



A BRIEF STUDY OF DALIT LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The group of people that has been economically, socially, educationally, religiously, politically and psychologically exploited is called as Dalit. The sufferings of these people should be expressed through Dalit literature.

With the emergence of Dalit literature, the door to a new world of experience has been opened in Marathi literature. The experience that represented in Dalit literature is a quality experience. The Dalits who have been engulfed by social injustice, poverty and ignorance revolted against the bad traditions, superstitions, fatalism, gullibility and slavery. Dalit literature has been created to celebrate the humankind. Dalit conscience is the conscience that set the old world on fire to achieve the goal to set up an ideal world based on human values.

Dalit literature has been created for the man who wants to live like a man. The Dalit literature has been created for the establishment of all embracing humanity. This literary movement has been emerged to establish a culture of human being based on equality.

The creation of Dalit literature is an event in Indian literature that has created a new world of literature. It has given the qualitative sensibility to Indian literature as a whole. This literature makes the common man changeable. Man should make himself a good man at once. It celebrates the principles: liberty, equality, fraternity, scientific attitude and democratic culture.

KEY WORDS: Dalit, Literature, Values.

INTRODUCTION:

With the emergence of Dalit literature, the door to a new world of experience has been opened in Marathi literature. The experience that represented in Dalit literature is a quality experience. The Dalits who have been engulfed by social injustice, poverty and ignorance revolted against the wild bad traditions, superstitions, fatalism, gullibility and slavery. Dalit literature has been created to celebrate the humankind. Dalit conscience is the conscience that set the old world on fire to achieve the goal to set up an ideal world based on human values.

The horrified true expression of Dalit life through this conscience is the Dalit literature. Dalit literature is merely not for the Dalit. It has been created for the man who wants to live like a man. The Dalit literature has been created for the establishment of all embracing humanity. This literary movement has been emerged to establish a culture of human being based on equality.

The creation of Dalit literature is an event in Indian literature that has created a new world of literature. It has given the qualitative sensibility to Indian literature as a whole. This literature makes the common man changeable. Man should make himself a good man at once. Dalit literature teaches the universal sensibility of developing the humanity within ourselves throughout the life. It celebrates the principles: liberty, equality, fraternity, scientific attitude and democratic culture.

“Educate, be organized and agitate” was the great preaching of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar for the Dalits to change their lives. The above thought of changing the lives of Dalits proved very powerful. To tell the role of Dalit literature, the Great Visionary Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar said the following words in his speech given in Nagpur at *Vidharbha Sahitya Sangha* [Vidharbha Literary Association]:

“Express the noble values of life and culture through the literature. Don’t limit your vision, make it large. Don’t limit your speech within the walls. Enlarge it. The light of your words should eradicate the darkness prevalent in the villages. The world of under privileged and depressed people is very big in one country. You should not forget it. Try to understand their sorrows and sufferings properly. Try to uplift their lines through your writing. True humanity lies in it.

These words of Dr. Ambedkar show the broad and comprehensive attitude as well as intense feelings towards Dalit.

The meaning of the word ‘Dalit’ as given in dictionaries is down trodden depressed, grinded and exploited. This sense of Dalit is also true in social life. Truly speaking, the workers, farmers and laborers make the world more beautiful. They build sky high building with their labor. They set up factories. They also build up enormous dams. Still they have been depressed and live in poverty. Not only economically but also socially & religious exploitation comes under Dalit.

The writer who writes against every kind of exploitation, who celebrates the human values through his literary output, who attacks the caste system & the *varna* system, who rejects the religion that gives birth to the untouchability and maintain it, who accepts the values liberty, equality and fraternity, who celebrates the human being, who build up the relations between man through words, is the true Dalit writer and this conscience is called as Dalit literature. The literature written by a Dalit about the ‘Dalit’ is called as ‘Dalit’ Literature.

The group of people that has been economically, socially, educationally, religiously, politically and psychologically exploited is called as Dalit. The sufferings of these people should be expressed through Dalit literature. Dalit literature and its conscience is not based upon birth but on the principle of human liberation. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar himself is the inspiration of Dalit literature.

The characteristics of Dalit literature can be said as follows:

Dalit literature is a literature of social responsibility. It is a literature of real life. Therefore, it represents the sorrows and happiness, tears and laughter of Dalit community. There is a very close relationship between Dalit literature and movement. Dalit movement is the core of humanity. It is a flow that develops continuously. Propaganda can be seen in Dalit literature. Dalit literature propagated the humanity, its liberation, justice, equality and fraternity. It reforms. Dalit literature is the literature of change. Rejection and revolt are the special features of it. It inspires the social revolution. In reality it is the most positive force in the present world. As Baburao Bagul said, “Dalit Literature is not of the avengers. Dalit Literature does not spread hatred or malice. Actually Dalit Literature espouses the importance of man as well as his liberty / freedom and it is also an historical necessity.” In order to make the life beautiful, it revolts against all kinds of ugliness prevalent in the world. It protests against all the bad and evil things. It inspires to live a good and beautiful life.

Dalit literature is a part of the movement of social responsibility. In short, Dalit literature expresses the thought to establish the paradise of humanity through the equality.

Dalit Poetry :

Dalit poetry rejects all that is against humanity. It rejects all the ugliness and non-welfare things. Dalit poetry wants to restructure the society on the basis of social justice, liberty, and equality. The eradication of caste system and *varnashram* is its goal. Everybody should get honor and dignity is the purpose of the rejection of Dalit poetry. Poetry is the criticism of life. The poet should completely believe in the human life and poetry. Dalit poets completely accept this responsibility.

Dalit Fiction:-

The fiction in Dalit literature is decorated with a lot of variety. A broad attitude towards life is displayed through these stories and novels. It presents the attitude of deprived people. It is an expression of the collective mind.

The Dalit fiction makes the reader uneasy, unstable. The Dalit story not only makes the reader laugh and cry but also makes him introspective. It broadly displays the sufferings that come through the social injustices. It rejects the system that keeps the deprived, underprivileged and unhappy people. It teaches the philosophy of revolt. It cherishes the scientific attitude. It keeps the man at centre. It includes the story that rebels for justice.

Dalit Drama :

Dalit dramatists should keep awareness about the reality of life. Drama should be technically developed. The burning reality of life has been expressed through the Dalit plays. It is a reality that Dalit theatre is not stood on its own.

Dalit Autobiography :

There is some kind of tradition to Marathi theatre. But there is no such tradition for the autobiography of Dalit. The reason for it is that the Dalits are slaves - economically, religiously, intellectually and psychologically. This yoke of slavery has been imposed by the age-long social system. How can a slave think about himself? This system does not give the liberty to express the innermost emotions and feelings. As a result of it, he cannot do the self-search. When Dalits got the opportunity for self-search, liberty to write, the genre of Dalit autobiography flourished.

The community that has been immersed in ignorance, superstitions, poverty and has been stamped for the centuries is represented through the autobiographies.

The first explosion of the power that has been imprisoned for a long time is always very dangerous and shocking. Sometimes it is awesome. Dalit literature is a powerful expression of the imprisoned and suffocated mind. This expression has the power of a storm. A powerful desire to change the world has been expressed through it. This literature is revolutionary.

Dalit literature accepts the values of liberty, equality, fraternity, scientific attitude and democracy. Therefore it is not the Indian but the universal literature. This literature has the capability of leading the future age of equality.

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