃত তুলিছিল। যিকোনো মাংগলিক কাৰ্যত দুৰ্গাৰ উপস্থিতি যেন আতংকৰ কাৰণ হৈ পৰিছিল। লেখিকাৰ ভাষাত “ বিধৱা হোৱা সেই বছৰ এটা আমতিৰ পৰা আনটো আমতি অহাৰ সময়লৈকে দুৰ্গা যেন ভূতেই হৈ গ’ল। শত্ৰুৰ ঘৰত প্ৰেতিনীৰ দৰে কথিত বহি তুঁহ জুই পুৱাই থকা এক প্ৰকাৰ অভ্যাসতেই পৰিণত হ’ল।” (দঃহাঃউঃখোঃহাঃপূ-৬) পিতৃগৃহলৈ গুচি অহা দুৰ্গাই কিন্তু পুনৰ স্বামী গৃহলৈ উভতি যোৱাৰ সপোনেই দেখি আছিল। তাই আশা কৰিছিল তাইক নিবলৈ শত্ৰুৰেৰে ঘৰৰ মানুহ আহিব। “ আৰু গুচি যাম.....নিবাতো আহিবই। মোকনো আৰু ইয়াত মৰবাক গেলি পেলৈ থৈ যাব না ঐ।” (দঃহাঃউঃখোঃহাঃপূ-৫) দুৰ্গাই পাহৰি গৈছিল শত্ৰুৰেৰে সেই নিৰ্মম বাক্যবাণ। “ দুৰ্গাৰ কোষ্ঠীত থকা পাপ গ্ৰহকেইটাৰ বাবে পুতেক জনে আওমৰণে মৰিবলগীয়া হ’ল।” (পৃঃ ৬) পত্নীৰ ধৰ্ম পালন কৰিবলৈ সদা প্ৰস্তুত হৈ থকা দুৰ্গাই মৃত স্বামীৰ অস্থি গংগাত পেলাবলৈ কৰি থকা আশাও অপূৰ্ণ হৈ ৰ’ল। মহীধৰ বাপুৱে তাইৰ সোণৰ অলংকাৰ চুৰি কৰি সেই আশা সম্পূৰ্ণ নিৰ্মূল কৰি পেলালে। স্বামীৰ সম্পত্তিৰ ওপৰতো প্ৰায় অধিকাৰ হেৰুৱাই পেলাই, ক্ষয়ৰোগত আক্ৰান্ত দুৰ্গা অৱশেষত অকলশৰে চিকাৰহাটীৰ স্বামী গৃহলৈ উভতি যোৱাৰ বৰ্ণনা বৰ হৃদয় বিদাৰক।

উপন্যাসখনৰ আন এক চৰিত্ৰ সৰু গৌঁসানী। দুৰ্গাৰ পৰিয়ালৰে এইগৰাকী বিধৱা নাৰীয়ে কিন্তু গভীৰ আত্মপ্ৰত্যয়ৰে স্বামীৰ সা-সম্পত্তি তদাৰক কৰি এক সন্দ্ৰমৰ জীৱন যাপন কৰিছে। শিচ ভজাই ধৰ্মক শিবস্ৰাণ কৰি ঘূৰি ফুৰা সৰু গৌঁসানীৰ মানসিক অন্তৰ্দ্বন্দ আৰু বিশ্বাসৰ পাত্ৰ মহীধৰ বাপুৰ দ্বাৰা হোৱা প্ৰৰঞ্চনাৰ কাহিনী লেখিকাই অতি জীৱন্ত ৰূপত অংকন কৰিছে।

মামনি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ এক যুগময়ী সৃষ্টি গিৰিবালা। অতি কম

বয়সতে বৈধব্যক সাৰাটি লোৱা গিৰিবালা যেতিয়া পৰিগৃহলৈ উভতি আহিছিল তেতিয়া দুৰ্গাৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰে অভিজ্ঞ অনেকেই গোঁসানীক নানা প্ৰশ্ন সুধি বতিব্যস্ত কৰি তুলিছিল। “মাইচান্‌, একেবাৰে উঠা গি আহিলি নেকি?” “শুনিছো শাহুৱেৰে হেনো বৰ কষ্ট দিলাক” (পৃ : ১৫) কিন্তু গিৰিবালাই কোনো কথাৰে উত্তৰ দিয়া নাছিল। তাই দুৰ্গা বা সৰু গোঁসানীৰ দৰে জীৱন অতিবাহিত কৰিব বিছৰা নাছিল। আধুনিক মনৰ ভাতৃ ইন্দ্ৰনাথে মাৰ্ক চাহাবৰ জ্ঞান অন্বেষণৰ সহযাত্ৰী হ’বলৈ তাইক আগবঢ়াই দিছিল। কিন্তু ইন্দ্ৰনাথে অতিক্ৰম কৰিব নোৱৰা এক ধৰণৰ সংস্কাৰৰ বোজাই গিৰিবালাৰ জীৱনৰ প্ৰতি থকা আকৰ্ষণ যেন হেঁচি ধৰিছিল। তাই মাৰ্ক চাহাবৰ সন্মুখত স্বীকাৰ কৰে যে তাই দুৰ্গা আৰু সৰু গোঁসানীৰ দৰেই। কিন্তু তাই জৈবিক বাসনা অস্বীকাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সৰু গোঁসানীয়ে মহীধৰ বাপুৰ প্ৰতি ওপজা মোহক জোৰকৈ বান্ধি ৰাখিব খোজে। দুৰ্গাই স্বামীৰ মৰম বুকুত লৈ মাজনিশা যন্ত্ৰণাত ছটফটাই থাকে। বিধস্ত, নিস্তদ্ধ দুৰ্গাৰ বিপৰীতে গিৰিবালাই ঘোষণা কৰে বিদ্ৰোহ। যিখন সমাজত গোঁসাইৰ বিধৱা তিৰোতাই মাংসৰ গোল্ক লোৱাটো মহাপাপ, সেইখন সমাজতে গিৰিবালাই আতাকৰ শ্রাদ্ধত আমীষ খাই প্ৰায়চিত্ত হয়। কিন্তু গিৰিবালাৰ এই প্ৰতিবাদ আত্মত্যাগৰ মাজৰে শেষ হয়। গিৰিবালাৰ এই আত্মত্যাগ বাস্তৱ সমাজৰ ওপৰত পুঞ্জিভূত হৈ থকা ক্ষোভ আৰু অভিমানৰ প্ৰতিফলন। “গিৰিবালাৰ যোগেদি মই স্বাধীন নাৰীৰ সন্ধান কৰিছো। যি সমাজৰ অপ্ৰয়োজনীয় ৰীতি-নীতি গুপ্তী ভাঙি মেলোচকো ভাল পাবলৈ শিকিছে। মাথো সেয়াইনে? মেলোচ গুচি যাব বুলি শুনি বৰষুণ ৰাতি গিৰিবালাই তেওঁৰ দুৱাৰত ঢকিয়াই... সেই যুগৰ নাৰীৰ এয়া কম প্ৰতিবাদনে? (ভৰালী, হেমন্ত : পৃ : ৪৬)

‘নীলকণ্ঠী ব্ৰজ’ উপন্যাসত প্ৰতিফলিত নাৰীজীৱন’ :

মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ বাস্তৱ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ ফচল। অধ্যাপক উপেন চন্দ্ৰ লেখাৰুৰ তত্বাৱধানত তুলসী দাস আৰু মাধৱ কন্দলিৰ ৰামায়ণৰ তুলনামূলক অধ্যয়ন কৰিবলৈ গৈ বৃন্দাবনত কটোৱা সময়ত লাভ কৰা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ আধাৰত, ৰক্ষণশীল হিন্দু সমাজত ধৰ্মীয় ৰীতি-নীতিৰ নামত চলি-অমানৱীয় শোষণ দমনৰ নগ্নৰূপ উপন্যাসখনত চিত্ৰিত কৰিছে। মামণি

ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ আটাইতকৈ বলিষ্ঠ প্ৰতিবাদী নাৰী চৰিত্ৰ সমূহৰ ভিতৰত অন্যতম ‘নীলকণ্ঠ ব্ৰজ’ৰ নায়িকা সৌদামিনী। যাৰ যোগেদি হিন্দুৰ পীঠস্থান মথুৰা আৰু ব্ৰজধামৰ ৰাধেশ্যামীসকলৰ নিকৰুণ অৱস্থা লেখিকাই বৰ্ণনা কৰিছে। এটা বছৰ বিবাহিত জীৱন অতিবাহিত কৰাৰ পাছতেই বৈধব্যক আকোঁৱালি লবলৈ বাধ্য হোৱা সৌদামিনী প্ৰেমত পৰিছিল এজন খৃষ্টান যুৱকৰ। ধৰ্মভীৰু আৰু ৰক্ষণশীল ৰায়চৌধুৰী পৰিয়ালৰ বাবে এয়া আছিল অবিশ্বাস্য কাহিনী। সেয়ে সৌদামিনীক সেই যুৱকৰ পৰা মুক্ত কৰিবলৈ পিতৃ মাতৃয়ে বৃন্দাবনত নি ৰাখে। কিন্তু পিতৃ-মাতৃৰ একান্ত অনুগত সৌদামিনীক ঈশ্বৰৰ নগৰীয়ে দৈহিক কামনা বাসনাৰ উদ্ধৃত আধ্যাত্মিক জগতখনলৈ উন্নীত কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে। তাৰ বিপৰীতে বৃন্দাবনৰ বহু অন্ধকাৰ দিশ তাইৰ বুকুৰ সন্মুখত উন্মোচিত হৈ পৰাত সৌদামিনী আহত হ’ল। সৌদামিনীৰ দৃষ্টিত বৃন্দাবন সেইখন, য’ত ‘কচায়ে কাটিব নিয়াৰ আগতে লিৰিকি বিদাৰি প্ৰাণী চোৱাৰ দৰে গাৰ কাপোৰ গুচায় পৰীক্ষা কৰা হয় যুৱতী বিধৱাৰ শৰীৰ’ (নীঃ ব্ৰঃ পৃঃ ১৬৮), ‘য’ত কম বয়সীয়া বিধৱা ৰাধেশ্যামীক চালান দিয়া হয়’। (নীঃ ব্ৰঃ পৃঃ ২০৩) য’ত মৃত্যু আৰু অৱমাননাৰ অপেক্ষাত গাৰ ফটা কঁথাৰ আচলত আপোন শৰৰ সৎকাৰৰ বাবে কেইটামান পইচা গাঁথি পৰি ৰয় শ শ বিধৱা। নীঃব্ৰঃপৃঃ ২০৫ জীৱনৰ যন্ত্ৰণাৰ উপশম ঘটাবলৈ ঈশ্বৰৰ নগৰীলৈ অহা বিধৱাৰ দুৰ্বিসহ জীৱন, ৰাধেশ্যামীৰ ওপৰত চলা সমাজৰ অমানৱীয় আচৰণে সৌদামিনীক বিদ্ৰোহী কৰি তুলিলে। সাত বছৰ মানসিক অত্যাচাৰে ধাৰাশাৰী কৰি তোলা সৌদামিনীয়ে যত্ন কৰিও ব্ৰজধামত আধ্যাত্মিক অহ্লাদৰ স্বৰ শুনা নাপালে। সামাজিক ৰীতি-নীতিয়ে বিধস্ত কৰি তোলা অসহায় পিতৃলৈ আঙুলি টোৱাই তাই কৈ উঠিছিল।

“তোমালোক ভণ্ড। তোমালোকক মই কচাইৰ লগত বিজাব পাঁৰো।” (নীঃ ব্ৰঃ পৃঃ ২৭৮) ৰক্ষণশীলতাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে বিদ্ৰোহ কৰিও শেষ পৰ্য্যায়ত সৌদামিনীয়ে কিন্তু খৃষ্টান যুৱকৰ হাতত ধৰি আঙুৱাই যাব নোৱাৰিলে। যমুনাৰ বুকুত জীৱনৰ অৱসান ঘটোৱাৰ মূহূৰ্ত্তলৈকে তাই সেই স্বন্দৰ পৰা মুক্ত হ’ব নোৱাৰিলে ‘মাত্ৰ এটা প্ৰস্নই তাইৰ বুকু বিদীৰ্ণ কৰি পেলালে, কিয় এনে হ’ল?’ (নীঃ ব্ৰঃ পৃঃ ২৮২)

সূক্ষ্ম পৰ্যবেক্ষণেৰে চৰিত্ৰৰ অন্তৰ্ভাগক পাঠকৰ আগত উন্মুক্ত কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হোৱা সমাজ সচেতন লেখিকা মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীয়ে নাৰী জীৱনৰ এই অভিশাপ তোলা বৈধব্য জীৱনক অতি মৰ্মস্পৰ্শী ৰূপত দাঙি ধৰিছে। পুৰুষতান্ত্ৰিক সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ নীতি-নিয়মক নাৰীয়ে এনে ভাৱে আত্মস্থ কৰি লৈছে যে নাৰীয়ে ক'ব নোৱাৰাকৈ সেই শোষণ ব্যৱস্থাৰ হৈ থিয় দিয়ে। এনে সংস্কাৰৰ বশ হোৱা বাবেই সদ্য বিধবা গিৰিবালাক লক্ষ্য কৰি একাংশ নাৰীয়ে আটাহ পাৰি উঠিছে—“নুচুবি! নুচুবি! এইমাত্ৰ বাৰী হোৱা তিৰি ঐ শিৰত সেন্দূৰ পিন্ধা তিৰীহঁত।” (দঃ হাঃ উঃ খোঃ হাঃ পৃ-১৫) গোঁসানীয়ে দুৰ্গাক উদ্দেশ্য কৰি কয়—“তপত ভাতৰ ধহাই ধৰিলে স্বামীৰ ভিটা এৰি আইহবা।” (দঃ হাঃ উঃ খোঃ হাঃ পৃ-৮৪) ‘নীলকণ্ঠী ব্ৰজ’ৰ সৌদামিনীৰ প্ৰসংগত ৰাধেশ্যামীৰ মন্তব্য “কেতিয়াবা কাৰোবাৰ বঢ়া ভাতত বিহু দিছিল চাগৈ সেইবাবে এনেকুৱা জীয়েবাক পেটত ধৰিছিল। অকলশৰে ব্ৰজত দং দং কৈ ঘূৰি ফুৰে। অসতী-অহম্মক’ (নীঃ ব্ৰঃ ২০২)।

তদানীন্তন সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাত বিধবা নাৰী যেন অনুভূতিহীন একোটা মৃতদেহ। উপবাস ৰাখি সামাজিক আচাৰ-নীতি বিনাবাক্যে পালন কৰি যোৱাই তেওঁলোকৰ ধৰ্ম ও কৰ্তব্য। নিঃসঙ্গতাৰোধে তেওঁলোকৰ জীৱন কেনে তিক্ত কৰি তোলে সেই কথা চিন্তা কৰিবলৈ সকলো অক্ষম। সেয়ে দুৰ্গাই অনুভৱ কৰে— “গাফিলতি দেখুওৱা, অহংকাৰ কৰা নাইবা তিৰোতাসুলভ মান-অভিমান প্ৰকাশ কৰাৰ ক্ষমতাও ভগৱানেই যেন তেওঁৰ পৰা কাঢ়ি নিছে। (দঃ হাঃ উঃ খোঃ পৃ-৯৩) সৰু গোঁসানীয়ে অনুভৱ কৰে ‘গৃহস্থাত মৰি যোৱাৰ লগে লগে আমাৰ অৰাইৰ কপাল ভাঙি চুৰমাৰ হৈ গৈছে।’ (দঃ হাঃ উঃ খোঃ হাঃ পৃ-৯৬)

নাৰীমনৰ জৈৱিক বাসনা বৈধব্য জীৱনে শেষ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। কিন্তু সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ বান্ধোন ভাঙি অন্তৰৰ নিভৃতম ইচ্ছা আকাংক্ষা প্ৰকাশ কৰিবও নোৱাৰে। মহীধৰ বাপুৰ প্ৰতি সৰু গোঁসানীৰ মনত জন্মা আকৰ্ষণ সেয়ে দমন কৰি ৰাখিব লগা হৈছে। দখলাৰ মানুহে সেই সম্পৰ্কক লৈ বু বু বা কৰে। জগলীয়া গড়াৰ কোমল মাটিৰ দৰে বাপুৰ শৰীৰ স্পৰ্শ কৰাৰ প্ৰচণ্ড তাড়না অনুভৱ কৰে তেওঁ। কিন্তু সত্ৰৰ দেৱতা গোপীনাথৰ লোহাৰ দুৱাৰ

আহি যেন সৰু গোঁসানীৰ সন্মুখত বাধা হৈ থিয় দিয়ে। দূৰ্গাহি মাজ-নিশা স্বামীৰ খৰমযোৰ বুকুত লৈ হাঁহকাৰ কৰি উঠে। এনে এক তাড়নাতেই গিৰিবালাই মাৰ্ক চাহাবৰ ওচৰত নিজকে পৰীক্ষাৰ বাবে আগবঢ়াই দিছে। অন্যহাতে সৌদামিনীৰ শৰীৰ মনৰ লগত বুজাপৰা কৰাটো অসম্ভৱ বুলি অনুভৱ কৰে।

পুৰুষতান্ত্ৰিক বক্ষণশীল সমাজত নাৰীৰ আকাংক্ষাৰ কোনো মূল্য নাই। জাত-পাত, ধৰ্মৰ ব্যৱধানৈ প্ৰেমক স্বীকাৰ কৰিব নিবিচাৰে। তাৰেই প্ৰতিবাদত গিৰিবালা, সৌদামিনীৰ জন্ম হয়। সৌদামিনীয়ে তাইৰ খৃষ্টান প্ৰেমিকৰ বাহু বন্ধনত সোমাই সেয়ে উপলদ্ধি কৰে তাইৰ মৃত হিন্দু স্বামীৰ স’তে ‘একে বুকুৰ উম’ তাইৰ খৃষ্টান প্ৰেমিকাৰ। সেয়ে সৌদামিনীয়ে কৈছে- “শুনা যিবোৰ মানুহে তোমাক এক ভিন্ন শাৰীত থৈছে আজি সেইবোৰক মোৰ কচাইৰ লগত ৰিজাবৰ মন গৈছে।” (নীঃ বঃ পৃ-১৯২। গিৰিবালাই মাৰ্ক চাহাবক প্ৰশ্ন কৰিছে- “যদি খৃষ্টান হলেই তোমাৰ ওচৰত থাকিব পৰা যায় তেতিয়া হলি?” (দঃ হাঃ উঃ খোঃ হাঃ পৃ-৮৭) আত্মহত্যাৰে গিৰিবালা আৰু সৌদামিনীয়ে প্ৰচলিত সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতি জন্ম অভিমান প্ৰকাশ কৰে।

অসমীয়া সাহিত্যত গতিশীলতা দান কৰি যোৱা, অসমীয়া উপন্যাসক এক নুতন মাত্ৰা প্ৰদান কৰা জ্ঞানপীঠ বিজয়িনী মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীৰ সাহিত্য সৃষ্টিৰ উৎস হ’ল বাস্তৱ সমাজ। জীৱনৰ নানা অভিজ্ঞতাৰে পৰিপুষ্ট শক্তিশালী লেখিকাগৰাকীয়ে বহু সময়ত ব্যক্তিগত জীৱনৰ যন্ত্ৰণাৰ পৰা উপশম পাবলৈ হাতত তুলি লৈছিল কলম। সেয়ে তেওঁৰ সৃষ্টিৰ মাজত বাস্তৱৰ সাঁচা কাহিনীয়ে ঠাই পাইছিল। সত্ৰীয়া পৰিৱেশত জীৱনৰ বহুদিন কটোৱা লেখিকাই লাভ কৰা বাস্তৱ সত্যক “দৰ্ভাল হাতীৰ উয়ে খোৱা হাওদা” উপন্যাসখনত চিত্ৰিত কৰিছে। বাস্তৱবাদী লেখিকাগৰাকীৰ ভাষাত-“লেখাৰেই মাথোঁ মই জীৱনক আৱিষ্কাৰ কৰিব নিবিচাৰো, অভিজ্ঞতাৰেহে মই জীৱনক আৱিষ্কাৰ কৰাৰ প্ৰয়াস কৰিম আৰু লেখনীৰ মাজেৰে সেয়া সমাজৰ সন্মুখত প্ৰকাশ কৰিব বিচাৰো।” (ভৰালী, হেমন্তঃ পৃ-৪৪) মামণি ৰয়ছম গোস্বামীয়ে আলোচ্য উপন্যাস দুখনত পৰম্পৰা আৰু সংস্কাৰে প্ৰায় মানসিকভাৱে পঙ্গু কৰি তোলা বিধৱাৰ নৰবাসস্থল জীৱন যন্ত্ৰণাৰ ছবি যিদৰে যথার্থ ৰূপত অংকন

কৰিছে সেইদৰে মনৰ অন্তৰ্দন্দও মৰ্মস্পৰ্শী ৰূপত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। উপন্যাস সমূহে তেওঁক নাৰীবাদী লেখিকা হিচাপে উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে যদিও মানৱতাৰ সন্ধানত তেওঁৰ সাহিত্যৰ নাৰীবাদীৰ ঠেক গভীৰ পৰা উদ্ধৰুখী কৰি তোলে আৰু তাত অনুৰণিত হয় গভীৰ মানৱতাৰ ব্যংগ।

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লেখিকা : সহকাৰী অধ্যাপিকা, অসমীয়া বিভাগ,
সাপেখাতী মহাবিদ্যালয়

বিষ্ণু ৰাভাৰ বিপ্লৱী আভা

ড° সান্ত্বনা দত্ত

মধ্যযুগৰ অসমত সংস্কৃতিৰ আলোকেৰে স্বৰ্ণযুগ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰি অসমীয়া সমাজ সংস্কৃতিৰ নৱৰূপ দিয়া মহাপুৰুষ শ্ৰীমন্ত শংকৰদেৱৰ পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ত যিসকল পুৰোধা ব্যক্তিয়ে অসমৰ সমাজ জীৱনক গভীৰভাৱে প্ৰভাৱিত কৰিছিল সেইসকলৰ অন্যতম আছিল কলাগুৰু বিষ্ণুপ্ৰসাদ ৰাভা। তেখেত আছিল এগৰাকী কবি, নাট্যকাৰ, প্ৰবন্ধকাৰ, সমালোচক, নৃত্য বিশাৰদ, সংগীতজ্ঞ, অভিনেতা, খেলুৱৈ আৰু ৰাজনীতিবিদ। তদুপৰি সমাজ, ধৰ্ম, বিজ্ঞান, বাণিজ্য আৰু অৰ্থনীতিৰো আদি অগাধ গুণসম্পন্ন এগৰাকী মহাপ্ৰতিভাধৰ। ৰাভাদেৱৰ জন্ম হৈছিল ১৯০৯ চনৰ ৩১ জানুৱাৰীত, ঢাকাৰ সৈন্য বাহিনীৰ বেৰেকত। সেই সময়ত বিষ্ণু ৰাভাৰ পিতৃ গোপাল ৰাভা সামৰিক বিভাগৰ চুবেদাৰ মেজৰ হৈ ঢাকাত আছিল। ঢাকাত প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা আৰু তেজপুৰৰ পৰা হাইস্কুলীয়া শিক্ষা সমাপ্ত কৰি বিষ্ণু ৰাভাই প্ৰথমে কলিকতাৰ চেণ্টপল কলেজ আৰু তাৰ পিছত ৰিপন কলেজত নাম লগায়। এইখন কলেজৰ পৰা তেওঁ বি, এছ, চিৰ চূড়ান্ত পৰীক্ষাত অৱতীৰ্ণ হোৱাৰ সময়তে সমগ্ৰ দেশজুৰি স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনৰ জোৱাৰ উঠে। শৈশৱৰে পৰা সংগ্ৰামী মনৰ বিষ্ণুৰাভাকো আন্দোলনৰ চেতনাই জগাই তুলিলে। বিষ্ণু ৰাভা প্ৰত্যক্ষভাৱে আন্দোলনত জড়িত হৈ পৰিল। ব্ৰিটিছ সাম্ৰাজ্যবাদ আৰু ব্ৰিটিছৰ পদলেহনকাৰী ভাৰতীয় পুঁজিপতিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে এদিন কোচবিহাৰৰ ৰাজপ্ৰসাদৰ

প্ৰধান দুৰাৰত পোষ্টাৰো লগালে এনেকৈ—

‘ৰাজ্যে আছে দুটি পাঠা
একটি কালো, একটি সাদা
ৰাজ্যেৰ যদি মংগল চাওঁ
দুইটি পাঠাই বলি দাও। । ’

এই কাৰ্য্যৰ পিছতে বিষ্ণু ৰাভাক কোচবিহাৰৰ পৰা বহিষ্কাৰ কৰা হ’ল।
তেওঁৰ চূড়ান্ত পৰীক্ষাৰ অনুমতিও বাতিল কৰা হ’ল। বিষ্ণু ৰাভা তেজপুৰলৈ
উভতি আহিল যদিও শিক্ষা আধৰৱাকৈয়ে সামৰিব লগা হ’ল।

ভাৰতত ব্ৰিটিছৰ অত্যাচাৰী শাসন আৰু এচাম ভাৰতীয় পুঁজিপতিৰ
কৰ্ম-কাণ্ডৰ প্ৰতি সদায় সজাগ আছিল বিষ্ণু ৰাভা। বুকুত বিদ্ৰোহৰ অগনি
লৈ তেওঁ সৰ্বহাৰা জনতাৰ চিৰ মুক্তিৰ সপোন দেখিছিল। বিষ্ণু ৰাভাৰ মতে,
‘মানুহৰ জীৱনটো এটা স্পষ্ট আৱেগৰ মাজত পৰিপাটীকৈ থকা সুখমাভৰা
পদাৰ্থ নহয়। ই অনিৰ্দিষ্ট, জীৱন্ত, ব্যাপক অগ্নিশিখাৰ দৰে জ্বলন্ত। বিপ্লৱৰ
পথহে জীৱনৰ পথ।’ বিষ্ণু ৰাভাই এইটো উপলব্ধি কৰিছিল যে সমাজৰ
শ্ৰমজীৱী জনতাক অত্যাচাৰী শাসক-শোষকৰ পৰা উদ্ধাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে
সত্য, শিৱ, সুন্দৰৰ আৰাধনা সম্পূৰ্ণ নহয়। এইসকলৰ বিৰুদ্ধে সজাগ হ’বলৈ
তেওঁ জনতাক আহ্বান জনাইছিল এনেদৰে—

“তোৰ বাহুতে আছে লুকাই
অসীম শক্তি বল,
ৰণৰ শিঙা বাজে শুন ঐ
আগবাঢ়ি যাওঁ ব’ল।।’

অসমীয়া কৃষ্টি সংস্কৃতিক প্ৰগতিশীল দৃষ্টিভংগীৰে বিচাৰ কৰিছিল বিষ্ণু
ৰাভাই। তেওঁৰ মতে অসমীয়া কৃষ্টি, সংস্কৃতি আৰু সভ্যতা নিৰ্যাতিত-
নিষ্পেষিত দুখীয়া গাঁৱলীয়া বনুৱা অসমীয়াইহে আজিও অৱহেলিতভাৱে
জীয়াই ৰাখিব পাৰিছে। মাৰ্ক্সবাদী দৰ্শনত বিশ্বাসী বিষ্ণুৰাভাই এইসকলৰ
মুক্তিৰ বাবে শত শত শহীদৰ কেঁচা তেজৰ বিনিময়ত বিচাৰিছিল এখন
শ্ৰেণীহীন, শোষণহীন সমাজ। সেয়ে তেওঁ লিখিছিল—

‘তেজৰ বোলেৰে লিখি যাম ইতিহাস

মচি যাম দীন সমাজৰ হীন পৰিহাস।
ক'ত শ্বহীদৰ দুখৰ জীৱনী লিখা,
ক'ত ব্যথিতৰ বেদনাৰ ছবি অঁকা
পৃথিৱীৰ চিৰ মুকুতিৰ পথ ৰেখা।
ৰচি যাম বহু শোষিতৰ হা-হতাশ।।’

বিষ্ণু ৰাভাই সমগ্ৰ অসমখনকে নিজৰ কৰ্মক্ষেত্ৰ ৰূপে গণ্য কৰিছিল। সংস্কৃতিৰ মাধ্যমেৰে সমাজখনক তেওঁ নৱৰূপ দিয়াৰ প্ৰয়াস কৰিছিল। উল্লেখ্য যে বিষ্ণুৰাভাৰ সংস্কৃতি সাধনাৰ অন্যতম সংগী আছিল ৰূপকোঁৱৰ জ্যোতিপ্ৰসাদ আগৰৱালা। দুয়োগৰাকীয়ে মিলি অসমৰ সমাজ তথা সংস্কৃতিলৈ আগবঢ়াইছিল বহু আপুৰুগীয়া অৱদান। অসমৰ পাহাৰ ভৈয়ামৰ বিভিন্ন জনগোষ্ঠীক একত্ৰিত কৰি দুয়োগৰাকীয়ে গঢ়ি বচিছিল এখন সমন্বয়ৰ সমাজ। বিষ্ণু ৰাভাই এক গণমুখী দৃষ্টিভংগীৰে অসমৰ জনগোষ্ঠীসমূহৰ সংস্কৃতিৰ সমন্বয়ত ন-অসমীয়া সংস্কৃতিৰ ছবি অংকন কৰিছিল। তেওঁৰ এই ন-অসমীয়া সংস্কৃতিৰ প্ৰধান আধাৰ আছিল অসমীয়া জাতিৰ প্ৰাণ প্ৰতিষ্ঠাতা মহাপুৰুষ শ্ৰীমন্ত শঙ্কৰদেৱৰ দৰ্শন। বিষ্ণু ৰাভাৰ দৃষ্টিত শ্ৰীকৃষ্ণ যিদৰে সৌন্দৰ্য আৰু বীৰত্বৰ প্ৰতীক, মহাত্মা গান্ধী যিদৰে শান্তি আৰু অহিংসাৰ প্ৰতীক, কাৰ্লমাৰ্ক্স, লেনিন, ছে গুৱেভাৰা আদি যিদৰে বিপ্লৱ আৰু মুক্তি সংগ্ৰামৰ প্ৰতীক তেনেদৰে শ্ৰীমন্ত শঙ্কৰদেৱো হ'ল সমন্বয় আৰু সংহতিৰ প্ৰতীক। শঙ্কৰদেৱৰ সামাজিক আৰু সাংস্কৃতিক চিন্তাৰ দ্বাৰা অনুপ্ৰাণিত বিষ্ণু ৰাভাই ইন্দ্ৰধনুৰ সাতোৰঙেৰে আকাশ উজ্জ্বলাই তোলাৰ দৰেই সমন্বয়ৰ সৈঁতুৰে সমাজ আকাশ জ্যোতিস্মান কৰাৰ সপোন দেখিছিল।

বিষ্ণু ৰাভা প্ৰকৃতাৰ্থত আছিল এগৰাকী বিপ্লৱী শিল্পী। অসমীয়া জাতিৰ চিৰ জাগ্ৰত প্ৰহৰী, জীৱনৰ বাবে কলাৰ সাধনা কৰা কলাগুৰু। গণশিল্পী হেমাংগ বিশ্বাসৰ ভাষাত—

‘শোষিতৰ কনিজাৰ ৰঙা পোৱালেৰে গঁথা,
আলোক-মিনাৰ চিৰ অনিৰ্বাণ জ্বলে মুক্তি দেউলত।
তাৰে খনিকৰ, ৰূপৰ শিকলি বন্ধা
অমিয়া সুৰক

মুক্তি দিলা ধাননিত।
সাম্যবাদী চেতনাৰে সুদীপ্ত সুন্দৰ
ৰাখি গ'লা হেঙুলীয়া তোমাৰ স্বাক্ষৰ।'

জনতাৰ হিয়াৰ আমঠু, সৰ্বহাৰাৰ সংগ্ৰামী নেতা বিষ্ণু ৰাভাৰ আদৰ্শৰ
প্ৰাসংগিকতা আজিৰ সময়তো নুই কৰিব নোৱাৰি। শৃগালৰূপী মানুহেৰে
ভৰপূৰ আজিৰ সমাজত জাতিটোক প্ৰগতিৰ নতুন পথ দেখুৱাবলৈ বিষ্ণু
ৰাভাৰ দৰে বিপ্লৱী মনিষাৰ পুনৰ জন্ম হ'ব লাগিব। পাহাৰ-ভৈয়াম একাকাৰ
কৰি সমন্বয় আৰু সম্প্ৰীতিৰ সৈঁতু বান্ধিবলৈ আমাক প্ৰয়োজন আছে বিষ্ণু
ৰাভাৰ দৰে সংগ্ৰামী সত্ত্বাৰ। জাতিটোক জাতীয় চেতনাৰে উদ্ধুদ্ধ কৰিবলৈ,
বঞ্চিতজনক মুক্তিৰ মহামন্ত্ৰ দিবলৈ আজিও প্ৰয়োজন আছে বিপ্লৱী শিল্পী
বিষ্ণু ৰাভাৰ আদৰ্শ আৰু দৃষ্টিভংগীৰ, অনাগত দিনলৈও থাকিব।

লেখিকা : সহকাৰী অধ্যাপিকা, সমাজতত্ত্ব বিভাগ
জাঁজী হেমনাথ শৰ্মা মহাবিদ্যালয়

প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰ 'গান্ধী-গীতা'ত প্ৰতিফলিত গান্ধীজীৰ সত্যাগ্ৰহ দৰ্শন আৰু বৰ্তমান সময়ত ইয়াৰ প্ৰাসংগিকতা

ড° মৃদুস্মিতা দেৱী

প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰ বিদ্যাবাচস্পতিৰ গান্ধীগীতা আধুনিক সংস্কৃত সাহিত্যৰ এখন উল্লেখযোগ্য গ্ৰন্থ। ১৮৮৯ চনৰ ৯ নৱেম্বৰত পঞ্জাবৰ জলন্ধৰত প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰই জন্ম লাভ কৰিছিল। সৰুৰে পৰা পিতৃ মুখৰীৰাম (পিছলৈ স্বামী শ্ৰদ্ধানন্দ নামেৰে জনাজাত)-ৰ স্বাধীনতা যুঁজৰ প্ৰত্যক্ষ সাক্ষী প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰই সৰুতেই ৰাজনীতিৰ জ্ঞান লাভ কৰিছিল। ৰাজনৈতিক পিতৃৰ ছদ্মছায়াত প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰৰ ব্যক্তিত্ব বিভিন্ন গুণৰ সমন্বয়ে সমন্বিত হৈ বৃদ্ধি পাইছিল। ইন্দ্ৰৰ পৰিয়ালৰ প্ৰত্যেকজন সদস্যই বলিদান, ত্যাগ, আৰু ৰাষ্ট্ৰ সেৱাৰ বাবে সদায়েই প্ৰস্তুত আছিল। তেওঁৰ পৰিয়ালৰ সকলো সদস্যই স্বাধীনতাৰ হকে কাৰাবৰণ কৰিবলগা হৈছিল। তেনেদৰেই প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰও ৰাষ্ট্ৰ চেতনাৰ সৈতে জড়িত হৈ পৰিছিল। পেছাগতভাৱে যদিওবা তেওঁ শিক্ষক আছিল তথাপি তেওঁৰ মন-প্ৰাণ প্ৰতি মুহূৰ্তে ভাৰতৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ নামত উৎসৰ্গিত আছিল। ছাত্ৰ অৱস্থাৰ পৰাই তেওঁ পিতৃৰ সমকালীন ৰাজনৈতিক নেতাসকল যেনে মতিলাল নেহৰু, মদন-মোহন মালব্য আদি বিখ্যাত নেতাসকলক ওচৰৰ পৰা লগ পাইছিল। 'অৰ্জুন' নামৰ এখন পত্ৰিকাত তেওঁ সম্পাদক হিচাপে কাৰ্য্যৰত

আছিল আৰু বৃটিছবিৰোধী লেখা প্ৰকাশিত হোৱাৰ বাবে দুবাৰকৈ কাৰাবৰণ কৰিবলগা হৈছিল। তদুপৰি ১৯৩০ চনৰ লোণ- আইন ভংগ আন্দোলনৰ আৰম্ভণিতে লোণ-আইন ভঙ্গ সম্পৰ্কত তেওঁ আপত্তিজনক ভাষণ দিয়া বুলি পুনৰবাৰ কাৰাবৰণ কৰিবলগা হৈছিল।

সুলেখক, হৰিদাৰৰ গৌৰৱ, প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰ বাচস্পতি জীৱন কালত বিভিন্ন প্ৰশাসনিক পদত অধিষ্ঠিত আছিল। ১৯৬০ চনৰ ২৩ আগষ্টত ৭১ বছৰ বয়সত প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰৰ দেহাৱসান ঘটে। তেখেতে জীৱন কালত নেপোলিয়ন বোনাপাৰ্টৰ জীৱনী (১৯১২) উপনিষদৰ ভূমিকা (১৯১৪), ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ উন্নতি (১৯১৫), ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয়তাৰ মূলমন্ত্ৰ (১৯১৬) মোগল সাম্ৰাজ্য ধ্বংসৰ ইতিহাস (১৯৩০) পণ্ডিত জৱাহৰলাল নেহৰু (১৯৩৬) ইত্যাদি ৰাজনীতি তথা জীৱনভিত্তিক, সামাজিক প্ৰায় ৪০ খনৰো অধিক বহু গ্ৰন্থ হিন্দী ভাষাত ৰচনা কৰি গৈছে। তেখেতে শ্বাহ আলমৰ চকু, অপৰাধী কোন, জমীন্দাৰ, সৰলা, আত্মবলিদানকে ধৰি ৬খন উপন্যাস ৰচনা কৰিছিল। সাহিত্যৰ অনুবাদ, বাতৰি কাকতৰ সম্পাদনা আদি কামতো তেখেত জড়িত আছিল। এইসমূহৰ উপৰিও তেখেতে সংস্কৃত সাহিত্যৰ ৰঘুবংশ, কিৰাৰ্তাজুনীয়ম্ আদি গ্ৰন্থও সম্পাদিত ৰূপত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। প্ৰবন্ধৰ আলোচ্য গ্ৰন্থ ‘গান্ধী-গীতা’ প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰবাচস্পতিয়ে ৰচনা কৰা এখন উল্লেখযোগ্য গ্ৰন্থ। এই গ্ৰন্থখনত গান্ধীজীৰ অহিংসাৰ ধাৰণাক বিস্তৃত ৰূপত প্ৰকাশ কৰা হৈছে। গ্ৰন্থখনি ‘অহিংসা-যোগ’, ‘শ্ৰীমদমোহন গীতা’ নামেৰেও জনাজাত। গ্ৰন্থখনি সৰল সংস্কৃত ভাষাত ৰচিত। গ্ৰন্থখনিৰ ইংৰাজী অনুবাদ প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰই তেওঁৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰী ধৰ্মদত্ত সিন্ধবাণীৰ সহায়ত লাহোৰত কৰিছিল। কিন্তু ১৯৪৮ চনত ভাৰত দ্বিখণ্ডিত হোৱাত এই গ্ৰন্থখনিৰ প্ৰায় ৫০০কপি নষ্ট হয়। পুনৰ ১৯৫০ চনত দিল্লীৰ ৰাজহংস প্ৰকাশনৰ পৰা গ্ৰন্থখন পুনৰ প্ৰকাশ কৰা হয়। শ্ৰীমদ্ভগৱৎ গীতাৰ আৰ্হিত ৰচিত এই গ্ৰন্থখন গান্ধীজীৰ ‘অহিংসা’ৰ বাৰ্তা প্ৰেৰণৰ বাবেই আজিও প্ৰাসঙ্গিক। গান্ধী-গীতাত ১৮টা অধ্যায়, ৬৯৪টা অনুষ্ঠাপ ছন্দযুক্ত শ্লোক আছে। প্ৰত্যেক অধ্যায়ৰ অন্তত প্ৰতিটো অধ্যায়ৰ নামকৰণ প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰই পৃথক-পৃথকভাৱে কৰিছে।

গান্ধীগীতাৰ পঞ্চম অধ্যায়টোৰ নাম ‘সত্যপ্ৰয়োগ’, প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰই

গান্ধীগীতাৰ চতুৰ্থ, পঞ্চম আৰু ষষ্ঠ এই তিনিওটা অধ্যায়তে গান্ধীজীৰ সত্যাগ্ৰহ দৰ্শনৰ বিষয়ে ব্যক্ত কৰিছে। সত্য আৰু অহিংসা গান্ধীজীৰ প্ৰাণসম। সত্য তেওঁৰ বাবে আৰাধনীয় দেৱতা। সত্যৰ পূজা-অৰ্চনা কৰাই তেওঁৰ জীৱনৰ চৰম ব্ৰত। তেওঁ কৈছে— সত্য পোহৰ, অসত্য আন্ধাৰ, সত্য শ্ৰেষ্ঠ অমৃত, অসত্য মৃত্যুৰ দ্বাৰ। এই সত্যই তেওঁৰ জীৱনৰ পাথেয় আছিল। গ্ৰন্থখনিৰ পঞ্চম অধ্যায়ৰ আৰম্ভণিতে যেতিয়া ৰাজেন্দ্ৰপ্ৰসাদে গান্ধীজীক সুধিছে যে, সত্যাগ্ৰহ কি? তেতিয়া গান্ধীজীয়ে সেই প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কৈছে যে সত্যাগ্ৰহ কোনো নতুন সিদ্ধান্ত নহয়, যিটো ভাৰত বা অন্য ঠাইত শুনিবলৈ পোৱা হোৱা নাই। সত্যাগ্ৰহৰ পৰিভাষা গান্ধীজীয়ে এনেদৰে দিছে—

परपक्षसत्यस्थं, स्वपक्षं सत्यसंश्रितम्।

मत्वा सत्यस्य रक्षार्थं यत्नः सत्याग्रहो मतः॥ ৫/৩

বৰ্তমান বিশ্বই গোলকীকৰণৰ সময়ত যিবিলাক অসুবিধাৰ সন্মুখীন হৈছে, সেইবিলাক বহুদিনৰ পৰাই সমাজত প্ৰচলিত হৈ আছিল, মোহনদাস কৰমচাঁদ গান্ধীয়ে যিবিলাক নীতি আদৰ্শ তেওঁ গোটেই জীৱন নিজে পালন কৰিছিল সেইবিলাকৰ ভেটিতেই গান্ধীবাদৰ প্ৰৱৰ্তন কৰিছিল আৰু অহিংসা আৰু সত্যাগ্ৰহৰ মতবাদেই হৈছে গান্ধীজীৰ আদৰ্শৰ মূল কেন্দ্ৰবিন্দু। অহিংসা সত্যাগ্ৰহ আৰু সত্য, সুন্দৰ, এই বিলাকৰ এক পাৰস্পৰিক সম্পৰ্ক আছে। গান্ধীজীয়ে সত্যৰ মূল্য, অহিংসা, সত্যাগ্ৰহৰ মূলমন্ত্ৰসমূহ, নীতি আৰু আদৰ্শসমূহ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰি সমাজৰ পৰা প্ৰভেদসমূহ আঁতৰাইছিল। অহিংসা শব্দই সাধাৰণতে প্ৰাণী হত্যা নকৰা বুজায়। কিন্তু গান্ধীজীৰ মতে, কাকো হিংসা নকৰা বা ঘৃণা নকৰা, দয়াহীন তথা আনক বেয়া কৰিব পৰা চিন্তা মনত পোষণ নকৰা আনকি এইবিলাক শব্দৰ বিৰুদ্ধেও নকৰাটো গান্ধীজীৰ মতাদৰ্শ আছিল।

গান্ধীজীৰ সত্যাগ্ৰহ শব্দটো অহিংসাৰ অধিক ওচৰ চপা সত্যাগ্ৰহ শব্দই সত্যৰ প্ৰতি আগ্ৰহ তথা সত্যক ধাৰণ কৰা বুজায়। গান্ধীজীৰ মতে, সত্যাগ্ৰহ হৈছে এক নিষ্ক্ৰিয় প্ৰতিৰোধ। সত্যাগ্ৰহৰ জৰিয়তে ৰক্তপাত তথা হিংসা অবিহনে শব্দৰ বিপক্ষে নিৰস্ত্ৰভাৱে যুঁজি এক সুদূৰপ্ৰসাৰী ফল লাভ কৰিব পাৰি। সত্য হ'ল এক অমোঘ অস্ত্ৰ।

সত্যাৱহীয়ে বেয়াক ভালৰ দ্বাৰা, ঘৃণাক প্ৰেমৰদ্বাৰা, অসত্যক সত্যৰদ্বাৰা, হিংসাক অহিংসাৰ দ্বাৰা পৰাজয় কৰিব লাগে। এইক্ষেত্ৰত গান্ধীজীয়ে, অসহযোগ, আইন, অমান্য, আত্মনিৰ্বাসন, অনশন ধৰ্মঘট আদি পদ্ধতি অৱলম্বনৰ পন্থা হাতত লৈছিল। তদুপৰি অসহযোগত হৰতাল, সামাজিক বয়কট আৰু পিকেটিং আদি উপায় অৱলম্বন কৰিছিল। বৰ্জন, প্ৰতিবাদ, ইন্তাফা, উপাধি ত্যাগ, প্ৰতিবাদ ৰেলী, অপ্ৰয়োজনীয় কৰ পৰিশোধ নকৰা, সৰ্বসাধাৰণ মানুহৰ বিপক্ষে যোৱা অন্যায় নিয়ম আৰু বিচাৰৰ অৱজ্ঞা কৰা আদি বিভিন্ন কৌশল অৱলম্বন কৰিছিল।

প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰই তেওঁৰ গান্ধীগীতা নামৰ গ্ৰন্থত সত্যাৱহৰ সৈতে পৰস্পৰ সন্মত থকা চাৰিটা স্কন্ধৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। সেইকেইটা হ'ল—
 ১। অনৃত অৰ্থাৎ অসত্য যিটোৰ দ্বাৰা সমগ্ৰ জগত আবৃত হৈ আছে আৰু পাপ নামৰ অসত্য সকলো দিশৰ পৰা বিস্তাৰিত হৈ আছে। ২। দ্বিতীয় স্কন্ধ হৈছে সত্যৰ বিজয় যিটোৱে পাপ নাশ কৰি জগতৰ কল্যাণ সাধন কৰে। তৃতীয়টো হৈছে হিংসা নকৰা, হিংসা পাপ নাশ কৰাৰ কেতিয়াও সাধন হ'ব নোৱাৰে বৰঞ্চ হিংসাই পাপ আৰু ক্লেশ বৃদ্ধিহে কৰে। চতুৰ্থ স্কন্ধ হ'ল অহিংসা, যিটোৱে বিশেষভাৱে পাপ নাশ কৰি শান্তি প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিব পাৰে আৰু অসত্যক নষ্ট কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হয়। সত্যাৱহীজনে নিজৰ শত্ৰুৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অহিংসা অশ্লীলতা আনকি অহিত চিন্তা কৰাৰ পৰাও বিৰত থাকিব লাগে। তেওঁ সদায় “সত্যক আশ্ৰয় কৰি থাকিব লাগে। কিন্তু আনৰ অন্যায় কাৰ্য কেতিয়াও সহ্য কৰিব নালাগে। ন্যায় পথৰ পৰা এক খোজো তেওঁ বিচলিত হ'ব নালাগে, শান্তি প্ৰিয়, ধৈৰ্য্যপূৰ্বক আশাবাদী, তথা মানুহক দেৱতুল্য জ্ঞান কৰি অহিংসাৰ দ্বাৰা সমগ্ৰতে শান্তি প্ৰতিষ্ঠাৰ পোষকতা কামনা কৰা হৈছে সত্যাৱহ মূলমন্ত্ৰ। সত্যাৱহ হৈছে স্নেহৰ আন এটা নাম। স্নেহ বা মৰমেৰে সকলো জয় কৰিব পাৰি। স্নেহৰ অগ্নিয়ে কেৱল নিজকেই দগ্ধ কৰে নিজকেই দুখী কৰে আনক কেতিয়াও দুখী নকৰে। স্নেহ বা মৰমে আততায়ীজনৰো নিৰ্দয় মন কোমল কৰিব পাৰে। গান্ধী-গীতাত প্ৰফেছৰ ইন্দ্ৰই উল্লেখ কৰিছে—

नान्यान् दहति स्नेहाग्निर्दहत्यान्मानमेव हि।

स्वयं तु दुयमानोऽपि परांस्तु न दुनोति स॥ ৫/১৫

কিয়নো মানুহৰ প্ৰকৃতি সকলো ঠাইতে একেই হয়। সত্যাৱহীজনে নিজৰ ক্ষতি হ'লেও অথবা নিজে আঘাতপ্ৰাপ্ত হ'লেও আনক আঘাত নকৰে। সত্যাৱহীজনে নিজে মৰিব জানে কিন্তু আনক নামাৰে। আত্মত্যাগ আনক মৰাতকৈ অধিক শক্তিশালী বুলি তেওঁলোকে জ্ঞান কৰে। সত্যাৱহ ব্ৰতত থকাজনে মৃত্যুলৈ ভয় নকৰে, সত্যৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে তেনেজনে হাঁহি হাঁহি মৃত্যুদণ্ড আদৰি লয়। মৃত্যুভয় জয়ী সত্যাৱহীজনৰ ওচৰত কোনো বলৱান শক্তি তিষ্ঠিবলৈ সক্ষম নহয়। ক্ষমা এওঁলোকৰ তীক্ষ্ণ অস্ত্ৰ। অহিংসা হৈছে দৃঢ় কবচ। সত্যাৱহীজন অস্ত্ৰহীন হৈও সশস্ত্ৰ হয়। তেওঁলোকে শত্ৰুৰ হৃদয়ৰ পৰা শত্ৰুতা আঁতৰাই শত্ৰুতা ভাব নিৰ্মূল কৰে।

सत्याग्रहस्य सेनानीः शास्त्रहीनोऽपि शास्त्रवान्।

নিৰ্মূলং কুৰুতে শাস্ত্ৰং, বৈৰমুনমূল্য তদধৃদঃ।। ৫/২২

সত্যাৱহীজন কেতিয়াও পৰাজিত নহয়, তেওঁলোকে সদায় সকলো ঠাইতে নিশ্চিত বিজয় লাভ কৰে। গান্ধীজীয়ে চিন্তা কৰিছিল ভাৰতৰ দৰে এখন ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ কাৰণে সত্যাৱহ হৈছে শ্ৰেষ্ঠ অস্ত্ৰ। ভাৰতৰ কাৰণে সত্যাৱহ উপযুক্ত তথা অমোঘ বা অব্যৰ্থ অস্ত্ৰ। দেশৰ কল্যাণ অৰ্থাৎ স্বাধীনতা লাভৰ বাবে সত্যাৱহেই শ্ৰেষ্ঠ সাধন বুলি গান্ধীজীয়ে মানিছিল।

গান্ধীজীৰ সত্যাৱহৰ প্ৰাসঙ্গিকতা বৰ্তমান সময়তো নুই কৰিব নোৱাৰি। বৰ্তমান সময় যান্ত্ৰিকতাৰ আবেষ্টনীৰে ভৰপূৰ সময়। যন্ত্ৰৰ সৈতে সহায়স্থান কৰোঁতে মানুহৰ মনৰ পৰা মানৱীয় প্ৰমূল্যবোধ হেৰাই গৈছে। মানৱীয় সুকোমল অনুভূতিসমূহৰ অৱক্ষয় ঘটিছে। হিংসাই মানৱ সমাজলৈ বিপৰ্যয় নমাই আনি বিশ্বযুদ্ধসমূহৰ সূচনা কৰিছিল। বৰ্তমান সময়তো ৰাষ্ট্ৰসমূহৰ মাজত শীতল যুদ্ধৰ অৱকাশ হৈয়ে থাকে। দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধৰ সময়ৰ হিৰোচিমা, নাগাচাকিৰ বিভীষিকাও হিংসাৰেই নামান্তৰ মাত্ৰ। গতিকে বৰ্তমান হিংসাজৰ্জৰ পৰিবেশত সম্পূৰ্ণ মানৱতাৰে শান্তিৰ সৈতে সহায়স্থান কৰি নিজৰ স্বাভিমান তথা অধিকাৰ ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ একমাত্ৰ উপায় হৈছে গান্ধীজীৰ সত্যাৱহক অনুসৰণ কৰা। কাৰণ সত্যাৱহ মানৱীয়তা তথা মানৱতাবাদৰ ওপৰত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত। সেই কথা উপলব্ধি কৰি তাৰ অহিংসা পৰম ধৰ্ম এই বাণীক সমগ্ৰ বিশ্বই শ্ৰদ্ধাৰে আকোঁৱালি পৃথিৱীত শান্তি প্ৰতিষ্ঠাৰ লক্ষ্যৰে

ৰাষ্ট্ৰসংঘই গান্ধীজীৰ জন্মদিন ২ অক্টোবৰৰ দিনটো ‘আন্তৰ্জাতিক অহিংসা
দিবস হিচাপে উদ্‌যাপনৰ অনুমতি দিছে। অহিংসা বা সত্যতা এই দুয়োটাই
সাৰ্বজনীন বিষয়। সেয়েহে বৰ্তমান বিশ্বই এই দুয়োটাৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা কোনো
প্ৰকাৰে নস্যাৎ কৰিব নোৱাৰে।

সন্দৰ্ভ গ্ৰন্থসূচী :

বিদ্যাৰাচম্পতি, ইন্দ্ৰ, *মেৰে পিতা*, হৰিদ্বাৰ, ২০০৮

ইন্দ্ৰ, *গান্ধী-গীতা*, ৰাজহংস প্ৰকাশন, দিল্লী, ১৯৪৯

লেখিকা : সহকাৰী অধ্যাপিকা, সংস্কৃত বিভাগ,
জাঁজী হেমনাথ শৰ্মা মহাবিদ্যালয়