



REVIEW OF RESEARCH



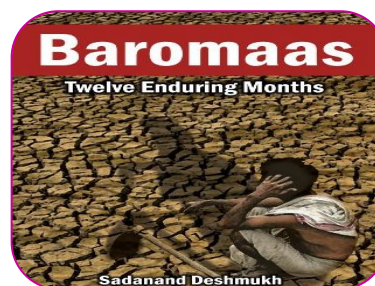
PORTRAYAL OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE FARMERS IN SADANAND DESHMUKH'S NOVEL BAROMAAS (TWELVE ENDURING MONTHS)

Dr. Mote Ramraja Vasudeo

Dept. Of English, Sou. Suvarnalata Gandhi Mahavidyalya, Vairag.

ABSTRACT

Dr. Sadanand Deshmukh is born in highly traditional family in Vidharbha, Maharashtra. He is M. A. Ph. D in Marathi literature. He has written short stories, novels and poems. His writing primarily deals with the lives of farmers and peasants in rural India. He deals with agricultural issues that farmers have to face in contemporary rural India. He is known for his novels *Tahan* and *Baromaas*. The novel *Baromaas* is translated into English by Dr. Vilas Salunke. *Baromaas*, a Sahitya Akademi Award winning novel of 2004, presents the tale of farmer's family in contemporary India. It is a representative tale of Indian farming that depends on the erratic rain – god on the one hand and the expectancy of high market returns on the other.



KEYWORDS – Farmer, rain, market,, novel.

INTRODUCTION :

The novel *Baromaas* deals with struggle of farmer in Maharashtra and particularly in *Vidharbha*. The protagonist of the novel *Eknath* is son of the farmer *Subhanrao Patil*. He lives in very remote village *Sanjol*. Though he is well qualified and talented he could not get job because he cannot pay the donation. So he decided to work in farm and he has 25 acres land named *Sonakshi* land and *Kalyani* farm. He works hard in the farm, makes some experiment in farming but not successful in it because farming in Vidharbha mostly depends on rain and not irrigation. He tries to be good farmer and support his family.

He got marry with *Alka*, who is the daughter of Electric Engineer and born and brought up in urban atmosphere. The marriage is based on *Eknath's* education. *Alka's* father thought *Eknath* is M. A. B. Ed. And he will get job one day or the other. But in the contemporary days jobs cannot be achieved without donation. *Eknath* attended number of interviews and number of times he has been selected by expert committee but he could not donate the money to educational institution and remain unemployed. *Alka*, well educated girl wants her husband should get either job or he should start some business. But *Subhanrao Patil*, the father of *Eknath* is against to sell a land and pay donation for job. *Eknath* started farming but he could not fulfill the wish of his wife. She has to do lot of household work in family. There is so poor condition, no proper food, no toilet and other facilities. She always has argument with her mother-in-law, *Shevantamai*. Her mother-in-law hates *Alka* because *Alka* is educated and cannot work on farm, she also refuse to sell her gold for cultivation of land and most importantly she wanted her son *Eknath* should marry to her brother's daughter *Mukta*. *Eknath* refused *Mukta* because she is illiterate. So *Alka* is not happy with *Eknath* and she often visits her parent's house.

Eknath's younger brother is *Madhukar Tanpure*. He is talented boy gives competitive exams after 12th and passed it but he is not selected in interview because he could not give bribe to the officers. His classmates like Suresh Sathe who got less marks but pays bribe and working as Tahshildar. Madhu gets frustrated and opens Golden Gang in the village Sanjol. This gang is joined by number of youngsters who are literate but unemployed. They use to search hidden treasure during night. They are scapegoat of superstition. The potter's girl named *Kaveri* use to tell them the place and the golden gang dig that land to search the gold. They take the help of *Mantrik* like *Banuba* in the search of Gold. The young talented boy *Dilip Pawar* becomes mad in search of the gold. These boys wanted to search the gold sell it and pay the donation and get the jobs. But they did not found gold and they remain unemployed. *Madhu* beat his elder brother's wife on the trivial reason of using soap. She left the house of *Eknath* and went to her father's house. She wanted to join computer class DTP and get the job. *Madhu* is responsible for the separation of *Eknath* and *Alka*. *Madhu* never works on farm he wanted his father should sell land and give money to him to pay donation. Finally he makes a contract with *Dagdu Mahakali*, money lender of *Sanjol* about *Kalyani* Farm on the amount of two lakhs and paid money to P. A. of MLA through the mediator of his friend *Suresh Sathe*. But they cheated *Madhu* and he lost the farm and one lakhs rupees of advance. In the dejection of the loss of land Subhanrao patil, the father of Madhu tries to commit suicide and he drank poison. But fortunately he was survived from it.

Eknath has only one sister *Mangla*. She was married to the farmer *Raosaheb*. He is well known farmer *Kinkhed*. He is known for experiment in farming. But he has big loss in farming due to draught. He needs money to cultivate land. He demanded Rs 5000 to his in laws but they could not help him. He took money from *Baluseeth* the money lender from *Kinkhed* with high interest. He was not able to return loan within time and money lender gives trouble to him. He commits suicide hanging himself. So Raosaheb is the victim of money lender and draught. His children Raju, Babu and Suman are so small. His family came on the road because the head of the family is no more. Even government policies could not help to the farmers. The author gives message that farmers are in big trouble and they need to support not only in economic way but emotionally.

Dinkar Dabhade is the friend of Eknath in Sanjol. He is M. A. in political Science with first class. Be belongs to the schedule cast. He is also unemployed like Eknath. He uses to work in music band. He does not possess the land. His condition is equally worse. He has one unmarried sister Ankita and old mother. He has to take responsibility of the house. Though he is well educated and has reservation he could not find a job due to poverty. He is not able to pay donation and remains unemployed

In Sanjol Naru Bhau is farmer and has a sever attack due to loss in crop due to heavy rain. He is awarded with Shetinish Shetkari Award. But now his condition is worse. He cannot do more experiment in his land due to health. He used to write articles and guides the farmers. His wife is happy that her son does not live in Sanjol. If he stays here he could have do the job of farmer. But now he stays at Pune for studying law.

Subhanrao Patil is the father of Eknath, owner of 25 acres land. He is 'Warkari' the devotee of 'Vithhal.' Though he is illiterate, he is most moral character in the novel. He is an honest farmer, working hard and hoping things will change. He educated his both the sons Eknath and Madhukar. He is against to sell land and pay donation for jobs. He considers land as the mother. Subhanrao tries to overcome all calamities regarding the farm but when money lender Dagdu Mahakal captures his land and insults him, he tries to commit suicide. He is the good father. When his younger son Madhukar demanded money to pay donation for job, he is ready to put his Kalyani farm on contract for only two lakhs rupees. Shevantamai is the typical Indian woman and mother-in-law of Alka. She is a good mother. She always blames to Alka her daughter-in-law for not giving gold for cultivation of farming. She wanted to help her daughter in difficult time, but she could not. She works hard in the home as well as on the farm. She is the typical Indian woman.

Sadanand Deshmukh focuses how farmers are exploited by money lenders. In the novel he projects characters Dagdu Mahakal, Ganushet who lend money to the farmers with high interest and when farmers are not able to return the money they capture their land. Even they have support of MLA Mr. Malpani and

Police inspector. Ganuseth is the moneylender of Kinkhed to whom Raosaheb, the son-in-law of Subhanrao took money for re sowing his land. But unfortunately crop failed and he could not return his money on time. Ganuseth makes harassment of Raosaheb which forces Raosaheb to commit suicide. Eknath registered complaint in the police station against Ganuseth but police does not take any action against the moneylender Ganuseth because he gave two lakhs bribe to police inspector. The novelist tries to comment on the pathetic condition of the farmers.

The only hope for the farmers is their organization. Tejrao Khapke, the leader of the Organization of Farmers fights for former's rights. Shesrao Kale, Gajananrao Krupal and Eknath are the active members of the Organization of Farmers. They organize the workshop for farmers. Even workshop is organized in the village like Sanjol in which agriculture experts like Dr. Sayajirao Wakhare gave speech on Cultivation of mixed crops, Bhanudas Patil offered guidance on the use of fertilizers, Shyam Bhau Gattani explained the concept of forest farming and some speakers explained the use of pesticides and how farmers can reduce the cost of production in farming. Some of the members of Farmers Organization even write on various subjects of farming in different magazines. Even Naru Bhau and Eknath write some articles for magazine. The Farmers Organization organizes the Morchas, RastaRoko, chikka Jam strikes against the government for the rights of the farmers.

The novelist projects labors are happier than the farm owners in the village Sanjol. Subhanrao Patil has two labors on his land Khandya and Mugutrao. Mugutrao works on the farm of Subhanrao on the wages as well as he is very interested in watching television. Eknath got the colour TV in his wedding. Mugutrao used to watch TV and if anyone switch off the TV, he warns he will not come to work on their farm. The same case with Khandya, he is not bothering whether the Farm owner is in loss or profit, he wants money on time. He also demands advance payment when Subhanrao is in economic crisis. It shows how labors also exploit the farmers.

The novelist raised the problems of farmers in the novel but he does not suggest any remedy for it the novel ends with Eknath is arrested by police for leading the Morcha of Farmer's Organization. Subhanrao Patil is mourning on loss of his Kalyani Farm, Shventamami is also disappointed that both her sons are exploited only because they are farmers and her only daughter Mangla living as a widow with her little children. Suresh Sathey died in road accident. Madhu and his golden gang leave the search of gold and they are planning to loot cars and other vehicles on the highway. So, the novel ends with the pathetic condition of farmer's family and no future hope for them. The tragic plot, its down to earth characters and its near perfect realism helps to reach the novel to a artistic achievement.

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