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Content

Sl. No	Topic	Page No
1	“Impact of Science and Technology on International Politics” Dr Nutan Kumari	1 – 4
2	“The Theme of Betrayal and Corruption: Joseph Conrad's An Outcast of the Islands” Abul Kalam Azad	5 – 7
3	“Government Initiatives and MSMEs' Challenges during COVID-19” Dr. Bijaya Thakur	8 – 12
4	“Taming the Adolescence Teacher-Taught Relation: Proposed Solution” Dr. R Wonkhuimi	13 – 16
5	“Journey to Nano Technology Transistor, from valve to Semiconductor diode and triode (B.J.T), integrated circuit chip” Dr Ramjeet Yadav	17 – 18
6	“Study of Macrozoobenthic community of a Freshwater Lake Nainital, Kumaun Himalaya Uttarakhand, India.” S.D. Maindoli	19 – 22
7	“Buddhism: Social Order and Solidarity (600 B.C-100 B. C.)” S Khagendra Sethi	23 – 27
8	“The Incarceration of Madness in Jane Eyre and The Woman in White” Mohammad Farogh Alam	28 – 30
9	“Rohinton Mistry’s <i>Tales from Firozsha Baag</i>: The Parsi as a Marginalised Community” Prabhat Kumar	31 - 32
10	“INDO - JAPAN Geopolitical Nexus: Significance of India's Northeast” R K Sanayaima Singh	33 - 36
11	“Paleolimnology of Nikahari Tal, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh” Supriya Kumari	37 – 41
12	“The Implication of the Competition Act, 2002 on Cross-Border Merger– An Indian Perspective” Smt. M.C. Usharani	42 – 47
13	“Women and Social Justice: In the Era of Modernization” Prof. Bhavna Sharma	48 – 50
14	“Agripreneurship in Organic Crops: Problems and Prospects in Mizoram” R. Lalhmingthanga	51 – 60
15	“Studies of Selected Water Quality Parameters of River Adri at Surya Mandir Ghat Aurangabad Bihar” Sonu Kumar Singh	61 – 64
16	Dharma Literature and Modern Hindu Marriage- Symmetries and Asymmetries Dr Shwetanshu Bhushan	65 – 66

- 17 “वैश्वीकरण के बाद भारतीय संघ व्यवस्था में केन्द्र-राज्य संबंध की भूमिका” 67 – 69
कैलाश कुमार
- 18 “गुलजार की रचनाओं में देश विभाजन की पीड़ा और बाल मनोविज्ञान” 70 – 73
शिव कुमार दुबे

Topic

“Impact of Science and Technology on International Politics”

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The impact of science and technology on International Politics has not only revolutionized the entire gamut of international relations which "has a much wider connotation than international politics in so far as it embraces all sorts of relations among people and group in the world society and these relations operate both at the official as well as non official levels" (Prakash Chander & Prem Arora, 1997)¹, but also has left indelible impression on human lives with its positive as well as negative aura. Till date the impact of science and technology has been incessantly directing the International politics as it has been the most important determinant in the development of International Relations. The origin of scientific age in modern times dates back to fourteenth century when Renaissance began in Italy "and subsequently spread to France, Spain, Germany and northern Europe in varying forms. "It brought about a total change in man's outlook on life which extended into the philosophical, scientific, economic and technical fields" (O.P. Gauba, 1995)².

Scientific and technological developments have influenced international relations to a great extent and also shaped it with great intimacy. National power, orchestration of a state's hegemonic aura, inter-state relations, international developments, etc. are simply influenced by scientific advancement and technological developments applied by a state in the spheres of defence, national security, warfare, communication, transport, economic empowerment, industrial developments etc. (Kumari, 2021)³.

Notably, "Technology is as old as human civilization. Man has constantly tried to enlarge knowledge, and apply it in diverse ways to meet his needs. In the competition for dominance and control, societies which forged ahead in mastery of basic knowledge and technology were able to succeed, sometimes far beyond expectations.

This paradigm changing, force multiplying effect of technology has been responsible for major historical changes and relations among societies in the past. The impact of technology on warfare and military balance was particularly striking, allowing relatively smaller forces to prevail because of superior technology. This phenomenon continues even in modern times, when the first atomic bombs caused the immediate surrender of Japan " (Amb B. Balakrishnan, 2010)⁴.

Now to comprehend with lucidity the impact of science and technology on International Politics, it is imperative to have idea of International Politics. "Power is a key factor in the calculus of international capabilities and influence in international affairs. It is often divided up into the concepts of hard power and soft power, hard power relating primarily to coercive power, such as the use of force, and soft power commonly covering the persuasive domain such as economics, diplomacy and influencing people. Technology plays a critical role in determining power, both hard and soft," (Amb. B. Balakarishnan, 2010)⁵.

Notably, it was the seventeenth century wherein one finds the beginning of ever growing and intimate relationship of science & technology with International Relations. Notably, Enlightenment or the Age of reason of Eighteen Century in Western World revolutionized the attitude of the thinkers who in their turn attempted to reduce social and political problems to scientific terms and to discover universal principles for a proper understanding of solution of these problems.

Impact of Science & Technology on International Politics

The impact of scientific and technological developments in world politics has been immensely extensive and thoroughly cumulative as it has enabled the primitive society to develop itself into modern nation state and march towards post modernity. But it does not mean that the impact of science and technology has been only positive. To a great extent their impact has been adverse on world politics which may be studied in following manner-

1. Colonialism and Imperialism:

The Industrial Revolution was a natural outcome of the scientific revolution in the economic sphere... agriculture was replaced by industry as the chief mode of production as also the main source of wealth (O.P. Gauba, 1995)⁶. This way science and technology helped in advancement of the Western World wherein human lives became luxurious and industry flourished a lot. Prima facie, Industrial Revolution seemed to promote prosperity for all times to come (Kumari, 2012)⁷. As with the help of scientific and technological innovation, the rich countries

started practising imperialism and colonialism whereby they conquered small nations "for the sake of loot, the search for competition-free markets, the quest for fresh fields of investment and the urge to secure certain strategic raw materials" (P. Chandra, 1995)⁸. Besides, Imperial and colonial power after exploiting natural resources and draining out raw materials from their colonies also made great chunk of population of their colonies as bonded labourers for their industrial work.

2. The World Wars & COVID 19 Pandemic:

Though the United Kingdom due to its imperialist policy was the mightiest nation of the world at that time, but again with the help of scientific and technological advancement the United States and Japan emerged as major powers in the early twentieth century. Notably, though Germany entered the scramble for colonies later on, yet, "by 1914, it had left Britain and France far behind in the production of iron and steel... Both Britain and France were alarmed at the expansion of German manufactures as they considered it as serious threat to their position" (Arjun Dev, 1998)⁹. Then just to promote their imperialist interest and control over international market the imperialist nations divided the world into two hostile camps through secret alliances. "In 1882 was formed the Triple Alliance Comprising Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy As opposed to this, emerged the Triple Entente comprising France, Russia and Britain 1907. The formation of these hostile camps was accompanied with a race to build more deadly weapons and have larger and larger armies and navies (Arjun Dev 1998)¹⁰.

So, the first world war (1914-1918) broke out wherein scientifically and technologically developed sophisticated weapons were used "The total number of those killed and dead in the war are estimated at about nine million, the economy of many countries was shattered." (Arjun Dev, 1998)¹¹.

Yet the devastating impact of science and technology which had armed the prominent imperialist nations could not teach them to live in harmony and peace and due to imperialist ambitions, power politics, orchestration of hegemonic aura and failure of League of Nations again the world was forced to bear the catastrophe of the second world war which took a toll of more than fifty million human lives. In this war, the United States used the atom bombs against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing over 320,000 people almost instantaneously. "Besides the human losses, the economy and material resources of many countries were badly damaged. Many ancient cities were almost completely destroyed. The total cost of the second world war has been estimated at the staggering figure of \$1,384,900,000,000" (Arjun Dev, 1998)¹².

Again, due to Coronavirus COVID-19, PRC's deadly move 6,932,422 people have died so far (Worldometer, 2023)¹³

3. Cold war and Neo Cold War:

In the post second world war, the world politics was characterized by cold war entertained by the two blocs capitalist and communist headed by the United States of America and the erstwhile Soviet Union. This cold war gave rise to fear psychosis resulting in mad craze for arms race and exploiting scientific and technological developments and innovations in manufacturing sophisticated armaments including Nuclear Weapons and other weapons of Mass Destruction. It was the hysterical impact of this cold war that military alliances viz, NATO, SEATO, CENTO, Warsaw Pact etc. formed to threaten world peace and tranquility disturbing equilibrium and human development in the world.

During this biting cold war, at times, there had been thaws in Soviet-US relations in the form of détente i.e., reduction of tension between the superpowers, in 1955, 1959, 1963 and 1968. From 1969 détente arrived in such a manner that no one could think of revival of cold war in the wake of ABM (Anti Ballistic Missile) Treaty and conclusion of SALT-I (Strategic Arms Limitation Talk) of 1972. But in 1979 when SALT II was to come into effect due to soviet invasion in Afghanistan both the super powers entered the second phase of cold war popularly known as New Cold war giving great jolt to ongoing peace process for promoting harmony and tranquility in the world by curbing armament race.

"The New Cold War, which was characterized by high technology arms race and increasing intervention and pressure on the developing world, greatly contributed to the economic difficulties of the superpowers and adversely affected the international economy. Notably, the process of end of the New Cold War began in the second half of the 1980s and it finally got terminated in December 1991 with the disintegration of the erstwhile USSR. So, in post cold war period it was thought that no scientific and technological development could grip the world with its hysterical impact of cold war politics and there would be eternal peace and tranquility resulting in sustainable equilibrium could come to stay in the world. But now the Neo cold war, science diplomacy and PRC's role in spreading COVID-19 pandemic are resultant bane of scientific and technological developments.

4. Nuclear Politics and Multi Polarity:

Nuclear Politics, in reality, came into existence when the erstwhile Soviet Union broke the US monopoly on nuclear weapons shortly after the second world war. As the stockpiles on both the sides were built and both the superpowers acquired ICBMs, world entered the era of MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction). MAD is truly appropriate acronym which depicted madness of the two superpowers to destroy each other. This strategy was called "Counter Cities" as it could act as an effective and perpetual deterrent to the outbreak of an actual nuclear war. But by the mid fifties each superpower's arsenal had become so big that it could wipe out the other superpower many times over. This way the idea of "over kill" came to stay. (Illustrative Weekly, 1970s) ¹⁴.

Then the strategy of "Counterforce" was introduced in cold war Politics whereby they could knock out each other's missile sites and military targets without hitting each other's cities. In the seventies, Soviet achieved strategic nuclear parity with the United States and, therefore, any US nuclear strike, even if aimed only at missile sites in the USSR, could lead to total war due to massive Soviet Retaliation by nuclear weapons.

Whether it was continent-wide movement e.g. European Nuclear Disarmament (END) or comprehensive Nuclear Disarmament nothing could disarm the USSR and the USA despite knowing the fact that both the Superpowers could ruin this universe innumerable times in nuclear catastrophe. The direct outcome of such politics was strengthening of NAM (Non Aligned Movement) which was formed by almost all newly independent countries of Afro-Asian and Latin American regions to keep away themselves from the military alliance

sponsored by both the aforesaid superpowers and to pursue independent foreign policy. But the move for NIEO i.e., New International Economic order just resulted in a Declaration of 1974 envisaging "a restructuring of the global economic relations based on equity" (P. Chandra 1995)¹⁵. With the disintegration of the USSR in Dec. 1991, it was thought that the world has become unipolar, but in post cold war period due to already eroded concept of national sovereignty the world had entered in the era of interdependence so it tended towards multi polarity. Now the contours of world politics had got changed as equilibrium in the world was neither maintained by Balance of Power, nor by balance of terror but by the Balance of Deterrence and all such things happened due to scientific and technological developments

5. Bifurcated World

Scientific and technological advancement could not save the bifurcation of the world in rich and poor or more aptly Developed and Developing countries and Development Divide, Digital Divide, etc. between them can never be decimated. As though most of the Afro-Asian and Latin American countries got independence from Colonialism yet neo-colonialism has come to stay. Here, Developing countries' contention is that though the population of developed countries is just 22% of world population yet they consume 88% & 73% of world's natural resources & energy respectively whereas only 12% & 27% of world's natural resources & energy respectively are left for them which constitute 78% of world's population (Pratiyogita Darpan, 2011)¹⁶.

6. Environmental Degradation & Climate Change

On the one hand Scientific & Technological Developments assist in industrialization and armaments for Development and Security respectively, the other hand the "Western Paradigm of development compelled the whole world to suffer environmental degradation, pollution, loss of species, over killing of animals, endangering of mother planet, over exploiting of non renewable resources, etc.(kumari,2012) Now nuclear testing, stockpiling of WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction), etc. have also contributed to climate change. People are shocked by unnatural behavior of nature. The East Antarctic icesheet has lost billions of tonnes of ice since 2006 (H.T., Patna, Nov, 12, 2 K 9)¹⁸ due to global warming. Oceans are turning acidic and by the century's end some 70% of cold water corals, a key refuge and feeding ground for species that fishermen catch will be exposed to these corrosive waters.

Given current emission rates- global emissions are up 30 percent since the Kyoto protocol- the effects will begin much sooner. The Arctic Ocean will lose essential minerals by 2032 and the Southern seas by 2050 (UN study, Dec. 14, H.T. Patna, 2009 P.-09)¹⁹ Climate change is one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing the planet. Projected global warming in this century is likely to trigger serious consequences for humanity and other life forms, including a rise in sea levels of between 18 and 59 cm which will endanger coastal areas and small islands, and a greater frequency and severity of extreme weather events (C.S.C., July 2008)²⁰.

7. Terrorism a global Menace

Today most of the countries of the world especially democracies are vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Notably, though USA claims killing of Osama bin-Laden but no state can ever claim killing of terrorism because terrorism is a festering sore of some abnormal human minds lacking faith in humanity, peace, harmony, prosperity and tranquility. After Taliban's attack on Afghanistan, the world is shocked with HAMAS' attack on Israel which killed 1400 Israelis, mostly civilians, on Oct.,7(H.T. World,2023)²¹.

Suggestions for positive impact of Science & technology in World Politics _____ Serving Humanity- a motto of every scientific and Technological Development ;Curbing Climate Change; International Moves for Sustainable Development; Science diplomacy for great purposes- eternal peace and harmony in the world; NIEO would lessen the development divide between the developed and the developing countries; Encouraging Scientific & technological developments for human purpose:- health care, alleviating poverty, improving literacy, stabilizing population; Global interdependence must aim at sustainable equilibrium; Universal attempt for environmental friendly projects; Replacing GNP by GNH: Bhutanese Monarch Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wang Chuk has asserted the replacement of GNP by GNH i.e. gross National happiness; **Complete Disarmament, etc.**

In fine, the aforesaid suggestions can help in adding lustre to developmental process of every state by the positive aura of scientific and technological development. But today, due to neo colonialism, neo cold war, hegemonic ambition, etc. all the nations of the world are on Vesuvian crater and any nuclear war may cause such volcanic eruption which would turn the entire world into ashes. So the need of the hour is to purge human behavior which is responsible for misusing science and technology so that people could use them in such a manner so that sustainable equilibrium could be maintained in the world by promoting political equality, directing development paradigm for welfare of common masses, disarming nations and promoting environment friendly mechanisms entwined with science and technology for eternal peace and tranquility in the world reflecting the ideal role of science & technology in International Politics. In fine, scientific and Technological Development till date, either by its repercussions or by its brilliant aura have failed to purge the evil desires of human beings, so, the need of the hour is to embrace Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam i.e., the Earth as Family.

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Topic**“The Theme of Betrayal and Corruption: Joseph Conrad's An Outcast of the Islands”****ICSRD:**

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The second novel 'An Outcast of the Islands' of Conrad explores the social, cultural implications of East and West taking recourse to the colonial stereotypes fuelled by the genre of the colonial fiction. He projects East as something exuberant and exotic, placid and brooding and yet corrupts one. West is as dualistic and materialistic kind of world peopled with the similar set of corrupt and evil minded human beings. Therefore, the novel can be called a showcase and critique of moral degeneration and evil. Conrad's close thematic motif and concern. He highlights the theme betrayal and corruption in the novel very vividly.

Keywords: Joseph Conrad, An Outcast of The Islands.

Joseph Conrad is a well-know literary figure. His novels and critical arguments have deeply influenced the emerging readership and literary scholarship all over the world. His is a remarkable writer of the modern and post modern period. Hie is held as a writer of uncommon merit when he first appeared on the English literature scene, he brought to bear upon English fiction hitherto unexplored terrains of sensibility and modes of expression. (Asaduddin I)

It is significant to note that after much physical and mental strife and sufferings of his sea-feaing career, he turned towards literary career as a serious endeavour. The questions of his own isolation and alienation occupy major thematic concerns in his novels. He began his literary career with the publication of “Almayer”s Folly Followed by an Outcast of the Islands, both set in the Far with the Malayan and Bornian plains. The “Orient” always held an exotic passion for Conrad as a sailor and the creative artist. "The Eastern Sea. the tropical nature and native races left a permanent imprint on his mind (Asaduddin 14) The Malayan Archipelago which forms the background to his eastern fiction was an emblematic of racial rivalry to the Far East during 1883-1888. He made five to six voyages between Singapore and Bulangan in Borneo, the Sambir in the early novels which exemplify the problems of colonial stranglehold and incompatibility These novels discuss the dichotomy and conflicting issues of the civilized and the savage world. They also discuss the problems of moral and spiritual degeneration, of the evil in human beings who are involved in the countless intrigues and machinations against the backdrop of the uncongenial socio-political atmosphere. The main focus of An Outcast of the Islands is on the phenomenon of the cross cultural and racial conflicts are emerged on the grounds of white man’s sexual involvement with the native woman. Conrad remarkably dramatizes the conflict among these diverse cultures that gives birth to the conditions of humiliation, alienation and betrayal. An Outcast of the Islands (1896) is Conrad's second novel, an inverse sequel to ‘Almayers’ Folly and a part of Malay Trilogy. It is regarded as an exotic tale of passionate inter-racial seduction and adultery The novel is concerned with the theme of evil, betrayal, treachery, cowardice and corruption the story may precisely be summarized as follows: Peter Willems, A Dutch leaps out from his ship. Gets befriended with Tom Lingard, who employs him as a clerk in Hudig and Company. Willems finds many ways of prosperity and riches by corrupt means. At the outset he gets entangled in an act of embezzlemen. Excluded by his native wife Joanna, Hudig's illegitimate daughter, he decides to commit suicide, but is once again saved and supported by Lingard vwho takes him to Sambir forcibly letting him to stay with Almayer. However, in Sambir he becomes a victim of Alamyers prejudice and egoism.

In Sambir Willem becomes an alienated and isolated figure. In one of his dissolte wanderings in the jungles of Borneo he meets Aissa, a savage Arab girl for whom he develops an overwhelming passion and infatuation He becomes an object of intrigues and exploitation of the natives like Babalatchi and Lakamba who force him to disclose the secret about Lingard's wealth, riches and the prospective river. in a state of drunkenness and carnal desire for Aissa he discloses the truth about the source of Lingard's trade and the goods like "Gutta and Rattan”.

At the outset of its composition Conrad wrote, “It engaged my imagination much more than my affection. As to my feelings for Willems it was but the regard one cannot help having for one's own creation. Obviously, I could not be indifferent to a man on whose head I had brought so much evil simply by imagining him such as he appears in the novel...my interest was aroused by his dependent position. his strange, dubious status of a mistrusted, disliked, and worn out European". (1896: IX) The novel brings forth many facets of man's moral downfall, mental and physical degeneration and evil. Jocelyn Baines gives in a nutshell, the presence of evil in the novel, The subject of 'An Outcast of the Islands' is the enslavement and eventful destruction of a Whiteman, whose self respect has already been undermined

by piece of dishonesty, by his passion for a Malay woman. In the course of his decline he betrays the trust that other men have put in him and proclaimed ideas of his race". (Baines 199)

The novel opens with the portrayal and depiction of how Peter Willems strayed away from the path of moral rectitude and suffered self degradation and alienation. It records his act of embezzlement and belittling his wife. Willems, the founding's of Lingard shows no sign of civilizational attributions and restraints of the white culture. He refutes Hudig's charges of theft and misappropriations. Therefore, Lingard has no way out than to take to him to Sambir for his rehabilitation. Therefore Lingard drags him to Sambir, where, Alamy, one of his protégés is surviving under intense infernal conditions. As stated earlier, Willem becomes a victim of Aissa's savage and wild love. Local ruffians like Babalitchi succeed in letting him to disclose the truth and trade secrets of Lingard's gold expeditions and prospective river. From the very beginning we can measure many traits of evil in Willems pertaining to his strong sense of Egotism and maddening pursuits of the material interests' and 'self aggrandizement'. Vernon young estimates Willems as,

The striking creation of a complex, common man, a figure of appallingly ignorant vanity, sensitive enough to suffer from want of prestige, not sensitive enough to be honest, and consumed by an overwhelming compulsion to inflict his miserable portion of egotism on any one whom he considers lower in the moral scale than himself. So long there is a half-caste wife or a 'savage', inamorata to feed his self aggrandizement, he counts himself bounded in his nut shell king of infinite space. (Baines 1960) As a matter of fact, Sambir becomes a very suitable place for Willems illusions, megalomaniac desires and corrupt colonial impulses. In the novel we notice that soon after his arrival in Sambir, he gets entrapped in the illegal trade of gunpowder and opium. Unlike Alamy, he becomes a victim of the web of political intrigues and counter-intrigues of the local community. The uncongenial atmosphere makes Willems lonely and isolated. Moreover, he finds himself cut off from his own surroundings,

A sense of bitter loneliness... as if he was the outcast of all mankind. (P30)

He. embarks on new ways of colonizing Sambir, Schwarz Daniel remarks,

At one point the disreputable Willems parodies Lingard's colonial impulse, an impulse that Conrad understood as perverse paternalism. (Schwarz 78, 79) Sambir paves way to many opportunities and access to Willems' demoniac and perverted instincts. In order to get rid off the pangs of moral and physical isolation he gets drifted towards Aissa's savage love and passion. He becomes almost blind to her savage and wild appearance. It was A flash of white and colour, a gleam of gold like sunray lost in shadow, and vision of blackness darker than deepest shade of the forest. (OTI 68) If Aissa is not around him, he feels an intense anguish and pain, for he feels to shout horrible curses too do something violent. (OTI 73)

In this wake of situation, he forgets the restraints and endurance he easily violates the moral code of conduct

He had all the attractiveness of the vague and unknown of the unforeseen and of the sudden, of a being strong dangerous, alive and human ready to be enslaved. (OTI 75)

Aissa provokes the hidden potent of evil and savage in Willems, and while she was near there was nothing in the whole world for that idle man but her look and her smile. (OTI 76-77)

Willems finds himself overwhelmed in his obsessive passions about, the luminous fact of her existence (OTI 77)

In Sambir, Willems evolves as a romantic figure, the white European enchanted and enslaved by a savage native woman. But he is absolutely conscious of his constant moral abasement and degeneration. He, a Whiteman, the admired of white men, was held by those savages whose fool he was about to become. (OTI 126) Conrad ironically depicts the consequences of his carnal desire and sexual consummation, All that had been a man within him was gone, and there remained only thing, which could be flattered by a look for a smile, tormented by a word, soothed by a promise. (PTI 77) Consequently the natives get very easy chance to effeminate Willems and to make him reveal the truth about Lingard's riches and prosperity. They begin to devise some new ways of making emotional blackmail, when forbidden to meet Aissa, Willems becomes violent with "full of live embers". (OTI 91) Now. he becomes, Jealous of the wind that fans her. Of the air that she breaths, of the earth that receives the caress of her foot. Of the sun that looks at her.... (OTI 90)

Thus Willems' moral corruption reaches great heights when he discloses the secret of Lingard's river, the Treasure trove' of his riches to evil minded natives for amere want of savage women. Stephen Land estimates "Willems' relationship with Aissa has for him the character of demonic possession. (Land 32) Lingard arrives in sambir along with Willems' child and wife, Babalatchi informs Lingard about Willems' degeneration, ironically saying, That man is not like other white men. You know he is not. He is not a man at all. (OTI 230) In his encounter with Lingard, Willems makes an emotional appeal to take him away from the clutches of Aissa and to save him from total ruin, from sloth and subhuman conditions. He expresses his deep anguish about his forced life and survival in Sambir. Well you came and dumped me here like a load of rubbish dumped me here and left me with nothing to do... (OTI 267) Upon this, Lingard scolds him for him betrayal, deception and demonic behavior, you have been possessed of a devil". (OTI 273) But Willems rejects all allegations saying, "The evil was not in me, Captain Lingard (OTI 273) Then Lingard remarks, You are not a human being that may be destroyed or forgiven. You are a bitter thought a something without a body and that must be hidden....you are shame. (OTI 275) As a result of Willems' guilt, remorse, immorality and betrayal, Lingard abandons him in Sabir as if to perish vulnerably. He rather makes him an "outcast of the islands". Lingard, while leaving Sambir quips. Your life is finished nobody will be able to throw you off your villainies in teeth, nobody will be able to point at you and say here goes a scoundrel of Lingareds upbringing. You are buried here. (OTI 277) Moreover, Lingard's departure puts Willems in to more gloom and isolation. He becomes victim of self-inflicted wounds and forced hostility of the local savage people, as it was, The cruel solitude of one abandoned by men. (OTI 327) The pace of Willem's downfall and deterioration gathers more speed in fecund jungle and Wilderness of Sambir, Leo Gurko pinpoints, The corrupt and the corrupting jungle becomes the perfect ecological setting for Willems' fall. (Gurko 60) In this novel Conrad portrays Willems as a protagonist whose behavior is very complex and enigmatic. The isolation and boredom, meaninglessness and disillusionment force him to reduce into an automaton. He begins to think like an embezzle creature brain acts relentlessly because it is, ...tireless, tangled, chilling, horrible, and venomous, like a restful snakes. (OTI 328) In the end Willem gets surrounded by presence of death, It seemed to him ominous and

ghastly with a foreboding of violent death that beckoned him from everywhere...(OTI 335) Because he was an 'outcast', forsaken and destroyed by the weight of his own remorse and evil. And above all, He was robbed of everything passion, liberty, consolation... he was peering in to some hollow, in to a deep black hole full of decay... inevitable grave full of corruption where sooner or later he must, unavoidably fall (OTI 339)

His fall occurs when Aissa fires a shot that kills him when he tried to escape from the clutches of Aissa and Joanna and the child. Edward Garnett comments, Nothing last! So with Aissa. Her passion is burnt out too. There is in her that desire to be something for him-to be in his mind, in his heart. (Garnett 42)

It is quite evident that Willems suffers from split personality, given his wayward attributions, corruptibility and still a remarkable sense of intelligence with all his colonial impulses and material interest Stephen Land observes,

The first great structural advance Conrad takes in his second novel is to deepen paradox inherent in the central figure, making Willems not only an instance of utility of human endure but more specifically a man who fails just because his exceptional qualities, his "cleverness and companionability " are inextricably mixed with his weakness, his lack of clear moral principle and love of self inflation. (Land 35) Thus Willems succumbs to long strife and intolerable load of humiliations (OTI 341) Commenting on his final physical corruption Gurko remarks,

Willems is drained of all feeling for Aissa while she continues to love him violently than ever. their embrace under these decaying circumstances culminates in Willems' last vision of his fall into final corruption. (Gurko 16)

In conclusion, it can be stated that through 'An Outcast of the Islands' Conrad propounds the social, cultural implications of East and West taking recourse to the colonial stereotypes fueled by the genre of the colonial fiction. He projects East as something exuberant and exotic, placid and brooding and yet corrupt one. On the other West as dualistic and materialistic kind of world peopled with the similar set of corrupt and evil minded human beings. Therefore, the novel can be called a showcase and critique of moral degeneration and evil, Conrad's close thematic motif and concern.

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Topic

“Government Initiatives and MSMEs' Challenges during COVID-19”

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to examine the impact of a worldwide pandemic on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as well as to investigate MSMEs' challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide a remedy in the form of technology adoption. In this particular investigation, the research approach is founded on a literature review about the adoption of technology in MSMEs as well as information obtained from secondary sources of data. Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises have a vital role in India's economy, affecting employment, output, and exports. MSMEs are country's economic lifeblood. MSMEs produce jobs in labour-intensive nations like India. It contributes to the economy and finance by creating employment and boosting living standards. This eliminates regional disparities and backwardness. MSMEs use local resources and reduce waste. The worldwide pandemic, which has been ongoing since 2020, has dealt MSMEs another setback. The Indian government is constantly working to protect MSMEs through policies and projects. This research is restricted to using secondary data and studies that have already been conducted on the topic of the use and adoption of technologies in MSMEs. Technology adoption may assist in eliminating personal interaction, anticipating demand, increasing sales and turnover, and gaining market access and profitability. The Internet and ecommerce are enhancing long-distance client connections with firms. Many MSMEs in developed and underdeveloped nations are born worldwide. The Internet and e-commerce make it feasible. The Internet and e-commerce have reduced the number of brick-and-mortar offices used by MSMEs.

KEYWORDS: COVID-19 Pandemic, MSMEs, Technology adoption, Make in India.

I. INTRODUCTION:

The contribution of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to the Indian economy is significant, particularly in the areas of employment, output, and exports. Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises play an essential role in the Indian economy. As a result of this, economists frequently refer to the MSMEs as the "economic lifeblood" for a nation. Countries such as India, which have a high labour intensity, might benefit greatly from the job opportunities created by MSMEs. Not only does it contribute to the socioeconomic platform by increasing the quality of living and giving work opportunities, but it also plays a role in the economic and financial sphere. It contributes to the elimination of regional inequity and laggardness. MSMEs make use of the locally accessible resources and transform them into final goods while minimising the amount of waste produced. The contribution that MSMEs have made to the economy of India, particularly in terms of the creation of jobs, the reduction of regional imbalances, the promotion of inter-sector linkages, the magnifying of exports, and the promotion of the potential for equitable economic growth, has been quite remarkable. This sector accounts for 45 percent of manufactured output and 40 percent of exports from the country. It employs more than 80 million people, produces more than 6,000 products that range from traditional to high-tech, has more than 36 million units that are widely dispersed across the country, and consists of over 36 million units in total. Additionally, it contributes approximately 8 percent to the country's gross domestic product. (MSME at a glance 2016, Govt. of India.)

A growing country like India has a specific position in its industrial structure for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Since small businesses have so much potential, the Indian government has prioritised them in its economic development strategy for both practical and strategic reasons.

II. Meaning of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

Generally speaking, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises consist of those that manufacture, produce, and provide services with the use of modest machinery and fewer workers. These businesses must adhere to the criteria established by the Indian government. Small Scale Industry, sometimes known as MSMEs for short, are any industries in which the manufacture, production, and provision of services are carried out on a small or micro scale. These businesses make a one-time investment in machinery, plant, and equipment, but the total cost is less than Rs. 10 crore, and their annual revenue is less than Rs. 50 crore. However, the maximum amount that may be invested varies over time in accordance with government regulations. According to MSME reports, the current investment ceilings for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises are:

Classification	Manufacturing Enterprises (Investment limit in Plant & Machinery)	Service Enterprises (Investment limit in Equipment)
Micro	Rs. 25 Lakh / Rs. 2.5 Millon	Rs. 10 Lakh / Rs. 1 Millon
Small	Rs. 5 Crore / Rs. 50 Millon	Rs. 2 Crore / Rs. 20 Millon
Medium	Rs. 10 Crore / Rs. 100 Millon	Rs. 5 Crore / Rs. 50 Millon

Source: (MSME at a glance 2016, Govt. of India.)

The Make in India programme can learn the most from Small - Scale Industries (MSMEs). They are dedicated to the objective of manufacturing in India and selling their wares all over the world. This also contributes to the development of additional requests from all over the world. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Businesses (MSME) provides MSMEs registration through State Government's Directorate for Industries (DI). The primary purpose of MSMEs registration in India is to create new MSMEs firms. In order to receive government subsidies, a firm must be registered as a Small Business Enterprise (MSMEs).

III. COVID-19 Pandemic and MSMEs:

Pandemic COVID-19 reached practically every country and territory in the world in a matter of days. Near December 2019, it was discovered in Wuhan, China. In a joint statement, the world's governments urged the people to remain on guard. Public health measures include hand washing, using face masks, maintaining a physical distance, and avoiding large gatherings. Lockdowns and mandatory quarantines were put in place in an effort to halt the spread of the disease and prevent it from spreading any further.

All sectors of the Indian economy were affected by the economic crisis that began in March 2020. Broken supply chains, a lack of market outlets, insufficient customer demand, and declining output prices confronted farmers in agriculture. Micro and small businesses were particularly hard hit by the economic downturn. The crisis resulted in at least 15 million jobs being lost.

In the April-June 2020 quarter, the Indian economy shrank by 7.3%. Until 1996, when the Ministry of Finance began gathering quarterly GDP figures, this was the biggest fall ever recorded. After the lockdown was imposed, an estimated 10 million migrant labourers returned to their home countries in 2020. (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>)

IV. LITRERATURE REVIEW:

The COVID-19 pandemic affects India's economy. The pandemic has impacted global value chains, domestic manufacturing networks, commerce, services, and MSMEs. Financial markets and industry networks are infected. Lockdowns affect India's demand and supply. Industrial networks suffer from supply-side mobility restrictions. Economic activity and growth slow, generating employment losses. Supply shocks will diminish income, savings, and uncertainty. COVID-19 might affect growth, international trade, financial markets, unemployment, income, and poverty. The researchers have reviewed prior literature on numerous technological components and how they might improve the performance of SMEs and the variables responsible for technology adoption during COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges of SMEs have also found out through earlier publications.

According to the *International Labour Organization (ILO)*, China's industrial value added fell 13.5% in the first two months of 2020 (*National Bureau of Statistics of China, 2020*). Institutions and researchers have made several forecasts about the COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact will be severe on the world economy and Indian economic growth, much more than the global financial crisis (GFC) of 2008. IMF projected in June 2020 that the global economy may shrink by 4.9%, almost three times more than GFC, and the Indian economy may shrink by 4.5%. The virus's spread will hurt global trade, causing missives losses. The Indian economic model is export-led (*Mishra, 2019*), therefore a shutdown during a viral outbreak might have a major impact on GDP. Under optimistic and pessimistic scenarios, foreign trade might fall 13–32%. (WTO, 2020). *McKibbin and Fernando (2020)* estimated that a low-end pandemic using the Hong Kong Flu as a reference point would lower global GDP by US\$2.4 trillion in 2020. In 2020, a Spanish flu-like pandemic might cause a decline of nearly \$9 trillion. *Ozili and Arun (2020)* noted the spill over effects of COVID-19 and hailed that the social distancing measure of virus controlling led to the shutdown of financial markets, corporate offices, businesses, and events, which may impact economic growth. *Rathod, C. B., Ranpura, D., & Patel, C. (2016)* underlined the importance of small-scale industry and Indian small-scale entrepreneurs in the global economy. The study's major purpose was to examine the impact of globalisation on MSMEs and export opportunities, and to identify the challenges and limits MSMEs faced to cope with globalisation. The survey found that MSMEs exports in India have doubled in the previous ten years. The study found that globalisation has both possibilities and problems for Indian industry and the small-scale sector. The study revealed that our exports must adapt to a borderless economy. The report recommended a simpler legal and regulatory framework, effective governance, sufficient and accessible funding, acceptable infrastructure, and a competitive environment.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This research uses secondary data to examine the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on MSME sinclude books, periodicals, the internet, newspapers, government reports, Reserve Bank of India monthly bulletin; Export–Import Database, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India; and yearly reports from the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and other publications.

VI. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH:

The following is a list of the primary aims of the research:

1. To investigate the challenges or difficulties that MSMEs encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To investigate the barriers that prevent MSMEs from adopting new technologies when there is a pandemic.
3. To investigate the various steps that the Indian government has made to help MSMEs.

Challenges encountered by MSMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic:

As a result of the Corona-virus pandemic, the global economy has slowed, jobs have been lost, recession is a real possibility, and entire industries have been destroyed. There were 436 million businesses operating throughout the world in the four industries that took the brunt of the crisis. According to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), manufacturing in India has been halted by the COVID-19-induced issues save for the rice milling industry, where production has allegedly decreased by half. Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in a variety of industries such as automotive components were already facing a drop in business before the lockdown because of a stagnant economy, diminishing market demand, and the disruption of global supply chains caused by China's lockdown (UNIDO, 2020).

1. MSMEs were put in the difficult position of having to face an intense money crunch as a result of a sharp drop in activities and business difficulties with relatively low labour all across the following weeks because workers from other towns who migrated were going back home. This presented a challenge because it was set to be difficult to confront an intense money crunch.
2. Even though the banks have agreed to help, the first test for MSMEs will be to meet their legal obligations, pay their employees, and put pressure on financial specialist.
3. The danger of MSMEs defaulting on loans obtained from financial institutions like as banks and NBFCs might be high. The risk of non-payment of debt is also evident for lenders that provided MSMEs with unstable loans. Lenders that made hazardous loans to MSMEs typically expect their profits to expand as a result of excellent returns and stable firm turnover.
4. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the most noteworthy trend is that private businesses are adopting the digital world. Certainly, the internet is a lifesaver for some private firms, keeping them afloat during the epidemic. While cutting-edge technology might be a huge benefit, it isn't a cure. Again, these new outlets will not make up for the total loss of income and can only aid in extremely limited ways.
5. In order for medium and small organisations to continue operating during periods of recession on interest, it is necessary to recapitalize their funding with money that is determined by the profitability of the association. More than simply a financial agreement is required in order to successfully restructure the organisation. Despite the fact that the business is currently experiencing a period of financial recovery, developing a strategy with a medium-term time horizon continues to be challenging owing to the disorganised structure of the organisation.

Barriers that prevent MSMEs from adopting new technologies during the COVID-19 pandemic:

MSMEs face high setup costs, lack of technical skills, efficiency, high training costs, lack of government help, less organisational support, data security, organisational challenges, and attitude concerns. It identified following barriers that prevent India's small-scale enterprises from making use of technology (MSMEs):

- MSMEs can achieve economies of scale by adopting technology, but the early barriers are still present. The technology's initial implementation costs are too high, and the infrastructure needed for total set-up also poses a challenge. This hurdle must be cleared before MSMEs' managements can consider implementing any kind of technology at the corporate level.
- The technical capabilities and efficiency of employees, managers, and owners is another obstacle to technology adoption. They lack tech knowledge. They're not tech-savvy. Few companies have technically inept owners and management.
- Lewin's change management approach also talked about employee attitudes and resistance. Adoption issues are connected to employee attitude, budget limits, and organisational factors.
- MSMEs require corporate support to switch technologies totally. Corporate sponsorship is evaluated in several ways. Organizations should provide funding, training, transition time, expert discussions, supportive infrastructure, and good change management.
- Governments have an important influence in organisational IT adoption. Government-funded training programmes can assist MSMEs adopt technology.

Initiatives taken by the Indian government for MSMEs:

Covid-19 pandemic has prompted the government to adopt a variety of measures to help the small scale industries (MSMEs) in India, especially in light of the government's announcement of different relief measures. *They include the following:*

- A subordinate debt of 20,000 crores Indian rupees for MSMEs.
- Automatic loans for businesses totaling Rs. 3 lakh crores that do not require collateral, including MSMEs.
- An injection of Rs. 50,000 crores worth of equity through the MSME Fund of Funds.
- The introduction of a New Registration Process for MSMEs Called "Udyam Registration" to Simplify the Process of Doing Business.
- To relieve enterprises' financial stress, the government has agreed to give PF and EPF help for both firms and workers by granting a liquidity relief of Rs. 6,750 crore.
- Global tenders would be forbidden for government procurement up to 200 crore to boost 'Make in India' and self-reliance. India's government and CPSEs will pay MSMEs within 45 days.
- RBI lowered the repo rate, allowing the bank to lend to MSMEs at a cheaper cost. State Bank of India plans to give MSMEs 700 crore rupees in Mumbai.

In order to promote expansion and development within the small scale industries (MSMEs) in the country, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises puts in place a number of These plans and programmes consist of the following:

- Prime Minister's Employment Generation programme (PMEGP),
- Interest Subvention Scheme for Incremental Credit to MSMEs,

- Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI),
- A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE),
- Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS),
- Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises,
- Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP).

FINDINGS:

- A survey by the All India Manufacturers Organisation (AIMO, 2020) on micro, small, and medium firms (MSMEs) finds that 35% of self-employed MSMEs have begun closing down their operations. MSMEs are among the most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown, which disrupted and closed their manufacturing plants, halting economic activity.
- The export sector's garment manufacturing units, which employed 12.9 million people, 70% of whom were women, lost around Rs 150 crores from March to May because to Covid-19 (Roy, 2020).
- Because of the pandemic, the snack food and confectionary businesses in the nation are expected to have suffered a revenue loss of 35,000 crore rupees during the affected time period (*The Financial Express, 2020*).
- Wage payments are unaffordable. Electricity, rent, and interest are fixed. Depleted working capital. Production revival is difficult. All productions have been disrupted by the epidemic, but MSMEs will be hit worst by the countrywide shutdown. Their supply chain has been impacted by the departure of migrant labour, limits on raw materials, disruptions to exports and imports, and broad travel bans, mall, hotel, theatre, and school closures, etc.
- Suspension of surface transit, domestic and international air travel, hotel and restaurant closures, and hundreds of places of worship, beaches, and tourist destinations have given a major hit to the tourism business, which includes MSMEs goods, handicrafts, floriculture products, etc. Due to the covid-19 outbreak and lockdown, sites have been closed to prevent customer and channel partner gatherings. Construction activities, including cement, iron rod, pipe products, electrical goods, and a wide range of other products, are obstructed from March 2020 to August 2020, and again to March 2021, and may continue further.
- MSMEs, which are responsible for the creation of more than 90 percent of the employment in India, now employ more than 114 million people, and contribute 30 percent of the country's gross domestic product (Pandey, 2020), are in danger of experiencing a severe liquidity shortage.

SUGESSTIONS:

The fact that lockdown has been lifted and actions to open locations have been initiated by the central government is a promising development. The role of small scale industries (MSMEs) is currently gearing up, and the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises need to take an essential step in order to bring the Gross Domestic Product up to the global market.

The effects of lockdowns and the lack of employees in the building, as well as the culture of working from home that many corporations have embraced; have a negative influence on productivity. In situations like these, small scale industries (MSMEs) should work quickly with their employees to complete any outstanding business.

The market will see an increase in job opportunities as a direct result of smart planning and the hiring of several trainees at cheaper salaries. This will also lead to an increase in output. In the event that manufacturing has already taken place in the factory premises, the owner of the business must then deploy diploma or graduate trainees in marketing or technology with a decent stipend. This will assist in increasing the sales rate of small scale industries (MSMEs). It's possible that the Indian government would implement some new policies.

RECOMMENDATION:

Following is a list of recommended actions that have been offered based on the findings of this study for both the governments and enterprises. These are only a few topics that should be taken into account.

- A decrease in the interest rate and an increase in the proportion of unsecured loans available would assist small scale industries (MSMEs) pay for their raw materials, tools, and consumables and minimise the amount of working capital required for their operations. It will lead to an increase in free cash flows and would create favourable financial balances for MSME enterprises.
- It may be helpful for small scale industries (MSMEs) if corporate businesses are encouraged by the government to make adjustments to the Reverse Charge Mechanism that either exempt them from or reduce the amount of GST paid on incoming goods and services. Additionally, this may be of value to MSMEs.
- It is likely that new entrepreneurs will be encouraged to take out loans as a result of changes in banking policy. Students who are employed by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) over the course of their training may have the option of having their salary or stipends directly transferred into their savings accounts. In addition to the revenue that students generate from their fledgling businesses, it is possible for a group of students to provide the new business with working capital.
- MSMEs may become engaged with universities to give training to students for their industrial requirements. This will allow MSMEs to acquire the most productive labour possible from students while they are still in the training phase of their education. It brings down the overall cost of employee education and development in the workplace.
- Educating company owners and entrepreneurs about the financial ramifications of their choices and introducing them to programmes that may be of assistance to them.
- There is a possibility that the government may implement a new common pool credit. Policies designed to encourage interlinking and business amongst small scale industries (MSMEs) in order to facilitate business operations.
- The functionality of MSMEs can be enhanced by introducing a variety of relaxation regimes in order to facilitate mergers and amalgamation initiatives.

- If Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) want their workers to stay with them for an extended period of time, they need to ensure that they provide all of the necessary amenities as well as social safeguards for their workers. Only in this way can they keep their workers loyal to them for an extended period of time.
- People should be educated about new technologies by means of educational and training programmes.

CONCLUSION:

The pandemic caused by COVID-19 is having a severe impact on small scale industries (MSMEs) all across the world, including India. The purpose of the study was to demonstrate the Impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on MSMEs. As a result, lockdowns become MSMEs' biggest challenge. Obtaining finance resources and production materials is another important hurdle. Due to the epidemic, companies' revenues fell while internet transactions rose. Several businesses have improved the company's inventiveness. Small and medium-sized company owners dislike the government's policies. According to company entrepreneurs, the government should focus on boosting their performance. Adaptable taxes, sales promotions, digital marketing education, and less bureaucracy are examples. The pandemic has consequently caused MSMEs enormous hurdles. Government aid and fair economic policies are necessary to ensure irreversible growth and overcome MSMEs' challenges. COVID-19's epidemic is also an opportunity to enhance creative abilities and use digital networks. This should be continued after the epidemic. MSMEs should restrict imports to minimise expenses. MSMEs must construct a network of alliances and agreements with suppliers, vendors, service providers, and dealers to ensure transparent credit and debit procedures.

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Topic

**“Taming the Adolescence
Teacher-Taught Relation:
Proposed Solution”**

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Abstract

The paper focuses predominantly on adolescences because of the tumultuous stage. Adolescence has always been perplexing to adults who find them frustrating, confusing and even threatening yet are enchanted by their verve and vitality, their passionate sincerity, their idealism and their quest for truth and meaning. At many levels including sexual activity, logical thinking and moral philosophy, and definition of personal identity, adolescences have the possibility of making new choices and new solutions that will change the course for themselves and for others. Thus the adolescents have been a subject of interest for many poets, novelists and philosophers and in recent years, have generated a considerable body of theoretical and research literature. The paper delved to identify the specific role to be followed while dealing with adolescence. Further it also stressed upon the importance of a teacher in helping the adolescence in conducting a positive social life-esteems. The paper suggested solutions that may help in establishing a healthy relationship between teachers and students.

Introduction

The teacher -student relationship is the best relationship. It sometimes becomes much more than the blood of one. No other relationship is as good as this one. In the past, the great people also respected their teacher as god. A teacher is just like a father to the student. A good teacher makes a person great and the bad teacher ruin the life of a student. Likewise, a good student is always loyal to his teacher but the poor ones tries to bring his teacher in bad condition. Teacher-student relationship emerges out of the multi-dimensional facets of the role of the teacher as a social worker, a teacher, a preacher, a consultant, a guide, a leader, a researcher, etc. The teachers surpass parents with their words and behavior that remain assign posts for students and form turning-points in their life. Teachers shape learners 'personalities, a lasting impression on them and affect their achievement.

The importance of teacher-student relationship

*A simple teacher tells,
An average teacher explains,
A great teacher inspires.*

A teacher is like a parent in the elementary school, a brother in the intermediate or high school an elder brother or a father in the university. The teaching is a mission, not a job. Teacher's role is to care and educate through observing, imparting, and facilitating knowledge and life-based skill and activities. The teacher-student relationship is very important. Students spend approximately 5to 7 hours a day with their teachers for almost 10 months. Children have different strategies for learning and achieving their goals. A few students in a classroom will grasp and learn quickly, but at the same time there will be those who have to be repeatedly taught using different techniques for the student to be able to understand the lesson.

On the other hand, there are those students who fool around and use school as entertainment. Teaching then becomes difficult, especially if there is no proper communication. Yet, teachers, creating a positive relationship with their students, will not necessarily control all the disruptive students. Student disruption will occur frequently in classes that are poorly organized and managed where students are not provided with appropriate and interesting instructional tasks. (A good teacher is the one who maintains warm relationship with students, listens to them carefully and respects their views and ideas.) He cares for them as relatives of today and friends of the future. He never belittles them or underestimates their abilities. Because students look at the teacher as a model to be followed, a teacher has no choice but to be careful of every word or gesture for learners scrutinize their every move. They take a test once or twice a month but he or she is under a daily test.

Who are adolescences? Why This Period Needs To Be Studied?

Adolescence is a universal phenomenon human development. It is customary to regard adolescence as beginning when children become sexually mature and ending when they reach the age of legal maturity. Adolescence can be divided into what is termed the EARLY Adolescence and LATER Adolescence. Early adolescence extends roughly from thirteen to sixteen years, and later adolescence covers from then until eighteen, the age of legal maturity. Early adolescence is usually referred to as the “teens” sometimes even the “terrible teens”. The late adolescence is usually referred to as the “teenagers”.

The important concept of adolescence is best considered within a broad framework of the total development of the individual when the child begins to feel less need for the security of familiar supervision and protection, when physiological and hormonal development begins to approximate adult maturity and when psychological maturity moves the child in the direction of becoming responsible in the society, adolescent had begun. The adolescent stage has also been long recognized for its potential for the development of the individual and for humanity. This stage is thus viewed as a period of increased diversity of social roles, with expectation from diverse role relationships, some which may be in conflict. As it is used today, the term adolescence has a broader meaning. It includes mental, emotional and social maturity as well as physical maturity. This point of view has been expressed by Piaget (1969) when he said:

"Psychologically, adolescence is the age when the individual becomes integrated into the society of adults, the age when a child no longer feels that he is below the level of his elders but equal, at least in rights.... This integration into adult society has many affective aspects; more or less linked with puberty.... it also includes very profound intellectual changes.... These intellectual transformations typical of the adolescent's thinking enables him not only achieve his integration into the social relationship of adults, which is, in fact, the most general characteristic of this period of development" (pp. 22-26).

In order to fully understand the relationship of the teachers with the students who are adolescents are as follows:

Adolescence is an important period.

While all the periods in the life span are important, some are more important than the others because of their immediate effects on attitudes and behavior, whereas others are significant because of their long-term effects. Adolescence is one of the periods when both the immediate effect and long-term effects are important same periods are important for their physical and some for their psychological effects. Adolescence is important for both. Accompanying the rapid mental and important physical developments, especially during the early adolescence period, rapid mental development occurs. These give rise to the need for mental adjustments and the necessity for establishing new attitudes, values and interest.

Adolescence is a transitional period

Transition does not mean a break with or a change from what has gone before but rather a passage from one stage of development to another. This means that what has happened before will leave its mark on what happens now and in the future. Children, when they go from childhood to adulthood, must "put away childish things" and they must also learn new patterns of behavior and attitudes to replace those they have abandoned. The adolescence, at this, time, is neither a child nor an adult. If adolescents behave like children, they are told to "act their age". If they try to act like adults, they are often accused of being "too big for their age" and are reproved for their attempts to act like adults.

Adolescence is a period of change

The rate of change in attitudes and behavior during adolescence parallels the rate of physical change. During early adolescence, when physical changes are rapid, changes in attitudes and behavior are also rapid. As physical changes slow down, so do attitudinal and behavioral changes.

Adolescence is a problem age

While every age has its problems, those of adolescents are often especially difficult for boys and girls to cope with. There are two reasons for this. First, throughout childhood, their problems are met and solved, in part at least, by parents and teachers. As a result, many adolescents are inexperienced in coping with problems alone. Second, because adolescents want to feel that they are independent, they demand the right of coping with their own problems, rebuffing attempts on the part of parents and teachers to help them.

Adolescence is a time for search for identity

One of the ways adolescents try to establish themselves as individuals is by the use of status symbols in the form of cars, clothes and other readily observable material possession. They hope, in this way, to attract attention to them to be recognized as individuals while, at the same time maintaining their identity with the peer group.

Adolescence is a time of unrealism

Adolescents have a tendency to look at life through rose-tinted glasses. They see themselves and other, as they would like them to be rather than as they are. This is especially true of adolescent aspirations. These unrealistic aspirations, not only for themselves but also for their family and their friends, are in part, responsible for the heightened emotionality characteristic of early adolescence. The more unrealistic their aspirations are the angrier, hurt and disappointed they will be. They feel that others have let them down or that they have not lived up to the goals they have set for themselves.

Adolescence is the threshold of adulthood

As adolescence approached legal maturity, they are anxious to shed the stereotype of teenagers and to create the impression that they are near-adults. Dressing and acting like adults, they discover, are not always enough. So, they begin to concentrate on behavior that is associated with the adult status like smoking, drinking, using drugs and engaging in sex, etc. They believe that this behavior will create the image they desire.

The problems of Adolescence in relationship with teacher

Students spend approximately 5 to 7 hours a day with their teachers for almost 10 months. Teachers are met with challenges in dealing with varied personalities coming from different families and cultures. More so like teaching any other students, teachers are faced with a challenging task of dealing with adolescence who themselves are in a very awkward period. They are as follows:

- 1) Adolescents are in a period of heightened emotionality as well as heightened sensitiveness and thus are very critical of everything around them. Some will be critical about everything the teacher says or teaches them while some may accuse the teacher for partiality. Since adolescences are different in appearance this makes them feel inferior, even if the difference adds to physical attractiveness.
- 2) Adolescents are sensitive and embarrassed if members of peer group judge their names unfavourably or if they have nicknames that imply ridicule making them to manifest their frustration in the form of disrupting the classroom atmosphere and at times the teacher becomes a victim to such problems. More so the adolescence in appearance covers.
- 3) They are also very prone to missing class especially females who often use their menstrual period as an excuse for not going to school. They often discover that they can avoid unpleasant situations by being "not feeling well". This irregularity is one of the main problems as well as the clothes they wear and as such deviation from the school discipline is rapidly seen. They are not willing to adhere to the school norms but rather want to be so called "cool" and "different".
- 4) Due to friends circle and wanting to be a part of a party-activity many adolescents try drugs, drinking, and other bad habits because they feel that it is the "things to do". Thus faced with the problem of trying to tackle and handle them. Many lands up attacking as hope, in this way, to attract attention to them and to be recognized as individuals while, at the same time, maintaining their identity with the peer group.
- 5) The "I know everything" attitude is the other major aspect that the teacher is faced with. Adolescents throughout childhood have met problems which have been in part at least, solved by the parents and teachers. As a result many adolescents are inexperienced in coping with problems alone. They find themselves at a point where they want to feel they are independent and demand the right of coping with their own problems thus rebuffing attempts on the part of the parents and teachers to help them.
- 6) Adolescents today, find themselves caught up with unwittingly in the waves of multiple technological, economic and ideological trends, seemingly promising all that youthful vitality one could ask for. The advent of cable television networks had paved the way for a new kind of global imagination for the youth. The developmental stage of adolescence with still developing cognitive and socio-emotional faculties predisposes adolescents to being strongly influenced by the materialistic projections of the media. Though this has its own advantages, since we are mainly looking into the problems, the emphasis is given on this aspect Adolescents fail to do their assignments and are found to be distracted in class and rebellious towards any kind of conformities.
- 7) Teachers are also faced with the problem of dealing with individuals who are introverted, those who never open up. They are the ones who dwell in a lot of insecurity and tackling with this kind of students pose a great deal of patience and commitment on the side of the teacher. They have to be careful in what all they say which in the long run leads to a strained relationship because the teachers have to deal with many students who are each unique and different.

Proposed Solution

- i) Teachers in order to establish a healthy relationship should first understand them any dynamics that make up adolescence. Only after this will they have the idea to be able to create an atmosphere that is suitable for building a relationship.
- ii) The relationship between student and teacher can vary depending on many characteristics. Since everyone has a different background and a different character, it is almost difficult to say how a teacher should relate or vice versa. We do believe that teacher student relationship should be professional, yet not so professional that students fear to approach. Teacher student relationship should be formal yet inviting. Teacher student relationship should definitely not judgmental and it should allow the teacher on his or her part to take time to get to know the student.
- iii) The key is teachers need to continuously monitor the student in order for him or her to be aware of any difficulties the student is having. Understanding the student's difficulties is the priority of each and every teacher. Once the teacher becomes aware of the problems, he or she will have more patience with the student, thus making the student feel secure or less confused when learning is taking place in the classroom.
- iv) The communication between the student and teacher serves as a connection between the two, which provides a better atmosphere for a classroom environment. Of course the teacher is not going to understand every problem of every child in his or her classroom, but will acquire enough information for those students who are struggling with specific tasks. The more the teacher connects or communicates with his or her students, the more outlook, will present him or her as unapproachable. A smile and an invitation for questions would allow students to feel a little comfortable and feel that they can ask a question without fear and actually learn a subject in a more pleasant way.
- v) Finding the right balance between disciplinarians and friend is sometimes a hard task for teachers. If one is too relaxed, the students will take control of the classroom. However, being too strict will cause them to rebel. Here are some steps one can take to find the correct balance and improve teacher and student relationship.

Don't try to be their best friend: While it is good to have a positive relationship with the students, you are the authority figure and you need to act like to garner the respect you deserve. By trying too hard to be their friend, you send a signal that-it's okay to treat like they treat their friends. It may become hard to discipline the students if they are used to palling around with you.

Don't be a task master: The authoritarian teaching style is one of least effective method according to most research. If you are too busy yelling and being stern, you miss many opportunities to listen and earn respect. No one really wants to be that teacher all the students fear.

A little small talk goes a long way: Greet your students at the door and ask them how their day is going. This technique only works if you are sincere when you ask. Make them feel like you really care about them.

Smile at them and actually listen: Eye contact is a great way to show them that you respect them and their respect for you will grow as well. When you are talking with a student, put all other things aside to let them know that what they have to say is important to you.

Respect is reciprocal: You may think that being a teacher automatically means the students must respect you and your ways. This is not true. While it would be ideal, you need to earn the respect of your students just as you respect them if they earn it as well. Teachers and students have a give and take relationship that needs constant work. Start with respect and work on the rest as you go. That balance between friend and authority figure is a thin line, but it is possible with a positive attitude and patience.

Conclusion

There is no permanent solution or a set of do's and don'ts, as mentioned earlier. Every children differ from each other and we as teachers in our limited ability must not only look into the academic achievements but also more importantly in the growth of their personality. Since the adolescents are at a cross-road of realizing, they are neither more a child nor an adult yet, we need to help them by cultivating their potentials. To help them better our present educational system should give importance to the development of moral and spiritual values. Due to lack of moral and spiritual binding in our educational system the adolescents have become like a beautiful car without brakes.

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Topic

“Journey to Nano Technology Transistor, from valve to Semiconductor diode and triode (B.J.T), integrated circuit chip”

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What is vacuum tubes?

OR

What is valve?

Valve (vacuum tube) is an electronic device that allows current to flow in one direction only. Vacuum tubes (valves) are of different types. As, vacuum diode, triode, tetrode and pentode. Vacuum diode made of electrodes namely cathode and anode. These electrodes are enclosed in an evacuated glass. When cathode is heated directly or indirectly, it emits its electrons. These electrons move through vacuum tube. When anode is at positive potential with respect to the cathode a triode is similar to a vacuum diode except that there is a third electrode known as control grid. A tetrode made of four electrodes namely cathode, anode, control grid and screen grid. Pentode is made of fifth electrode known as suppressor grid between the screen grid and the anode.

Vacuum tubes (valves) were fast replaced by the semiconductor devices because vacuum tubes had many limitations.

What is semiconductor device?

Semiconductor device is electronic circuit component made from material that is neither a good conductor nor good insulator.

There are many semiconductor devices as

1. **P-n junction semiconductor diode** - it is basic semiconductor device. When p-type semiconductor is brought in close contact of n-type semiconductor, this resultant arrangement is known as p-n junction semiconductor diode. It works as half wave rectifier and full wave rectifier. The rectifier which converts only one half of a.c. into d.c. is called half wave rectifier. Full wave rectifier which converts both halves of a.c. input signal to d.c. output.
2. **Zener diode** - Zener diode which works in the breakdown region without damaging itself is called Zener diode, zener diode is also known as breakdown diode. It works as a voltage regulator.
3. **Light emitting Diode (LED)** - Light emitting diode is such type of semiconductor device which converts electrical energy into light energy.

Advantages of LED

- (i) Light emitting diodes are easily manufactured.
- (ii) LEDs have low cost.
- (iii) LED works at low voltage.
- (iv) It can be switched on and off very fast so they can be used as blinkers.
- (v) It can emit monochromatic light as well as white light.

Uses of Light emitting diodes

- (i) It is used as indicator lamps.
- (ii) It is used as blinkers.
- (iii) It is used in remote control schemes.
- (iv) It is used as decorating lights
- (v) It is used night lamps and in torches.

4. **Photo Diode** - photo diode is a reverse biased special p-n junction diode having transparent window is known as photo diode.

Uses of photo diode

- (i) It is used logic circuits.
- (ii) It is used as optical demodulators.
- (iii) It is used light operated switches.
- (iv) It is used as photo detectors to detect intensity of radiation.

5. **Thermionic diode** - A thermionic diode is a thermionic -valve device consisting of sealed evacuated glass envelope containing two electrodes. A cathode heated by a filament and anode.

6. **Photo-voltaic device** - Photo voltaic device is special p-n junction semiconductor diode which converts solar energy into electrical energy.

Uses of It

- (i) It is used in street lights.
- (ii) It is used in solar heaters
- (iii) It is used calculators.
- (iv) It is used in power supply of Satellites and space vehicles.

What is Junction transistor?

Junction transistor is three terminal semiconductor device. It consists of thin layer of one type of extrinsic semiconductor sandwiched between two thick layers of other type of extrinsic Semiconductor.

Types of junction transistors

There are two types of junction transistor

- (i) n-p-n transistor - when thin layer of p-type semiconductor is sandwiched between two thick layers of n-type semiconductor then n-p-n transistor is formed.
- (ii) p-n-p transistor – when thin layer of n-type semiconductor Is sandwiched between two thick layers of p-type semiconductor then p-n-p transistor is formed.

Uses of junction transistor

- (i) Transistor is used as a switch, when it operates in cut of region (open switch) and saturation region (closed switch).
- (ii) On the other hand transistor is used as an amplifier to increase the magnitude of the output signal when it operates in the active region.
- (iii) It is used as oscillator. Oscillator is a device which delivers a.c. output wave form of desired frequency from d.c power even without input signal excitation.in other words; oscillator transforms the d.c. power from the source of supply to the a.c. power in the load at the output.

Conclusion

My main purpose is to say that by forming an integrated circuit Ic (chip)or microchip, on which thousands or millions of tiny resistors, capacitors, and transistors are fabricated. An Ic can function as an amplifier, oscillator, timer, counter, computer memory, or microprocessor.

Topic

“Study of Macrozoobenthic community of a Freshwater Lake Nainital, Kumaun Himalaya Uttarakhand, India.”

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Abstract

The present investigation has been carried out in Lake Nainital, a subtropical lake of Kumaun Himalaya, Uttarakhand. The main purpose of the study is to investigate the macrozoobenthic community of the subtropical lake. Since, the freshwater body is highly eutrophic, however, the ecotechnology has been carried out in the lake from August 2007. Due to this installation major changes have been seen in the water quality. The present result indicates that 12 species of macroinvertebrate has been collected during the entire study period among which most of the species were present in the littoral zone of the lake while the two species namely, *Chironomus plumosus* and *Tubifex tubifex*. are highly dominated in the profundal zone of the Lake.

Keywords: Lake Nainital, Hypolimneticaeration, Eutrophication, Macrozoobenthos, Kumaun Himalaya.

INTRODUCTION

Water is most abundant and essential component of life on this planet. About 75% of earth is covered by water. It is a natural resource used for fulfillment of daily life activities. Water in solid state exists as ice and snow covers the polar and alpine regions. A certain amount of water contains in air as water vapor, water droplets and ice crystals.

Lake Nainital, the National Lake of India with its aesthetic look is a popular tourist destination. The water body have the appearance of kidney shaped and is warm monomictic lake, lies at an altitude of 1937 m above sea level between 29° 24' N latitude and 79° 28' E longitude. The hilly mountain surrounds the lake from all the sides. The lake oriented in west east direction with the outlet at southern- eastern end. The surface area of lake is 48hectare while the maximum length and maximum breadth are 1432mand 423m. There are several open drains around the lake which carry mainly the rainwater from catchment area.

The lake water is the major water supply in the Nainital region. Due to the anthropogenic activities and the debris received from the catchment area the water of lake Nainital became highly eutrophic. To resolve this problem of Eutrophication Indian Government along with the Government of Uttarakhand started an integrated Lake conservation programme in order to reduce the issue of Eutrophication and to enhance the water quality of water in Lake Nainital in 2007.

Since, the aeration technique has been installed in the lake due to this ecotechnology the water quality has been improved.

Benthos constitutes an important component of the bottom biocoenosis. These are considerable source of food in the aquatic food chain involves in recycling of nutrients, Carbon, Nitrogen and Sulphur on a global scale. The Macro benthos plays a crucial role in nutrient cycling and energy flow. Macro invertebrates such as *Chironomusplumosus*, *Tubifex tubifex*, generally found in aquatic environment serving as a **biological indicator** of water quality. The use of bioindicators of macrozoobenthos will detect the environmental disturbance in the aquatic environment (Pawhestri et al, 2014). For the assessment of water quality these macrozoobenthos are studied worldwide. Some of these studies are done by Thompson *et al* (2007), Melwani (2007), Fletcher *et al* (2011), Patang *et al* (2018) etc.

Various studies have been done in the Lakes of Kumaun region in the past the important some contribution ones are Pant *et al*. (1980), Pande and Das (1980),Pant *et al*. (1981), Gupta and Pant (1983 a,b), Pant *et al*. (1985 a,b), Gupta and Pant (1986,1989,1990,1991 and 1996),Pandey *etal*. (2000), Bhagat and Gupta (2005), Gupta *et al*. (2010), Singh and Gupta (2010), Maindoli *et al*. (2020).

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The analysis of macrozoobenthos communities during the six months study period qualitative data on the benthos were collected from the shore area of the lake by scoop type water sampler. For quantitative data, three stations in the lake were selected in littoral zone and six stations in offshore area of the lake. The samples from the shore area of the were collected by scoop- type bottom sampler and Ekman dredge. The bottom sediments were kept in small buckets and brought to the laboratory for further analysis. All the samples were collected between 10:00 to 11:30am. The species were selected and cleaned. Identification of macrobenthos was done with the help of available keys and literature (Pennak,1953; Hart and fuller,1974)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

During the study period of six months 12 species of macrozoobenthos were found from the study site belonging to Phylum Annelida, Arthropoda, Mollusca. The most abundant species found in the Lake Nainital was Chironomid belonging to subfamily Chironomidae of Phylum Arthropoda followed by Oligochaeta and Hirudinea of phylum Annelida.

Table 1: List of Macrozoobenthos collected from lake Nainital during the study period are listed below.

Phyla	Group	Taxa
Annelida	Oligochaeta	1. <i>Tubifex tubifex</i>
		2. <i>Limnodrilus spp.</i>
		3. <i>Lampitomauritti</i>
	Hirudinea	4. <i>Glossiphoniaweberi</i>
		5. <i>Poecilobdella granulosa</i>
		6. <i>Chironomus plumosus</i>
Arthropoda	Diptera	7. <i>Procladius spp.</i>
		8. <i>Forcipomyia spp.</i>
	Ephemeroptera	9. Ephemeropteraunidentified.
	Odonata	10. Odonata unidentified
Mollusca	Gastropoda	11. <i>Lymnaeaauricularia</i>
		12. <i>Gyraulusconvexiusculus</i>
Total no. of species:		12

Table 2: Seasonal variation in species content of macrozoobenthos in Lake Nainital during the study period from January, 2023- June 2023.

S.No.	Species	Months					
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June.
1.	<i>Tubifex tubifex</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	<i>Limnodrilus sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	+	+
3.	<i>Lampitomauritti</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
4.	<i>Glossiphoniaweberi</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
5.	<i>Poecilobdella granulosa</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
6.	<i>Chironomus plumosus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
7.	<i>Procladius sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
8.	<i>Forcipomyia sp</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
9.	Ephemeropteraunid.	-	-	-	-	+	+
10.	Odonataunid.	-	-	-	-	+	+
11.	<i>Lymnaeaauricularia</i>	-	-	-	+	+	+
12.	<i>Gyraulusconvexiusculus</i>	-	-	-	+	+	+



Some of the Macrozoobenthos collected from the present lake

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Lake Nainital a worm Subtropical Lake serves both as touristic spot and main water supplier in the region. Due to human involvement in the lake and the drainage system into the lake made it eutrophic. Several studies have been done by the researchers on Nainital lake, Gupta and Bhagat 2005, worked on the littoral macrobenthos of lake Nainital, Gupta and Gupta 2012, worked on the effect of artificial destratification on the water quality of freshwater high-altitude lakes. Gupta and Pant 1990, on the distribution and seasonal abundance of benthic macroinvertebrates in Lake Nainital. In This comprehensive study, the macrozoobenthic communities of Nainital lake, Uttarakhand, were meticulously examined to evaluate their significance as biological indicators for water quality assessment. Extensive research conducted by Gupta and Bhagat (2005) on lake Naukuchiyatal highlighted the numerical prominence of Diptera and the biomass domination of Gastropoda within the macrozoobenthos. Similarly, Gupta and Gupta (2008) investigated lake Nainital, revealing that aeration technology, implemented to mitigate high eutrophic conditions, had limited influence on macrobenthos species composition. Diptera emerged as the prevailing species during their study period. Maindoli *et al.* (2019) further expanded this research by identifying 14 macrobenthos species in Lake Nainital, with Diptera and Oligochaeta exhibiting dominance.

The presence of twelve species during the study period of six months in 2023, particularly the abundant family Chironomidae of Phylum Arthropoda, underscore their role as resilient benthic organisms well adapted to diverse habitats. These findings culminate in a robust representation of the macrozoobenthic community's composition and distribution, underscoring its potential as reliable indicator for assessing water quality in Nainital Lake.

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Topic

“Buddhism: Social Order and Solidarity (600 B.C-100 B. C.)”

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Abstract

This article talks about the social values that Buddhism brought about in Buddha's contemporary time. The importance and significance of the reformations took place at that time can be comprehended at the backdrop of Pre-Buddhist era. The society which was Brahminical aspired for a new outlet for its survival. The people had a miserable life. They lived life in the quagmire of superstition and blind beliefs and sufferings and ignorance. Indecency and inhumanity loomed large and grappled the life of the common man. Lord Buddha enlightened the people en-mass and attained social cohesion and solidarity among them. This article bears relevance as the teachings of Buddha is like a star that guides people in all ages and all situations.

Key Words: Buddha, Buddhism, Nirvana, Dhamma, Bhikkhus

The birth of Buddhism is generally traced from the date of getting enlightenment by the prince Siddhartha under the Pipal tree in Uruvela at a place presently known as Buddhagaya in about middle of the 6th Century B. C.. He, thereafter, was called the Buddha, the perfectly Enlightened One and the Dhamma realized by him and the tree under which he got the long cherished desire were respectively known as Buddhism and the Bodhi-tree. The history of the Dhammic movement begins from the event of his turning the wheel of Righteousness into motion (Dhamma-Cakka-pavattana) at Isipatanamigadaya (Saranath) with reference to a group of five monks (Pancavaggiya-bhikkhu), the quondam friends of his ascetic life. Soon after that, Yasa, the son of a rich merchant of Varanasi, being convinced with his teachings, became his disciple by abandoning the house-hold life, his parents and wife and took refuge under him as lay followers (upasakas). Others also knew about the story of conversion of some of the great young men in the Buddha's discipline, gathered around him and following his path started leading the life of recluses (Bhikkhus) and lay-men (upasakas) alike. The term 'Buddhist' is a generic name of such persons.

The theme of Buddhism lies in between two points - suffering and its eradication. Its four fold analysis as made in the four noble truths, clearly states that (I) there is suffering, (ii) there is cause of suffering (iii) there is the cessation of suffering and (IV) there is the path leading to the cessation of suffering. It suggests that the path of the Buddha is a straight line wherein on the beginning point there is suffering and on the ending one, there is the eternal bliss. In between the two, there are the efforts of gradual purification culminating in total removal of defiling factors and cankers and developing one as a perfect man. This, in other words, is a path of gradual reform in a man and consequently in the society.

Reform is an internal change which takes place in mind with an interaction of objects and sense-organs with balanced linking of the consciousness. It further manifests through different sense-doors and finds nomenclature accordingly. Therefore, it is emphatically told that the 'mind is the fore-runner in all activities-physical, vocal and mental'. The reform in this way has the function of gradual removal of covering of blemishes and preparing a congenial atmosphere for manifestation of mind with immense purity which is the 'dawn of eternal bliss'. It is the greatest change in mental sphere and this is the 'Reform' in the real sense of the term. It is the flavor of the Dhamma that Buddhism can offer to the people. Buddha is very clear on this point that 'Just as the great ocean, O Monks, has one taste, the taste of salt, even so the 'Dhamma' has one taste of Emancipation'.

The Buddhist movement was at a continuous effort of social reforms. Buddha was not confined to an individual being or particular set of people but he worked for the mankind. 'Let all the beings be happy', (Sabbe bhavantu Sukhinah), was his motto. Therefore, he did not advise his followers to go and retire in the forest but to wander among the people for the good of many, for the happiness of many and for showering forth compassion on all beings of the universe. He himself wandered for forty-five years in the remote villages, towns and big cities of the country, meeting the people and preaching the 'Dhamma' with full consideration of their receiving capacity, the temperament, belief and latent factors with the help of similes and illustrations prevalent in the society. In this way he tried to prepare a congenial mental atmosphere for helping to foster growth of human values among the people. Thus life, according to Buddha, is that which stands on moral ground, manifests with human values, and brings complete harmony here in the society and generates a hope of similar state hereafter. Keeping this in view, this article will examine various reforms undertaken in real life situations for the restructure of a high social order.

Buddha stressed utmost focus on moral code of conduct of an individual. This type of reform consists in preparation of mind, indication of moral and immoral states,

suggestion of the methods of inculcation of moral values, prescription of the way of life and inspiration for the realization of gradual mental elevation. It begins with the discourses on the merit of giving alms and pointing out the peril of sensual pleasure. With this, when mind becomes receptive, there starts the thorough analysis of moral and immoral States. Knowing the two, there is the generation of the initiation of the efforts for avoiding the immoral states and assimilation of the moral ones. Mindfulness (Sati) based on mind-purifying-factor (Saddha) finds a suitable atmosphere to emerge and this results in creation of mental awareness.

In this back-ground, one understands the purpose of life as well as the path of its realization. The stronghold of household life is broken and it is clearly understood that the life of a recluse is as important and meaningful as that of a householder. It is due to this change in outlook thousands of people got solace and peace of mind by following the path of the Buddha as recluses. Yasa, his fifty four friends, thirty young men of Varanasi, one thousand matted-hair fire worshipers, Sariputta and Moggallana etc. experienced remarkable change in their mind and found within themselves the spring of moral states. The total reform of the robber Angulimāla as a saint and that of courtesan Ambapāli as a pious nun, are the lively examples. Side by side, the house-hold life of lay followers (upasakas) was also harmonized with balanced adjustment of moral and material aspirations and subsequent gains. The great merchant of Rajagaha, Anathapindika of Savathi, King Bimbisara of Magadha, Pasenadi of Kosala, the great physician Jivaka and others led the house-hold life but with new flavour of Dhamma,

The threefold refuge and the five Precepts were the basic norms for a Buddhist. Taking refuge unto the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha was the threefold refuge. Refraining from five misdeeds like killing, stealing, indulging in sexual misdeeds, telling lie and using intoxicating drinks contains the five Precepts. Each of them had impact on the society in bringing considerable change in the attitude of the people.

Buddha is the embodiment of true knowledge unfolding the reality to be visualized face to face. Dhamma is a vehicle as well as a raft to help in harmonious way-faring and smooth ferrying across the shore of Nirvana. Sangha represents a group of men engaged in relishing the taste of Dhamma and helping others in similar experience. Taking refuge unto them does not mean blind surrender but conscious reflection over their merits and practical application through actions. The threefold refuge became a part of holy recitation and the houses of the lay-followers were seen saturated with these resounding. Such regular and meaningful recitation worked much upon the mind of the people and generated an urge for rational moral life.

The strict following of the five precepts was a must for the lay-followers. They were advised to follow them even at the cost of their life. It is also said that:

“As a hen guards her eggs,
or as a yak her tail,
or like a darling child,
or like an only eye,
So you who are engaged,
your virtue to protect
Be prudent all times,
And every scrupulous”. (Visuddhimagga 23)

These five precepts were engrained in the mind of the people and due to that the unsocial acts were naturally minimized. Perhaps, due to this, there is not even one example of telling lie in whole of the Pali *Trip taka* which is a specimen of social reform during the time of the Buddha.

The eightfold path is the way of Buddhist life. It is meant for all-round development of mankind. Though the monks are generally advised to follow it ardently, yet some of its constituents are very much beneficial for house-holders alike and in the way they have impact on the society. The Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Efforts etc. worked much upon the mind of people in purifying the vocal, physical and mental misdeeds. The Rights speech pointed out the path of refraining from false speech, harsh speech slandering and ignoble gossips. The Right action helped one in keeping oneself aloof from unsocial and immoral deeds like killing, stealing and committing adultery. Realizing the far reaching resultant of Right livelihood, people refrained themselves from earning livelihood by cheating, deceiving and using other wrong means. Right efforts put a check on the arising of immoral states as well as prepared a favorable atmosphere for the development of moral ones. Thus the path helped the individual as well as the society in bringing purification in physical, vocal and mental deeds.

Shangha had also its role in bringing social reforms. The monks lived near villages depending on the people for their daily needs. They were completely devoted to the society as well as remained detached from it at the same time. A monk dressed in yellow robe shaving hairs and beard, taking alms bowl in the hand, with guarded senses, used to enter into the village with regulated movements and charming appearance. He used to beg food from door to door without any distinction of caste, creed, rich, poor etc. He was satisfied with mere food and clothes and had no desire for other world lings. He was just like bee taking pollen from various flowers not destroying at all the color or form. He also used to admonish people with the noble words of the Buddha. His life of sacrifice of little desire, but immense joy, left impression on the mind of the people for having an interest for virtuous life. This resulted in making them virtuous, generous and noble.

It is a fact that more stress was given for arousing a moral sense among the people but at the same time, care was also taken to make them free from superstition, heresies and idle imaginative gossips. People accepted a thing only after enquiry and not due to blind faith or some sort of external show. Buddha was very clear when he said- "Be ye not misled, Kālamas, by report or tradition, or hearsay. Be not misled by proficiency in the collections or logic or out of respect for a recluse. But when you know for yourselves these things are unprofitable, these things are blameworthy and censured by intelligent, these things when performed and undertaken conduce to loss and sorrow, then indeed, do ye reject them. But if at any time ye know of yourselves, these things are profitable, they are blameless and praised by intelligent, when performed and undertaken conduce to profit and happiness, then Kalamas accept them."

In this context, the Buddha seems to be alert at the weaknesses of human beings. He warned the followers against assuming an external form to attract the devoted ones in the name of moral life. He, in strong words, discarded such activities and laid stress on the purity of mind. He clearly said, "Not wandering naked, nor matted locks, nor faith, nor fasting, nor lying on the ground, nor dust and dirt, nor striving smarting on the heels, can purify a mortal who has not overcome doubts (about the moral life)" "Not therefore, is he a recluse merely because his head is grey. Ripe is he in age old in vain is he called or "Not by mere eloquence, nor by handsome appearance, does a man become good natured- if he is jealous, selfish and deceitful". As "not by a shaven head does an undisciplined man, who utters lies, become an ascetic. How will one be an ascetic who is full of desire and greed"? Thus "what is the use of such platted hair? What is the use of antelope garment? Within you are full of passions, without you embellish. Therefore, it is advised that "Gradually, little by little, from time to time, a wise man should remove his impurities as a smith removes the dross of silver". "Like a border city, guarded within and without. So guard yourself. Do not let slip this opportunity (of being a man)."

It appears from the text that a type of rigid caste system was prevalent in the society before the advent of the Buddha. It had hierarchical form with four grades, like Brahman, Ksatriya, Vaisya and Sudra. The caste of a man was determined on the basis of his birth in a particular family. The Brahmanas claimed superiority over others. The other three were regarded inferior to them. During the time of the Buddha, there was a change in the order. The Brahmanas came in the second position but the claim of their superiority over the others did not totally disappear from their mind. Buddha, who was a rational thinker, did not find any solid ground behind it. He believed in the quality of man. Therefore, he criticized it on two grounds. Firstly, he did not find signs of distinction among men which are responsible for making them characterized as high or low. Secondly, birth in a particular family had nothing as tangible ground to judge a man superior or inferior. He told that "The distinguishing marks are obvious among creepers, trees, plants, beetles, moths, ants, four-footed creatures, snakes, fish water, denizens etc. On the basis of their particular marks, one is distinguished from other. But there are no such marks among men so far as their hair, head, ears, eyes, mouth, nose etc are concerned. Since there is everything unique among men, they cannot be distinguished as high or low. The distinctions that are marked are plainly in respect to their moral and immoral actions. It is seen that one who earns his livelihood by working in the field; he is farmer and not a Brahmana. One who plies a trade for livelihood, he is a trader; and he is a servant who toils in service for others. Similarly, one who lives by taking things not given to him is a thief and one who lives on archery is a soldier. And, therefore, "neither one can be a Brahmana by birth nor an outcaste. One can be a Brahman or an outcast by his deeds."

The life of women before the advent of the Buddha appears to be miserable. They had no freedom either at home or outside. They were forced to work hard just like slaves without even a word of admiration for it. They were also not permitted for religious pursuit too. The "Therigatha" bears evidence to this fact and throws a flood of light on the condition of women before and after the preaching of the Buddha. It is seen that Buddha for the first time, allowed women to lead holy life by abandoning the domestics one. Mahapajapati-Gotami, the foster mother of the Buddha took the lead and with her, a number of women came forward to lead the holy life following the path prescribed by the Buddha. Ambapali, the famous courtesan, became a pious nun. They breathed in free air and with sincere devotion and right endeavor relished the flavor of Dhamma in no time. Gradually, there developed an order of nuns just like monks with only exception of only eight Garudhamma to be followed by them.

Women also became free to follow the Dhamma as lay women disciples (Upasklis). The five-fold as well as the eight fold precepts became the part of their day-today life. With this, their social life was considerably normalized. A number of examples are available in the Mahavagga which throw a flood of light on their benevolent activities. The name of Visakha- Migara-mata is remembered with great honor for her noble deeds. The Sigalovada-Sutta makes a clear mention of their equal status in the social order of six units." They have been described worthy of honor in the seven Aparihaniya-dhammas as well as in the Mahamangala Sutta. Buddha is also seen admonishing the newly wedded girl for making her domestic life immensely harmonious and useful.

The performance of sacrifice (Yajna) was very popular during the time of the Buddha. The kings and wealthy men used to perform the great sacrifice for the welfare of the common mass. Thousands of animals were killed and various kinds of food grains, ghee, oil and fruits were offered to the fire. The Kutadanta-Sutta makes a mention of such a great sacrifice where in a hundred birds, a hundred steers, a hundred heifers, a hundred goats and a hundred rams had been brought to the post for sacrifice". Buddha, in this content, has given an example of the preparation of a similar sacrifice by the King Mahavijita, wherein it has been suggested by the chaplain that it was not proper for a king to perform such a great sacrifice when the farmers had no sufficient food and seed corn, the traders had no capital, the service minded persons had no employment and there was harassment or rebels in the Kingdom. Accordingly all the conditions were fulfilled and the people of the Kingdom enjoyed complete peace in their day-to-day life. The king thereafter asked the chaplain to fix a date for the great sacrifice but to his great surprise, the latter replied that the same had already been performed with bringing peace in the Kingdom. Citing this, the Buddha has pointed out the futility and long lasting resultant of the sacrifice associated with violence and instructed to perform Sila Yojna, Samadhi-Yajna and Pañna-Yajna wherein there is neither the necessity of animals for sacrifice nor of the other things to be thrown into fire. The Sila-Yajna is performed by restraining oneself from killing, stealing, committing sexual misdeeds, telling lie and using intoxicating drinks. In Samadhi-Yajna, the hindrances of concentration are suppressed, defiling factors are removed and the mind manifests itself as immensely pure, tranquil, serene, subtle and full of concentration. By Panna-Yajna, the nature of reality becomes crystal clear. It is understood that all the conditioned things are impermanent, subject to suffering and substance less. It culminates in total negation of desire which means the attainment of emancipation.

It was a new form of sacrifice given by the Buddha which appealed to the people very much as it neither involved any finance nor violence. With its introduction, the traditional form of sacrifice gradually declined and the new form of three fold sacrifice as prescribed by the Buddha came into practice in the society.

Reform in educational system of the age by the Buddha was a remarkable feature in the society. The system of education as initiated by him was mainly practical and closely connected with the basic problems of life of both the recluses and householders. With the formation of fourfold assembly of monks, nuns, laymen and laywomen with the persons of various walks of life and different temperament, it was felt necessary to give them some basic training to make them able to follow the middle path. With this, there came the necessity of education. Buddha, in this background, instituted the office of (Upajjhaya) (Teacher) and Acariya (Preceptor) in the Order". The former

trained the monks and nuns in the scripture and gave thorough acquaintance with the theoretical aspects of the Dhamma and the latter educated them in practical aspects. More stress was given on the latter in tune with the nature of Dhamma as "realizable here and in no time."

Further it may be seen that there was no provision of a particular place for locating a school in this system but all the Viharas developed as educational centers and the monks and nuns acted as the teachers and preceptors. The monks and nuns were first trained in moral precepts and thereby was possible, the curtailment of physical and vocal misdeeds. Following it, there was the training of mind known as "Samadhi" and lastly the realization of Right understanding.

The system of education was not limited to the monastic orders but it exercised a dominant role in house hold life too. The moral education was in the hand of monks and nuns who lived on a particular village or making wayfaring through it. The theory and practice of the education which was professional became centered round the experts living in a particular place. Like the Viharas, their dwelling places turned into educational centers. Therefore, wherever there are the references of a Blacksmith or Goldsmith, or Ivory worker or Potter or Bath attendants etc., there is the mention of the "apprentices" attached to them. Their earning and learning went together and therefore, it was very much liked by the people of the age.

The distinguished feature of this pattern of education was the character building with stress on mental culture. Buddha analyzed the mental states and clearly pointed out their nature by applying them into fourfold analytic principle of characteristics (Lakkhana), Function (Rasa), Manifestation (Paccupatthana) and Immediate cause (Padatthana) or explained them with a number of synonyms prevalent in the society. The mystery of mind was unearthed by splitting it up into fourteen immoral states and twenty five moral ones. Knowing the two, one was advised to give up the immoral states and develop the moral ones. The immoral states, thus analyzed, are: 1. Delusion, 2. Shamelessness, 3. Absence of Social Shame, 4. Distraction, 5. Greed, 6. False View, 7. Conceit, 8. Hatred, 9. Jealousy, 10. Avariciousness, 11. Worry, 12. Sloth, 13. Torpor and 14. Doubt.

The moral states on the other hand are: 1. Confidence, 2. Mindfulness, 3. Shame, 4. Dread, 5. Non attachment, 6. Good will, 7. Equanimity, 8. Tranquility of Psychic factors, 9. Tranquility of consciousness, 10. Lightness of Psychic factors, 11. Lightness of consciousness, 12. Pliancy of psychic factors, 13. Pliancy of consciousness, 14. Adaptability of psychic factors, 15. Adaptability of consciousness, 16. Proficiency of psychic factors, 17. Proficiency of consciousness, 18. Rectitude of psychic factors, 19. Rectitude of consciousness, 20. Right Speech, 21. Right Action, 22. Right Livelihood, 23. Compassion, 24. Joy and 25. Faculty of wisdom.

The removal of the former and the development of the latter was possible primarily by four fold efforts of (1) not allowing the arising of immoral states which have not arisen, (2) eliminating the immoral states which have already arisen (3) allowing the moral states to arise which have not arisen and (4) helping the faster growth of moral states which have already arisen. It was further supplemented with the development of five faculties as 'Condense', 'Energy', 'Mindfulness', 'Concentration' and 'Right understanding'. This type of mental preparation was useful for all and only on such solid mental base, there was and also is the possibility of springing up of real spirit of education.

Buddha was also concerned with the language problem of the age and he brought some changes in this direction too. It appears that Vedic language was considered as honorable language at that time and the preaching given therein were taken with esteem. It is also a fact that many languages of the people were also in practice in society. Buddha, in tune of his mission, liked the proper development of all languages and advised his followers to learn his teachings in their own language. It is said that the two brothers Yamele and Tekula, Brahmana by birth with lovely voice, approached the Buddha and said –"Monks of various names, various clans, and various social strata have gone forth from various families and corrupt the speech of the Awakened One in using his own dialect. Now, Lord will give the speech of Awakened One in Vedic language". On this, the Buddha rebuked them and characterized their action in displeasing the people. He further said- "I allow you, monks, to learn the speech of the Awakened ones according to his own dialect." This attitude of Buddha dearly shows that the all-round development of all languages, especially of the people, was in his mind. It is also attested by the fact that he himself chose Pali (Magadhi), the language of the general mass, as the medium of his reaching.

Buddha believed in a sound social order containing both the recluses as well as the house holders. A balanced adjustment of the two preserves the social harmony. The recluses included monks and nuns and there were lay men and lay women among the house holders. These recluses led homeless life possessing no belongings for themselves. They remained celibate and maintained purity of actions. They took only one meal before noon by begging from door to door from the house holders and put no burden on any of them. They made their clothes out of turn out clothes thrown out by the house holders. They were three in number, namely, under garment (antara-vasaka), upper garment (uttarasanga) and covering garment (sanghati). Only in special circumstances, they were allowed one extra cloth and that also for a limited period of time. In this way they inculcated among themselves the noble sense of less desire and no accumulation at all. Further, they wandered throughout the country for the whole year except rainy-season-retreat and gave moral instructions to the people as mobile teachers. The institution of the order of the monks and nuns had considerable impact on the society in controlling the population, minimizing the food problem and making the moral instructions available free of charge. Buddha was very much sanguine in maintaining the solidarity of their order and therefore framed a set of norms for both monks and nuns. The rules for monks are two hundred and twenty seven in number whereas those for nuns are three hundred and eleven. They are preserved in the book 'Palimokkha' which is regarded as the life-factor of monastic order.

On the other hand, the Buddha gave a sound footing of social order for the house holders. The entire society has been divided into six units and a number of duties have been prescribed for each and vice versa. The six units have been stated in a symbolical way in the name of climes and it has been advised to worship each clime with complete devotion and honor. Thus parents are the eastern clime and southern crime is the teacher. Wife and children are the western clime and the friends and the kin are northern one, servants and workmen are the lower clime and the Brahman and recluses are the upper one. The Sigalovada- Sutta presents a set of five two-fold duties for each unit and expresses the hope of complete harmony in the society. Similar noble duties have been enumerated in the Mahamangala – Sutta and the factors responsible for degradation from the subject matter of Vasala-Sutta and Parabhava-Sutta. Buddha appears to be very much alive on the issue of solidarity of the social order and therefore, has enumerated in the Mahapari-nibbana-Sutta, a set of seven

norms immensely beneficial for both the social order and the state. They are called Aparihaniya –Dhamma. They are mainly based on unity, friendliness maintaining the tradition, honoring the women, scholars, saints, elderly people, religious places and preparing congenial atmosphere for incoming of the wise and spiritually elevated persons. Buddha is very emphatic on this point that so long as the seven ‘Aparihaniya’ rules are maintained by the people, the solidarity of the society as the state will be maintained.

The most remarkable contribution of the Buddha in this respect is the concept of ‘Brahma-vihara’ or the sublime way of living. It contains four sublime states which are to be developed in each member of the society. There are the Friendliness (Metta), Compassion (Karuna), Joy (Mudita), and Indifference (Upekkha). Friendliness here refers to the universal love and welfare of all beings. Compassion is the feeling of becoming one with the suffering of the people. Joy stands for feeling pleasure towards progress of others and the Indifference is another name of equanimity towards all beings. These four states are developed in a way to pervade all directions and include all the beings of the universe. This is a model of universal society where there is the complete harmony, peace and serenity.

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Topic

“The Incarceration of Madness in Jane Eyre and The Woman in White”

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Abstract

This research paper examines the portrayal of madness and its incarceration in two seminal works of Victorian literature: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins, reflecting the title theme, The Incarceration of Madness. Through a meticulous analysis of key characters—Bertha Mason and Anne Catherick—this study explores how both novels serve as a lens into Victorian-era attitudes towards mental health, set against the stringent social norms of the Victorian era. By examining the spaces, where these characters are confined—Thornfield Hall and the asylum, - this study investigates the theme of incarceration as a societal response to madness. Madness emerges as a potent tool of social control, trapping individuals within the expectations of a judgmental society. Within this context, the protagonists, Jane Eyre and Walter Hartright, navigate through the oppressive weight of their mental states. The analysis reveals that while both novels illustrate the oppressive conditions imposed on those deemed mad, they differ in their critique of the existing social frameworks. *Jane Eyre* presents a more personal tragedy, whereas *The Woman in White* leans towards systemic social commentary. This study not only enriches the understanding of the representation of madness in Victorian literature but also invites reflection on ongoing stigmas and practices related to mental health in contemporary society. In offering this analysis, the research fills a gap in existing literary studies, opening avenues for further scholarly discussions on the intersectionality of madness, gender, and societal norms within historical contexts.

Keywords: Madness, Incarceration, Victorian Literature, Victorian Era, Gender Norms, Mental Health, Social Commentary

Introduction:

Before the nineteenth century, madness was often associated with an individual's overindulgence in imaginative capabilities. This perception stemmed from a long-standing tradition dating back to the classical era, where deviations from rational thought were seen as a descent into chaos. However, the Romantic movement of the early nineteenth century celebrated the excesses of fancy and the transcendence of conventional rational boundaries. Romantic poets and writers, like William Blake and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, often explored the nexus between madness and creativity, suggesting a sublime quality to the former.

With the advent of the Victorian era, societal attitudes shifted dramatically owing to the burgeoning field of medical and psychological study. Madness came to be viewed more as a lack of rationality in a human being rather than an excursion into the imaginative. This shift in perception led to the positioning of the 'insane' on the periphery of society. Furthermore, they were removed from society and confined in asylums, a process which Michel Foucault terms "The Great Confinement" in his seminal work *Madness and Civilization* (Foucault 1964: 38). This era saw the medicalization of madness, where insanity was treated as a disease to be cured or contained rather than a reflection of individual's imaginative excesses.

This societal obsession with madness notably influenced the motif of madness in the literature of the period. Although the topic was overtly discussed in nineteenth-century England, and institutionalization of madness was practiced in asylums, the conservative Victorian households often veiled it in secrecy, relegating it to hidden spaces within domestic settings. This motif is vividly illustrated in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, where Edward Rochester's wife, Bertha Mason, is incarcerated in the attic of Thornfield Hall, his own household. Despite the danger she poses, as seen when she sets his room on fire, Rochester is desperate to keep her presence and her madness a secret. Similarly, in Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White*, Anne Catherick is institutionalized in an asylum, yet her situation also poses a significant threat to Sir Percival Glyde and his legitimacy, leading to her tragic demise.

The incarceration of these mad women, or of madness itself, emerged as a dominant meta-narrative of nineteenth-century England. The critical inquiry now extends to whether it was the perceived lack of reason that justified the institutionalization of the insane, or if it was their potential to disrupt the established Victorian social structure and ethos. This distinction suggests that the perceived madness of these individuals might be a societal construction rather than an intrinsic condition. This research endeavors to explore these nuanced interrogations and establish an argument furthering one of the aforementioned probable answers. Through a meticulous examination of the narrative, character arcs, and the socio-cultural milieu reflected in "Jane Eyre" and "The Woman in White," this study aims to contribute a nuanced understanding to the

discourse on madness, gender, and societal norms within the Victorian literary and historical contexts.

Literature Review:

Charlotte Brontë in *Jane Eyre* has attempted to portray Jane as an equal to Rochester. Gilbert and Gubar in *The Mad Woman in the Attic* assert that Brontë has envisioned a world where both Jane and Rochester are democratically equal (Gilbert and Gubar, 1979: 354). This purported equality bridges the masculine-feminine gap between them. However, while this gap narrows, the chasm between sanity and insanity widens. Despite Bertha being on the same rung of the social ladder, her status descends in tandem with Jane's rising stature, symbolizing the evolving status of the female sex. Bertha, as a woman and simultaneously as an 'insane' individual, becomes a victim of these shifting dynamics. Confined to the gloomy attic of Thornfield Hall, her options are bleak. Even when she ventures out, her actions echo Jane's subconscious desires; her personal vendetta finds no recognition in Brontë's narrative or Gilbert and Gubar's analysis. When viewed through Jane's lens, Bertha's madness embodies the burgeoning self-assertion and rebellion of the female sex, yet when viewed autonomously, it manifests as 'monstrosity'.

Foucault, in *Madness and Civilization*, elucidates that animal imagery was frequently associated with insanity, portraying the mad as bestial—suggesting that reason was the hallmark of humanity. This explains why, in the classical period before the age of reason, madness was allowed to roam freely, unincarcerated. However, come the nineteenth century, disciplining these 'beasts' to restore societal order became imperative. In *The Woman in White*, Count Fosco is depicted more as an animal tamer than a lover. His menagerie includes a cockatoo, two canary birds, and a family of white mice. Having honed control over them, a fragile Anne Catherick was merely another creature to be tamed. Discipline extended beyond mere actions or confinement; to uphold their fabricated order and protect Sir Percival Glyde's deceit, they sacrificed Anne. Bertha Mason's portrayal in *Jane Eyre* offers a stark depiction of bestiality, where Jane describes her as "fearful and ghastly," with a "savage face" reminiscent of a "foul German spectre – the Vampyre" (Brontë, 2015: 250).

The perceived bestiality becomes a justification for the absolute confinement of these 'lunatics.' However, is it justified to label Anne Catherick's endeavor to save Laura Fairlie from Sir Percival Glyde's clutches as insanity, or deem Bertha Mason's assertion of equality to her husband as monstrosity? While difficult to definitively classify, this was the prevailing perspective in the age of reason. Women challenging the status quo, particularly patriarchal norms, were subverted. The unyielding were branded mad. Marian Halcombe in *The Woman in White*, despite her narrative agency, is deemed 'ugly' by Walter Hartright, the 'hero' of the tale, while Count Fosco usurps her agency by confiscating her personal journal, leaving his mark upon it. Anne Catherick's resistance persisted even within the asylum, leading to her tragic end at patriarchy's hands. Similarly, Bertha Mason's veil-tearing act on the eve of Jane's wedding to Rochester emanates from her awareness of Rochester's treatment of women. Both women, in their attempts to thwart these unions, display a rational resistance to patriarchal dominion, challenging the notion of their purported madness.

In the Victorian societal paradigm, controlling a woman with agency posed a significant challenge. This is epitomized in Bertha's attempts to harm or kill Rochester, and Anne Catherick's quest to unveil Sir Percival Glyde's secrets to prevent his marriage. Hence, subduing such women, who hinted at power, became imperative as they threatened conservative Victorian ideals. Patriarchal agents, embodied by Rochester and Count Fosco, took it upon themselves to invalidate these women's actions by branding them as insane and incarcerating them in attics or asylums. This confinement also encapsulated their agency, euphemistically termed as 'madness,' thereby reinstating the patriarchal order and perpetuating the Victorian societal norms.

Feminist Literary Criticism: Unveiling the Veil of Madness in Victorian Literature

In the exploration of Victorian literature, particularly through the lens of feminist literary criticism, the portrayal of female characters and their alignment or deviation from societal norms becomes a focal point of analysis. The theme of madness, especially in female characters, often emerges as a tool for both critique and reinforcement of prevailing gender norms. In Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*, the characters of Bertha Mason and Anne Catherick respectively, become embodiments of the societal anxieties surrounding female agency and non-conformity.

A salient perspective in feminist literary criticism is the notion that the label of madness is often a patriarchal mechanism to control, marginalize, or silence women. Gilbert and Gubar's seminal work *The Madwoman in the Attic* explores this notion extensively. They argue that the attic, where Bertha Mason is confined, symbolizes the larger societal attempt to confine and control women's sexuality and agency. According to them, "the patriarchal society has defined the feminine as docile and angelic, or else monstrous and mad" (Gilbert and Gubar, 1979: 78). The dichotomy of the angel or monster leaves no room for a nuanced, human portrayal of women, often leading to the characterization of strong, non-conforming women as mad. In *Jane Eyre*, Bertha Mason's portrayal as a 'madwoman' is juxtaposed against Jane's docility, at least until her self-assertion later in the narrative. Bertha's madness, characterized by violence and a lack of control, reflects patriarchal fears of uncontrolled female agency. On the other hand, Anne Catherick's alleged madness in *The Woman in White* is tied to her knowledge of secrets that threaten patriarchal figures, showcasing a fear of female knowledge and voice.

Critics argue that the incarceration of these characters under the guise of madness serves dual purposes: it critiques the restrictive gender norms of the Victorian era while also reflecting the societal fear of disruptive female agency. The confinement and labelling of Bertha and Anne as mad reflect a societal attempt to 'other' these women, delegitimize their voices, and maintain patriarchal control.

The Evolution of the "Madwoman" Trope: Tracing the Threads from Victorian to Modern Literature

The trope of the "madwoman" has been a persistent narrative element across centuries of literary tradition, with its roots deeply entrenched in the gendered discourse of the Victorian era. The narratives of *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins serve as seminal Victorian texts where the "madwoman" trope is employed to reflect and critique the societal norms of the time. The characters of Bertha Mason and Anne Catherick symbolize the fears and anxieties surrounding female agency and non-conformity. Their portrayal aligns with Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's assertion in *The Madwoman in the Attic* that the Victorian

“madwoman” is a creation of patriarchal oppression, a means to marginalize and silence women who defy societal expectations (Gilbert and Gubar, 1979).

As literature evolved into the modern era, the “madwoman” trope underwent a transformation, reflecting the changing societal attitudes towards gender and mental health. In modern literature, the trope often morphs into a platform for exploring female autonomy, resistance, and the complexities of the female psyche. Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* showcases a nuanced exploration of mental health through her female protagonist, shifting from the Victorian portrayal of madness as monstrous to a more empathetic and complex understanding. Woolf, a critic of Victorian gender norms, articulates through her narrative, the intricate intertwining of societal expectations and mental health, exemplifying a modernist break from Victorian dichotomies. Critics have often paralleled the evolution of the “madwoman” trope with the feminist movement’s evolution. Elaine Showalter, in her work *The Female Malady*, illustrates how the trope’s transformation reflects the broader societal acknowledgment of women’s rights and the destigmatization of mental health (Showalter, 1985). Showalter critiques the Victorian ‘madwoman’ trope as a patriarchal tool, but also acknowledges its reclamation and transformation in modern literature as a feminist statement of autonomy and resistance.

Moreover, the trope’s endurance and evolution underscore the narrative power in exploring gendered experiences of madness. The contrasting portrayals of Bertha Mason and Mrs. Dalloway exemplify this shift – from the Victorian ‘madwoman’ as a monstrous Other to the modern ‘madwoman’ as a complex, multi-dimensional character. This transition, as critics argue, enriches literary discourse on gender and mental health, providing a prism through which readers can explore the societal constructs surrounding femininity and madness across eras.

Conclusion

The exploration of madness and its incarceration within the narratives of *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins offers a rich tapestry of thematic inquiries into Victorian societal norms, particularly surrounding gender and mental health. Through a meticulous analysis, it becomes evident that the portrayal of madness serves as both a mirror and a lens into the patriarchal structures and gendered discourses of the Victorian era. The characters of Bertha Mason and Anne Catherick embody the tension between feminine agency and societal control, encapsulating the fears and anxieties of a society grappling with evolving gender dynamics. The feminist literary critiques, particularly by Gilbert and Gubar in *The Madwoman in the Attic*, provide a foundational framework for analyzing the confinement and marginalization of ‘mad’ women as emblematic of broader societal attempts to control and silence disruptive female voices. The employment of animalistic imagery, as elucidated by Foucault, further underscores the dehumanization and objectification faced by those deemed ‘mad,’ reflecting a societal imperative to restore order and uphold patriarchal norms.

As the discourse extends into a comparative lens with modern literature, the evolution of the “madwoman” trope emerges as a reflection of changing societal attitudes towards gender and mental health. The transition from the monstrous portrayal of Bertha Mason to the nuanced exploration of mental health in modern literature, as seen in Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*, highlights a shift in narrative techniques and thematic focus. The critiques by Elaine Showalter and other modern scholars underscore the transformative potential of literature to both challenge and reflect societal norms across eras. Interestingly, the cross-narrative analysis reveals a nuanced understanding of the intersectionality of madness, gender, and societal norms within historical contexts. The narrative incarceration of madness serves as a potent tool of social control, trapping individuals within the expectations of a judgmental society, as seen in the contrasting fates of Bertha Mason and Anne Catherick. Their stories unfold against the backdrop of a patriarchal society struggling to maintain control over changing gender norms.

In conclusion, the research into the incarceration of madness in *Jane Eyre* and *The Woman in White* not only enriches the understanding of the representation of madness in Victorian literature but also invites reflection on ongoing stigmas and practices related to mental health in contemporary society. The analytical journey through these seminal texts opens avenues for further scholarly discussions on the intersectionality of madness, gender, and societal norms within historical and literary contexts. This study, therefore, contributes a nuanced lens through which to view and critique the literary representations of madness and gender, underlining the enduring relevance and transformative potential of exploring such themes within a historical literary framework.

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Topic

“Rohinton Mistry’s Tales from Firozsha Baag: The Parsi as a Marginalised Community”

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Abstract

The present abstract proposes to examine the underlying reasons about the Parsi as a Marginalised community in India with reference to Rohinton Mistry’s “Tales from Firozsha Baag”, a collection of short stories. Mistry is a novelist who voices for the devoiced. Marginalisation is a recurring theme in almost all his novels. The present abstract showcases the eccentric life-style of the Parsi community living in Bombay in India. Firozsha Baag, for Mistry, is a fictitious enclave in Bombay where the Parsi community live. Mistry, through the stories of different Parsi residents, unfolds the angst, predicament, intricacy, discrimination and fear of being left out from the mainstream of society. The Parsis, living in Bombay, are under the perpetual dilemma whether they can co-exist peacefully with the majority Hindu community or not. Such dilemma forms the main premise of this abstract, and Mistry, through the story of “Auspicious Occasion”, pinpoints the issue of Parsi survival against the communal and radical forces growing fast in a nation like India.

Key words: Marginalisation, the Parsi, Self and Other, Fundamentalism etc.

Introduction

Marginalisation is a recurring theme in almost all the works of Rohinton Mistry. The term marginalisation, in the broadest sense, refers to a group of people who are at the ‘periphery’ against the ‘centre’. The early-mid works of Rohinton Mistry address the issue of predicament, idiosyncrasy, discrimination and marginalisation of the dispossessed such as the Parsi community and lower-middle class in India. According to the latest Census figure, the Parsi community is the fastest diminishing group in India. This fear of being left out from the mainstream of civilization is poignantly reflected in Rohinton Mistry’s collection of short story “Tales from Firozsha Baag”, where all the characters keep searching for a new identity for survival, whether through emigration or reinventing through religious enlightenment.

Decaying values in the Parsi Community

The short stories contained in “Tales from Firozsha Baag” are a realistic representation of the angst, fear and sense of being marginalised of the micro Parsi community living as ‘others’ in India. Firozsha Baag, situated at the city Bombay, metaphorically represents ‘periphery’ which is mostly inhabited by the Parsi community in a country which is ‘centre’ for the people belonging to Hinduism. Mistry, through “Tales from Firozsha Baag”, reflects the inner and outer conflict of the Parsi community who is torn between the ‘self’ and the ‘others’. In fact, the reason of being marginalised for the Parsi community can better be understood from the various characters of the “Tales from Firozsha Baag” of how they are dwindling between old Zoroastrian faith and a material wish for embracing modernity. Mistry has observed this dilemma in the Parsi community, and therefore their old beliefs and customs have undergone introspection through the various characters in the story.

“Auspicious Occasion (AC)”, a tale from Firozsha Baag, promises us a fade hope for the survival of dying Zoroastrianism. The title “Auspicious Occasion” refers to *Behram roje*, the Parsi New Year which symbolises cultural fragrance and piousness. The story is a representation of an effort of a young Parsi religious lady Mehroo, who is married to a middle aged advocate Rustomji. Mehroo, in the story, is trying her best to preserve the ideals of Parsi religion by observing the rituals on this auspicious occasion. For Mehroo *Behram roje* is an auspicious day as:

.....on *Behram roje* her mother had given birth to her at the Awabai Petit Parsi Lying-In Hospital; it was also the day her navjote had been performed at the age of seven, when she was confirmed a Zoroastrian by the family priest, Dustoor Dhunjisha; and finally, Rustomji had married her on *Behram roje*,.... . (Mistry, AC 4)

Such religious emotions reflect that how innocently and strictly Mehroo observes the rituals of Zoroastrianism. She goes to the family fire temple to observe the prayers on this auspicious day. She rests her hopes in her family priest Dustoor Dhunjisha who, according to her belief, has a magic touch to console and give her divine comfort like a father – figure.

On the other hand, her husband Rustomji has a modern and practical approach towards religion. He is a mixture of orthodoxy as well as modernity. He is a modern Parsi in the sense for he allows his wife Mehroo to roam free in the house during her unclean days. But he also, like a conventional Parsi, observes the rituals and customs of his own religion with a sense of indifference:

In fact, Rustomji secretly enjoyed most of the age – old traditions while pretending indifference. He loved going to the fire-temple dressed up in his sparkling white *dugli*, starched white trousers, the carefully brushed *pheytoe* on his head..... . (Mistry, AC 4)

However, the auspicious day turns into inauspicious when all the efforts of Mehroo are shattered into vain due to the chain of unprecedented events in the story. The leaking toilet forecasts the omen for the next course of ill incident in the story. Rustomji is annoyed for he could not ease himself because of the leaking lavatory. Though, Mehroo tries her best to make everything perfect on this day and hence she phones the Baag trustee to get the WC repaired. The sense of religious brotherhood is reflected in the words of Mehroo when she says, “Bawa, you are a Parsi too, you know how very important *Behram roje* is” (Mistry, AC 13).

The story turns into a tragedy when Mehroo discovers that her family Priest Dustoor Dhunjisha has been murdered by an employee at Fire Temple. The killing of the Parsi priest is a killing of the whole humanity. This is the end of the world for an innocent lady like Mehroo. She cannot digest the moral disorder of the universe and Rustomji expresses her feelings in these words, “What is happening in the world I don’t know. Parsi killing Parsi.....chasniwalla and dustoor....” (Mistry, AC 23). The Parsi is one of the most innocent and peace-loving religious communities. The killings among this pious community symbolise the end of human faith and love on earth. This moral disorder has already been anticipated in W.B. Yeats’s *The Second Coming*, “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; / Merely Anarchy is loosed upon the world,” (Yeats, *The Second Coming* 424).

On the other hand, Rustomji plays a double-fold role of tragic-comic character. He is, unlike other conventional Parsis, has a modern approach towards religion. He allows his wife Mehroo to follow all the rituals and customs of Zoroastrianism except staying in a separate room during unclean days. He also pretends to be indifferent to religion whereas he secretly enjoyed the old age customs: In fact, Rustomji secretly enjoyed most of the age-old traditions while pretending indifference. He loved going to the fire-temple dressed up in his sparkling white *dugli*, starched white trousers, the carefully brushed *pheytoe* on his head..... . (Mistry, AC 4) Rohinton Mistry also addresses the issue of sex crime through the perverted mindset of Rustomji. In the story, Rustomji has a dying wish to have a view of his maid Gajra’s breast:

Rustomji’s one fervent wish was that some day Gajra’s breasts should slip out far enough from under her choli to reveal her nipples. ‘Dada Ormuzd, just once let me see them, only once,’ he would yearn in his depths, trying to picture the nipples: now dark brown and the size of a gram but with the hidden power to swell; now uncontrollably aroused and black, large and pointed. (Mistry, AC 11)

Such voluptuous wish of a fifty-year old man, who has already a young wife, reflects a bleak reality of a sexually diseased society. The brutal gang-rapes in India and across the world show such perverted sexual mentality of a male-dominated society where women are treated just an object of pleasure and thereby relegated to the margins to suffer. However, Rustomji becomes a victim of marginalised community when he is stuck in the Bombay Public being rude to them as someone from the bus spits on him and his entire dress gets coloured with *Paan* stain. At first, he expresses his anger in these words, “ ‘Sala gandoo! Filthy son of a whore! Shameless animal – spitting paan from the bus! Smash your face I will, you pimp.....’ ” (Mistry, AC 20). The incident makes him a miserable and helpless marginalised character as he is targeted by the crowd for being abusive for them. However, “Auspicious Occasions” is a microcosm of the idiosyncrasy, feeling of being marginalised through social exclusion of the Parsi community in a nation dominated by Hindu population.

Conclusion

Mistry, in “Tales from Firozsha Baag”, unravels the in-depth experience of the Parsi characters where they continuously struggle between the forces of changes and the forces of continuity. All the Parsi characters in the stories feel a sense of alienation against the wider structure of society which is dominated by the Hindu population. Mistry is also aware of the fastest diminishing rate of the Parsi demography. In one of his interviews he says: There are only 1,20,000 Parses in the world. So it is not a threat or a delusion that they are on the verge of disappearance. What is 60,000 in a city [Bombay] of 12 million? And it is when anything disappears in this world, any a pity species, man, animal or insect (Bharucha 43) Such pains of being extinct is a genesis of all the works of Mistry where he consistently reflects the glorious past and social status of the Parsi community, which now are on the verge of marginalisation.

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“INDO - JAPAN Geopolitical Nexus: Significance of India's Northeast”

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Abstract

This academic paper critically examines the strategic importance of North East India in the complex geopolitical dynamics between India and Japan. The region, often referred to as the "Seven Sisters," possesses unique attributes that make it an indispensable piece in the strategic game played by these two Asian powers. This paper delves into historical, political, economic, and security dimensions to elucidate the multifaceted role of North East India in the broader regional and global contexts. It also discusses the potential benefits and challenges associated with this partnership.

Introduction:

Asia is currently seeing a major transition in the geopolitical landscape of the world, with Japan and India emerging as major actors in the region. These two countries have been increasingly prominent in their strategic alliance, with India's (NER)¹ playing a pivotal role in their collaborative efforts. The geopolitical terrain of the world is changing dramatically, with a significant movement toward the continent of Asia becoming more and more apparent. Japan and India have come to light as key regional actors in this developing story. Their strategic alliance has drawn a lot of attention. It is supported by common principles, business objectives, and a desire for security and development in the region.

Moreover, the region has assumed a crucial role in the collaborative efforts of these two nations, serving as a linchpin in their multifaceted endeavors. India, as one of the world's most populous and dynamic democracies, occupies a central position in the Asian geopolitical arena. India's burgeoning economy and strategic location have made it an attractive partner for various nations- Japan, on the other hand, boasts a highly advanced and export-oriented economy, along with a long-standing tradition of innovation and technological excellence. These complementary strengths make India and Japan natural allies in the pursuit of their collective interests in the region.

Beyond just economic relations, India and Japan have a strategic cooperation. It has its roots in a common dedication to protecting democratic principles, guaranteeing overflight and navigation freedom in the Indo-Pacific region, and promoting an international order based on norms. Both countries are committed to preserving regional peace and stability, addressing security threats, and fostering connectivity and economic growth. In addition to serving as a link between India and Southeast Asia, this region serves as a jumping-off point for Japanese interests in the Indian subcontinent.

Beyond their mutual economic ties, Japan and India collaborate strategically. Its foundations lie in a shared commitment to upholding democratic values, ensuring freedom of air and navigation throughout the Indo-Pacific area, and advancing a norm-based international order. Both nations are dedicated to upholding security concerns, promoting connectivity and economic expansion, and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Historical ties:

The historical relationship between India and Japan is a testament to the enduring bond that has evolved over the years, characterized by mutual respect and cooperation. Over the years, the historical connection between India and Japan has developed into a strong and lasting partnership defined by mutual respect and cooperation (Choudhury 2017). This deep connection is rooted in shared democratic values and a steadfast commitment to upholding a rules-based international order. These historical ties are not only essential at a broader diplomatic level but also hold particular significance for the North East India region, given Japan's vivid memories of its battles in Imphal and Kohima during the Second World War.

A key component of the diplomatic ties between India and Japan diplomatic ties has been their shared democratic ideals. Having embraced democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, both countries share an appreciation for how crucial it is to uphold these ideals in a world characterized by political variety and shifting global dynamics (Ministry of External Affairs 2021). Their strategic alliance has been firmly established by their common dedication, which has enabled them to work together on a number of fronts.

¹ India's North-eastern region (NER) consists of eight states: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The region is surrounded by five international borders: China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

With an emphasis on North East India (NER), the historical connections between Japan and India are particularly noteworthy because of Japan's recollections of its participation in the World War II battles of Imphal and Kohima. These conflicts, which took place in north eastern India, are unusual in Japanese history. They not only signaled important military battles but also had a lasting impression on the collective memory of Japan.

Japan's broader efforts during World War II included its military campaign in the districts of Kohima and Imphal. The Allied army and the local populace both demonstrated extraordinary perseverance in the face of intense combat in these regions. Even though Japan lost these conflicts and did not meet its military goals, Japan has not overlooked their historical value. The Japanese people will always be affected by the sacrifices made and the unwavering spirit of those who fought in these conflicts (Sharma 2015)

Another important part of these historical links is the part played by the Indian National Army (INA), under the command of Subhas Chandra Bose, in collaborating with Japanese forces during World War II. Bose and Japan formed an alliance with the same goal of freeing India from British colonial oppression. An essential component of this effort was the Indian National Army (INA), which was made up of Indian volunteers who supported the Axis nations, especially Japan. The INA and Japanese forces' collaboration was a symbol of their common will to oppose colonialism and imperialism in India. Though it did not accomplish its immediate goals, the alliance between the Indian National Army (INA) and Japanese soldiers throughout the conflict established the groundwork for future relations between Japan and India. During this time, the common experiences and goals of self-determination developed into a symbol of unity and resistance. This crucial period of their history left a lasting impression on both countries' collective memory, and it now has an impact on their current strategic alliance (Roy 2019)

Significance of the NER in the Geopolitical Relations between India and Japan

Due to its substantial border sharing with neighbouring nations like China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, North East India holds a unique position on the geopolitical landscape of India. The region has an intrinsic and important strategic significance because of its special geographic location. The many aspects of this strategic relevance are explored in this article, which highlights the importance of including North East India in bilateral engagement between Japan and India. Primarily, the North East area of India holds a significant place in the geopolitical arena because of its close vicinity to China's Tibet Autonomous Region and its proximity to Myanmar, where Chinese influence has been steadily growing. With an emphasis on its position against Chinese expansionism, India's strategic considerations are significantly impacted by its proximity to China.

The Himalayan border has long been a focal point of the relationship between China and India. It is known for its harsh, unforgiving terrain and difficult climate. Nestled along this border, North East India functions as an essential buffer zone, influencing the strategic dynamics of the area significantly. In addition to allowing India to protect its interests, this special location gives it a strategic advantage for keeping an eye on and reacting to events in Tibet, a highly sensitive area that directly affects India's national security. The importance of the North East area is further highlighted in this setting, as Japan and India have found similar ground in their approaches to China policy. India's and Japan's strategic interests are significantly shaped by the region's geographic closeness to China. India views the North East as a key component of its strategy to offset China's expansionism. India's geopolitical orientation allows it to remain alert and flexible in the face of any possible challenges originating from Tibet or the larger Himalayan region. It also offers a tactical advantage for keeping an eye on events in Tibet, guaranteeing that India can react quickly to any new developments that could jeopardize its security or interests as a nation (Jain 2021)

The North East area of India assumes additional relevance for Japan, which, like India, is concerned about the strategic ramifications of China's expanding influence in Myanmar and the larger Indo-Pacific region. Like India, Japan wants to improve connectivity throughout the Indo-Pacific region and diversify its investment portfolio. Their strategic alliance has become stronger as a result of India and Japan's shared interests in preserving security and stability in the region. Because of its closeness to Myanmar, the North East region offers Japan and India the opportunity to work together on initiatives and projects that balance off China's growing influence in the area.

Moreover, the Northeast is crucial in supporting India's interactions with countries in Southeast Asia, which is consistent with Japan's goals in the Indo-Pacific. It improves connectivity and regional integration by acting as a land corridor for trade, commerce, and economic cooperation. This region's significance in the changing dynamics of India and Japan's policy approaches is further cemented by the possibility that it will act as a bridgehead for both countries. (Vo et al. (2021).

North East India Region strategically acts as a cornerstone in the greater regional framework of connectivity and trade, particularly as part of the Act East Policy, in addition to playing a crucial role in determining India's security posture. This policy, which aims to strengthen India's ties with the countries of Southeast Asia and, consequently, advance greater regional integration and economic cooperation, has come to be recognized as a key component of the country's foreign policy. Nestled between the borders of China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, the North East region plays a crucial role as a geographic conduit for the goals of the Act East Policy (Barua 2020).

The land corridor this region offers is essential to India's aspirations in Southeast Asia. It so becomes essential for promoting economic cooperation, trade, and commerce with surrounding countries. With the Act East Policy, India is taking a more proactive approach in the Indo-Pacific region and has shifted its strategic focus from a "Look East" to an action-oriented approach. Because of its closeness to these countries in Southeast Asia, North East India becomes essential to this revaluation. This area facilitates the flow of people, capital, and goods between Southeast Asian markets and India's interior by acting as a bridgehead or gateway. In light of the larger Indo-Pacific dynamics, North East India's importance as a bridgehead becomes clearer. The Indo-Pacific, which includes the western and central Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, has grown in importance on a worldwide scale (Ghatak (2021)

Apart from being a center of economic activity, it also serves as a geopolitical theatre where various nations, such as China, Japan, and the United States, compete for influence and form both cooperative and competitive alliances. India's outreach to Southeast Asia through North East India could, in this sense, influence the Indo-Pacific area as a whole. Countries like Japan, which also want to improve

connectivity and economic participation in the Indo-Pacific, share this desire. North East India is a key place for promoting cooperation and bolstering regional stability because of this convergence of interests. Japan views North East India as having more geopolitical significance within the larger Asian context due to its long-standing interest in the area.

This is more than just a diplomatic formality; it reflects Japan's persistent and sincere attempt to cultivate a partnership with India that has both strategic and economic aspects. The shared objective of maintaining peace and security in the Indo-Pacific area acts as a catalyst for this convergence of interests. Japan's desire to strengthen its ties with India is apparent in a number of ways. The two countries have worked to strengthen their economic relations, and Japan is one of India's main investors and development partners. Along with bolstering India's economy, this economic alliance has deepened the country's ties of trust and collaboration. Beyond the realm of commerce, both nations understand the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific, an area essential to international trade, economic growth, and regional security. North East India becomes a crucial and obvious partner as Japan looks to expand its investments and improve connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region. North East India's strategic location near Southeast Asia and its role as the hub for India's Act East Policy make it a perfect fit for Japan's goals of improving connectivity throughout the Indo-Pacific area. Deeper cooperation between Japan and India may be facilitated via cooperative projects in the North East, such as communication networks, trade efforts, and infrastructure development. These endeavors possess the capability to not only promote economic expansion but also reinforce the strategic alliance between the two countries. (Choudhury (2017))

A naturally occurring trade corridor with enormous potential is also created by this proximity. By far the shortest commercial route between India and the countries of Southeast Asia as compared to other options. India and the ASEAN countries benefit economically from their close proximity, which lowers transportation costs and transit times. The construction of infrastructure projects, such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transportation Transport Project highlights the strategic significance of North East India (NER) as a hub for trade and transportation. Through improved road and canal connectivity, the trade and commerce between the NER and Myanmar, and the NER and other ASEAN countries will be facilitated by these projects. They have the power to greatly increase regional connections, spur economic growth, and increase trade volumes (Das 2020).

Moreover, North East India's significance as a gateway to ASEAN depends critically on its ability to reach the Bay of Bengal. Access to markets in Southeast Asia and beyond is provided by the Bay of Bengal, which is positioned advantageously as a marine gateway. This entry through North East India creates opportunities for maritime trade, an economical and effective means of transportation. The region's importance in the dynamics of regional trade is further cemented by the crucial role that ports in the Bay of Bengal, such as Kolkata and Chennai, play in enabling trade between North East India and ASEAN nations. Beyond trade, North East India has the economic potential to strengthen relationships with Southeast Asia. It has the potential to develop into a center for cooperation and investment in several industries, including technology, industry, and agriculture. In addition to improving bilateral ties, this alliance of economic interests promotes stability and growth in the area (Prusty 2015).

What Challenges and Complexities Lie Ahead?

While North East India's strategic significance is undeniable, numerous challenges must be addressed to fully harness its potential in the Indo-Japanese geopolitical nexus. With its indisputable strategic importance, North East India occupies a key position in the larger Indo-Japanese geopolitical framework. To fully achieve its geopolitical and economic potential, it does, however, also pose a number of difficult problems that must be successfully addressed. This is true of any region with great potential. The persistent problem of insurgency and ethnic violence is one of North East India's biggest issues. Ethnic strife and the existence of multiple insurgent organizations have characterized the region's turbulent past. These difficulties have impeded the region's development as well as threatened its stability. The security of the area and the country as a whole has been threatened by the insurgencies, which differ in strength and goals. It is imperative to address these internal security challenges if North East India is to realize its full strategic potential in the Indo-Japanese geopolitical nexus. By doing this, the region's stability can be strengthened and turned into a more secure setting that promotes economic expansion and greater geopolitical collaboration. Beyond domestic issues, insurgency and ethnic problems in North East India require attention. The stability and security of the region are critical to the Indo-Japanese relationship. The existence of internal security issues is a major factor for Japan, which wants to work and invest with India in this region (Barua 2020)

The success of collaborative projects and economic endeavors in North East India depends on creating a secure environment that can attract investment and foster prosperity. In addition to security, the resolution of insurgency and ethnic conflicts is pivotal for building trust among the diverse communities of the region. This is a necessary step in achieving long-term stability and promoting social cohesion, which, in turn, can lead to more sustained economic and social development (Khamrang 2015).

One major obstacle to fully unlocking the strategic potential of North East India in the context of Indo-Japanese geopolitics is the existing infrastructure deficiencies. Despite its clear significance, the region faces significant difficulties in terms of its infrastructure, especially in the areas of transportation and communication. These shortcomings, in turn, hinder the region's connectivity not only with the rest of India but also with the wider global community. It is crucial for both India and Japan to address these infrastructure limitations in order to turn the region into a functional and effective transit route. The insufficient state of transportation infrastructure in North East India is a matter of concern. The region's challenging terrain, marked by dense forests, hills, and numerous rivers, presents significant obstacles when it comes to establishing and maintaining robust transportation networks. The lack of proper road and rail connections, underdeveloped ports, and the absence of efficient transportation routes are key bottlenecks that must be resolved (Khaki 2016).

The state of communication infrastructure presents another obstacle. Insufficient access to modern and efficient communication networks can impede both regional connectivity and the region's capacity to engage effectively with the global community. In this era of digital interconnectivity, it is vital for North East India to have access to high-speed internet and contemporary communication facilities that can support economic activities, foster regional integration, and strengthen diplomatic relationships. The development of infrastructure in North East India is not merely a regional necessity but a national one, as it can significantly enhance India's links with Southeast Asia, advancing the objectives of the Act East Policy. This aligns with Japan's interests, which are keen on improving connectivity and trade in the Indo-Pacific. Investments in North East India's infrastructure align with Japan's strategic goals.

Collaborative endeavors between India and Japan to address these infrastructure deficiencies can lead to tangible improvements. Projects such as the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway mentioned earlier, aim to enhance transportation links between North East India and Southeast Asian nations. When these projects come to fruition, they will not only alleviate transportation challenges but also contribute to broader objectives such as enhanced connectivity, regional integration, and economic growth (Barua 2020).

Conclusion:

The subject of North East India's strategic significance in the geopolitical context of India and Japan is complex and ever-changing, including aspects related to politics, economy, security, and history. Sometimes called the "Seven Sisters," this area is unique in that it is a key component of India and Japan's joint ventures. Their alliance is based on common democratic values, a commitment to maintaining a rule-based international order, and a shared goal of prosperity and security in the area.

Throughout history, the strong bond between India and Japan—characterized by their dedication to democratic principles and similar values—has been a major factor in forming their diplomatic ties. Their strategic alliance has a strong foundation in their shared commitment to maintaining democratic norms, which also makes cooperation easier on many fronts. Moreover, the historical ties between these two countries—with a particular emphasis on North East India—are significant since Japan has strong memories of its involvement in World War II at Imphal and Kohima. These historical occurrences have a lasting impression on Japan's collective memory in addition to marking important military conflicts.

It is crucial that North East India is geographically close to Myanmar, where Chinese influence is growing, and China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Because of its closeness, India views it as a crucial factor in its strategic thinking, especially when it comes to its opposition to Chinese expansionism. The area serves as a buffer zone and gives India a strategic advantage in monitoring and responding to events in Tibet, a very sensitive area that directly affects India's security as a nation. The strategic cooperation between Japan and India has been reinforced by the alignment of their interests in this environment. Moreover, North East India is essential to strengthening India's relations with countries in Southeast Asia. It supports trade and connectivity as a land corridor, which is in line with the goals of India's Act East Policy. The region's infrastructural advancements and proximity to the Bay of Bengal make it an ideal location for India to expand its economic connections with Southeast Asia. Its importance as a hub for trade and transit is highlighted by cooperative initiatives like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which have the potential to increase trade volumes, spur economic growth, and improve regional connectivity.

However, a number of difficulties and complications, like as the region's ethnic conflict and insurgency, threaten its stability and progress. Realizing the full strategic potential of the region requires addressing these domestic security concerns. Inadequate infrastructure also makes it difficult to connect to the rest of India and the rest of the globe, especially when it comes to communication and transportation. If North East India is to become a feasible transportation route, these constraints must be addressed. North East India continues to be a focal point of Indo-Japanese collaboration in the ever-changing geopolitical landscape, providing ample prospects and requiring concerted efforts to overcome obstacles. Due to its unique qualities, historical connections, and strategic significance, the region is an essential piece of the strategic puzzle that Japan and India must solve within the larger regional and global settings. The complex ramifications and difficulties of this alliance highlight the vital role that Northeast India plays in the Indo-Japanese geopolitical context.

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Topic

“Paleolimnology of Nikahari Tal, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh”

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Abstract

The lake sediments of One hundred twenty (120 cm) thick profile of Nikahari Tal, Deoria district in the Ganga Plain were analysed for paleolimnology using abiotic proxies to infer short-term climate changes of the past and observed a higher percentage of silt content owing to increased surface runoff in response to enhanced precipitation and high-water budget under strong Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) during the above period, because of fluctuating climatic conditions. The variable percentages of silt and clay indicate the increase and decrease in the surface runoff so as the water column and energy in the lake, in direct response to enhanced and weak ISM respectively. The well-sorted sediment explains the consistency in the water level and energy of the lake.

Key Words: Ganga Plain, Paleolimnology, Monsoon, Holocene

1. Introduction

Ganga Plain is the utmost densely populated region of the world due to its availability of water, fertile soil, suitable climate smooth landscape and (Singh and Awasthi, 2011a). The Indian subcontinent has great features in that it is monsoon monsoon-dependent agricultural economy. From east to west, it consists of Kosi, Gandak, Sharda, and Ganga Yamuna mega fans (Singh, 1996). It makes many lakes formed because of the disturbance of fluvial channels ~9-8 ka in response to climatic conditions and tectonic activity (Singh, 2004). The lake's sediment has the signal of climate history that helps to understand the concept of paleolimnology using its abiotic, biotic proxies and dates of the lake. The study of lake sediments using their physical, chemical and biological properties is also called paleo indicator that infers past environment is known as paleolimnology.

So far, in the context of paleoclimate reconstruction during the Late Quaternary particularly during the Holocene using multiproxy studies, considerable work has been carried out in different parts of the country such as in the Kumaun Himalayas (Chauhan and Sharma, 1996; Eastern Himalayas (Sharma and Chauhan, 2001; from the core monsoon zone of Southern India (Sukumar et al., 1993; Prasad and Enzel, 2006; Polanski et al., 2014) and records from the Indian Ocean (Gadgil, 2003). Most of the studies are intensive in the region of Central Ganga Plain (Saxena et al., 2015; Singh et al., 2015a). This multidisciplinary research provided vital records about lake level fluctuations, vegetation shift and climatic scenario of the Ganga Plain since the beginning of the Holocene but Nikaharital that comes under the eastern Ganga Plain, lesser data is available (Saxena et al., 2006, Chauhan et al., 2009). Intense monsoon leads to flooding in the river basin has been analysed for the study area (Singh et al., 2009, 2011b, 2015b). In this context, the sampling site of Nikahari Lake, Deoria district has been chosen to describe the depth-wise abiotic proxies of paleolimnology of a 120 cm deep trench profile.

2. Study area

The sampling site of Nikahari Tal (lake) of Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh is located north of Ropan Chhapra village. The trench is located at 26.20713 N latitude and 84.00569 E longitude. Due to the meander cut-off in the Chhoti Gandak River Nikaharital which is an oxbow lake was formed. During monsoon water level of the lake is up to about 2-3 m deep which is the maximum water) and during the peak summer season, the water level is minimal. water is only available in the middle of the lake and dries completely during drought conditions. Chhoti Gandak, which drains the study area has been analysed for control of tectonics and climate (Singh et al., 2009), sedimentology and channel pattern (Singh et al., 2013), surface and groundwater quality characterization (Bhardwaj and Singh, 2011), water quality (Bhardwaj et al., 2010a) hydro geo chemistry of groundwater and anthropogenic control (Bhardwaj et al., 2010c) and morphometric analysis (Singh and Awasthi, 2011b).

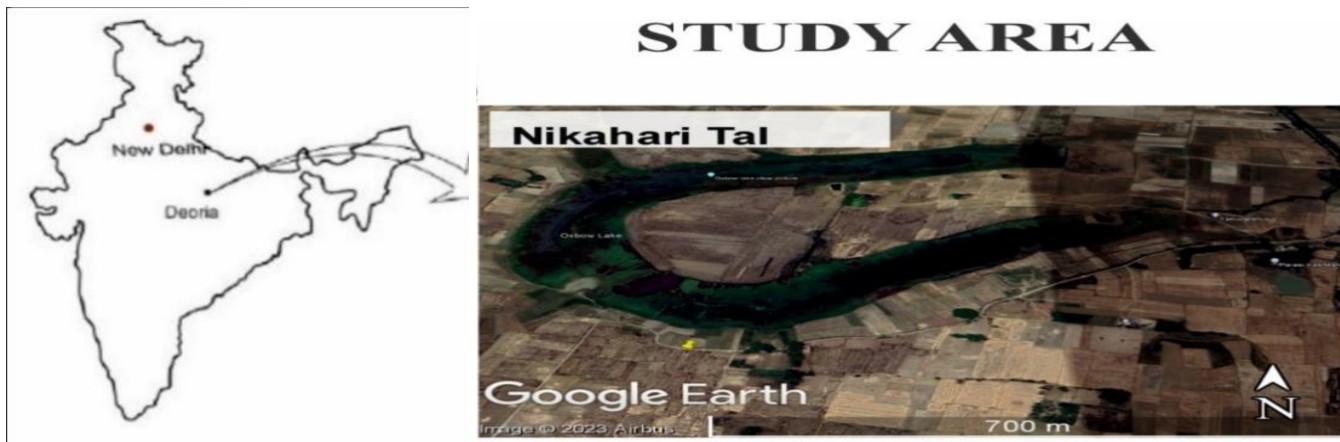


Fig. 1. Location map of the study area showing Nikahari Tal with the trench location.

3. Material and methods

Thirty-five samples were collected for multiproxy analysis from a 120+cm deep trench (Fig. 2b). The profile has been analysed for the Lo I. Chronology (AMS date) has been published (Saxena and Singh, 2016). From the bottom 120 cm to the top (0 cm) depth, samples were collected at almost 3 or 4 cm depth intervals. The top of the profile is taken as the present age i.e., 1950 A.D. The base of the Nikahari Tal profile i.e., 90.0 cm is estimated to be of ~1364 A.D. (~586 cal BP).

Loss on Ignition (LOI)

A lithology was prepared to reconstruct the subsurface sediment stratigraphy of the study area. The samples obtained from the pipes were observed and based on the physical and grain size characteristics a lithology was prepared on a scale of 1:100. For the analysis, samples were air-dried, and coning quartering and grinding techniques were done and are given below.



Fig. 3 Flow diagram depicting sequence wise physical processes.



Fig. 2. A. Field photograph showing a part of Nikharai Tal. B): Field photograph of the sampling trench This analysis involves the assessment of moisture content, organic matter, and carbonate minerals. After heating sediment samples in a muffle furnace at temperatures and weight loss, the weight percentage was measured (Dean, 1974).



Fig 4. Weighing machine, crucibles with sediment weight and muffle furnace used for LOI studies.

Firstly, five (5) gm of the fine homogenized sample was oven-dried at a temperature of 110 °C for 12 hrs. The samples were weighed again and the lost percentage of moisture was calculated. In the next step, the organic material is ignited at a temperature of 550 °C to ash and carbon dioxide and weighed to estimate the Total Organic Carbon (TOC) percent. In the last step, the carbonate percentage was calculated by further heating the samples at 950 °C which involves the release of carbon dioxide followed by weighing.

The estimation is as follows

$$\text{Moisture Content (W}_m) = (m_i - m_a) / (m_i - m) * 100$$

$$\text{Organic Carbon Content (W}_o) = (m_a - m_b) / (m_i - m) * 100$$

$$\text{Inorganic Carbon Content (W}_i) = (m_b - m_c) / (m_i - m) * 1.36 * 100$$

Where:

m = mass of empty crucible

m_i = mass of crucible with 5 gm. air-dried sample,

m_a = mass of crucible containing dry mass,

m_b = mass of crucible containing ignited dry mass at 550°C,

m_c = mass of crucible containing ignited dry mass at 950°C,

W_m = Weight of moisture lost on drying at 110°C, in percentage,

W_o = Weight of organic carbon lost on drying at 550°C, in percentage,

W_i = Weight of inorganic carbon lost on drying at 950°C, in percentage

4. Results and Discussion

The Nikahari Lake sediments vary in size from fine silt to fine clay suggesting low energy conditions of the depositional environment. The high clay content around 1650, 1770 and 1850 A.D. indicate weak monsoon during the Little Ice Age (LIA) (Saxena and Singh, 2017). The basal 20 cm thick unit is mottled, well-sorted black colour cohesive clay. It is overlain by 20 cm thick silty clay. The 10 cm thick dark silty clay unit with grasses caps this profile. The present studied lake seems to be formed due to the meander cut off of Chhoti Gandak River; as is the case with the other lakes of Chhoti Gandak River Basin which are formed by meander cut-offs and straightening of the channel (Singh et al., 2015a) The age of the basal sediment has an extrapolated date of nearly 1360 A.D. (~590 cal BP), which implies that the formation of this ox-bow lake has been taken place from the cut off of the river in the beginning of last millennium (Saxena and Singh, 2017).

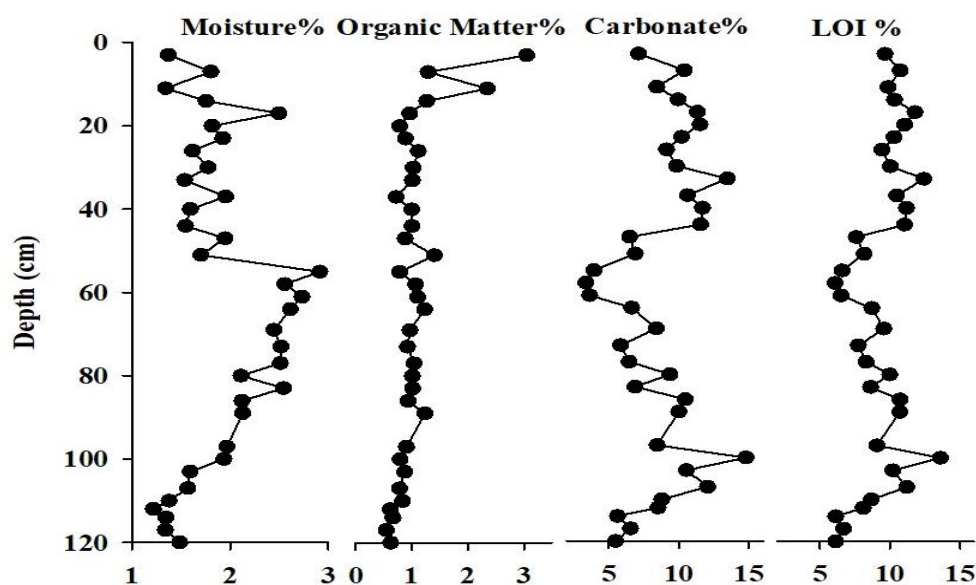


Fig 5. Nikahari Tal profile showing depth-wise variations in sediment Loss on Ignition (moisture, organic carbon, and carbonate%).

The % moisture, C_{org}, and CO₃⁻² concentrations of the sediment samples were estimated using LOI analysis (Table 1, fig 5.). At a depth of 3-51 cm has a moisture content of 1.3% to 2.4 %; a C_{org} content from 0.7 % to 3.5%; and a CO₃⁻² concentration of 8% to 12%. At the depth of 51 to 103 cm sediments have moisture contents that range from 1.5 % to 2.9 %, a C_{org} content from 0.7 % to 1.2%, and a CO₃⁻² concentration of 3.3% to 14%, whereas at the depth of 103-120cm, sediments have moisture contents of 1.2% to 1.5%, C_{org} of 0.5% to 8%, and a CO₃⁻² concentration of 5 to 12% to 15%.

Table 1. shows data on Moisture content, Total Organic Matter and Carbonate percentage.

S. No.	Sample Id	Depth (cm)	Moisture%	Organic Matter%	Carbonate%	LOI %
1	NL1	120	1.485534	0.622966	5.496156	6.149791
2	NL2	117	1.338394	0.547343	6.569077	6.715941
3	NL3	114	1.345327	0.663668	5.630305	6.148926
4	NL4	112	1.217708	0.615852	8.527873	8.104055
5	NL5	110	1.376101	0.834848	8.806088	8.686013
6	NL6	107	1.56634	0.781172	12.05314	11.21012
7	NL7	103	1.592694	0.873284	10.54495	10.21962
8	NL8	100	1.934904	0.792732	14.7976	13.60823
9	NL9	97	1.965602	0.904896	8.451609	9.084916
10	NL10	89	2.126937	1.235382	10.00732	10.72064
11	NL11	86	2.119457	0.934878	10.46488	10.7491
12	NL12	83	2.544321	1.01533	6.896089	8.630304
13	NL13	80	2.10871	1.010424	9.3721	10.01038
14	NL14	77	2.510987	1.038753	6.473991	8.310028
15	NL15	73	2.517144	0.925685	5.867765	7.757362
16	NL16	69	2.446728	0.965498	8.397713	9.587015
17	NL17	64	2.613543	1.228845	6.646872	8.729794
18	NL18	61	2.731705	1.105072	3.652612	6.522521
19	NL19	58	2.556013	1.068333	3.381125	6.110468
20	NL20	55	2.913397	0.78476	3.954073	6.605563
21	NL21	51	1.700266	1.402569	6.909912	8.183653
22	NL22	47	1.946521	0.88133	6.504017	7.610216
23	NL23	44	1.545011	1.003358	11.56348	11.05093
24	NL24	40	1.593673	1.000539	11.69796	11.19565
25	NL25	37	1.953336	0.721755	10.62615	10.48843
26	NL26	33	1.535355	1.009576	13.46379	12.44477
27	NL27	30	1.774829	1.025323	9.853497	10.04537
28	NL28	26	1.615418	1.117598	9.133192	9.448599
29	NL29	23	1.923269	0.886741	10.20727	10.31535
30	NL30	20	1.815092	0.783608	11.51888	11.06847
31	NL31	17	2.495401	0.963769	11.33696	11.79517
32	NL32	14	1.754456	1.266885	9.949165	10.3369
33	NL33	11	1.341812	2.345672	8.438979	9.892615
34	NL34	7	1.802577	1.290413	10.40733	10.74544
35	NL35	3	1.368495	3.050644	7.132155	9.66337

Conclusions

The present multiproxy record indicates wet and dry events in the Indian summer monsoon from 1350 A.D. to the Present. The Nikahari Tal evolved during the Late Holocene (terminal Holocene) in the distal part of the Chhoti Gandak River as a cut off meander. The well-sorted sediment explains the consistency in the water level and energy of the lake.

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Topic

“The Implication of the Competition Act, 2002 on Cross-Border Merger– An Indian Perspective”

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Abstract:

This research study aims to analyze the implications of the Competition Act, 2002 on cross-border mergers from an Indian perspective. The Competition Act, 2002 is the primary legislation governing competition law in India and plays a crucial role in regulating mergers and acquisitions. The study explores the key provisions of the Act that apply to cross-border mergers, examines the jurisdictional aspects, analyzes the impact on competition, and discusses the merger review process. Additionally, the study investigates the extraterritorial application of the Act and its implications on cross-border transactions. By examining relevant case laws and legal interpretations, this research study provides insights into the Indian regulatory framework and its influence on cross-border mergers.

The researcher aims to elucidate how the appreciable adverse effect is curtailed under both national and international perspectives. Under Indian laws, there is a clear structure through the CCI to regulate the market and ensure free and fair dealings. But without doubt, there exist realms that have not been curtailed such as the cross-border merger, especially the effect doctrine. The researcher, therefore, analyses the extent of regulation of the international market, especially through the effect doctrine in ensuring that it does not hamper the Indian market. It further seeks to provide an understanding of the regulatory framework and key considerations that arise when Indian Companies engage in Cross Border Mergers while complying with competition Law.

1. KEYWORDS

- CCI – Competition Commission of India
- AAEC – Appreciable Adverse Effect
- DG – Director General
- KPI – Key Performance Indicators
- SAL – Strides Acrolab Ltd

Introduction:

Cross-border mergers and acquisitions have significantly increased over the past decade, fuelled by the era of globalization, as a response to the pressures of an increasingly consolidating world economy. Cross-border mergers and acquisitions now pose an elementary feature of the global business landscape.

Motives for cross-border mergers and acquisitions:

- Growth and diversification
- To enter into new markets or product segments
- To gain access to funding resources
- To obtain tax benefits
- To acquire competency or capability²

The increasing cross-border mergers prevalence in today's globalized economy is offering businesses opportunities for growth, expansion, and market diversification. However, when engaging in such mergers, it is crucial to consider the legal framework and regulatory implications of the countries involved. In the case of India, the Competition Act, 2002 plays a significant role in governing competition law and has specific implications for cross-border mergers. This article aims to provide an overview of the implications of the Competition Act, 2002 on cross-border mergers from an Indian perspective.

CROSS-BORDER MERGERS APPLICATIONS**I. Jurisdiction and Applicability:**

The Competition Act, 2002 applies to cross-border mergers that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India. It is essential to assess whether the merger falls within the purview of the Act and whether it meets the prescribed thresholds. Factors such as the presence of Indian entities, the impact on the Indian market, and the combined assets or turnover of the merging entities are considered in determining jurisdiction and applicability.

² Implications of Competition Act, 2002 on Cross-border Mergers and Acquisitions/ <https://www.lexquest.in/implications-of-competition-act-2002-on-cross-border-mergers-and-acquisitions/> LexQuest Foundation/ Published on September 18, 2020/ Accessed on June 24, 2023, Last Visited on [24.06.2023 at 12.45 PM](#), IST

Under the Competition Act 2002, the jurisdiction for cross-border mergers involving Indian companies is determined based on two primary factors: (1) the turnover of the merging entities, and (2) the nature of assets being acquired or transferred.

A. Turnover Threshold:

- The Competition Act applies to cross-border mergers if the combined assets or turnover of the merging companies, along with their subsidiaries, exceeds the prescribed threshold.
- As of my knowledge cut-off in September 2021, the threshold for the combined assets or turnover is INR 4,500 crores (approximately USD 600 million).
- If the combined assets or turnover of the merging entities fall below this threshold, the transaction may not require approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

B. Nature of Assets:

- The Competition Act also applies to cross-border mergers if the transaction involves the acquisition, merger, or amalgamation of assets in India.
- If the transaction involves the acquisition of assets outside India by an Indian company, it falls under the purview of the Competition Act if the turnover of the acquired assets in India exceeds the prescribed threshold.

The Competition Act provides the CCI with the authority to assess the potential anti-competitive effects of cross-border mergers and take appropriate action to protect competition in India. The CCI can review and approve or reject cross-border merger transactions if they are deemed to have an adverse impact on competition in the Indian market.

In India, the jurisdictional application to cross-border mergers is determined by the Competition Act, 2002 and the regulations issued by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The following factors are considered for jurisdictional application to cross-border mergers in India:

- a. **Presence of Indian Entities:** The Competition Act applies to cross-border mergers that involve at least one Indian entity or entity. If an Indian entity is involved in the merger, the Act will generally apply.
- b. **Indian Market Impact:** The Act also applies to cross-border mergers that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India, even if there are no Indian entities involved. This means that if the merger significantly affects competition in the Indian market, the Act may be invoked.
- c. **Thresholds for Notification:** The Competition Act mandates the filing of a notice with the CCI for certain mergers and acquisitions, known as "combinations." The thresholds triggering the requirement for notification depend on the combined assets or turnover of the merging entities. If the prescribed thresholds are exceeded, the CCI must be notified.
- d. **Jurisdiction of the CCI:** The CCI is the competition authority in India responsible for reviewing and regulating mergers. It has jurisdiction over cross-border mergers that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India, irrespective of the nationality or location of the merging parties.
- e. **Extraterritorial Application:** The Competition Act, 2002 has an extraterritorial application, allowing the CCI to regulate cross-border mergers that impact the Indian market. This means that even if the merging parties are located outside India if the merger has a significant impact on competition within India, the Act can be invoked.³

It is important for businesses engaged in cross-border mergers with connections to India to carefully evaluate the jurisdictional aspects under the Competition Act, 2002. Compliance with the Act's provisions, including the notification requirements and seeking approval from the CCI when necessary, is crucial to ensure adherence to competition laws and mitigate potential legal risks. Seeking legal counsel or consulting with experts knowledgeable about Indian competition law can provide guidance on navigating the jurisdictional aspects of cross-border mergers in India.

II. Merger Review Process:

The Competition Act, 2002 establishes a merger review process that aims to assess the potential impact of mergers on competition in India. The CCI evaluates the merger to determine whether it is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition. This evaluation includes factors such as market share, concentration, barriers to entry, and consumer welfare. The Act provides for a waiting period during which the CCI examines the merger and may require modifications or prohibit the merger if it is deemed anti-competitive.⁴

In India, the merger review process falls under the purview of the Competition Act, 2002, which is administered by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The CCI is the primary regulatory body responsible for ensuring fair competition in the Indian market.

The merger review process under competition law in India:

- a. **Threshold Determination:** The CCI assesses whether a proposed merger or acquisition meets the prescribed financial thresholds. These thresholds are based on the combined assets and turnover of the merging parties. If the thresholds are met, the merger is considered notifiable and subject to review.
- b. **Notification:** The parties involved in the merger must file a notice with the CCI within 30 days of the execution of the definitive agreement or public announcement of the merger, whichever is earlier. The notice must contain detailed information about the transaction, including the nature of the merger, the rationale, and the impact on competition.

³ Cross Border Merger - Meaning, Types, Procedure & Main Rules & Regulation/ <https://taxguru.in/company-law/cross-border-merger-meaning-types-procedure-main-rules-regulation.html/> TaxGuru/ date of Publish July 13, 2020/ accessed on June 24, 2023 at 13.45 P M IST

⁴ Merger Control in India: Overview | Practical Law/ [https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/0-501-2861?contextData=\(sc.Default\)/accessed](https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/0-501-2861?contextData=(sc.Default)/accessed) on June 24, 2023 at 13.45 P M IST

- c. Pre-merger Consultation: After receiving the notification, the CCI may request additional information from the merging parties. The CCI may also engage in consultations with the parties or other stakeholders to gather more information and clarify any concerns.
- d. Prima Facie Assessment: The CCI conducts a preliminary assessment to determine whether the proposed merger is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition (AAEC) in the relevant market. If the CCI forms a prima facie opinion that there may be an AAEC, it will order a detailed investigation.
- e. Detailed Investigation: The CCI may direct its investigative arm, the Director General (DG), to conduct a detailed investigation into the merger. The DG gathers information from the merging parties, competitors, customers, and other relevant entities. The investigation assesses the potential impact of the merger on competition in the relevant market.
- f. CCI's Decision: Based on the investigation report and other relevant factors, the CCI makes a final decision on the merger. The CCI may approve the merger without any modifications, approve it with certain modifications, or reject the merger if it determines that it would cause an AAEC.
- g. Remedies: If the CCI identifies potential competition concerns, it may require the merging parties to propose suitable modifications or remedies to address these concerns. The CCI has the power to impose conditions or modifications on the merger to protect competition.⁵

The timelines and specific procedures may vary depending on the complexity and nature of the merger. The CCI is responsible for ensuring that the merger review process is conducted in a transparent, fair, and timely manner.

III. Extraterritorial Application:

One noteworthy aspect of the Competition Act, 2002 is its extraterritorial application. This means that the Act can apply to cross-border mergers that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India, even if the merging parties are located outside India. This provision enables the CCI to regulate and scrutinize cross-border transactions that impact the Indian market, ensuring fair competition and protecting the interests of Indian consumers and businesses.

The extraterritorial application of competition law on mergers and acquisitions refers to the jurisdiction of a competition authority to review and regulate mergers and acquisitions that have an impact on competition in their own country, even if the merging parties are located outside that country. This allows competition authorities to address potential anticompetitive effects arising from mergers and acquisitions that may affect their domestic markets.

The extraterritorial application of competition law on mergers and acquisitions varies from one jurisdiction to another. I will provide some general insights on this topic:

- a. **Effects Doctrine** Many countries apply the effects doctrine, which asserts that a competition authority has jurisdiction over a merger or acquisition if it has an actual or potential impact on competition within the authority's jurisdiction. This means that even if the merging parties are located outside the country if the transaction affects competition within that country, the competition authority can assert its jurisdiction.⁶

In India, the effect doctrine is a key principle applied under competition law to assert jurisdiction over cross-border transactions, including mergers and acquisitions. The effect doctrine allows the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to exercise jurisdiction over transactions that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition within the Indian market, irrespective of the nationality or location of the merging parties.

The effect doctrine is enshrined in Section 32 of the Competition Act, 2002, which states that the Act applies to agreements, combinations, or practices that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in the relevant market in India. This provision enables the CCI to regulate and scrutinize cross-border transactions that impact competition within India, regardless of the geographical location of the merging entities.

Under the effect doctrine, the CCI evaluates the potential impact of the transaction on competition within India. Factors considered during the assessment include market concentration, market shares of the merging parties, barriers to entry, the potential for anti-competitive behavior, and the effect on consumers and the relevant market.

The CCI's jurisdiction under the effect doctrine is not limited to transactions involving Indian entities. It extends to cross-border mergers where the transaction has a substantial impact on competition within the Indian market, regardless of whether the merging parties are based in India or abroad.⁷

It is important for businesses engaged in cross-border mergers that have an impact on the Indian market to be aware of the effect doctrine and its implications. Compliance with the Competition Act, 2002, including the requirement to notify the CCI and seek its approval for relevant mergers, is essential to ensure adherence to competition laws in India. Seeking legal advice from experts familiar with Indian competition law is recommended to navigate the application of the effect doctrine and related requirements effectively.

⁵ Competition Commission of India, Government of India/ <https://www.cci.gov.in/combination/combination/filing-of-combination-notice/introduction/> Competition Commission of India/accessed on June 24, 2023 at 13.45 P M IST

⁶ A Hard Look at the Effects Doctrine of Jurisdiction in Public International Law: Leiden Journal of International Law/ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/leiden-journal-of-international-law/article/hard-look-at-the-effects-doctrine-of-jurisdiction-in-public-international-law/CACEB60BE0BA5471DF8BBB525F407DB9/> Cambridge Core/Published on July 21, 2009/ Accessed on June 24, 2023 at 13.57 IST

⁷ The Doctrine of 'Effects' and the Extraterritorial Application of Cross Border Mergers/ <https://repository.law.miami.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1791&context=umialr/> Accessed on 23.06.2023 at 14.01 P M IST

- b. **Nexus Test:** Some jurisdictions apply a Nexus test to determine their jurisdiction over extraterritorial mergers and acquisitions. The nexus test typically involves assessing whether the transaction has a sufficient connection to the jurisdiction, such as the turnover or assets of the merging parties within that jurisdiction.⁸

The nexus test is a principle used to determine whether a jurisdiction has the authority to assert jurisdiction over a particular merger. The nexus test assesses whether there is a sufficient connection between the transaction and the jurisdiction in question, justifying the application of that jurisdiction's competition law.

In India, the Competition Act, 2002 does not explicitly incorporate a nexus test for cross-border mergers. Instead, the Act focuses on the effect of the merger on competition within India, as discussed in the previous responses. The presence of an Indian entity or the impact on the Indian market is generally the basis for asserting jurisdiction over cross-border mergers under the Competition Act in India.

However, it is important to note that the presence of a local nexus can be a relevant factor in determining jurisdiction in certain cases. For example, if the merging parties have substantial operations or assets within India, it may strengthen the argument for the application of Indian competition law. The presence of an Indian entity involved in the merger can also provide a basis for asserting jurisdiction.

While the nexus test is not explicitly defined or applied in the Competition Act, the overall assessment of jurisdiction for cross-border mergers in India considers factors such as the impact on the Indian market and the presence of Indian entities. These factors, along with other relevant considerations, guide the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in determining its jurisdiction over cross-border merger transactions.

- c. **Notification Requirements:** Competition authorities often require merging parties to notify the authority if the transaction meets certain thresholds, regardless of the parties' location. These thresholds may be based on the parties' global turnover or the turnover generated within the jurisdiction.
- d. **Cooperation among Authorities:** Competition authorities may cooperate and coordinate their efforts when reviewing mergers and acquisitions with cross-border implications. This collaboration can involve sharing information, conducting joint investigations, or consulting on the potential impact of the transaction on competition.⁹

Jurisdiction may have specific laws and regulations regarding the extraterritorial application of competition law on mergers and acquisitions. These laws can differ in terms of thresholds, notification requirements, and the factors considered in assessing the impact on competition. Therefore, it is advisable for merging parties to consult with legal experts who are well-versed in the competition laws of the relevant jurisdictions to ensure compliance.

CASE STUDY

1. Jet – Etihad Deal

Jet Airways proposed the Etihad Airways that it wishes to sell its 24% stake to it. When notice was sent to the competition commission, it conducted the investigation. The majority ruled under Section 31 of the Competition Act and approved the deal whereas the minority judgment held that there would be appreciable adverse effect. The majority and minority opinions differed over what the relevant market is. While the majority used the origin and Destination pair approach and covered the network effect stating that the nine cities that are overlapping for both companies are on what the approach will be applied. The minority, on the other hand, determined it to be the international air passengers to and from India. Among other agreements, the commercial cooperation agreement that the parties entered into had no code-sharing clause. The majority was of the opinion that it might not prove to be anti-competitive due to the other major airline's competition with them. The minority ruled it to have an appreciable adverse effect on the competition. As it can be deduced from the current scenario that the deal was a win-win for both parties and it did not prove to be anti-competitive in nature¹⁰

2. Mylan Agila

Mylan Incorporation Is a US-based corporation that was to acquire Agila, an Indian company, which was a wholly owned subsidiary of SAL (Strides Acrolab Ltd). Both were in the business of Pharmaceuticals Competition Commission approved the deal by order under Section 31 of the Competition Act. Both the acquirer and merging company had a very less market in India and there was no question of anti-competitive practices. The commission did focus on the non-compete clause in their deal but found nothing objectionable.¹¹

3. Walmart – Flipkart deal¹²

⁸ What Is Extraterritorial Jurisdiction - Cornell University/ <https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4640&context=clr/> Accessed on June 24, 2023 at 14.07 PM IST

⁹ How best to ensure international digital competition cooperation/ <https://www.bruegel.org/policy-brief/how-best-ensure-international-digital-competition-cooperation/> Bruegel/ Published on June 13, 2023 Accessed on June 24, 2023 at 14.10 PM IST

¹⁰ Combination Registration No. C-2013/05/122, 23(2013)

¹¹ Combination Registration No. C-2013/04/116, (2013)

¹² Combination Registration No. C-2018/05/571, (2018).

The Competition Commission approved the sixteen-billion-dollar deal acquisition of Flipkart by Walmart. The approval was required since the combined assets and turnover through the deal exceeded the threshold limit. The impact on the proposed combination's competition was assessed since many small online retailers opposed the merger. Its impact on the retail sector was also assessed in general as to how it affected the economy overall. The focus was on the determination of the relevant market and as Walmart did not have a huge market size in India the deal was not considered to have any adverse effect on the competition.

In cases where the notice has been filed after the expiration of the 30 days, the CCI has imposed heavy penalties. In the case of Johnson, Ethicon, and Google, the delay was 43 days in filing the notice and the Commission imposed a fine of Rs.5 lakhs. In cases where the notice itself is not being filed when there is a need to the CCI has gone to the extent of imposing a fine of Rs.5 crores. Such a scenario was witnessed in the case of Piramal and Shriram.¹³

CONTEMPORARY SOLUTION OF APPLICATION OF COMPETITION LAW

The application of competition law is an ongoing and evolving area, and contemporary solutions are continuously being explored to address emerging challenges and ensure effective enforcement. Here are a few contemporary solutions and developments in the application of competition law:

1. **Digital Economy Focus** on the one significant contemporary challenge is the application of competition law to the digital economy. Regulators are increasingly focusing on digital platforms, data-driven markets, and online services. Efforts are being made to address issues such as dominant market positions, abuse of market power, data protection, and privacy concerns within the digital realm. Jurisdictions are considering adapting competition laws to effectively regulate digital markets and promote competition and innovation.
2. **Merger Control Thresholds** are being revisited to keep pace with evolving market dynamics. Some jurisdictions are evaluating the turnover or asset thresholds triggering mandatory merger notifications to ensure that potentially anti-competitive mergers are captured and reviewed, even if the merging parties have significant market power or operate in innovative sectors with limited revenues.
3. **Enhancing Cross-Border Cooperation** among competition authorities is a contemporary solution to address global anti-competitive practices. Competition authorities are increasingly collaborating on investigations, sharing information, and coordinating enforcement efforts. This facilitates effective regulation of multinational mergers and anti-competitive conduct that spans multiple jurisdictions.
4. In certain industries, **Sector-Specific Regulations** are being introduced alongside competition law to address specific market dynamics and promote competition. For example, in telecommunications or healthcare sectors, specific regulations may be implemented to ensure fair competition, prevent abuse of market power, and promote consumer welfare.
5. Competition authorities are recognizing the importance of promoting innovation and supporting start-ups. Some jurisdictions have introduced policies and initiatives to foster competition, reduce barriers to entry, and provide support to small and innovative businesses. This includes initiatives such as technology-neutral regulations, sandbox frameworks, and promoting competition in emerging sectors.
6. Competition authorities are increasingly conducting **Proactive Market Studies** to identify potential competition issues and gather evidence on market dynamics. These studies help in understanding market trends, identifying barriers to competition, and informing policy and enforcement decisions. By proactively assessing market conditions, competition authorities can address competition concerns before they escalate.

FINDINGS

- Market access and expansion of Cross-border mergers often aim to access new markets and expand the global reach of the participating companies. Studies have found that companies engaging in cross-border mergers can achieve increased market share, enhanced customer base, and improved access to resources and capabilities in the target market.
- Synergy and value creation in Merging companies seek to create synergies, combining their complementary strengths to generate greater value than they could individually. Research has shown that successful cross-border mergers can result in cost savings, increased operational efficiencies, enhanced innovation, and improved financial performance.
- Cultural and institutional differences in Cross-border mergers involve companies from different countries, which can bring cultural and institutional challenges. Findings indicate that cultural clashes, differences in management styles, communication issues, and varying regulatory environments can affect the integration process and overall success of the merger.
- Governance and control in Cross-border mergers often involve complexities in terms of corporate governance and control mechanisms. Research suggests that conflicts may arise between shareholders and stakeholders from different countries, leading to challenges in decision-making, integration of management teams, and alignment of corporate cultures.
- Legal and regulatory hurdles in Cross-border mergers are subject to legal and regulatory frameworks in multiple jurisdictions. Findings highlight the importance of understanding and navigating these regulations, as they can significantly impact the merger process, deal structure, and post-merger integration.
- Performance and long-term outcomes in Studies examining the performance of cross-border mergers have yielded mixed findings. While some mergers have shown positive financial performance and market value outcomes, others have experienced difficulties and failed to meet expectations. Factors influencing long-term outcomes include effective integration strategies, cultural alignment, and careful management of risks and uncertainties.

¹³ Combination Registration No. C-2015/02/249, (2016).

SUGGESTION

1. Conduct Thorough Due Diligence before proceeding with a cross-border merger, conduct comprehensive due diligence on the target company. This includes evaluating its financials, operations, legal and regulatory compliance, intellectual property, contractual agreements, and any potential risks or liabilities. Due diligence helps identify potential challenges and allows for informed decision-making.
2. Understand the Cultural and Legal Differences of Cross-border mergers involve merging entities from different countries with distinct cultures, business practices, and legal frameworks. It is crucial to understand and appreciate these differences to mitigate potential challenges. Consider engaging local advisors who possess knowledge of the target country's culture, business environment, and legal system.
3. Regulatory Compliance which Familiarize yourself with the competition laws, regulations, and merger control requirements of the jurisdictions involved. Determine if the merger triggers any notification thresholds or requires regulatory approvals. Ensure compliance with applicable antitrust and competition laws to avoid penalties or delays.
4. Develop a comprehensive integration plan that addresses various aspects, including organizational structure, operations, IT systems, human resources, and legal and regulatory compliance. Consider cultural integration and change management strategies to ensure a smooth transition and maximize the benefits of the merger.
5. Effective communication is crucial throughout the merger process. Communicate the merger's rationale, benefits, and potential impacts to employees, customers, suppliers, and other relevant stakeholders. Address any concerns or uncertainties proactively to maintain trust and manage expectations.
6. Pay close attention to post-merger integration to achieve the desired synergies and operational efficiencies. Establish integration teams, set clear timelines, and monitor progress regularly. Develop a robust communication plan to keep stakeholders informed about the integration process and milestones.
7. Engage experienced legal and financial advisors who specialize in cross-border mergers. They can provide guidance on legal, tax, accounting, and regulatory aspects, helping navigate the complexities and ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
8. Identify and assess potential risks associated with the cross-border merger, such as cultural clashes, regulatory challenges, currency fluctuations, and geopolitical factors. Develop risk mitigation strategies and contingency plans to address these risks effectively.
9. Monitor and evaluate the performance of the merged entity post-merger. Implement key performance indicators (KPIs) and reporting mechanisms to track the achievement of synergy targets and ensure the merged entity's long-term success.

Cross-border mergers are complex endeavors, and each merger is unique. Tailor your approach and strategies based on the specific circumstances, jurisdictions involved, and the nature of the industry. Seeking professional advice from experts in cross-border transactions is crucial to increase the likelihood of a successful merger.

2. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, cross-border mergers under competition law in India are subject to the jurisdiction and provisions outlined in the Competition Act, 2002. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has the authority to review and regulate cross-border mergers that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India, regardless of the nationality or location of the merging parties.

The application of competition law in cross-border mergers in India focuses on factors such as the presence of Indian entities involved in the merger, the impact on the Indian market, and the potential adverse effects on competition. The effect doctrine is a significant principle used to assert jurisdiction, considering the impact on competition within India.

To ensure compliance with Indian competition law, it is crucial for businesses engaged in cross-border mergers with connections to India to understand and adhere to the requirements of the Competition Act. This includes assessing the need for merger notification and approval from the CCI, conducting due diligence, addressing potential competition concerns, and engaging with legal experts familiar with Indian competition law.

By navigating the jurisdictional aspects and complying with competition law in India, businesses can mitigate legal risks, ensure a smooth merger process, and contribute to a competitive marketplace that fosters innovation and benefits consumers. It is recommended to seek professional advice and guidance to successfully navigate the complexities of cross-border mergers under competition law in India.

Topic

“Women and Social Justice: In the Era of Modernization”

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Abstract:

To accept and observe a distinction which God has not made is outright male chauvinism. Till in reality, equality between man and woman is fully established the highest social development of mankind is not possible. The truth is that the entire mankind is the creature of one God, and in his estimate, all are equal humans. Man is a generic term applying to all humanity. In ancient times women was an object of superstitious taboo, feared for her supposed magical powers, and blamed as the source of dark and evil forces in the world. Similar attitudes were carried into more enlightened cultures. Hindu scriptures place her on an elevated pedestal. She is accorded a very high and exalted status by being compared to goddesses such as Sita, Lakshmi, Saraswati and Kali in terms of purity, chastity and religiosity. Despite all praise and earthly embellishment women continue to be treated shabbily. The Indian Constitution too helped in establishing the equality of gender. It bars all kinds of discrimination resting on sex or gender. The 106th Constitutional Amendment Bill 2023 also known as ‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam’ provides statutory reservation for women in state legislatures and the union parliament in India. The women's liberation movements are gaining strength day by day.

Justice is a value-loaded term that admits a plethora of definitions by a number of writers to connote various things. It could mean unbiased treatment, absence of discrimination, denial of special privileges to select few individuals and groups, equal treatment to all and sundry, affirmative action or even legal justice as administered by courts of law. But eventually it filters down to the precept of Justinian who says "Justice is the constant and perpetual will to render to everyone his due. This suits the socialists who also agree to this approach since it leads to distributive justice of wealth. Familial assets and privileges to everyone in society so that he also gets what others obtain and enjoy it as a human being. But the crux is that women who are raptors of humanity are not getting their due place, both in terms of rights and privileges. One must, therefore, try to find out whether women have attained their rightful position in society. The old refrain that they are the fair sex and better half of men is flattering but does not ensure her anything.¹

Feminist writers are nearly unanimous in stating that man has always been reluctant to treat women as his equal, much less according equal rights to her and for generations treated her as a domestic help to him. Often, she is reviled as the other sex in relation to man, may be for the fulfilment of his sexual desires and serving him as the beast of burden. While compliments continue to keep pouring about her role in the household, in practice she is nothing more than a mere child bearer. Even an enlightened writer like Aristotle would not be kind to her and said, "the female is female by virtue of a certain lack of qualities. We should regard the women's nature as suffering from natural defectiveness² and if these are the views of a celebrated writer like Aristotle, there is little wonder if Mussolini assigns her three Cs viz., Church, Children and Cooking. Nothing more is needed to add to the disparagement and devaluation of women as a human species. Such people will never provide equal sonic! rights and status to women.

Hindu scriptures place her on an elevated pedestal. She is accorded a very high and exalted status by being compared to goddesses such as Sita, Lakshmi, Saraswati and Kali in terms of purity, chastity and religiosity and without her performance of religious rites, rituals and practices, would also remain incomplete. The terms Ram and Sita, Shiv and Parvati, Vishnu and Laxhmi, Krishna and Rukmani indicates her high status as the Consort of the Almighty. In the words of Suma Chitnis "Unlike Christianity, Judaism or Islam, the image of God in Hindustan is not exclusively male. The female complements and completes the male."³ Only the Hindu religion accords a reverential place to the female consort of God. In a Hindu family, Woman is at once a goddess and a slave, a saint and strumpet.

Despite all praise and earthly embellishment women continue to be treated shabbily in the present world. The traditional family subjects her to triple slavery of her father during lurk infancy and childhood, of her husband's after marriage and the son who looks after her during her widowhood. In practice this constant shadowing of women defies description. In co-educational schools and alleges she has to suffer the ogling of male students and on the street, wayside Romeos try to take liberties with her.⁴ In the words of Vibhuti Singh Shekhawat "This discriminatory sexual dualism and segmentation creates psychic disorders and uncalled for strains in familial relationships whose true basis is conjugality of male female relationship."⁵

Such a distorted image of women shook the conscience of social reformers and human rights groups such as Mahatma Gandhi, Raja Ram Mohan Ray, Swami Dayanand

Saraswati, Jyoti Rao Phule and Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar. They espoused the women's use and stood for their liberation. They preached the notion of equality of sexes and exhorted the males to change their mindset and be fair in dealing with women. They stood against several ills of society such as child marriage, crippling dowry system, the inhuman practice of Sati, the iniquitous practice of polygamy, the feticide of the girl child and opposition to widow remarriage. They wanted parity among sexes and exhorted the women to join active public life by taking up public reuses. No wonder it inspired a large number of women to join the national movement for freedom. Some important names are Annie Besant, Sarojini Naidu, Rameshwari Nehru, Saroj Nalini Dutt, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and Durgabai Deshmukh, to quote a few. This list is only selectively illustrative and is exhaustive. As a matter of fact, the number of women not fully who joined the freedom movement was very large as women took part enthusiastically in every state of India to show their class and mettle. A large number of women laid down their lives in the cause of national freedom but they are least known like the unknown. Soldier whose valour is acknowledged but is scarcely recorded in the annals, which explains why many people do not know about their valorous deeds.

Another reason why women's names do not attract prominence is because these movements were mostly led by well-known celebrated males who took away all credit for espousing the cause of women's liberation.

It is truly said that the happy hunting ground for women has been in politics, which provided them memorable opportunities to stake their claims to leadership. After independence, India has witnessed many famous names among women who threw themselves heart and soul in political movements. Some of them are Indira Gandhi who became the first women Prime Minister of India and the second woman to hold this post in the world after Srimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka. Sucheta Kriplani, Jai Lalitha, Mayawati, Vasundhara Raje and Sheila Dixit became Chief Ministers of states in India. Pratibha Patil reached the acme of glory when she became the first woman to become the President of India. Sonia Gandhi has leadership qualities and she has rejuvenated an almost defunct and politically weakened off Congress. She was offered the post of Prime Minister of India but she refused and chose to remain only the President of the Indian National Congress. Thus independent India has produced a large number of important women leaders who have created a niche for themselves by their own labour and qualities of head and heart. Besides, several women became governors, ambassadors and judges of the highest courts in India including high courts and the apex court of India.

The Indian Constitution too helped in establishing the equality of gender. The Preamble, the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy contain provisions that ensure and establish complete equality of sexes. It bars all kinds of discrimination resting on sex or gender. This explains why women have occupied key positions such as the one of Prime Minister, the governors, ambassadors, ministers and judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. They are well represented in services and in grassroots political institutions such as Panchayats and Nagar Palikas or Nagar Parishads, their representation is as high as thirty to fifty percent. A consensus has emerged among political parties to fix up their percentage in state legislatures and Union Parliament to the tune of thirty three percent of the size of legislatures. The Constitution by prohibiting discrimination on grounds of gender has helped in establishing the feminist identity. There is a constitutional move to amend Constitution and provide statutory reservation for women in state legislatures and the union parliament. President Droupadi Murmu signed the Women's Reservation Bill 2023 (The 106th Constitutional Amendment Bill also known as 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam') on 28 September 2023, and the gazette notification was also published the same day, which made it clear that the reservation will come into force soon after the first delimitation.⁶ The Constitution Amendment Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near-unanimity, with only two members opposing it and was unanimously passed by the Rajya Sabha. The law, however, will be implemented after the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise — redrawing of Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies — will determine the particular seats that are to be reserved for women. The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

The women's liberation movements are gaining strength day by day but this has not made a big difference to the cause of women's amelioration. Equality continues to elude women and they have yet to set over the status of a dependable machine for breeding children, and looking after domestic cores. The irony is that she is compared to the legendary Sita, who was the quintessence of exemplary wifely devotion to her husband Lord Rama. India being a mythologically structured society, created a corpus of images and models which Jerome Bruner called "a range of metaphoric identity."⁷ Male chauvinists are encouraging subservience of women to men by quoting scriptures to inspire in them a spirit of self-sacrifice and self-effacement. This lip-service is no substitute for emancipation.

Commenting on feminist identity and clinical psychologist, Ashis Nand says "Since motherhood is a compensatory mechanism, sty can manipulate und control a woman by forcing to take on her motherly identity whenever earned and a man by forcing him to take on the son's role whenever in crisis. The culture tends to shape critical public relation to fit or exploit that symbolic paradigm."⁸ He refers to a cosmic feminine principle which is dialectic in nature. To quote Ashis Nandy again, "There are two corallines of... cosmic feminine principle... At one plane, he is communally afraid that he may become too independent of the maternal principle of authority, too defiant as a son of the power of cosmic motherhood, and too close to open anger towards his mother. On the other, he is constantly anxious that he will be incorporated by an all-encompassing, powerful mother, lose his autonomy and individuality altogether and be reduced to the 'safe' but ineffective role of a father."⁹

It is believed that earlier men groups and women groups lived in biological ignorance, as innocent as animals in their sexual relations and only the mother- offspring relationship was known and the mothers- knight was the rule. The discovery of man's role in the fathering of children gave a new kind of authority to men beyond their superior physical strength. In the transition from the hunting to the agricultural stage, it became advantageous to men to ensure that the family property was centered in the patriarchal line. Then the double standard of sexual morality was born, and mankind tumbled down the tragic trail of female subjugation on which it has continued to this day. No matter where one looks in history, with but a few exceptions, the same old drama of suppression of women appears.¹⁰

In ancient times women was an object of superstitious taboo, feared for her supposed magical powers, and blamed as the source of dark and evil forces in the world. Similar attitudes were carried into more enlightened cultures. According to the Code of Manu, people were taught that the source of dishonor is woman; the source of strife is woman.....' In Judaic and Christian traditions women was held accountable for man's descent into sin. For this reason, among others, the birth of a son was greeted with rejoicing, while the birth of a

daughter was looked upon as a calamity, and in innumerable instances the unfortunate girl-child was allowed no more than a few moments of life.

Conclusion: Equality as Natural Law

Equality is the rule in the animal and vegetable kingdom but the inequality that exists among the female species is darker. While one finds no ground for superiority in the lower kingdom, how can it become logical for man to make such audacious claims to distinction with regard to his oneself? The male of the animal kingdom does not glory in being male and superior to the female. In fact, equality exists between them and is accepted. Why should then man, a higher and more intelligent species deny and deprive women of this equality that even the animals enjoy?

The truth is that the entire mankind is the creature of one God, and in his estimate, all are equal humans. Man is a generic term applying to all humanity. The biblical statement "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" does not mean that woman was not created. The "image" and "likeness" of God applies to her as well. In Persian and Arabic there are two distinct words, one meaning man and women collectively, the other distinguishing man as male from woman, the female. The first word and its pronoun are generic, collective; the other is restricted to the male. This is the same in Hebrew.

To accept and observe a distinction which God has not made is outright male chauvinism. Till in reality, equality between man and woman is fully established the highest social development of mankind is not possible.

The fact is that she is overburdened by traditional duties. It is called immediate remedial action.¹¹ Women must be made equal partners in decision-making process and let the government take steps to make women's participation a reality.¹²

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Topic

“Agripreneurship in Organic Crops: Problems and Prospects in Mizoram”

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Abstract

Majority of the total population of Mizoram also depends upon the agricultural sector. Realising the prospects of North Eastern Region of India, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India has launched a central sector scheme entitled, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER) in the 12th Plan period. Under this, 6 districts of Mizoram i.e. Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip and Mamit are selected in the state for organic farming. This study attempts to address the issues with integrated framework of the organic farming. It also tries to highlight the concept of Agripreneurship and its life cycle, problems and solution of establishment & registration of organic farms, its policy intervention and prospects, environmental & managerial issues & challenges and strategies in coping with them. The main objective of the paper is to present the growth of agripreneurship in Mizoram, its challenges and hindrances in the development of entrepreneurial endeavour in the state and explore the type of interventions required for its development and essential changes. This study is mainly based on primary data collected from selected districts of Mizoram. The paper also observed that agripreneurship generate growth, create widespread employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in Mizoram.

Key Words: Agripreneurs, organic Farming, Policy Intervention, MOVCD-NER.

1.1 Introduction

Agripreneurship relates to entrepreneurship in agriculture. It is also defined as generally, sustainable, community-oriented, directly-marketed agriculture. Sustainable agriculture denotes a holistic, systems oriented approach to farming that focuses on the interrelationships of social, economic, and environmental processes (Uplaonkar and Birada,2015).An agripreneuris someone who undertakes a variety of activities in agriculture and its allied sectors to be agripreneur and he may start an agro business, change a business direction, acquire a business or maybe involved in innovatory activity of value addition. Normally they are influenced by three factors such as the economic, culture and education of the country (Ravindra and Sweta, 2015).

Thus, it can be said that agripreneurship is synonymous with entrepreneurship in agriculture and it refers to the agribusiness establishment in the agriculture and allied sectors. Agripreneurship is the profitable marriage of agriculture with entrepreneurship. Agripreneurship turns the farm into an agribusiness (Bairwa, et al., 2014).

1.2 Agripreneurs and Organic Crops In Mizoram

Majority of the total population, more than 60 percent of the total population, in Mizoram depends upon the agricultural sector as it is the biggest source of livelihood for rural areas (Economic Survey Mizoram, 2017-18).

Various kinds of crops are grown in Mizoram such as rice, pulses, oilseeds, maize; cultivation in the state is done using Jhumming, WRC and terraced cultivation methods. Various kinds of fruits and vegetables are also grown in Mizoram. As Indian agriculture market is becoming more competitive and qualitative, organic based products from agricultural farmers have more customers, due to more nutritional value, free micro-organism and its freshness. A lead agency called Mission Organic Mizoram (MOM) is formed under State Agriculture Department of Mizoram to develop organic farming. The agency selected six (6) districts initially i.e. Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Mamit, Kolasib, Serchhip and three organic crops- turmeric, ginger and bird eye chilli (Mizo Chilli) are selected for cultivation in those districts.

1.3 Organic farming and Organic Crops

Organic farming system has a long history in India. Organic farming is a method of crop and livestock production that involves much more than choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones which provide attentive care that promotes the health and meets the behavioural needs of livestock. Organic farming is a kind of farming which is based on the principle of maximum production with quality without compromising the soil fertility and the environment.

1.4 History and its development

The concept of organic farming and its importance in the society started its journey in Mizoram since 1996. It was in this year that the Agriculture Department of Government of Mizoram introduced Organic Farming Project and ran a trial at Lungmuat village in

Kolasib District. Since the Organic Farming system solely depends on the use of crop residue, animal manures, green manures, off-farm organic wastes to supply organic manures like neem cake, cel rich, etc. to the needy farmers to supplement their plant nutrient requirement, crop rotation incorporating legumes and use of bio-fertilizers, organic manures, biological pest control to maintain soil productivity.

It was felt that Mizoram, by virtue of very less amount of chemical inputs imported and utilized, has a great scope for successful organic farming. The Mizoram Organic Farming Bill was unanimously passed in July 2004 by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly. The Act 2004 adopts areas to support and regulate organic farming in tune with the National Organic Programme in the state of Mizoram. The adopted areas covers in Mizoram including all except the areas constituted as autonomous districts under the sixth schedule of the constitution of India. To support the organic farming, farm equipment or materials including seeds were provided to the farmers who has taken up organic farming. For the purpose of accreditation of inspection and certification, the accreditation regulations, 2001 under National Organic Programme for organic production was applied.

Realising the potential of north eastern region of India, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare has launched a central sector scheme entitled, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER) in the 12th Plan period. Under Mission Organic Mizoram (MOM), farmers are facilitated to form Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)/ Farmer Producer Companies (FPC), for organic production. Under Mission Organic Value Chain Production (MOVCD), 6 districts of Mizoram i.e. Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip and Mamit are selected in the state for organic farming. The following Table 1 and 2 highlights the selected crops, clusters, farmers, FPO and area covered of MOVCD-NER in the state of Mizoram.

Table 1: Selected crops, Clusters, Farmers, FPO and Area covered of MOVCD-NER (2017-2018)

District	Name of Crops	Number of clusters	No of FPO/FPCs	No of Farmers	Area covered(ha)
AIZAWL	Chilli& Ginger	24	2	484	297
LUNGLEI	Ginger, turmeric, chilli	29	3	968	883
CHAMPHAI	Ginger, chilli, turmeric,	41	4	2132	1146
KOLASIB	Turmeric	17	1	402	295
SERCHHIP	Chilli	12	1	651	369
MAMIT	Turmeric	41	3	1166	1368
Total		181	14	5803	4358

Source: Mission Organic Mizoram, Agriculture Department. Govt of Mizoram.

Table 2: Crops, No. of clusters, FPO in Mizoram (2017-2018)

Sl.No.	Crops	No. of FIG/Clusters	No of FPO/FPC	Area (Ha)	No of Farmers
1	Turmeric	67	4	1496	1376
2	Ginger	40	4	948	1652
3	Chilli	74	6	1914	2775
TOTAL		181	14	4358	5803

Source: Mission Organic Mizoram, Agriculture Department. Govt of Mizoram

1.5 Review of literature

Introduction

In the realm of agripreneurship, a myriad of studies have explored various aspects of agriculture, with a particular focus on organic crops such as Bird's Eye Chilli, Ginger, and Turmeric. These studies collectively shed light on the challenges, opportunities, and transformative potential within the agricultural landscape.

The promotion of Organic Farming entails subsequent persuasions and instructions of farmers. It is noteworthy to mention that Bansal (2011) advocated for the encouragement and education of farmers in organic farming due to its potential in India.

The review of related literature also provides the insight that within the last decade institutional support on organic farming and certification has led to the development and Yadav (2008) in his discussion illustrated the importance of increasing institutional support

and certification of organic farming in India. Menon (2008) also highlighted the need for credible research and development to move organic farming from a niche to mainstream.

Since the last decade, more focus has been given to organic products thereby giving importance to organic agriculture. Pandey and Tewari (2010) argued for the importance of organic agriculture to combat issues like soil infertility and pesticide-related problems. This aspect is further related to the benefits of organic management practices. It may be reflected that Deshmukh (2010) concluded that organic management practices improve soil fertility, conserve water, and reduce environmental degradation.

Presently the consumer demand for locally grown products have increased mainly due to awareness relating to healthy lifestyle and aspiration for longevity, Ikerd (2011) noted the increasing consumer demand for locally grown agricultural products. Similarly, regarding consumer concerns and organic products Ahuja (2015) highlighted increasing consumer concerns about health, quality, safety, and environmental issues in food products.

Further on the issue of marketing and agricultural development Singh (2002) stressed the pivotal role of efficient marketing in the success of agricultural development programs. It may also be remarked that De Lind (2002) highlighted the growing opportunities for agripreneurs driven by consumer preferences for locally grown and value-added agricultural products.

Since agripreneurship is a vast area, it may be stated that there are various challenges to agripreneurship in organic crop marketing, Bhutia (2015) noted the challenges faced by organic farmers or agripreneurs is due to the lack of organized marketing, which often leads to profit losses.

Another big issue relates to importance of certification of organic crops and risk mitigation, For the poor Indian farmers, the complexity involves as well as the risks in organic farming compels them to withdraw themselves from organic farming but Rai (2016) stressed the importance of organic certification to mitigate risks along the organic crops value chain, especially for agripreneurs.

Agripreneurship or entrepreneurship in agriculture has meandered its way slowly and gradually to rural farmers, Sah et al. (2009) highlighted how developing agripreneurs could alleviate various problems in agriculture, including reducing rural-to-urban migration and supporting industrial development in rural areas. Emphasis on agripreneurship and rural-urban linkages have often been mentioned by theorists and researchers and it maybe highlighted that Acharya and Malakar (2015) rightly remarks how agripreneurship enhances productivity, reduces costs, diversifies income, and creates employment opportunities for rural and urban populations.

It is noteworthy that entrepreneurship and risk factors are entwined among rural farmers, but the importance and its contribution towards development for rural areas and the country as a whole cannot be neglected. It also provides impetus to other sectors in the economy thus, Bilgrami (1996) highlighted the unique fusion of culture, profession, and business in agriculture, making it distinct from other sectors. However, Roy and Kuri (1998) pointed out that entrepreneurship is often lacking among local populations, primarily due to high risks and transaction costs. This lack of entrepreneurship slows the growth of local agripreneurs for which large number of Indian farmers still remains poor.

It also maybe noted that the agripreneurship faces numerous challenges, Pandey (1989) emphasized the need for agricultural innovation in the face of numerous challenges. These included insufficient irrigation facilities, financial shortages, high irrigation duties, expensive fertilizers, and unreliable electricity supply. Additionally, a lack of knowledge about development programs, government bias, and complex loaning systems further hindered agricultural promotion.

The quality and marketing are closely inter related and Pruthi (1998) underscored the importance of preserving the quality of agricultural products, especially Bird's Eye Chilli. The condition in which products reach the market significantly influences their pricing. Paswan (2000) also discussed the policy changes that made Indian agriculture globally competitive, also emphasize the need to reduced subsidies and improved pricing policies. It may thus be assumed that the good qualities of agriculture produce creates better marketing facilities.

Although there are many challenges in ginger marketing, one of the main challenges regarding ginger marketing seems to lie in the rising cost of transportation, lack of ware housing and inadequacy of processing unit. Saini and Bhati (2001) delved into the constraints faced in ginger marketing in Himachal Pradesh, including costly transportation and limited warehousing and processing facilities. A.K. Saini et al. (2001) further discussed issues such as non-payment of sale proceeds, transportation problems, and inadequate market information.

In the process of changing scenario of demand for organic products in the country, it maybe stated that the agribusiness have also witnessed various changes and adapting to changing markets is crucial for agripreneurs, So Boehje et al. (2011) observed that agri-entrepreneurs must adapt to changes in consumption, products, distribution systems, and technologies.

Further, developing entrepreneurial skills of farmers is essential and Gerard (2013) stressed the need for farmers in Europe to acquire entrepreneurial skills to stay competitive.

In pursuing development in agriculture business, it should be noted that there are many challenges to overcome. Gajendra (2013) identified challenges in agricultural business, including the lack of new technology, unpredictable weather, pesticide effectiveness, water management, and financial loan distribution.

It may also be mentioned that communication strategy for organic farming plays avital role and Rajagopala (2014) advocated for an effective communication strategy to support organic farming development.

However there are many challenges in remote areas, especially in the state of Mizoram. Lalzirliana (2004) described how transportation challenges led to varying agricultural prices in different villages of Mizoram. Despite rich untapped resources, transportation bottlenecks hindered agricultural marketing in isolated areas.

On the other hand, neglected vegetable marketing seems to be one of the main factors that causes financial loss for farmers. Siddique (2007) pointed out the neglect of agriculture marketing, particularly for vegetables, and its detrimental impact on rural-to-urban marketing.

However it should be noted that the world focused on sustainable and profitable agricultural business. Ikerd (2008) stressed the importance of labeling agricultural products accurately to ensure consumers pay a fair price, supporting ecological integrity and economic gain.

Although there are many limitations in the growth and development of agricultural products. Yet it maybe assumed that Organic Producers maybe encouraged by enhancing their income through enhancing income through marketing. Kurian (2007) shared insights from Kerala, where marketing activities boosted farmers' income through farmer markets facilitated by a council.

Simultaneously, it may be stated that technology and agriculture development in the North eastern states of India are at a slow progress. In this context, it is worthy to mention that Saikia (2008) attributed low agricultural development in northeast states to mismanagement and inadequate technology intervention

Some of the main problems of Indian farmers are lack of credit and shortage of finance for their farm. The similar problems poses huge challenges for agripreneurs of Mizoram, thus affected the local farmers and Lalthanthuami (2007) highlighted the financial challenges faced by Mizoram's farmers and stressed the need for concrete actions to improve agricultural product marketing.

Creating a global ambience amongst consumers and producers expands the scope of development for both the organic crops consumers and producers. It is commendable that Elliot (2013) pointed out the opportunities for agri-entrepreneurs in developing countries to cater to consumers in developed nations who are willing to pay more for sustainable products.

1.6 Conclusion

In conclusion, the literature on agripreneurship and organic crop marketing underscores the multifaceted challenges, opportunities, and transformative potential within the agriculture sector. It highlights the critical role of entrepreneurship, technology, marketing infrastructure, and consumer awareness in shaping the future of sustainable agriculture. Further it illustrates building a strong framework that connects the consumers and producers in order to enhance social connectivity, and thereby promote the income of the agripreneurs. This structured narrative provides a coherent overview of the literature on agripreneurship and organic crop marketing, allowing readers to follow the story of challenges, solutions, and the evolving landscape of agricultural entrepreneurship.

1.7 Research Gap

From review of the past studies, it is possible to know that studies have been undertaken by various scholars relating to agriculture enterprise or agripreneurship at international, national, regional and even district level, but limited studies on agripreneurship have been found relating to backward and hilly regions like Mizoram.

1.8 Significance and Scope of the Study

Based on review of literature, it is possible to identify that though various studies has been conducted in entrepreneurship but most of them addressed only one or few dimensions of entrepreneurship in Agriculture and allied sectors. None of them adopted integrated approach to study the entrepreneurship in agriculture and its allied sectors. Moreover considering Mizoram, it is difficult to find studies based on the primary data to get integrated picture of entrepreneurship in Agriculture and allied sectors in Mizoram. Therefore, the need to address various issues related to agripreneurship in Mizoram arises.

This study attempts to bridge the gap by addressing the issues with integrated framework whereby concept of entrepreneurship and its life cycle, its policy intervention and prospects diversification issues, entrepreneurs problems and prospects and benefits and opportunity cost of organic farming will be addressed simultaneously from the data collected from the agripreneurs of Mizoram.

- i. This study shall try to bring out the present status of agripreneurship in Mizoram. This can be supportive for government involvements and for entrepreneur to start their own enterprises in agriculture and its allied sectors;
- ii. It also tries to understand the challenges and hindrances which work as barriers in the development of entrepreneurial endeavor in the agripreneurship in organic farming
- iii. The study shall pave the way for promoting issues like what type of interventions will be required for the government for development of agripreneurship, and also what changes are essential to hasten its developmental processes.

1.9 Statement of the Problem

The special contribution that entrepreneurship can make towards uplifting a backward region like Mizoram is the creation of employment opportunity for jobless youths and providing sustainable livelihood for the population. The government is taking a number of initiatives- starting with educating the entrepreneurs, running motivational campaigns, providing trainings, giving finance, arranging for raw materials, managing technologies, extending marketing helps, granting subsidies, etc. in order to give a boost to entrepreneurship development in different parts of the country. It becomes imperative for the researcher to know the exact status of agripreneurs in Mizoram and the problems they are facing? What types of interventions have been done and will be done from the government or NGO

or any agency to improve their conditions? Finally what suggestions can be provided in solving their problems? Thus, it is necessary to find out what are the problems being faced by the agripreneurs in Mizoram and why they are still very backward as compared to other states in India.

1.10 Objectives of the Study

The purpose is to study the Agripreneurship and allied sectors in Mizoram. This paper focus on the following objectives:

- i. To examine the policy intervention and support for organic farming in Mizoram;
- ii. To examine the growth and performance of selected agripreneurs;

1.11 Research Methodology

1.11.1 Type and Sample of the Study

This study is empirical study, mainly based on primary data collected from 6 (six) selected districts i.e. Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip, and Mamit districts.

The study include 558 respondent agripreneurs, by taking at least 42 agripreneurs from the six districts of Mizoram, At present, there are 14 FPO/FPCs under MOM (Mission Organic Mizoram). But only seven (7) of them function properly. The total numbers of farmers or agripreneurs who are enrolled under Mission Organic Mizoram are 5803 in 2017-2018; as such 588 farmers are selected from the total farmers under simple random sampling method. At the same time, every possible effort is made to represent all the clusters of the selected organic crops while selecting the respondent agripreneurs under simple random sampling method.

1.11.2 Sources of Data

This study rely on data collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data are collected directly from the selected agripreneurs by providing them with structured questionnaire and through personal interview as well as personal observation. Secondary data shall be collected from reports, journals, books, documents, published reports of government and semi-government bodies and the internet.

1.11.3 Tools for Analysis

For analysis and interpretation of data, appropriate statistical tools shall be used for drawing inferences of the proposed study.

2.0: Socio Economic Profile of Agripreneurs

This study mainly analyses Socio Economic Profile of Agripreneurs from the six districts in terms of Age, Educational Qualification, distribution of organic farmers in districts, their educational qualification, and monthly income of the household.

2.1 Age of the Agripreneurs

The Age of the Agripreneurs from districts ranges from below 30 to Above 80, where the age of the agripreneurs are classified into different category. Each district has a different distribution of agripreneurs across age groups.

Table 3: Present Age of the Agripreneur

District		Below 30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	Above 80	Total
Aizawl	Nos	2	20	15	24	19	0	0	80
	%	2.5	25.0	18.8	30.0	23.8	0	0	100
Lunglei	Nos	3	20	29	12	14	2	1	81
	%	3.7	24.7	35.8	14.8	17.3	2.5	1.2	100
Champhai	Nos	6	27	41	25	17	5	0	121
	%	5.0	22.3	33.9	20.7	14.0	4.1	0.0	100.
Kolasib	Nos	3	9	12	12	16	2	1	55
	%	5.5	16.4	21.8	21.8	29.1	3.6	1.8	100
Serchhip	Nos	2	10	19	18	5	0	0	54
	%	3.7	18.5	35.2	33.3	9.3	0.0	0.0	10
Mamit	Nos	8	39	34	47	25	7	0	160
	%	5.0	24.4	21.3	29.4	15.6	4.4	0.0	100
Total	Nos	24	125	150	138	96	16	2	551
	%	4.4	22.7	27.2	25	17.4	2.9	.4	100

Source: Field Survey

The Table 3 shows a distribution of agripreneurs based on their present age across different districts, and the number of agripreneurs falling within specific age categories, ranging from Below 30 to above 80, for each district.

Aizawl, the capital district, exhibits a fairly balanced distribution of across age groups, with the highest concentration 24(30 percent) falling in the 50- 60 age group. Lunglei district shows a diverse pattern, with the largest proportion 29(35.8 percent) farmers falling in the 40-50 age category..Champhai district highlights a somewhat uniform distribution across age groups, with 27 (22.3 percent) farmers in the age group 30-40 and 41(33.9 percent)farmers in the age group 40-50 ranges accounting for the highest proportions. In Champhai district, the highest proportion is in 40 - 50 age group Kolasib district's data shows a unique trend. The population is notably skewed towards the 50-60 and 60-70 age categories, constituting a significant portion 12 (21.8 percent) and 16(29.1 percent respectively).in case of 30-40 age group there are 9(16.4 percent) and below 30 age group there are only 3(5.5 percent). The highest proportion is seen in 60-70 age group. Serchhip district follows a similar pattern to Aizawl, with the majority of 19 (35.2 percent) falling in the 40-50 age range. Notably, the 50-60 age group is also prominent 18(33. percent), while the percentages decrease for younger and older. Mamit district shows a consistent pattern across age groups, with relatively balanced proportions. There are 8(5 percent) farmers in age group Below 30, while 39(24.4 percent) in 30-40 age group and 34(21.3 percent) farmers in the age group 40-50 , and the highest proportion is in 50-60 age group presence of 47(29.4 percent) farmers , in 60 -70 Age group there are 25(15.6 percent) indicating a mix of middle-aged and older agripreneurs.

Considering the data from the table 3, the data indicates that the 30-60 age group is the most prominent among agripreneurs across districts, comprising around75 percent of the total. This suggests a relatively balanced generational representation among agripreneurs, which can contribute to a diverse and sustainable agricultural sector.However, it's essential to monitor and promote younger agripreneurs to ensure the sector's continued vitality and innovation.

2.2 Educational Qualification of Agripreneurs

This section highlights the educational qualification distribution of agripreneurs in different districts in Mizoram. The educational background of farmers are classified in the form of Illiterate, Literates. High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC), Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate (HSSLC), College and University.

Table 4 Educational Qualification of Agripreneurs

Name of district		Illiterate	Literate	HSLC	HSSLC	College	University	Total
Aizawl	Nos.	1	62	9	6	2	0	80
	%	1.3	77.5	11.3	7.5	2.5	0.0	100
Lunglei	Nos.	3	56	13	6	3	0	81
	%	3.7	69.1	16.0	7.4	3.7	0.0	100
Champhai	Nos.	7	84	14	15	1	0	121
	%	5.8	69.4	11.6	12.4	.8	0.0	100
Kolasib	Nos.	3	31	16	3	2	0	55
	%	5.5	56.4	29.1	5.5	3.6	0.0	100
Serchhip	Nos.	0	27	6	17	4	0	54
	%	0.0	50.0	11.1	31.5	7.4	0.0	100
Mamit	Nos.	7	99	24	18	11	1	160
	%	4.4	61.9	15.0	11.3	6.9	.6	100
Total	Nos.	21	359	82	65	23	1	551
	%	3.8	65.2	14.9	11.8	4.2	.2	100

Source: Field Survey

Note: Illiterate: Person who could not read nor write

Literate: Person who could read nor write

HSLC: High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC)

HSSLC: Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate (HSSLC)

College: BA or Any Graduate

University: Post Graduate of any courses.

This table 4 shows the distribution of education qualification of agripreneurs in different districts. Across all districts, the majority of agripreneurs out of 551 agripreneurs, 359(65.2 percent) are literates. With literacy rates ranging the highest in Aizawl district where there are 80 agripreneur and 62(77.5 percent) are literate. In Champhai District, 84(69.4 percent) out of 121 agripreneurs are literate, while Lunglei district is having 56(69.1 percent) out of 81 agripreneurs. And Mamit literacy percentage of agripreneurs is 99(61.9 percent) out of 160 agripreneurs. Kolasib is having 31(56.4 percent) literacy out of 55 agripreneurs in the district, and Serchhip District came last with 27(50. percent) out of 54 agripreneurs in the district.

The percentages of illiterate agripreneurs is relatively low 21(3.8 percent), ranging in ascending order as lowest in Serchhipdistrict 0 percent follows by Aizawl district 1(1.31 percent) , Lunglei district (3.7 percent) and Mamit is 7(4.4 percent) , Kolasib 3(5.5 percent) and highest illiteracy percentage is in Champhai district with 7(5.8 percent.) .

The most common education qualification among agripreneurs is HSLC (High School Leaving Certificate), with 82(14.9 percent) in total district. The highest proportion is in Kolasib district with 16 (29.1 percent) and the lowest proportion is in Serchhip district with 6(11.1percent) .

Another most common qualification is literate and the highest proportion is found in Lunglei district 56(69.1percent) and the lowest proportion in Serchhip district 27(50percent). But, the average percentage of agripreneurs across all districts who have completed HSLC or higher education is approximately 171(31.03 percent) out of 551 agripreneurs.

Literacy rates vary across districts, with some districts having room for improvement. While HSSLC holders are present in varying percentages across districts, indicating an interest in higher education. The proportion of college-educated agripreneurs is generally low across all districts. There's a potential opportunity to promote higher education and skill development to empower agripreneurs with innovative and sustainable practices.

2.3: Type of Dwelling of Agripreneurs

This section highlights the type of dwelling of agripreneurs from the six (6) districts. The type of dwelling maybe categorises as Thatched, Assam Type, Cement Concrete, Others.

Table 5: Type of Dwelling of Agripreneurs

District		Thatched	Assam Type	Cement Concrete (RCC)	Others	Total
Aizawl	Nos	3	67	9	1	80
	%	3.8	83.8	11.3	1.3	100
Lunglei	Nos	5	66	8	2	81
	%	6.2	81.5	9.9	2.5	100
Champhai	Nos	6	103	12	0	121
	%	5.0	85.1	9.9	0.0	100
Kolasib	Nos	1	47	7	0	55
	%	1.8	85.5	12.7	0.0	100
Serchhip	Nos	1	43	10	0	54
	%	1.9	79.6	18.5	0.0	100
Mamit	Nos	13	130	17	0	160
	%	8.1	81.3	10.6	0.0	100
Total	Nos	29	456	63	3	551
	%	5.3	82.8	11.4	.5	100

Source: Field Survey

The Table 2.11 shows the distribution of types of dwelling in different districts. The districts are Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip, and Mamit. The four types of dwelling are Thatched, Assam type, Cement Concrete (RCC), and Others. From the provided data on the types of dwellings of agripreneurs across different districts are as follows:

Totally there are 29 (5.3 percent), Thatched dwellers and many resides at Assam Type - 456 (82.8 percent) while Cement Concrete (RCC) –dwellers are 63 (11.4 percent), and person who dwells in Others are -3 (0.5 percent) The majority of agripreneurs across all districts seem to reside in Assam-type houses, which is a positive indicator of a more stable and durable housing option compared to thatch.

The use of Cement Concrete (RCC) houses is also notable, although it's not as prevalent as Assam-type houses. Thatched dwellings are relatively less common, but they still make up a small percentage of the housing types. "Others" category seems to have very low representation across all districts.

It appears that the majority of the households in all districts have Assam type or cement concrete dwellings. The district with the higher percentage of Assam type dwellings is Champhai district with 85.1 percent, while the district with the highest percentage of cement concrete dwellings is with 18.5 percent in Serchhip district.

The district with the highest percentage of thatched dwellings is Mamit with 8.1 percent, followed by Lunglei with 6.2 percent. The other category is the least common, with a total of 3 households across all districts. It is important to note that the distribution of dwelling types may have implications for issues such as housing quality, durability, and vulnerability to natural disasters

2.4 Annual Production

This section mainly analysed the farmers from the six districts in Mizoram, current annual production value (in Rupees).

Table 6: Annual production of agripreneurs

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	The annual production at the time of starting the business in market value (Rs.)	37672.9454	549	46351.33389	1978.22672
	The annual production? current year in market value (Rs.)	54704.6557	549	86584.62932	3695.34193

Paired Samples Test								
	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	-17031.71	68187.47	2910.17	-2748.16490	-11315.25	-5.852	548	.000

The average production at the time of starting the business was Rs. 37673 approx. and the current annual production was averaged at Rs. 54705 approx. in market value. A paired comparison t-test was run between initial and current production to statistically signify the difference between the two observations. It was found that there is a very significant difference between the initial and current production ($t=-5.853$, $p=.000$). This implies that there is a significant growth in production.

2.5 Opportunities of Agripreneur in Mizoram

The North Eastern Region of India provides scope and opportunity for organic farming due to least utilization of chemical inputs. It is estimated that 18 million hectare of land is available in north east, which can be utilised for organic farming.

Organic farming is highly beneficial for small farmers as the production cost is lesser and at the same time, it improves the soil fertility and reduces reliance on fertilizers and thus results to reduce minimal cost of production.

2.6 Challenges of agripreneur in Mizoram

- (i) There is inadequacy of retail presence in organic products
- (ii) Lack of awareness among the people, producers or consumers about the importance of organic food
- (iii) Lack of proper arrangement of market for organic food producer at village and district level.
- (iv) Absence of Marketing Linkage and net working
- (v) Lack of number of trained staff for extension work in villages is a prerequisite for the success of organic farming.
- (vi) Absence of Storage and quality control centre at village level
- (vii) Absence of consistent partners in distribution of organic products.

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Topic

“Studies of Selected Water Quality Parameters of River Adri at Surya Mandir Ghat Aurangabad Bihar”

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Abstract

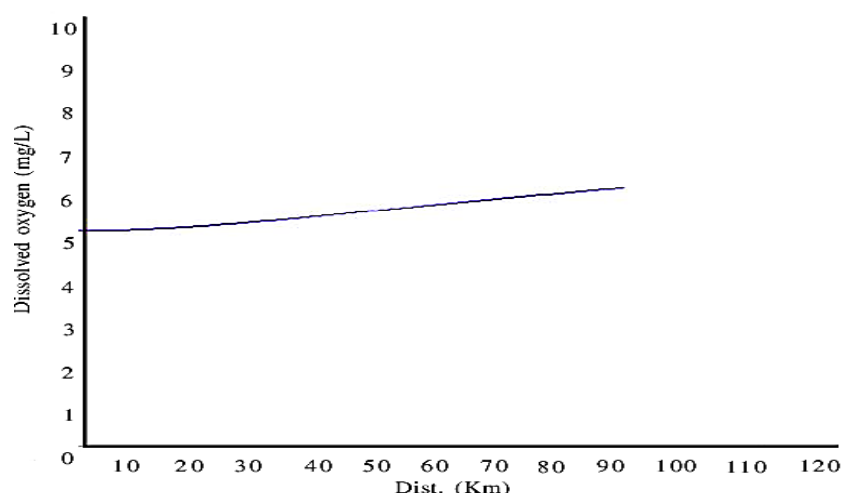
The water quality index (WQI) model is a popular tool for evaluating surface water quality. It uses aggregation techniques that allow conversion of extensive water quality data into a single value or index. Globally, the WQI model has been applied to evaluate water quality (surface water and groundwater) based on local [water quality criteria](#). Since its development in the 1960s, it has become a popular tool due to its generalised structure and ease-of-use. Commonly, WQI models involve four consecutive stages; these are (1) selection of the water quality parameters, (2) generation of sub-indices for each parameter (3) calculation of the parameter weighting values, and (4) aggregation of sub-indices to compute the overall water quality index. Several researchers have utilized a range of applications of WQI models to evaluate the water quality of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and [estuaries](#). Some problems of the WQI model are that they are usually developed based on site-specific guidelines for a particular region, and are therefore not generic. Moreover, they produce uncertainty in the conversion of large amounts of water quality data into a single index.

Key Points: water quality index (WQI) Surface water quality Water quality parameters Sub-index Aggregation function Model uncertainty and sensitivity

Introduction

Water samples have been collected from a part of Adri River along different points and analyzed for various water quality parameters during dry and monsoon periods. Effects of industrial wastes, municipal sewage, and agricultural runoff on river water quality have been investigated. The study adri River, which is significant due to the presence of major industries- mill and a factory. This study involves determination of physical, biological and chemical parameters of surface water at different points. The river was found to be highly turbid in the monsoon season. But BOD and fecal coliform concentration was found higher in the dry season. The water was found slightly acidic. The mean values of parameters were Conductivity 84-805 μ s; DO: dry-5.52 mg/L, monsoon-5.72 mg/L; BOD: dry-1 mg/L, monsoon-0.878 mg/L; Total Solid: dry-149.4 mg/L, monsoon-145.7 mg/L. A model study was also conducted and values of different model parameters were estimated.

Sample No.	Fe (ppm)		Pb (ppb)		Cr		Zn		Cu	
	Monsoon	Dry	Monsoon	Dry	Monsoon	Dry	Monsoon	Dry	Monsoon	Dry
1	0.90	0.28	13	13	38	38	2.59	843.8	4.2	4.2
2	1.10	0.31	13	13	38	39	3.43	1212.2	4.2	4.2
3	1.64	0.33	13	13	36	40	3.37	961	4.2	4.2
4	2.37	0.45	13	13	38	38	4.58	1310	4.2	4.2
5	3.16	0.30	13	13	38	39	6.77	1443.1	4.2	4.2



Water pollution is an acute problem in adri river since long time. The quality of river water as determined by its physical and chemical constituents is of great importance in determining its suitability for a certain use such as public water supply, irrigation, industrial application etc., The detailed survey of river revealed that small areas as well as large areas which fall in the way of river, dump and toxic wastes in the river. This

has caused severe pollution in the river to the extent that its water is posing threat to the survival of aquatic flora and fauna. Anthropogenic activities like discharge of sewage effluents, wastewater from houses, toxic metals as well as metal chelates from different sources and also indiscriminate use of heavy metal containing fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture resulted in deterioration of water quality rendering serious environmental problems posing threat to human beings and sustaining biodiversity (Lantzy and Mackenzie, 1979; Nriagu, 1979; Ross, 1994). Singh and Rai (2003) studied the impact of the industrial effluents and domestic sewage on river adri at Aurangabad and reported that all the pollution parameters are beyond the permissible limits and unfit for human consumption. One (2004) studied the pollution potential of River contaminated heavily by the discharge of various industrial effluents.

Discussions

pH :-

The pH is one of the most important factors which influence aquatic life of any water body. The pH is generally affected by organic and inorganic solutes present in water. In the present study, pH ranges from 8.1 to 8.4 in pre-monsoon & 7.3 to 8.2 in post-monsoon seasons at site I. At site II, pH ranges from 8.4 to 8.7 in pre-monsoon, & 6.8 to 7.3 in post monsoon seasons. It has been seen that pH values are higher in summer than other seasons. Maximum values of pH during summer may be due to increased photosynthesis of the algal blooms resulting in the precipitation of carbonates of calcium and magnesium from bicarbonates.

Electrical conductivity (EC)

The electrical conductivity is a measurement of capability of water to transmit electric current in water bodies. It represents the total concentration of soluble salts/mineral salts in water, thereby making it sour and unsuitable for drinking. In the present study, the EC varies from 431-453 μ mho/cm in pre-monsoon & 416- 427 μ mho/cm in post-monsoon seasons at site I. At site II, 505-532 μ mho/cm in pre monsoon & 497-514 μ mho/cm in post-monsoon seasons. The narrow variation of EC can be due to the existing lithology of the region of the River Adri.

Alkalinity

It is the quantitative capacity of water sample to neutralize a strong acid to a pH Increase dilution of river water may be responsible for lower values of alkalinity in rainy seasons. In the present investigation, the alkalinity at site I ranged between 177-185mg/l in pre-monsoon season and 166 - 171mg/l in post monsoon seasons. The values at site II ranged between 197-203mg/l in pre-monsoon and 184- 193 mg/l in post monsoon seasons. Alkalinity at the two sites was above the desirable limit prescribed for drinking water which is 120mg/l . The high value of alkalinity indicates the presence of weak and strong base such as carbonates, bicarbonates and hydroxides in the water body . The high values of alkalinity may also be due to increase in free carbon dioxide in the River adri which ultimately results in the increase in alkalinity at site I & site II.

Total Solids (TS)

TS have great implications for the control of biological and physical wastewater treatment processes. The largest amount of total solids adds to the highest turbidity and EC value in the river water. TS at site I varied from 817-943mg/l (pre-monsoon period) and 615-672mg/l (post-monsoon period). At site II ranged between 947-976mg/l (pre-monsoon) and 598-621mg/l (post-monsoon period). The measurement of TS can be useful as an indicator of the effects of runoff from urban and agricultural areas. The increased TS was attributed to soil erosion in the nearby catchment and massive contribution of suspended solids from domestic effluents or local sewage.

Hardness

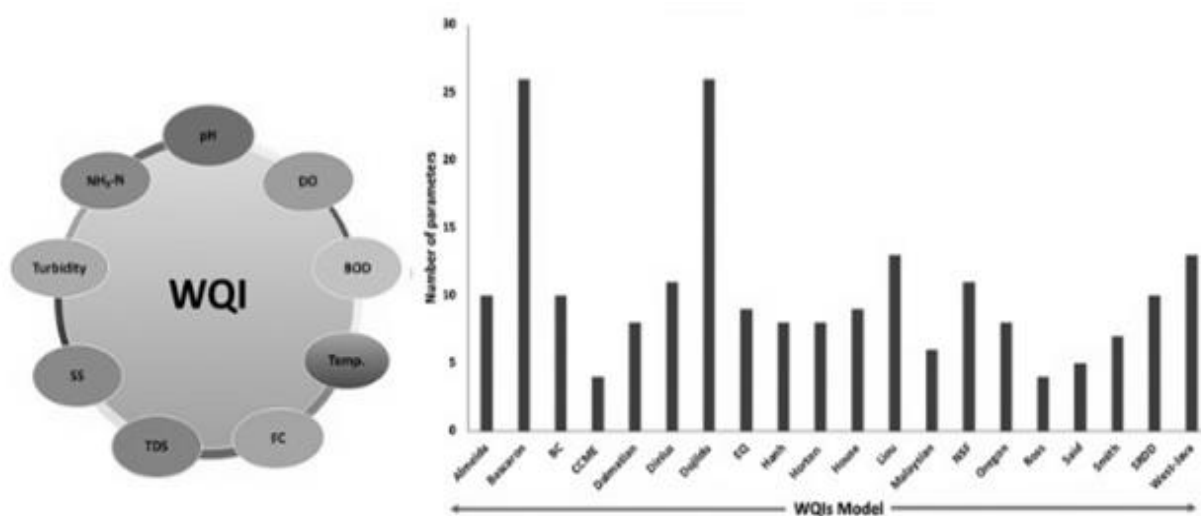
In general, hard water has no known effect on human health but is unsuitable for domestic uses. Hardness mainly depends upon the dissolved salts present in water. Hard water is water that contains high levels of dissolved calcium, magnesium and other mineral salt such as iron. High amount of dissolved minerals in the water causes more the water hard. Hard water is safe for drinking, cooking and other household uses, but it can cause problems. Hardness of water is due to the concentration of multivalent metallic ions of calcium and magnesium. In the present study, it is found that hardness ranges from 168mg/l to 172mg/l (premonsoon period) and 161-165mg/l (post-monsoon period) at site I. At site II, ranges from 189 mg/l to 198mg/l (pre-monsoon period) and 131-153mg/l (postmonsoon period). The trend of variation is non-uniform at all the sites. The hard water causes health effect on digestive system and forming of calcium oxalate in urinary bladder. The water hardness on selected study sites of River adri was higher during summer months which might have caused increased concentration of salts by excessive evaporation. In Table, Classification of Hard Water is shown.

S. No.	Concentration as CaCO ₃	Indication
1	0 to 60 mg/l	Soft water
2	60 -120 mg/l	Moderately hard water
3	120 -180 mg/l	Hard water
4	>180 mg/l	Very hard water

Parameter Selection

Parameter selection is the initial step of the WQI process and considerable variation was determined between models in the type and number of parameters selected and the reasons for selecting them. Table gives a detailed overview of the parameters included in model studies on a model-by-model basis. The most commonly included parameters were temperature, turbidity, pH, suspended solids (SS), total dissolved solids (TDS), faecal coliforms (FC), dissolved oxygen (DO), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and nitrate nitrogen

(NH₃-N). Most of the models employed eight to eleven water quality parameters. A few models used just four which were selected by the user, such as the CCME index, the Roos index and the Said index models



Aggregating Functions

The aggregation process is the final step of the WQI model. It is applied to aggregate the parameter sub-indices into a single water quality index score. Most models have used either additive functions or multiplicative functions or a combination of the two. The different aggregation functions are discussed briefly here.

- Additive functions

Several WQI models (e.g. Horton model, SRDD model, NSF index (earlier version), House index, Malaysian and Dalmatian index models) employed a simple additive aggregation function expressed as

$$WQI = \sum_{i=1}^n s_i w_i$$

where s_i is the sub-index value for parameter i , w_i (which ranges from 0 to 1) is the corresponding parameter weight value and n is the total number of parameters.

- Multiplicative functions

Some models (e.g. the NSF, West Java index and Liou index model) have used a multiplicative aggregation function expressed as:

$$WQI = \prod_{i=1}^n s_i^{w_i}$$

Conclusions

It may conclude that the general characteristics of water from the study area is alkaline in nature with more total solids as well as above saturated with dissolved oxygen. The parameters chlorides are well within the permissible limits of drinking water quality standards. In addition to some selected parameters are slightly higher limits prescribed and not tolerable for household and commercial purposes. Slightly higher Hardness, DO, BOD and MPN values in adri river water is unfit for drinking purpose at selected sites. However, high pH, TS, Hardness, DO, BOD and MPN values suggest purification may be necessary for domestic consumption. Strict legal action should be taken against those who contaminate the River adri by waste dumping or discharges of local effluents.

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Topic

“Dharma Literature and Modern Hindu Marriage- Symmetries and Asymmetries”

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Socio-religious concept of marriage

Marriage has been considered a sacramental union since the Rig Vedic period and has continued to be so till date. Marriage is obligatory for begetting a son, for discharging his debt to ancestors and for performing religious and spiritual duties. Marriage takes place by the performance of sacred rites and ceremonies. The belief in marriage as a sacred bond date back to the Rig Vedic period and has remained an integral part of Hindu tradition throughout history. The sacramental union also implies eternal union; once tied cannot be untied. According to Manu, husband and wife are united to each other not merely in this life, but even after death, in the other world. A passage from Manu Smritiⁱ says “I hold your hand for Saubhagya (good luck) that you may grow old with your husband, you are given to me by the just, the creator, the wise and the learned people. Hindu marriage has been one of the religious ceremonies enumerated in Hindu *Shastras*, Manusmriti and under other Hindu Law text like Yajnavalkya Smriti, Kautilya’s Arthashastra, Puranas, Commentators and Digest Writers etc. With development in society during ancient times, the Customary Law established certain norms for different societies among Hindus for the performance of marriage and some of these customs-norms have been incorporated by the authors, who consolidated Hindu Law as part of ceremonies for solemnization of marriage.ⁱⁱ

Even in modern society the concept of marriage has not changed per se. Parents consider it their responsibility to marry their children. Marriages are most often arranged by parents even in educated and high social status families. Non solemnization of marriage, marital discord, separation or widowhood, for whatever reasons, are social stigmas. Marriage is once in a lifetime event. Thus, marriage is celebrated in a big way by families pouring it their lives’ savings. Though, in modern times, separation, divorce, and remarriages are not uncommon, marriage is still perceived by the vast majority of people as a permanent union. The prescription for marriage is more stringent for women. Girls are going to higher education and professional jobs so as to improve their prospects for marriage. For most women, marriage is essential as it provides economic support, social dignity, and security. After marriage, the wife lives in her matrimonial home (home of husband). She is expected to be respectful and submissive towards her husband and his relatives and accept the prevailing norms. She must never return to the parental home; she visits her parental home only as a guest.

The Hindu Marriage Act (HMA), 1955 is an Act to amend and codify the law relating to marriage among Hindus.ⁱⁱⁱHMA does not recognize marriage as a fundamental right for all Hindus. There are some restrictions on marriage in the presence of mental illness, HMA enlists the conditions for a Hindu marriage and provides various matrimonial reliefs such as restitution of conjugal rights, nullity of marriage, judicial separation, and divorce. Now, to a great extent marriage has become a contract and its sanctity, as a socio-religious institution, has been eroded. It is also evident that the lawmakers were acutely aware that such an Act would have little utility if social values and customs, e.g., child marriages, are ignored. Thus, even though child marriages are prohibited, they do not become void until the society decides so. For the purpose of facilitating the proof of Hindu marriages, there is provision for registration. However, despite the existence of the HMA for almost seven decades, Hindu marriages in India still remain unregistered. However, trends are changing now from last few years.

Dharmasutras and Modern Hindu Marriage

Early Indian text authors like Apastamba, Baudhayana, Katyayana, Gautama, Paraskara, Kautilya, Manu, Yajnavalkya, Narda, Jimutavahana etc., formulated norms by taking into consideration the institution of the Vedas pertaining to the sacrament of marriage so as to maintain social and religious order in a civilized society for the welfare for all. It is through marriage that everything and anything in society is maintained by householders-the man and his wife. The Hindu marriage is thus linked with Hindu philosophy of life. The marriage thus remained indissoluble and eternal union in name of God for more than 2500 years.

Some influences of the Dharmasutras on marriage got reflected in the Modern Hindu Marriage system under legislative enactments in the modified form. The Dharmasutras, which are ancient texts outlining the duties and laws of individuals in Hindu society, have had a significant influence on the modern Hindu marriage system. These texts provide guidelines for various aspects of life, including marriage, and their principles have played a role in shaping modern Hindu marriage practices and legal enactments. For the establishment of this view, some of the points are elaborated below.

According to the Dharmasutras, proper performance of ceremonies of marriage is a condition for a valid marriage. Section 7 of the Hindu marriage Act, 1955 describes the

ceremonies of marriage. The performance of rites and ceremonies according to religious belief (e.g., *saptapadi*) or according to custom or usage has been preserved by the Hindu marriage Act, 1955.

Ancient Indian law codes have strongly opposed the extra-marital relationship. Different types of penalties were prescribed by the ancient law compilers for the offence of adultery. The Hindu marriage Act, 1955, is also against the offence of adultery. Under section 13 (1) (i) of the Hindu marriage Act, 1955, a woman can file a petition for divorce on the ground of adultery.

Though the Sutric law does not provide any specific age for marriage. There is an injunction for men that they should marry on the completion of Brahmacharya. Originally, this is the completion of 25 years. This naturally meant that the bridegroom should be a major. Under the section 5(iii) of the Hindu marriage Act, 1955 the minimum age at the time of marriage for girl is 18 and 21 for a boy. Here the matured age of the bridegroom seems to be suggested from the ancient law codes only.

There is another type of relationship mentioned in the Dharmasutras and that is of *sapinda*. The meaning to *sapinda* is one who has the same *pinḍa* means same body.^{iv} It is interesting to know that Dharmasutras do not mention *sapinda* in discussions of marriage. It is specifically referred to in respect of impurity, funeral offerings and inheritance. Baudhayana Dharmasutra states that *sapinda* relationship extends upto seventh ancestor, that is, it ceases with seventh ancestor. Likewise, Vasistha Dharmasutra^v, Apastamba Dharmasutra^{vi} mention *sapinda* only in terms of death and impurity etc. not for marriage.

The Dharmasutras prohibited the 'sapinda relationship' which extends up-to seven degrees on the mother's side. On the other hand, the Hindu marriage Act, 1955 is also against the marriages between parties of '*sapinda*'. But according to section 3(f) of the Hindu marriage Act, 1955 the extension of the 'sapinda relationship' lowered down to the limits to five degrees on the father's side and three degrees on the mother's side.

Conclusion

Summing up, one can say that with the changing concept of marriage and the rapid erosion of the norms and tenets of the marriage as an institution, it is important that the laws are adhered strictly by the individual and the society. The traditional concept of marriage from vedic period to present times show different colours and shades with some evil hidden practices also in the names of custom like dowry, domestic violence, conflict in families etc. Thus, Hindu Marriage with its various clauses and provisions acts protects the needy also especially women. Moreover, with the new emerging values and beliefs of western influence of social life and other commitments, it is time to rethink, fill the gaps and consider marriage as a sacrament rather than a mere socio-legal contract.

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ⁱManu Smriti VII, 227

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^vVasisthaDharmasutraIV.17-18

^{vi}ApastambaGrhyasutra II.6.15.

Topic

“वैश्वीकरण के बाद भारतीय संघ व्यवस्था में केन्द्र-राज्य संबंध की भूमिका”

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भारत में केन्द्र-राज्य संबंध गठबंधन सरकार की कल्पना स्वर्गीय डॉ० राम मनोहर लोहिया ने की थी। उनका मत था कि केन्द्र या राज्यों में सत्ता पर कांग्रेस का जो एकाधिकार है। वह तभी समाप्त हो सकता है जब विभिन्न राजनीतिक दल जो कांग्रेस के विरुद्ध हैं वे अपने मतभेद भूलकर कांग्रेस के विरुद्ध चुनावी समझौता करें और सरकार भी बनावें। वस्तुतः भारतीय राजनीति में 1967 में हुए चतुर्थ आम चुनावों के पूर्व तक भारत में एक दलीय प्रधानता की स्थिति थी। इस समय तक केन्द्र और लगभग सभी राज्यों में भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस की सरकारें सत्तारूढ़ रही जबकि चौथे आम चुनाव तक भारत में आठ राष्ट्रीय राजनीतिक दल और अनेक क्षेत्रीय अथवा राज्य स्तरीय दल विद्यमान थे। किन्तु 1967 के चतुर्थ आम चुनाव के बाद नौ राज्यों-उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा, उड़ीसा, पश्चिम बंगाल, केरल और मद्रास में कांग्रेस इस स्थिति में नहीं आ पाती की वह अकेले दम पर स्वयं अपनी सरकार बना सके। यहीं से भारत में केन्द्र-राज्य संबंध गठबंधन सरकारों का प्रयोग प्रारंभ होता है।

केन्द्र में गठबंधन सरकार का प्रयोग 1977 में जनता पार्टी की सरकार के साथ प्रारंभ हुआ। कहने को तो जनता पार्टी एक दल था किंतु वास्तव में यह चार दलों का गठबंधन था जो कि कांग्रेस के विरुद्ध जय प्रकाश नारायण की प्रेरणा से जनता पार्टी के रूप में संगठित हुए थे 1980 से 1989 तक केन्द्र में पुनः एक दलीय प्रभुता कायम रही किंतु इस बीच राज्यों में क्षेत्रीय अथवा राज्य स्तरीय दलों का प्रभाव व शक्ति लगातार बढ़ती रही। क्षेत्रीय दलों के प्रभाव विस्तार ने प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय दलों को इतना प्रभावहीन बना दिया कि 1989 के बाद से कोई भी एक दल लोकसभा में पूर्ण बहुमत नहीं प्राप्त कर सका। ऐसे में बाह्य समर्थन से अल्पमत सरकारों के संचालन का चलन आरंभ हुआ जिस कालांतर में मोर्चे और अब गठबंधन की राजनीति का नाम धारण कर लिया है। 1989 में देवगौड़ा के नेतृत्व में व 1997 में इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल के नेतृत्व में संयुक्त मोर्चा सरकारें गठबंधन की राजनीति का तीसरा प्रयोग था। 1998 व 1999 में अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के नेतृत्व में बनी सरकार इस दिशा में चौथा महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास था।

यद्यपि विश्व के कई देशों में बहुत पहले से गठबंधन सरकारों का चलन रहा किंतु भारत के लिए यह नया प्रयोग है जतो संक्रमण कालीन राजनीति के दौर से गुजर रहा है आम चुनावों में लोकसभा में किसी एक दल को पूर्ण बहुमत न मिल पाने की स्थिति में विधि विचारों वाले यहाँ तक कि परस्पर विरोधी विचारों वाले राजनीतिक दलों का एक राजनीतिक गठबंधन में शामिल होना और सरकार बनाना अपने आप में सरकार बनाने व सरकार चलाने का एक अनूठा प्रयोग है। इसे प्राथमिक तौर पर सत्ता परस्ती कहा जा सकता है किंतु इस बात से इंकार नहीं किया जा सकता कि इस प्रयोग ने संक्रमण काल में राष्ट्र को एक दिशा देने व लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों के संरक्षण का महत्वपूर्ण कार्य किया है इसलिए गठबंधन सरकारों के विषय में अध्ययन विशेष रूप से अनिवार्य हो जाता है।

वस्तुतः राजवैज्ञानिक सदियों से राजव्यवस्था के आदर्श तलाशते आये हैं। भारतीय राजनीतिक संदर्भों में इस नवीन प्रवृत्ति का मूल्यांकन हमारे समाज की महती आवश्यकता बन गया है। भारत में गठबंधन की राजनीति की बारीकियों और इसके क्रियान्वयन को तब पूरी तरह से समझा जा सकता जब तक इस सम्यक तथ्यों की जानकारी हो इसलिये भारतीय राजनीतिक व्यवस्था का विकास, भारतीय राजनीतिक व्यवस्था का स्वरूप एवं भारतीय दल प्रणाली के विकास दल पद्धति की विशेषताओं एवं मूल प्रवृत्तियों का अध्ययन है।

भारतीय राजव्यवस्था के वर्तमान स्वरूप के विकास की कहानी भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के इतिहास में सक्रिहित है क्योंकि भारतीय राज व्यवस्था के निरूपण भारतीय गणतंत्र के संविधान का उद्भव एवं विकास एवं निर्माण इसी इतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि पर आधारित है। भारतीय संविधान के विकास की महत्वपूर्ण कड़ी 1858 के अधिनियम से प्रारंभ होती है इस अधिनियम के द्वारा भारत सचिव के सहायतार्थ एक 15 सदस्यीय भारत परिषद् का गठन किया गया। भारतीय सचिव ही इस परिषद् का सभापति होता था। भारतीय शासन

के लोक प्रतिनिधित्व के तत्व के समावेशन हेतु ब्रिटिश संसद ने 1861 का भारतीय परिषद् अधिनियम पारित किया किन्तु इस अधिनियम ने इस तत्व का चुटकी भर समावेश किया था। भारत शासन अधिनियम 1919 के द्वारा प्रशासन के विषयों का दो प्रवर्गों में विभाजन किया गया केंद्रीय और प्रांतीय भारतीय महत्व के विषयों को केंद्रीय प्रवर्ग में रखा गया और प्राथमिक रूप से प्रांतों के प्रशासन से संबंधित विषयों को प्रांतीय वर्ग में रखा गया। प्रांतीय व्यवस्थापन पर गवर्नर जनरल के नियंत्रण को बनाये रखने के लिए व्यवस्था की गई एवं केन्द्र में उत्तरदायी सरकार की स्थापना की गई। 1935 के अधिनियम द्वारा भारत परिषद् को विघटित कर दिया गया कि भारत सचिव अथवा सपरिषद् भारत प्रयोक्तव्य कोई अधिकार निहित होगी।

जब हम राजनीतिक व्यवस्था की ओर संकेत करते हैं तो एक व्यापक अवधारणा की ओर संकेत होता है। जिसमें सभी प्रकार की औपचारिक, अनौपचारिक प्रक्रियाएँ, अन्तः क्रियाएँ, कार्य, संरचनाएँ, मूल्याँ आदि सम्मिलित होते हैं। राजनीतिक व्यवस्था सामान्यतः व्यवस्थाओं को सीमाओं के पार पर्यावरण से तथा परस्पर अन्तः क्रिया करने वाले उन संरचनाओं, प्रक्रिया तथा संस्थाओं का समुच्चय है जिसे राजनीतिक अन्तः क्रियाओं की इकाई या व्यवस्था कहा जा सकता है इस व्यवस्था का निर्माण सार्वजनिक जीवन में भाग लेने वाले उन व्यक्तियों की क्रियान्वयन से किसी प्रकार सम्बद्ध हो। जब हम भारतीय राजनीतिक व्यवस्था को बात करते हैं। तब तक आशय होता है कि शासन का स्वरूप क्या है, उद्देश्य क्या है, नीति निर्माण की प्रक्रिया क्या है, कौन-कौन से तत्व इस प्रक्रिया को प्रभावित करते हैं राज व्यवस्था में जन सहभागिता का स्तर क्या है और जनता के मूल्य दृष्टिकोण और चरित्र का स्वरूप क्या है? इस संदर्भों में जब हम भारतीय राज-व्यवस्था पर दृष्टि डालते हैं तो उसके स्वरूप स्पष्ट होते हैं। भारत में ब्रिटिश संसदीय परंपराओं के आधार पर संसदीय शासन प्रणाली को अपनाया गया है। इसके अंतर्गत संघीय संसद है जिसमें राष्ट्रपति और दो सदन-लोकसभा व राज्यसभा हैं। इनमें लोकसभा को वित्तीय मामलों में सर्वोच्चता प्राप्त है संघ की वास्तविक कार्यपालिका (मन्त्रिपरिषद्) की नियुक्ति दोनों सदनों के सदस्यों से होती है किन्तु यह कार्यपालिका सामूहिक रूप से लोकसभा के प्रति उत्तरदायी होती है आम चुनावों में लोकसभा में बहुमत प्राप्त दल अथवा गुट को ही सरकार बनाने के लिये आमंत्रित किया जाता है और यह कार्यपालिका लोकसभा के विश्वास पर्यंत ही अमन पद बनी रह सकती है। भारत का राष्ट्राध्यक्ष राष्ट्रपति होता है जो संवैधानिक रूप से मंत्रिमंडल की सहायता तथा परामर्श से कार्य करता है। किन्तु वास्तव में संसदीय परंपराओं के अनुसार निर्णय व शासन कार्य मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा लिये जाते हैं। राष्ट्रपति केवल नाममात्र की कार्यपालिका है। भारत में संसद की प्रभुता नहीं है। इसकी शक्तियाँ ब्रिटिश संसद की तरह असीम और अनियंत्रित नहीं हैं। यह लिखित संविधान की सीमाओं के अंतर्गत कार्य करती है। इन सब सीमाओं के कारण संसद के अधिकार तथा क्षेत्राधिकार का स्वरूप तथा विस्तार सीमित हो जाता है।

वस्तुतः भारतीय संविधान निर्माता एक ऐसी संघात्मक व्यवस्था स्थापित करना चाहते थे जो केन्द्रीकृत प्रकृति की ओर झुकी है ऐसा तत्कालीन परिस्थितियों में राष्ट्रीय एकता व अखंडता की आवश्यकता थी यही कारण है कि भारतीय संविधान में संघात्मक व्यवस्था एकात्मकता की ओर प्रवृत्त है। शक्तियों के विभाजन में केन्द्र को अधिक व महत्वपूर्ण शक्तियाँ दिया जाना, समवर्ती सूची पर केन्द्र की प्रधानता, राज्यों में राज्यपालों का केन्द्र के एजेन्ट के रूप में कार्य करता, आपातकाल में संघात्मक व्यवस्था एकात्मक व्यवस्था की तरह कार्य करती है। मार्च 1983 में एक सदस्यीय आयोग की नियुक्ति हुई जिसके अध्यक्ष न्यायाधीश सरकारियाँ थे। इस आयोग ने केन्द्र राज्य संबंधों सुधार के उद्देश्य से जनवरी 1988 में अपना प्रतिवेदन दिया जिसमें केन्द्र राज्यों संबंधों में सुधार के अनेक सुझाव थे। फिर यह समस्या आज भी यथावत् है केन्द्र और राज्यों में टकराव के बिंदु प्रायः राज्यों में अलग-अलग दलों की सरकारें हो तब यह समस्या और भी जटिल हो जाती है।

भाषा का विवाद वस्तुतः प्रारंभ से ही भारतीय राजनीति का एक समस्या बिंदु रहा है। 1950 में संविधान परिषद् ने हिन्दी को राष्ट्रभाषा घोषित किया और यह निश्चय किया गया कि 15 वर्षों के अंदर स्कूलों में अंग्रेजी के बदले हिन्दी माध्यम होगा और केंद्रीय स्तर पर भी हिन्दी का प्रयोग होने लगेगा। किन्तु इस दिशा में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई। 26 जनवरी 1965 को हिन्दी राष्ट्रभाषा तो बन गई लेकिन इस समस्या के लिये एक समिति का गठन किया गया। इसके बाद 23-24 फरवरी 1965 को मुख्यमंत्रियों के एक सम्मेलन एवं कांग्रेस कार्यकारिणी ने दिल्ली में भाषा की समस्या पर विचार किया। मुख्यमंत्रियों द्वारा सरकार से अनुरोध किया गया है कि भाषा समस्या पर विचार करते समय विभिन्न राज्यों के जनता के हितों को ध्यान में रखा जाय।

इस समस्या के समाधान के लिये एक समिति का गठन किया जाय जिसके सदस्य थे-अशोक सेन, चागला, सत्यनारायण सिन्हा, महावीर त्यागी, गुलजारी लाल नन्द और पाटिल। इन्हें यह जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई कि वे राज्य भाषा कानून के लिए उचित संशोधन की रूप रेखा तैयार करें और ऐसा करते वक्त मुख्यमंत्रियों की सिफारिश को ध्यान में रखें। 1967 में संसद के शीतकालीन अधिवेशन में राज्यभाषा विधेयक पारित किया गया जिसमें यह कहा गया कि हिन्दी और अहिन्दी राज्यों में हिन्दी के साथ अंग्रेजी का प्रयोग भी चलता रहे और केंद्रीय सरकार के विभिन्न विभागों में भी यही स्थिति बनी रहे इस विधेयक के साथ ही एक भाषा संबंधी प्रस्ताव भी पारित किया गया जिसमें यह कहा गया था कि उच्च केंद्रीय नौकरियों के लिए अंग्रेजी व हिन्दी में से किसी एक भाषा का ज्ञान अनिवार्य होगा इस संशोधन के विधेयक के पारित किए जाने के बाद भी कोई भी पक्ष संतुष्ट नहीं हुआ। हर तरफ भाषा के नाम पर उग्र आंदोलन प्रारंभ हो गया। इस प्रकार भाषा की भारतीय राजनीति में मतदोहन का एक माध्यम बन गया।

19वीं शताब्दी के पश्चिमीकरण और आधुनिकीकरण के दोहरे प्रभाव से परिवर्तित रूप में प्रकट हो रहा है। भारत में भी क्षेत्रवाद आकस्मिक नहीं बल्कि एक ऐतिहासिक तथ्य है। क्षेत्रवाद को एक बहु-आयामी जटिल अवधारणा राष्ट्रवाद के अंतर्गत निर्मित होने वाली एक प्रक्रिया के रूप में स्वीकार कर सकते हैं। किंतु क्षेत्रीय स्वाभक्तता जैसी भावनाएँ लोगों को उकसाती रहती है। क्षेत्रीय भावनाएँ तब उभरती हैं जब भौगोलिक पृथकता, स्वतंत्र ऐतिहासिक परंपराओं, जातीय, सांस्कृतिक या धार्मिक विविधताओं और आर्थिक या वर्गीय हितों में से कोई दो या अधिक तत्व संयोजित होते हैं। क्षेत्रवाद के उदय के कई उद्देश्य हो सकते हैं। जो निम्न रूप से उल्लेखनीय हैं:-

1. एक राष्ट्र के अंतर्गत विशिष्ट पहचान रखने वाले उप सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रों का पुनर्निर्माण और क्षेत्रीय संस्कृति की पुनः स्थापना।
2. प्रशासकीय राजनीतिक और वित्तीय शक्तियों का विभाजन।
3. दो या दो से अधिक उप सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रों अथवा केन्द्र राज्यों के विवादों के समाधान के लिए उपाय खोजना।
4. राज्य और केन्द्र के बीच आर्थिक साम्यावस्था को बनाये रखना।?

क्षेत्रवाद के उदय एवं विकास में अनेक तत्व सहायक होते हैं ये तत्व प्रायः आपस में जुड़े हुए भी हाते हैं और कौन सा तत्व क्षेत्रवाद को जन्म देता है। कौन इसे बढ़ाने में सहायता करता है। इनमें भौगोलिक सांस्कृति, ऐतिहासिक कारण, धर्मकाल व भाषा की विविधता, आर्थिक कारण प्रमुख रहे हैं। वास्तव में भारत जैसे महान और विविधता पूर्ण देश में अपनाई गई राजनीतिक व्यवस्था और विकास की प्रक्रिया के संदर्भ में क्षेत्रवाद एक अपरिहार्य तथ्य है आर्थिक स्रोतों की कमी और गैर जिम्मेदार राजनीतिक द्वारा राजनीतिज्ञों द्वारा राजनीतिक समर्थन प्राप्त करने के लिए इसका प्रयोग पृथकतावादी लक्ष्यों के लिए किया जा सकता है। इसका वास्तविक संबंध क्षेत्र अथवा समुदाय विशेष के लिए अधिक से अधिक सुविधायें प्राप्त करने के लिए दबाव की राजनीति करना है।

यहाँ भारतीय राजव्यवस्था के संबंध में उन्हीं तत्वों का विशेषोल्लेख किया गया है जो भारत गठबंधन की राजनीति के निर्धारक व निर्णायक तत्व कहे जा सकते हैं। इनके अतिरिक्त राजव्यवस्था की दल प्रणाली से संबंधित तथ्यों का अगले विश्लेषण किया गया है। जैसे-बहुदलीय व्यवस्था का स्वरूप, दल बदल व दल विभाजन, निजी महात्वाकांक्षा की राजनीति आदि। भारतीय राजव्यवस्था के इन तथ्यों की सीढियाँ चढ़कर ही हम गठबंधन की राजनीति के रहस्य का रहस्योदघाटन कर सकते हैं। क्योंकि राज व्यवस्था की बहुआयामी जटिल संरचना के अंतः संबंधों और अंतः क्रियाओं की अनदेखी कर राजव्यवस्था से जुड़े किसी भी प्रश्न के संदर्भ में निष्कर्ष पर नहीं पहुँचा जा सकता है।

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शोध-सार

विभाजन की घटना भारत और पाकिस्तान दोनों देशों की एक बहुत बड़ी जनसंख्या के लिए एक दंश की तरह उनकी स्मृतियों में जीवित है। इस दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण विभाजन पर राजनीतिज्ञों, बुद्धिजीवियों, इतिहासकारों, समाजशास्त्रियों तथा धर्म के ठेकेदारों के अपने-अपने दृष्टिकोण हैं। परंतु धार्मिक कट्टरता आधारित दंगों में अपना सब-कुछ खो देने वाले लोगों के दृष्टिकोण से अवगत होने का प्रयास नहीं किया गया। विस्थापितों की पीड़ा राजनीतिक महत्वाकांक्षा के समक्ष धुमिल हो गई। गुलजार ने स्वयं विभाजन की पीड़ा और उनके दंश को भोगा है। इसलिए इनकी रचना का एक-एक दृश्य जीवंत प्रतीत होता है। गुलजार की रचनाएँ हमें विस्थापित वर्ग की मनोदशा से सीधा साक्षात्कार कराती हैं। विभाजन सीमा के दोनों ओर के लोगों की पीड़ा और संवेदनाओं को गुलजार ने अपनी रचनाओं में चित्रित किया है। दोनों देशों के राजनेताओं, सैन्य अधिकारियों और कट्टर धर्मांधर लोगों पर प्रश्न चिन्ह लगाते हुए गुलजार ने विभाजन से प्रभावित लोगों की पीड़ा को आम जनमानस के समक्ष रखा है।

बीज-शब्द : विभाजन, स्मृतियाँ, त्रासदी, दंश, रिफ्युजी, शरणार्थी, कश्मीर, पाकिस्तान, दंगा, बँटवारा, पीड़ा, बच्चों, मनोविज्ञान, बचपन, लड़ाई, प्रभाव, आदि।

मूल आलेख

हमारे दैनिक जीवन में प्रतिदिन कुछ न कुछ ऐसा घटित होता है जिसे हम देखते हैं पर लिखते नहीं हैं। घटनाएँ जो परोक्ष-अपरोक्ष रूप से सभी को प्रभावित करती हैं। कुछ घटनाएँ ऐसी होती हैं जिससे लाखों लोग प्रभावित होते रहते हैं। कुछ घटनाओं का प्रभाव वर्षों तक बना रहता है और कुछ घटनाओं पर पूरे विश्व की दृष्टि बनी रहती है। देश विभाजन की घटना एक ऐसी ही घटना थी जिसके दुष्प्रभावों को हम आज भी भोग रहे हैं। गुलजार एक ऐसे साहित्यकार हैं जिनकी रचनाओं में हम विभाजन की कटु स्मृतियों और पीड़ा की गहन अनुभूति करते हैं। देश-विभाजन की त्रासदी तथा इसके परिणामस्वरूप उत्पन्न मानवीय पहलुओं को गुलजार ने अपनी कविता, कहानी, गीतों और नज्मों में उकेरा है। अनेक साहित्यकारों ने देश-विभाजन की घटना को अपनी रचनात्मक अभिव्यक्ति दी है। अमृता प्रीतम के 'पिंजर' से लेकर कमलेश्वर कृत 'कितने पाकिस्तान' तक कई साहित्यकारों की रचनाओं में हम देश-विभाजन की पीड़ा का चित्रण देख सकते हैं। जहाँ तक विभाजन पर आधारित रचनाओं की बात है, हम इन रचनाओं को राजनीतिक और मानवीय दृष्टिकोण के अंतर्गत दो भागों में विभक्त कर सकते हैं। जहाँ तक राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण का विषय है, विभाजन एक विवादास्पद विषय रहा है। भारतीय राजनीति में आज भी यह ज्वलंत विषय है। देश-विभाजन के मानवीय पहलुओं पर आधारित रचनाओं का विश्लेषण करने पर पता चलता है कि इसके दुष्प्रभावों से समाज के सभी वर्ग आहत हुए। अनेक साहित्यकारों ने अपने-अपने दृष्टिकोण से मनुष्य के विभिन्न रूपों माता-पिता, भाई-बहन, पति-पत्नी, बुजुर्गों, प्रेमी युगल, आदि रूपों को केन्द्र में रखकर उच्चकोटि के साहित्य की रचना की। इन सभी के मध्य एक वर्ग ऐसा भी था, जो विभाजन के दंश से प्रत्यक्ष रूप से प्रभावी तो था, पर विभाजन के लिए उत्तरदायी परिस्थितियों की उन्हें समझ नहीं थी। यह वर्ग था बच्चों का वर्ग। ऐसा वर्ग जिन्हें राजनीतिक उठापटक की कोई समझ नहीं थी। विरले साहित्यकारों ने ही देश विभाजन के वातावरण और उसके प्रभावों को बच्चों के दृष्टिकोण से देखा। गुलजार की रचनाएँ इसी रिक्त स्थान की पूर्ति करती हैं। इनकी रचनाओं में हम देश-विभाजन की स्मृतियों को संजोया हुआ देखते हैं। गुलजार ने विभाजन की पीड़ा को स्वयं भोगा है। रिफ्युजी कैम्प में उनके परिवार ने शरण ली थी। इसलिए विभाजन की स्मृतियाँ इनकी रचनाओं में जीवंत दिखाई पड़ती हैं। अपने बचपन का स्मरण करते हुए उनकी एक नज्म में ये लिखते हैं –

"हम सब भाग रहे थे
 रिफ्यूजी थे
 माँ ने जितने जेवर थे, सब पहन लिए थे
 बाँध लिए थे...
 मैंने अपनी एक "भमीरी" और एक लट्टू
 पाजामे में उड़स लिया था...
 रात की रात हम गाँव छोड़कर भाग रहे थे
 रिफ्यूजी थे....
 मैंने सरहद के सन्नाटों के सहाराओं में अक्सर देखा है,
 एक ' भमीरी ' अब भी नाचा करती है,
 और इक लाटू अब भी नाचा करता है।"01

इस प्रकार की रचनाएं हमें बाल सुलभ मनोविज्ञान से परिचित कराती है। गुलजार की रचनाओं में हम विभाजन के परिणाम स्वरूप बच्चों की मनःस्थिति का चित्रण देखते हैं। गुलजार का जन्म 'दीना' नामक स्थान में हुआ जो वर्तमान में पाकिस्तान में है। बचपन में ही अपने जन्म स्थान से दूर होने की पीड़ा असहनीय होती है। वह स्थान जहाँ मनुष्य चलना-बोलना सीखता है, ऐसे स्थान से ना चाहते हुए भी दूर जाना पड़े तो यह दशा निश्चय ही करुण होती है। गुलजार की रचनाओं में उनका बचपन दिखाई देता है। उनका दीना दिखाई देता है। विभाजन की कटु स्मृतियों में उनके भीतर का शरणार्थी दिखाई पड़ता है -

"जिक्र झेलम का है, बात दीने की ।
 चाँद पुखराज का है, रात पश्मीने की।
 कैसे ओढ़ेगी उधड़ी हुई चाँदनी
 रात कोशिश में चाँद को सीने की।
 कोई ऐसा गिरा है नजर से कि बस
 हमने सूरत न देखी फिर आईने की।"02

विभाजन की कटु स्मृतियों का दंश, संवेदनाओं का गुलजार ने अपनी नज्मों में उकेरा किया है।

"सेहरा के उस तरफ से गए सारे कारवाँ
 सुन-सुन के सदा-ए-जरस जिये।"03

देश विभाजन की पीड़ा गुलजार की रचनाओं में रह-रह की कसक की तरह उभरती दिखाई पड़ती है। उनका बचपन विभाजन की त्रासदी के मध्य बीता है। गुलजार ने इस पीड़ा और अनुभव को न केवल जिया है अपितु इसके परिणामस्वरूप होने वाले प्रभावों को अपनी रचनाओं की विषय-वस्तु बनाया है। कश्मीर के वातावरण का चित्रण करते हुए वे लिखते हैं -

"कोई आपको ओटल में नेई रक्केगा। फौज को छापा मारने का बाहना मिल जाएगा। पकड़ ले जाएगा ओटल वाले को । मालिक बूढ़ा होगा तो उसको कोई नेई ले जाएगा। उसका जवान बेटा होगा, दामाद होगा, बांजा- बतीजा कोई भी। उसको ले जाएगा। उनकी नजर कश्मीर के नौजवान पर है। सब खत्म करते जाते हैं।"04

कश्मीरी व्यक्ति अपने ही देश में संदेह की दृष्टि से देखे जाते हैं। कश्मीरियों के लिए ना चाहते हुए भी अनमना व्यवहार दिखाना पड़ता है क्योंकि एक सामान्य जनमानस 'इंक्वायरी और आईडेंटिफिकेशन' के झंझट में नहीं पड़ना चाहता। दूसरी ओर कश्मीरियों मुसलमानों के प्रति नकारात्मक धारणा लगातार उपजाई जा रही है। इन्हीं सब कारणों से भी उनमें एक प्रकार की अराजकता का भाव उत्पन्न होता जा रहा है।

"उन्हीं दिनों पापा के ऑफिस में एक रोज एक खूबसूरत नौजवान नौकरी माँगने के लिए आया था। पापा ने कहा - कहाँ से आए हो ? बचारे ने दबी आवाज में बोला - कश्मोर से, कश्मीरी हूँ सर। दंगई नहीं हूँ। टेरिस्ट नहीं हूँ मैं! पापा ने बड़ी नर्मी से टाल दिया। इस वक्त कोई जगह नहीं है। फिर कभी पता कर लेना। पापा झूठ बोल रहे थे।"05

गुलजार ने देश विभाजन के साथ धार्मिक उन्मादी दंगों को अपनी आँखों से देखा है। स्वतंत्र भारत में हुए सांप्रदायिक हिंसा की घटनाओं को भी देखा। धर्म के नाम पर हो रही राजनीति भी किसी से अछूती नहीं है। इस अघोषित युद्ध में आम जनमानस उलझ सा गया है। इन परिस्थितियों का गुलजार कड़ा विरोध करते हुए लिखते हैं -

"जहाँ-जहाँ मजहब की बिच्छू बूटी छू लें
 वहाँ-वहाँ खारिश होती है
 फोड़े फूटने लगते हैं
 पीप निकलने लगती हैं।"06

"अपनी मर्जी से तो मजहब भी नहीं उसने चना था
 उसका मजहब ही था जो माँ बाप से ही विरासत में लिया था -

अपने माँ बाप चुने कोई ये मुमकिन ही कहाँ है
मुल्क में मर्जी थी उसकी न वतन उसकी रजा से
वो तो कुल नौ ही बरस का था उसे क्यों चुन कर
फिर्कादाराना फसादात ने कल कत्ल किया।"07

“अभी कुछ और भी दिल है
कि जिनको बाँटने का, काटने का काम जारी है
वो बंटवारा तो पहला था
अभी कुछ और बंटवारा भी बाकी है! "08

गुलजार की रचनाओं में यथार्थवाद का एक विशिष्ट रूप दिखाई पड़ता है। वास्तविक अर्थों में हम जो देख पा रहे हैं वह यथार्थ नहीं है। वास्तविक यथार्थ इन दृश्यों में छिपा हुआ है। विभाजन के लिए चाहे जो भी परिस्थितियाँ उत्तरदायी रही हों परंतु उसके लिए मुट्ठी भर लोग ही उत्तरदायी थे। अपनी राजनीतिक महत्वाकांक्षाओं के लिए इस विशाल के दो टुकड़े कर दिए गए जिसका दंश आज भी दोनों देशों के लोग भोग रहे हैं। सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में गोलीबारी करने और प्राण त्यागने वाले दोनों ही आम लोग होते हैं, कोई राजनेता नहीं। अपनी राजनीतिक स्वार्थपूर्ति के लिए कुछ लोगों ने इनके दूरगामी परिणामों की चिंता नहीं की जिसका दूष्परिणाम आज चुनावी बनकर हम सबके सामने है।

“इस तरह कड़वी सच्चाई सामने आती है, आज जो लोग बंटवारा चाहते हैं, सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान में होंगे।"09
“कई मुसलमान संस्थाएं इसके खिलाफ हैं।"10

“फिर भी यह हैरतअंगेज वाक्या हमारे सामने है कि जिन लोगों ने पाकिस्तान या बंटवारे का प्रस्ताव पेश किया है ,
उन्होंने अपना मतलब समझाने या उसके नतीजों पर गौर करने से इंकार कर दिया।"11

ये राजनीतिक यथार्थ है जो विभाजन के लिए उत्तरदायी थे। दूसरा यथार्थ है मानवीय यथार्थ, आज जिन्हें हम पाकिस्तानी-हिन्दूस्तानी कहते हैं, एक दूसरे के अपने हैं। दोनों देशों में एक दूसरे के रिश्तेदार रहते हैं। विभाजन के समय में भी इस तरह की परिस्थितियाँ थी कि लोग रहते हिन्दूस्तान में थे पर उनकी खेती-बाड़ी पाकिस्तान में होती थी। सीमाएं अवश्य खींच दी गईं परंतु मानवीयता का विभाजन नहीं हो पाया –

“ऐसी जगहों पर होता है दोनों तरफ से छोटे- छोटे पाँच सात सिपाहियों के दस्ते गश्त करते रहते हैं और अक्सर इतने पास होते हैं कि एक दूसरे का सिगरेट भी जला सकते हैं। इस तरफ के सिपाही अमूमन पंजाबी होते हैं। उस तरफ के अक्सर गैर पंजाबी होते हैं, लेकिन इस तरफ वाले बुला भी लेते हैं – क्यों भई कहाँ के हो?"12

इस तरह की मानवीय दृष्टि हमें गुलजार की रचनाओं में दिखाई पड़ती है, जो अद्भुत है। विभाजन के पूर्व दोनों देशों के फौजी, अफसर आदि एक ही स्कूल, कॉलेज में पढ़ा करते थे। उनमें गहरी मित्रता भी थी। विभाजन के बाद भी भले ही वे राजनीतिक रूप से एक दूसरे के शत्रु हो गए हों , पर क्या उनकी मित्रता, शत्रुता में परिवर्तित हो गई हो गई होगी? नहीं ! देश के प्रति कर्तव्य परायणता और व्यक्तिगत संबंध दोनों भिन्न विषय हैं। दोनों देशों के सिपाही मित्र जब किसी अन्य देश में मिलते होंगे तो यही कहते होंगे –

“हमारी लड़ाई भी कोई लड़ाई है? एवई स्कूल की बच्चों की तरह लड़ते रहते हैं। इसकी बाँह मरोड़ दी। उसका घुटना तोड़ दिया। इसकी सिलेट तोड़ दी, उसकी तख्ती छीन ली। कभी निब चुभो दी। कभी स्याही गिरा दी।"13

यह यथार्थ हमें गुलजार की रचनाओं में दिखाई देता है। विभाजन कुछ स्वार्थी राजनेताओं द्वारा एक थोपा हुआ प्रस्ताव था जो आम जनमानस नहीं चाहती थी। दोनों देशों के बीच सीमा पर जो लड़ाइयाँ होती हैं, उसे अन्य देशों के लोग गंभीरता से न लेकर 'डेली सोप' की तरह देखते हैं। ऐसा लगता है इन्हें लड़ता देख इन्हें आनंद आता है। इस मनोभाव को गुलजार ने एक बच्चों के दृष्टिकोण से चित्रित किया है—

“चाचा, मैं इस तरफ का नहीं हूँ स्यालकोट के आगे घजरा का हूँ।
अच्छा तू घजरा का है। मैंने डाँटकर पूछा – तो यहाँ क्या कर रहा है।

लड़के के आँसू निकल आए और बोला—स्कूल से भाग के आया था, लड़ाई देखने। कैप्टन शाहीन कह रहे थे –
यकीन मानिए , हम दोनों फौजी उसके सामने बेवकूफ मास्टर्स की तरह खड़े थे।"14

विभाजन की घटना और उससे उपजी परिस्थितियों से बच्चों भी अछुते नहीं रहे । उनकी सोचने की क्षमता और उनके मानसिक विकास को विभाजन की हिंसा ने सीधा प्रभाव डाला। डर, चिंता और उत्साहहीनता ने उनके सकारात्मक मानसिक विकास में सबसे बड़ी बाधा बनकर आ खड़ी हुई।

“घर गिर पड़ते हैं ना अब्बू ! फिर हम घर में क्यों रहते हैं ? ” वो तीन साल का था।

“बाहर आग बरसती है ना बेटा, बम जो गिरत है।” बाप ने कहा था।

“कौन गिराता है?"

“वो... गोरे, जो हेजीकाप्टर में आते हैं।”

बम क्यों गिराते हैं?"

“हमारे दुश्मन हैं ना।”

“और क्या?”

“तो हम भी तो उनके पहाड़ों पर बम गिरा सकते हैं?”

“हमारे पास हेलीकाप्टर नहीं हैं ना बेटा?”

“तो कैसे गिरायेंगे?”

“तो फदायेन हैं ना! इसलिए तो फदायेन भेजते है।”

डसे कुछ समझ नहीं आया। इमला होती जा रही थी... फदायेन! एक और लफज उसने अपनी गुल्लक में जमा कर लिया। बड़ा होकर खर्च करेगा।”15

नसीर ने फर्श पर लेटे-लेटे उनसे पूछा-

“क्या दुआ माँग रही थी अम्मी ?”

“अल्लाह से तेरे अब्बा की खैरियत माँग रही थी बेटा।”

नसीर लेटा रहा। आसमान की तरफ देखता रहा। फिर बड़े धीरे से पूछा-

“अम्मी अल्लाह किसकी तरफ है? कि उनकी तरफ ?

फिर मुड़ के देखा, अम्मी जा चुकी थी।”16

ये सब विभाजन की त्रासदियाँ हैं जिसे हम भागने पर विवश है। इससे बड़ी और क्या बात होगी कि हमारे पड़ोसी देश नेपाल जाने के लिए हमें वीजा की आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ती लेकिन अपने ही देश के ही एक हिस्से में जाने के लिए, जो कि लाखों लोगों का जन्म स्थान भी है , वीजा के लिए न जाने कितनी औपचारिकताएं पूरी करनी पड़ती है। जैसे-तैसे वहां पहुंचने के बाद एयरपोर्ट में जो गति होती है उस परिस्थिति के बारे कल्पना कर सामान्य व्यक्ति अपना मन मार कर रहा जाता है। गुलजार की रचनाओं में हम इस पीड़ा का कई स्थानों पर चित्रण हुआ है -

“ये सड़क इसी तरह चलती रहे और कोई गेट कोई रूकावट ना आए , ना कोई वीजा पूछे, ना कोई पासपोर्ट देखे और मैं पाकिस्तान घूम कर आ जाऊँ ! तो क्या लूट लूंगा उस मुल्क का ? लूटने वालीकी ना उस मुल्क में कमी है ना इस मुल्क में। उन्हें बाहर से आने की क्या जरूरत है।”17

गुलजार की रचनाओं में विभाजन जैसा संवेदनशील विषय कविताओं और नज्मों में कटु स्मृतियों के रूप में चित्रित हैं दूसरी ओर इनकी कहानियों में विभाजन के औचित्य पर प्रश्न चिन्ह खड़ा किया गया है।

इस प्रकार हम गुलजार की रचनाओं में देश विभाजन की पीड़ा और उसके प्रभावों को का सजीव चित्रण देखते है। एक उपेक्षा का भाव , घर से दूर होने की मनःस्थिति एवं विभाजन की त्रासदी के मध्य बाल मनोविज्ञान का मार्मिक चित्रण गुलजार अपनी रचनाओं में किया है। गहरी संवेदनाएं, मानवीयता तथा सार्थक विचारां को गुलजार ने एक सूत्र में पिरोया है जो इनकी संवेदनात्मक सर्जनशीलता का परिचायक है।

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