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A Peer-Reviewed Refereed Research Journal

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INSIGHT

(An International Journal of Humanities and Management)

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Charting Academic Excellence : Reflections from the Chief Editor

I am immensely proud and honored to announce the successful progression of our college journal, now entering its tenth volume. The journey thus far has been gratifying, and we aspire to surpass the expectations set by our readers based on the commendable response received for the ninth volume.

Our journal serves the noble purpose of fostering healthy, constructive, and interpretive research across diverse topics in Humanities and Management. It proudly features research papers contributed by scholars, both domestic and international, representing a spectrum of fields of study.

A heartfelt gratitude extends to all the contributors for their invaluable research papers. Each contribution serves as a milestone, propelling our journal toward continued success.

I extend my sincere thanks to the distinguished members of the editorial and advisory board, comprising eminent scholars from various regions. Their time and dedication have played a pivotal role in shaping the journal's trajectory.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate receiving more quality research papers from academicians and researchers. We also welcome constructive criticism, as it will guide us in enhancing and refining the journal for the benefit of our readers in the future. Together, let us continue on the path of academic excellence and scholarly exploration

Dr. Balbir Singh
Chief Editor

CHALLENGES OF COVID 19 ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN SILITIE ZONE, ETHIOPIA

Mohammed Essa
Assistant Professor, Werabe (Ethiopia), Research Scholar Punjabi University, Patiala

Dr. Parmod Kumar Aggarwal
Associate Professor of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala

ABSTRACT

Corona viruses (Covid-19) are a family of RNA viruses that typically cause mild respiratory disease in humans (Cui J, 2019).Corona virus (SARS-CoV-2), was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and has driven this current pandemic (Cohen J and Normile D, 2020). The WHO announced that the official name of the 2019 novel Corona virus is Corona virus disease (Covid-19).There are a number of Covid-19 studies but the studies mainly focus on the disease's spread, socio-economic and day to day activity impacts rather than just challenges of the pandemic on agricultural production and their marketing. The Study was therefore aims on assessing the challenges of Corona virus on agricultural production and marketing in Siltie zone Ethiopia.The research was conducted at wulbareg and MisrakSilitie districts of Silitie zone in SNNP region of Ethiopia 2020.Data regarding on challenges of Corona virus on agricultural production and marketing was collected through structured and semi-structured questionnaire. The study revealed that,Radio, Family, Friends, Colleagues and some from Television were the main sources of information and also Social distance, hand washing, face and nose masking and personalhaygen were the main prevention methods that informants were using.The agricultural production and productivity is totally reduced within the study areas which may be due to the disruptions on agricultural activities like; lack of agricultural inputs, lack of labor force, movement restrictions and weak market chain.Agricultural activities which has been done in group like harvesting, marketing, weeding and land preparation from crop production and households relying on pastoral livelihoods typically depend on markets for food were the most constrained activities.Due to restrictions and lockdowns; the income and livelihood of many people was disrupted which results disruption in marketing (buying and selling) of agricultural products.Agricultural inputs (seeds, feed, fertilizer, pesticides) imported from other countries costly or sometimes not available due to the restrictions outlined internationally.Generally, agricultural activities pillar for increasing production and productivity were highly disrupted by this pandemic and as a developing country, Ethiopian agriculture has been broken down its backbone. So, further research on the rehabilitation of the broken Ethiopian agriculture and its marketing is needed.

Keywords : *Challenges, Corona Virus, Disruption, Lockdown, Social distance*

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Corona viruses (Covid-19) are a family of RNA viruses that typically cause mild respiratory disease in humans (Cui J, 2019). However, the 2003 emergence of the severe acute respiratory syndrome Corona virus (SARS-CoV) demonstrated that CoV are also capable of causing outbreaks of severe infections in humans. A second severe CoV, Middle East respiratory syndrome Corona virus (MERS- CoV), emerged in 2012 in Saudi Arabia. The third severe CoV, severe acute respiratory syndrome Corona virus (SARS-CoV-2), was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and has driven this current pandemic (Cohen J and Normile D, 2020).The WHO announced that the official name of the 2019 novel Corona virus is Corona virus disease (Covid-19). And the current reference name for the virus is severe acute respiratory syndrome Corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was reported that a cluster of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause was linked to a local Huanan South China Seafood Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province of China in December 2019 (Zhu N, 2019).The emergence of human Corona viruses, including MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, is thought to be driven by the spillover of bat-adapted CoV into an intermediate host. For SARS-CoV, this intermediate host is believed to have been palm civets, while camels play that role for MERS-CoV. Genetic analyses of SARS-CoV-2 suggest that the virus likely originated from a bat reservoir (Andersen G, 2020). There are a number of theories regarding the presence of an intermediary animal host for the origins of SARS-CoV-2, but the evidence is inconclusive.Although the impact of Covid-19 on short- and long-term food security is difficult to predict, some risk factors can be identified and lessons from previous pandemics (e.g. Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa in 2014) or global crises (e.g. food prices crisis of 2008) indicate that effects on food security could be rapid and of dramatic proportions. While the Covid-19 pandemic is devastating lives, public health systems, livelihoods and economies across the world, populations living in food crisis contexts are particularly exposed to its effects. Agriculture is the back bone of Ethiopian economy and people's life in the country depends on agriculture directly or indirectly.There is food chain system which connects the rural with the urban people. Covid-19 has the potential to severely disrupt critical food supply chains, including between rural and urban areas. Movement or import/ export restrictions may result in challenges to transport key food items and access processing units and markets, affecting both producers and consumers. This can lead to reduced farmers' incomes and instability of food prices deviating from geographical and seasonal patterns, thus creating uncertainty for both producers and consumers.

This is likely to have significant adverse effects in particular on the most vulnerable actors, such as informal laborers, vulnerable urban populations, displaced populations and others that rely heavily on the market to meet their food needs. Reduced or lost wages, unstable prices, and haphazard availability of essential food items would have serious implications for acute food security and malnutrition levels in these populations. Agriculture in Ethiopia is carried out in a very conventional way that includes working in group (Debo), use local markets to buy or sell, exchange of materials (like seed or ploughing devices), etc. and which may expose them for Covid-19 as a result those activities may be restricted by the command post products. Therefore, the present study aims on assessing the impacts of Corona virus on agricultural production and marketing.

1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 General Objective

— To assess the impact of Corona virus on Agricultural production and marketing

1.2.2 Specific Objectives

— To assess the challenges faced during marketing of Agricultural products

1.3 Research Questions

What are the impacts of Covid-19 on marketing of agricultural products

1.3 Result and Discussion

1.3.1 Sources of Information about Covid-19

There are many sources of information shouting about Covid-19 among these; Radio, Family, Friends, Colleagues and some from Television were the main sources of information that informants were using. Some informants' also mentioned newspapers, social media and health professionals as a source of information about the pandemic. The result indicates that, there was no lack of information about the pandemic even though they were not certain about the causes. It is true that there was no other issue to be raised on the media internationally, nationally or with the neighbors and source of information about the disease was excess but, no one is certain and clear about its cause.

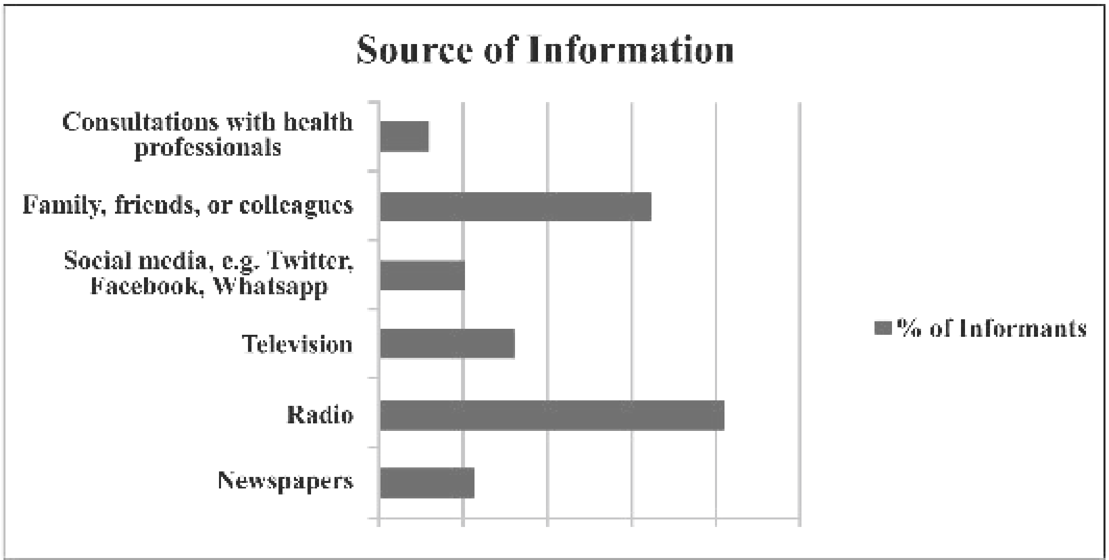

Figure 1. Source of Information

1.3.2 Challenges of covid-19 on agricultural marketing

1.3.2.1 Marketing Challenges during the Pandemic

Table.1 The most important marketing challenges during the pandemic

S.N	Marketing Challenges	% of Informants
1.	Staying at home	100%
2.	Increases on Transport cost	78%
3.	Lockdown of local market places	84%
4.	Income declining	100%
5.	Restaurant/hotel lockdown	66%
6.	Consumers perception	57%

Based on the assessment and observational survey; the marketing and supply chains of crop, livestock and their products were challenged during the COVID-19 outbreak, from the production process to marketing and consumption of their products. The study shows staying at home, income decline and lockdown of local market place were the main marketing challenges that informants has mentioned. Increases on transport cost, lockdown of hotel/restaurants and consumers' perception are also the other marketing challenges that some of the informants has mentioned. As mentioned by the informants, marketing of agricultural products were totally disrupted during the pandemic since human movement was restricted which directly affects marketing and movement of agricultural products.

Due to restrictions and lockdowns; the income and livelihood of many people was disruptedwhich resultsdisruptionin marketing (buying and selling) of agricultural products.The survey also indicated that there was low demand for livestock products such as meat, dairy and poultry and also fresh vegetable and fruit crop products since the start of the COVID-19 crisis and similar finding was reported by Yared T., 2020. Important reasons mentioned were the measurement taken to tackle the disease, perceptions of the disease risk and decline on incomes.

1.3.3 Challenges of Covid-19 on Marketing of Agricultural Products

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, food distribution and marketing of the country would be hard hit. Given that the food distribution and marketing system is not well developed due to underdevelopment of infrastructure and shortage of skilled human power, the pandemic will have adverse effects on food supply chains - supply side as well as the demand side. On the supply side, the most important short-term effect is food scarcity in the urban and peri-urban areas due to reasons such as movement restrictions, increased frustration or withdrawal of value chain actors (producers, rural/urban food collectors, wholesalers, retailers or consumers) (Reardon et al., 2020). The food supply chain in Ethiopia is labor intensive. In essence, producers transport food crops and animal products from rural areas to nearby urban settings using their family labor, draught animals and carts. As a result, they can only transport a small amount of food commodities, which requires a large number of people or draft animals to come to the marketplace to transport a significant amount. On the other hand, the restrictions on movement make it difficult for rural and urban collectors to move from place to place or market to market freely. Evidence shows that farmers, especially vegetable producers, have lost income due to less movement and lower prices (Tamru et al., 2020). Furthermore, the restrictions on movement, together with the frustration of value chain actors, not to be infected by the virus, reduced the amount of food commodities arriving at urban areas leading to temporary food shortage.

1.4 Summary and Conclusion

Corona viruses (Covid-19) are a family of RNA viruses that typically cause mild respiratory disease in humans (Cui J, 2019). Corona virus (SARS-CoV-2), was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and has driven this current pandemic (Cohen J and Normile D, 2020). The WHO announced that the official name of the 2019 novel Corona virus is Corona virus disease (Covid-19). Agriculture is the back bone of Ethiopian economy and people's life in the country depends on agriculture directly or indirectly. Agriculture in Ethiopia is carried out in a very conventional way that includes working in group (Debo), use local markets to buy or sell, exchange of materials (like seed or ploughing devices), etc. and which may expose them for Covid-19 as a result those activities has been restricted by the command post. Ethiopia has confirmed first cases of Covid-19 since March 2020 by the Japan's man after he had a meeting with several peoples and moved on some places especially in Addis Ababa and Adama towns of Ethiopia. The result indicates that, during the outbreak of the pandemic, there were many sources of information shouting about Covid_19. Social distance, hand washing, face and nose masking and also personal haygen were the main prevention measures that people in the study areas were practicing. Human movement restrictions due to Covid-19 have resulted in farm-labour shortages, especially for high-value crops and share cropping farmers. Marketing, Harvesting, Weeding, Land preparation, Storing and to some extent livestock production were the main agricultural activities which are influenced by the outbreak of this pandemic disease as mentioned by the informants. Movement restrictions, Transport limitation, no market to sell products, lack of agricultural inputs and lack of labor forces are among disruptions listed by informants in the study areas. Based on the assessment and observational survey; the marketing and supply chains of crop, livestock and their products were challenged during the COVID- 19 outbreak, from the production process to marketing and consumption of their products. Generally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, food distribution and marketing of the country was hardly hit and has broken its back bone still.

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ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN CANADIAN HEALTHCARE : AN OVERVIEW

Dr. Aarti Mahendru
Business Instructor,
Olds College of Agriculture & Technology, Alberta, Canada
Campbell College, Alberta, Canada

ABSTRACT

"Medicare" is the word that is often used for Canada's healthcare system that is based on a set of fundamental principles, aiming to provide universal, portable, comprehensive, and accessible to all citizens regardless of their financial position in life. Each province and territory operate its health insurance plans, with federal funding allocated based on the region's needs and wealth Canada's healthcare system known as Medicare has experienced changes because of progressions. This paper examines the impacts of advancements, like telemedicine, digital health records and artificial intelligence in tackling enduring healthcare obstacles. By examining initiatives such as the Ontario Telemedicine Network and progress in patient monitoring, this research emphasizes how technology plays a crucial role in increasing accessibility enrichening patient results and cutting down expenses. It also focuses on the role of AI in improving accessibility and enhancing the results of patients and also deduction in the cost. This paper also explores how innovations like telemedicine, digital health records, and artificial intelligence have addressed longstanding healthcare challenges. The results highlight the importance of technology investment to address the changing requirements of Canadas aging populace.

INTRODUCTION

Canada's Healthcare System

The Canada's health care system reflects fairness and equity in providing services. The eagerness Canadians have to share responsibility and resources is evident in their healthcare system. Over time the system has been modified and adapted to meet the changing need of the country and its people. As Canada's population is increasing continuously, the healthcare system will also continue to evolve and improve.(Health Canada, 2024). The healthcare system is getting advanced day by day on an international basis. Throughout these years, technological advancements has contributed an important role in improving patient outcomes and enhancing the quality of service for healthcare professionals. Stats that are given by Electronic Health and Telemedicine to Artificial Intelligence and Remote Patient Monitoring, these advancements reshaped the healthcare providers to treat, manage and keep an eye on the patients efficiently.(Patel, 2023b).

Evolution of Canada's Healthcare System

System of healthcare in Canada has been evolved significantly since the country's constitution established in 1867. Since the 1867 Constitution Act, Canada's healthcare landscape has been shaped by several key milestones (Health Canada, 2024). For example, the 1947 Saskatchewan Universal Hospital Care Plan introduced universal healthcare coverage, and the 1984 Canada Health Act standardized healthcare criteria nationwide. These foundational changes have been further bolstered by recent advancements in telemedicine and digital record-keeping, positioning technology as a cornerstone of healthcare reform.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The primary Objective of the Study is to examine the advancement of technology in Canada's healthcare system by conducting a secondary research on telemedicine , use of Digital Health Records and role of Artificial Intelligence in enabling predictive and personalized care.Data for this study wasgathered from reportsand projects, including the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) and telehealth initiatives in British Columbia. (Agarwal et al., 2020).

Telemedicine in Canada's Healthcare System

Telehealth is considered as a main tool for enhancing the access of healthcare services in a broader level by overcoming cultural, social, time, geographic, and distance barriers. Telehealth is derived as the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).(Muttitt et al., 2004). The launch of telemedicine has shown significant changes in technological improvements, changed patient expectations and resource constraints. This has impacted remarkably on traditional healthcare and services. The Telemedicine programs are resulting important effects on the cost of healthcare across the regions in Canada.(Agarwal et al., 2020).

Telemedicine

"Telemedicine" refers to "medicine at a distance". The Covid 19 result in increasing the use of Telemedicine all over Canada. The pandemic has significantly increased the adoption of digital technologies in Canadian Healthcare System which also resulted in the way Canadians access to medical care and services.

Telemedicine has acquired wide acceptance among patients with high satisfaction rates. Because of its convenience and ease of use between healthcare providers, telemedicine provides flexible and timely care. In addition to that, most Canadians prefer virtual care visits with 40 % showing willingness to switch to virtual care visits for most of their medical needs. This highlights the remarkable shift from traditional approach to digital form of healthcare. (Hafner et al., 2022).

Key Technologies in Telemedicine

The advancement of technology in telemedicine has resulted in providing healthcare access to people easier. Let's investigate various technological advancement made in Telemedicine in Canda's healthcare system.

Video Conferencing

Ease of use has been ensured with the specially designed telehealth videoconference equipment. It also allows the patients to undergo assessments through live video conferencing using a digital camera. Telehealth video conferencing is extremely beneficial for patients who face difficulties traveling due to financial problems, weather conditions or geographical distance.(Saqui et al., 2007). Alberta Health Care providers connected with patients through video conferencing (telehealth) and provide real time virtual assistance through messages during Covid 19 pandemic(Baumgart, 2020).

Health Apps

The growing use of smartphones has led to the emergence of mobile health apps, revolutionizing the delivery of healthcare services. These apps are changing the way healthcare services are provided to people. The vision behind it was:

- To provide suggestions on how to make use of health care apps and to motivate health care professionals to accessed share these apps with the public and within themselves.
- To provide reviews about the health app and to encourage them to do so as these apps had helped them in specific way.

Remote Monitoring

The revolution of Remote Patient Monitoring had marked a remarkable turning point in providing healthcare services to patients. RPM enables the healthcare providers to collect patients' data from remote locations such as their own homes. This data is then transmitted securely to healthcare providers allowing them to timely access to the information and to give recommendations. The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network containing electronics, sensors and software's which enables them to collect and exchange data as a result, patients health is monitored and analyzed without time delays.

Telemedicine Projects Implemented in Canada : Brief Cases

- Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) : All teleconferencing visits are conducted using technologies supplied by OTN. At present the program serves most people in urban areas who need support on mental and physical needs. The Ontario Telemedicine Network has created a teleconsultation platform that helps primary care providers and specialists to have an asynchronous clinical interaction. This hasbeen used across provinces. This model is to support primary health care providers to maintain care for their patients at the same time providing a framework for fair remuneration for both specialists and primary care providers.

- BC's Children Hospital : British Columbia has a long history in using technology in teleconferencing to facilitate consultation in clinical for residents and physicians in remote and rural areas. The BC's children hospital has been included in providing care through virtual way to people in remote areas. This innovation has been expanding with elective teleconsultations from a growing number of specialties.
- Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) : To improve the treatment virtually Carrier Sekani Family Services(CSFS) that is based in Prince George, BC they develop the technology so that they can help people in remote indigenous communities to access better healthcare. Over the past 8 years, CSFS has made considerable gains by providing services to isolated communities. To ensure ongoing access to primary care, the CSFS providescoordination services and videoconferencing. Many members from this communityparticipated in the program faces multiple health challenges. During 2015, the CSFS conductedaround 1000 video conferencing sessions to bridge the healthcare gap for people in severely undeserved communities.

Digital Health Records

Electronic Medical Records(EMS) are the records where there are almost all Canadians has recording the information regarding their health. EMSs records that are used by family doctors and other professionals. These records are used by doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers to keep track of your medical history, lab results, and other important health information.This study focuses on the EMRs used by family doctors and other primary care providers. We also looked at initiatives that help different healthcare providers share information safely and easily, like Canada Health Infoway's interoperability projects.

History of Electronic Health Records in Canada

EHRs were originally reported in the mid-1960s and early 1970s, when development was just beginning. The development of EHRs was sped up by the advent of digital technology and tailored networks. EHR system advances were made possible by the development of the internet and better portable devices.. Health organizations and the government are increasingly recognizing the importance of EHR and other technologies as they improve communication between healthcare professionals (Evans, 2016).

The diagram above explains the EHR infostructure: Weber, Jens & Williams, James. (2011).

Interoperability

Personal health information can be exchangedamongvarious digital systems thanks to interoperability. When systems are well-integrated, medical personnel from other clinics able to patients' data. It guarantees the availability of up-to-date information while encouraging more collaborationamong healthcare professionals.

Making primary health care EMR systems interoperable has a significant impact. It allows new digital health companies to enter the market, driving innovation and competition. This, in turn, benefits patients, healthcare providers, and the system as a whole. The benefits include :

- Patient empowerment through :
  # Easy access to health information for informed decisions.
  # The ability to update and correct their records.
  # Simplified care for family members.
  # Enhanced communication with healthcare providers.
- Healthcare provider empowerment through :
  # For Personal care access to their health information on Time.
  # The ability to use aggregated data to improve care quality and patient safety.

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Streamlined operations, reduced costs, and saved time through digital tools.

- Reduced waste and duplication in the healthcare system.
- Better-informed public health policy, enabling targeted disease prevention and response.

Provinces and territories have developed unique strategies to achieve interoperable primary health care EMR systems. Key approaches and outcomes include : Certification of primary health care EMR systems. Some provinces require certification, ensuring integration with provincial electronic health record systems. Examples include Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba.

Single primary health care EMR market. Some provinces have designated a single EMR company, addressing interoperability challenges. Examples include Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare System

Emerging technologies such as AI have enabled predictive and personalized care. The study reviewed applications of AI in diagnostic imaging, patient monitoring, and administrative tasks, highlighting its role in improving efficiency and accuracy in healthcare . In the last ten years, Canada's expense on healthcare has been increased. There are aging population in Canada and for their treatment and medication it is important to advance the technology.

AI can have varying impact on different aspects of healthcare in several areas :

Quality of care :- There are a lot od Canadian healthcare Organizations that are gathering proof to test the capacity of AI in various field of treatment and trying to do the research on how that how they can include advancement in healthcare. As an example, Swift Medical that is healthcare organization. They have included in Wound related issues they have noticed the decrease of 14 percent in the cases of hospitalized people from severe wounds.

Administrative tasks :- Healthcare organization has also included AI in the administrative work giving appointments, accuracy of bills and supporting the staff. It will safe the time of the staff and they can focus more on the patients. Many patients has also share their positive response about this they don't have to wait too long for getting the appointment and doctors and clinics are able to give them more attention.

System management :- There are some AIs that empowering the healthcare system by doing the multitasking by taking the records of how many beds are getting utilised to make sure that patients are getting good quality of care. It should be important to effectively uses the healthcare resources as Canada have aging population that need the advanced treatment in coming days. For example: - Decrease the shortage of professional staff in healthcare organizations.

CHALLENGES TO AI IMPLEMENTATION IN CANADA'S HEALTH SECTOR

Understanding AI :- Understanding AI is still difficult for people. The term of AI is still a topic of discussion. Because od its complexity it is hard foe experts and specialists to engage people to make them understand about the use of AI. Concerns has been raised by the patients and healthcare professionals about the safety of the patient asit is difficult to know about the intentions the AI is being used in treatment.

Evidence for what AI will deliver :- As there is lack of data from the studies for AI in treatment planning result in the lack of knowledge about its advantages and disadvantages. The scientific base of using AI in Canada healthcare system is still in its early stages. It is difficult for AI innovators to get the support for the adoption of new technologies because doctors and healthcare professional need evidence.

Appropriate Human Resources :- Healthcare systems facing difficulty to find the people in their organization with the required skills to operate the advance technology. To create a strong infrastructure in this field they need people who are experienced in data engineering. Mangers will need to locate people from outside who have required skill set.

CONCLUSION

Considering Healthcare in a broader way, current evidence suggests that the use of telemedicine resulted in active modes of consultation, less lost appointments and less use of emergency services.These helped in reducing the cost of healthcare. Reports show that by April 2020, nearly 60% of healthcare consultations were conducted virtually, compared to just 20% in 2019 (Hafner et al., 2022) Emergence of Telemedicine also helped to improve the efficiency of clinical workflows in healthcare organization which improved care quality and patient safety. One of the remarkable impacts of telemedicine is it showed a consistent increase in the use of telemedicine in Canada compared to the pre Covid19 times. This has helped Canadians to save their time worth up to CAD 5bn per year.The **adoption of EMRs** in Canada has grown significantly, with 93% of primary care physicians using EMRs as of 2022 (CIHI, 2023). Benefits of digital records includeImproved patient safety through better access to medical histories, Reduced duplication of tests and procedures, saving time and costs. (OECD, 2019). AI applications in healthcare have introduced innovative solutions, such as : Diagnostic Tools : AI-powered imaging tools identify anomalies with high precision, aiding early detection of diseases (Mason et al., 2022), Patient Care: Predictive models help healthcare providers anticipate patient needs and personalize treatment plans.These advancements have aligned with the principles of "4P medicine"— predictive, preventive, personalized, and participatory care — shaping the future of healthcare in Canada.

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MEDIATING EFFECT OF BIG FIVE PERSONALITY TRAITS IN EXPLAINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT AND JOB PERFORMANCE

Sulakshna Dwivedi
Associate Professor, School of Business Management and Commerce,
Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala, Punjab

Parminder Kaur
Research Scholar, University School of Applied Management,
Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab

ABSTRACT

The success and profitability of a firm heavily depend on the performance of its employees, making it essential to select candidates with the right skills and attributes. Employee efficiency significantly influences organizational productivity, and recent research highlights the predictive power of Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and the Big Five personality traits on job performance. Despite this, limited studies examine the mediating role of personality traits between IQ and job performance and the moderating role of gender in the relationship between IQ and personality traits, particularly within the Indian IT sector. This study addresses these gaps by investigating how the Big Five personality traits mediate thelink between IQ and job performance and whether gender moderates the relationship between IQ and personality traits. Data from 508 employees across the top 10 IT companies (ranked by revenue and market capitalization) reveal that the Big Five traits significantly influence job performance among IT executives. Furthermore, the findings demonstrate that personality traits mediate the relationship between IQ and job performance. These results provide valuable insights for improving employee performance and refining recruitment strategies in the IT sector, with both theoretical and practical implications for organizational growth.

Keywords : *Intelligence Quotient, Job Performance, Mediation, Big Five Personality Traits, IT Sector, India*

INTRODUCTION

In today's landscape of rising unemployment, organizations face mounting challenges in identifying a skilled and qualified workforce to achieve an optimal match between employees and job roles. Selecting candidates who can provide organizations with a competitive edge has become a critical and complex task. A firm's success is often measured by its profitability, which is directly influenced by employee performance (Barney & Wright, 1998). Thus, identifying candidates with the appropriate skills and traits for effective job performance is essential, as the efficiency of an organization is intrinsically linked to the effectiveness of its workforce.

Traditionally, intelligence quotient (IQ) served as the primary criterion for recruitment. While IQ remains a robust predictor of performance during the early stages of education and career, it accounts for only 20% of the variance in job performance at later career stages (Singh & Sharma, 2018). However, recent theories and research have shifted focus toward the critical role of personality traits in recruitment and selection processes.

Personality traits, particularly those outlined in the Big Five Trait Theory (or Five-Factor Model), have emerged as pivotal determinants of superior performance and success. These traits include Openness to Experience (Inventive vs. Cautious), Conscientiousness (Efficient vs. Easy-going), Extraversion (Outgoing vs. Reserved), Agreeableness (Friendly vs. Detached), and Neuroticism (Sensitive vs. Confident). Each of these traits exists on a continuum and is widely recognized as a strong predictor of success and performance across various contexts.

Studies on the Big Five traits and job performance have repeatedly demonstrated that Conscientiousness is the most reliable predictor of performance across diverse occupations and evaluation criteria (Barrick & Mount, 1991; Barrick et al., 2001). Other traits display context-specific effects: Extraversion is linked to performance in social roles, while Openness and Extraversion are associated with training success (Barrick & Mount, 1991). Emotional Stability (low Neuroticism) also predicts overall job performance, although less consistently than Conscientiousness (Barrick et al., 2001). While Agreeableness, Extraversion, and Openness may not predict general job performance, they remain relevant for specific roles or occupational contexts (Barrick et al., 2001).

As far as IQ and personality traits are concerned, research highlights a dynamic interplay between the two and studies shows that Higher IQ is linked to openness, fostering intellectual curiosity and creativity (DeYoung et al., 2005), while it indirectly enhances conscientiousness by improving problem-solving and organizational skills (Ackerman &Heggestad, 1997). Longitudinal evidence suggests IQ fosters adaptability and agreeableness over time, influenced by education, culture, and environment. Despite there is plethora of studies on IQ, Personality traits and Job Performance, there is limited studies on the mediating role of personality traits between IQ and job performance.

This study seeks to explore the mediating role of Big Five personality traits between IQ and job performance among executives in the Indian IT sector. Furthermore, it investigates whether gender serves as a moderating factor between IQ and Personality traits. The research aims to address the following questions :

- Whether Big Five personality factors mediate the relationship between IQ and job performance?
- Does gender moderate the relationship between IQ and personality traits?

THEORETICAL FOUNDATION AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

Intelligence Quotient and Job Performance

Research consistently shows that IQ is a strong predictor of job performance across various roles and industries. Schmidt and Hunter (1998) highlighted that cognitive ability is particularly crucial for complex jobs, where reasoning and problem-solving are essential, and combining IQ tests with other measures enhances predictive accuracy. Similarly, Gottfredson (1997) emphasized how intelligence influences the ability to acquire job-related skills and adapt to challenging tasks. Hunter (1986) demonstrated that higher IQ individuals learn job-related skills faster and excel across diverse roles, reinforcing the universal predictive power of IQ. Schmidt et al. (1986) further validated the effectiveness of IQ tests in employee selection, showing their reliability even after accounting for other factors like experience. Bertuaet al. (2005) confirmed these findings in European contexts, demonstrating that cognitive ability predicts both job performance and training success. Collectively, these studies underscore IQ's critical role in workplace productivity and learning.

On the basis of above literature, following hypothesis is proposed :

H1 : Intelligence Quotient significantly affect Job Performance (JP).

Intelligence Quotient and Personality Traits

Chamorro Premuzic and Furnham (2004) argued that individuals with lower intellectual ability may develop higher Conscientiousness over time, compensating for their lower cognitive capacity in competitive environments. In contrast, highly intelligent individuals (high Gf) may exhibit lower levels of Conscientiousness, relying more on their innate cognitive abilities to achieve their goals, as their intellectual competence may be sufficient without needing to be as dutiful, organized, or responsible (Moutafi et al., 2002, 2003). Boyatzis *et al.* (2009) distinguished the effective executives from ineffective executives on the basis of presence of emotional, social and cognitive intelligence competencies. Sternberg and Kaufman (2011) asserted that IQ and personality have historically been seen as two different aspects of human functioning. Deyoung (2011) studied the association among personality and intelligence through meta-analysis.

Stanek and Ones (2023) emphasized that Cognitive ability and personality are key areas of psychology, yet many connections between them remain unexplored. Individuals with higher intelligence tend to exhibit greater intellectual curiosity, creativity, and a preference for novel experiences (McCrae & Costa, 1997; DeYoung, 2011). Some studies suggest that individuals with higher intelligence may not always score high on

Conscientiousness, as they might rely more on their cognitive abilities than on organizational skills (Salgado, 1997). Traits such as Openness can impact how individuals engage with learning and problem-solving (Ackerman &Heggestad, 1997). The relationship between intelligence and personality can be influenced by contextual factors such as educational experiences, socio-economic background, and cultural influences, which may affect both personality development and cognitive ability (Roberts et al., 2007).

On the basis of above literature, following hypothesis is proposed :

H2 : Intelligence Quotient has significant effect on Personality traits

Personality Traits and Job Performance

Extensive research has consistently demonstrated the significant role of personality traits in shaping job performance. Bergner et al. (2010) identified conscientiousnessand extraversion as having a positive influence on multiple facets of managerial success, including task performance, contextual performance, job satisfaction, income, and promotion rates. While emotional stability exhibited weaker correlations, narrower traits such as assertiveness, leadership motivation, social sensitivity, conscientious perfectionism, and achievement motivation were significantly associated with specific performance outcomes.

A meta-analysis conducted by Mount and Barrick (1998) further established conscientiousness as a robust predictor of job performance across diverse roles. Additionally, extraversion was found to be particularly important for roles involving social interaction. Traits like openness toexperience and extraversion also accounted for variations in training proficiency, whereas neuroticism demonstrated a negative association with performance. Similarly, Rothmann and Coetzer (2003) revealed that neuroticism, openness, and agreeableness collectively explained 28% of the variance in job performance. Among these, agreeableness, extraversion, openness, and conscientiousness positively correlated with performance, while neuroticism had an adverse effect.

In various professional settings, personality traits generally have a positive influence on job performance, except for neuroticism, which is typically associated with adverse outcomes (Shamsudin&Chuttipattana, 2012). Interestingly, Smillie et al. (2006) observed that individuals with high levels of neuroticism demonstrated better performance improvements in high-pressure or fast-paced environments compared to their emotionally stable counterparts, suggesting that neuroticism can have situational advantages in specific work contexts.

On the basis of above literature, following hypothesis is proposed :

H3 : Personality traits significantly affect Job Performance (JP)

H4 : Big Five Personality traits significantly mediate the relationship between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Job Performance

H4a : Extraversion significantly mediates the relationship between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Job Performance

H4b : Agreeableness significantly mediates the relationship between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Job Performance

H4c : Neuroticism significantly mediates the relationship between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Job Performance

H4d : Openness to Experience significantly mediates the relationship between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Job Performance

H4e : Conscientiousness significantly mediates the relationship between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Job Performance

Gender Moderation between Intelligence Quotient and Personality Traits

Studies investigating the moderation of gender between intelligence and personality traits provide nuanced insights into how these relationships differ across genders. DeYoung et al. (2007) emphasize that gender plays a significant role in the interplay between intelligence and personality, particularly within the Big Five framework. Women often exhibit higher levels of Agreeableness and Neuroticism, traits that influence cognitive performance and decision-making differently compared to men. Men, in contrast, tend to show higher levels of Assertiveness within Extraversion, which may align with gendered societal expectations.

Halpern (2012) highlights those cognitive abilities, including spatial and verbal intelligence, interact with personality traits in ways moderated by gender, often shaped by evolutionary and social factors. These findings underline the importance of considering gender as a moderator in intelligence and personality research.

Based on above review of related studies, following hypothesis has been framed:

H5 : Gender significantly moderates the relationship between Intelligence Quotient and Personality Traits

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Participants and Procedures

The present study employs a descriptive research design to examine the relationship between personality traits and job performance, as well as the moderating role of gender in the relationship between these two variables among IT executives.

Sampling Design and Sample

The study targets executives employed in Indian IT companies, with data collected from professionals working in the top ten IT firms located in the Delhi NCR region (Delhi, Noida, and Gurugram) and IT Park Chandigarh.

The sampling process was conducted in two phases. First, the Delhi NCR region was divided into segments, selecting Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, and IT Park Chandigarh as key strata. In the second phase, the top ten IT companies were identified based on revenue and market capitalization. Participation was voluntary, with confidentiality assured, and no incentives were provided.

A structured offline questionnaire was distributed to 865 employees, yielding 508 valid responses (58.72%). Incomplete or inactive questionnaires were excluded. Respondents were from lower- and middle-management positions.

Measures

Intelligence Quotient:

To measure Intelligence Quotient, a scale which comprise of 10 items developed by (Pathak, 2021) was used to draw insight into the assessment of Intelligence Quotient of IT sector executives. The sample items consist of "I am careful about the direct and implied meanings of the words I use in speaking and writing, "People come to me when they need help with mathematical problems or any calculations", "I am physically well-coordinated". The Scale was measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Agree (1) to Strongly Disagree (5). The Cronbach's alpha of ten items of Intelligence Quotient was 0.910 which is more than the cutoff value of 0.7.

Big Five Personality Traits

The Big Five Inventory (BFI) scale, consisting of 23 items, developed by Mayfield et al. (2008), was used to assess the personality traits of IT sector executives. This scale is divided into five dimensions: Extraversion (4 items), Agreeableness (4 items), Neuroticism (5 items), Openness to Experience (5 items), and Conscientiousness (5 items).Sample statements from the scale include:

- Extraversion: "I really enjoy talking to people," "I am a very active person."
- Agreeableness: "I generally try to be thoughtful and considerate."
- Neuroticism: "Sometimes I completely feel worthless," "I often feel tense and jittery."
- Openness to Experience: "I often try new and foreign foods."
- Conscientiousness: "I keep my belongings neat and clean," "Sometimes I'm not as dependable or reliable as I should be."

The scale used a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Agree (1) to Strongly Disagree (5). The reliability of the five dimensions, as measured by Cronbach's alpha, was as follows: Extraversion (0.807), Agreeableness (0.761), Neuroticism (0.872), Openness to Experience (0.890), and Conscientiousness (0.904).

all exceeding the standard cutoff value of 0.7, indicating good internal consistency.

3.3.2 Job Performance

Job performance, encompassing both task and contextual performance, was measured using a 10-item scale adapted from Goodman and Svyantek (1999) and Çaliþkan and Köroðlu (2022). The scale is divided into two subscales: Task Performance (5 items) and Contextual Performance (5 items).Sample items include :

- Task Performance: "I work effectively/efficiently," "I understand and carry out work-related procedures."
- Contextual Performance: "I contribute to the creation of a positive working environment in my institution," "If I encounter a situation that prevents the task from being done, I try to fix it."

Participants rated their agreement with each statement on a five-point Likert scale. The scale demonstrated excellent reliability, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.901, exceeding the standard threshold of 0.7.Additionally, seven demographic variables were examined: age, gender, place of residence, education level, work experience, marital status, and monthly income.

Data Analysis

In this study, the reliability of the questionnaire was evaluated through a pilot test with a sample size of 70 respondents (14% of the total sample of 500), as recommended by Connelly (2008). Pretesting was conducted prior to the final survey to identify ambiguous questions and assess the reliability of the constructs. All constructs demonstrated reliability, with Cronbach's alpha values exceeding 0.7.For normality analysis, skewness and kurtosis were assessed following the guidelines of Hair et al. (2010) and Kline (2011). According to these standards, skewness and kurtosis values between -2 and +2 satisfy the criteria for normality. The results confirmed that all values in this study were within the acceptable range, validating the data for further analysis.

The data was coded and analyzed using SPSS software (version 21.0). The analysis included descriptive statistics of the sample and reliability testing of the measurement scales. All scales were deemed reliable, with Cronbach's alpha values exceeding the minimum threshold of 0.60 (Bernstein & Nunnally, 1994) and surpassing the more stringent threshold of 0.7.The Cronbach's alpha values for the scales were as follows:

- **Intelligence Quotient: 0.910**
- **Big Five Personality Traits: 0.912**
- **Extraversion: 0.807**
- **Agreeableness: 0.761**
- **Neuroticism: 0.872**
- **Openness to Experience: 0.890**
- **Conscientiousness: 0.904**
- **Job Performance: 0.901**

These results confirm the reliability and trustworthiness of the scales used in the study.

RESULTS

5.1 Demographic Profile of respondents

Analysis of the collected data reveals the following demographic characteristics of the participants:

- **Age :**
  - The majority (60.6%, 308 individuals) are under the age of 30.
  - Participants aged 30–50 years comprise 29.1% (148 individuals).
  - Those above 50 years account for 10.2% (52 individuals).
- **Gender :**
  - Male participants represent 59.25% (301 individuals).
  - Female participants make up 40.75% (207 individuals).
- **Location :**
  - 28% (142 individuals) are from Noida.

  - 26.2% (133 individuals) reside in Delhi.
  - 24.6% (125 individuals) are based in Chandigarh.
  - 21.3% (108 individuals) live in Gurgaon.
- **Educational Qualifications**:
  - Postgraduates form the largest group at 51.6% (262 individuals).
  - Graduates account for 38.6% (196 individuals).
  - Those with professional qualifications make up 9.8% (50 individuals).
- **Work Experience**:
  - 36% (183 individuals) have 0–3 years of experience.
  - 33.1% (168 individuals) have 3–6 years of experience.
  - 30.9% (157 individuals) have more than 6 years of experience.
- **Marital Status**:
  - Married participants comprise 50.6% (257 individuals).
  - Unmarried participants represent 49.4% (251 individuals).
  - There are no divorced participants in the sample.
- **Monthly Income**:
  - 43.3% (220 individuals) earn between ¹ 30,000 and ¹ 60,000.
  - 29.3% (149 individuals) earn less than ¹ 30,000.
  - 27.4% (139 individuals) earn more than ¹ 60,000.**Top of Form**

The mediating effect of personality traits on the relationship between IQ and Job Performance executives of IT companies under study

A mediator, or mediation variable, is a factor that clarifies the relationship between an independent variable (IV) and a dependent variable (DV). Also referred to as an intervening variable, it explains how and why the independent variable impacts the dependent variable. Mediation analysis is employed to understand the role of these intervening variables in the relationship between the IV and DV. It is assumed that IDV causes mediator and mediator in turn causes DV. Therefore, the mediation takes place when a third variable has a significant role to play in defining the relationship between two variables

In this study, mediation analysis was conducted using SPSS with Model 4 of the PROCESS Macro, employing 5,000 bootstrapped samples at a 95% confidence level (Hayes, 2017). A mediation effect is considered significant if the confidence interval does not include zero. In the model, IQ, EQ, and AQ are treated as independent variables, five personality traits serve as the mediating variable, and Job Performance is the dependent variable.

Mediating effect of Personality Traits on the Relationship Between IQ and Job Performance

Table 1 : Results of Direct Effect of Personality Traits on the Relationship between IQ and Job Performance

Variables	B	SE	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
Constant	0.2456	0.1038	2.366	0.0183	0.0417	0.4494
Intelligence Quotient	0.1297	0.0272	4.775	0.0000	0.1831	0.0764
Extraversion	0.0512	0.0218	2.347	0.0193	0.0083	0.0941
Agreeableness	0.0564	0.0252	2.242	0.0254	0.0070	0.1058
Neuroticism	0.0582	0.0267	2.180	0.0297	0.0058	0.1106
Openness to Experience	0.0783	0.0322	2.428	0.0155	0.0150	0.1416
Conscientiousness	0.2100	0.0323	5.415	0.0000	0.7566	0.8833

Interpretation : The direct effects of all constructs are shown in Table 1. Intelligence Quotient has a positive effect on Job Performance (β = .128, t = 4.77, p<0.01). Similarly, all the five personality traits also have a positive effect on Job Performance i.e. Extraversion (β = .051, t = 2.34, p<0.01), Agreeableness (β = .056, t = 2.24, but is p>0.01), Neuroticism (β = .058, t = 2.18, but is p>0.01), Openness to Experience (β = .078, t = 2.42, p<0.01), and Conscientiousness (β = .210, t = 5.41, p<0.01). Thus, Hypothesis H1, H2, and H3 are accepted. Thus, it shows the significant positive impact of Intelligence Quotient and Five Personality Traits on Job Performance except Agreeableness and Neuroticism.

Table 2 : Specific Indirect Effect of personality traits on the relationship between IQ and Job Performance

	Effect	Boot SE	Boot LLCI	Boot ULCI
Total	0.7081	0.0441	.6184	.7918
Extraversion	0.0166	0.0081	.0028	.0344
Agreeableness	0.0251	0.0189	.0009	.0523
Neuroticism	0.0271	0.0189	.0107	.0632
Openness to Experience	0.0471	0.0241	.0013	.0979
Conscientiousness	0.0592	.0448	.5033	.6804

Source : Author's Calculation

Interpretation : The research evaluated how Five Personality Traits affected the association between Intelligence Quotient and Job Performance. Table 2 presents the results of mediation analysis. As there are no zeros between LLCI and ULCI in the confidence interval, the findings showed a significant indirect effect of Intelligence Quotient on Job Performance (â = 0.7081, t = 4.77, 95% CL: 0.6184, 0.7918). Furthermore, in Table 2) the specific indirect impact of Intelligence Quotient on Job Performance through Extraversion (â = 0.016, p < 0.01), Agreeableness (â = 0.025, p > 0.01), Neuroticism (â = 0.027, p > 0.01), Openness to Experience (â = 0.047, p < 0.01), and Conscientiousness (â = 0.059, p < 0.01) was shown to be significant (p < 0.01). It leads to the acceptance of hypotheses H4a, H4d and H4e whereas hypotheses H4b and H4c stands rejected. Thus, results support the findings of Cavazotte*et al.* (2011)

Moderation Analysis of Gender between IQ and Personality Traits

Table 3 : Moderation Analysis of Gender between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Personality Traits

Variables	B	SE	T	p	LLCI	ULCI
Constant	1.0203	0.4625	2.21	0.027	0.1116	1.9290
Intelligence Quotient	0.6926	0.1193	5.81	0.000	0.4582	0.9271
Gender	0.4084	0.3223	1.26	0.205	-0.2249	1.0416
Interaction (IQ*Gender)	0.0815	0.0835	0.98	0.329	-0.2456	0.0827
R^2	0.3023					
R^2 Change	0.0013					

Source : Author's Calculation

Interpretation : Table 3 shows the results of moderation analysis between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Personality Traits. The moderation impact of gender was found to be insignificant on the relationship between Intelligence Quotient and Personality Traits (â = 0.408; p > 0.05; CI = (-0.2249, 1.04716)). Furthermore, the results depict an insignificant interaction of Intelligence Quotient and gender (â = 0.081; t = .98; p > 0.05). Thus, it shows the rejection of hypothesis H5.

DISCUSSION

The study analyzed the mediating effect of personality traits on the relationship between IQand the Job Performance of executives of IT companies. The empirical findings showed a significant indirect effect of Intelligence Quotient on Job Performance. A significant mediating effect of personality traits on the relationship between Intelligence Quotient and Job Performance among executives of IT companies suggests that the impact of IQ on Job Performance is explained by the influence of personality traits. This finding provides valuable insights into the underlying mechanisms through which IQ affect Job Performance and underscores the importance of considering personality traits in understanding executive performance in the IT sector. It explains that leadership development initiatives can be tailored to address not only cognitive abilities (IQ), but also specific personality traits identified as mediators. This holistic approach may enhance the effectiveness of executives in the IT sector.

The next objective was to examine the moderating role of gender in the relationships between the Intelligence Quotientand Big Five personality traits Examining the moderating role of gender involves investigating how gender influences the strength or direction of the relationship between variables. As per the empirical findings, gender shows no significantmoderation between big five personality traits. In other words, the association between cognitive abilities and personality traits appears consistent across genders in the analyzed sample.

The empirical results indicate a significant effect of the Big Five personality traits on Job Performance among executives in IT companies; it suggests that these personality factors play a meaningful role in shaping how well individuals in executive positions perform their jobs (Rothmann&Coetzer, 2003). Moreover, Organizations often use personality assessments based on the Big Five model in recruitment and talent management to gain insights into how individuals might fit into specific roles and work environments. However, it's crucial to consider personality traits as part of a broader evaluation of an individual's capabilities and potential for success in a particular job (Sartori et al., 2017). This will not only benefit the organization but will also provide those selected with an opportunity to excel in their area of interest.

CONCLUSIONS

This study highlights the critical role of personality traits as mediators in the relationship between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and job performance among IT executives. The findings reveal that the influence of IQ on job performance is significantly explained by personality traits, offering insights into the mechanisms driving executive effectiveness in the IT sector. This emphasizes the importance of incorporating both cognitive abilities and personality assessments in recruitment and leadership development programs. A holistic approach targeting specific mediating personality traits can enhance executive performance and organizational productivity.

Additionally, the study examined gender's moderating role between IQ and personality traits, finding no significant differences across genders in the analyzed sample. The consistent association underscores the universality of these traits across demographics. Organizations are encouraged to integrate personality assessments into broader talent management strategies, aligning individual potential with role requirements to foster success for both the employees and the organization.

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UNLOCKING THE CONSUMER MINDSET : FACTORS THAT DRIVE BUYING DECISIONS

Dr. Jyoti Garg
Assistant Professor in Economics, University College, Miranpur

ABSTRACT

Individual traits, societal forces, and cultural dynamics are just a few of the factors that have an impact on the multifaceted and dynamic field of consumer behavior study. The objective of this study is to elucidate the unpredictable characteristics of consumer behavior and provide insights into the determinants that impact purchasing trends with special reference to Patiala city. Consumers' purchasing behavior is influenced by a variety of cultural, social, and psychological elements, such as subculture, socioeconomic class, family, and social trends. This study aims to provide insight into consumer decision-making processes by examining emotions, attitudes, and preferences. Understanding these significant elements offers brands the chance to formulate market strategies and customize advertising campaigns that are in line with the preferences and requirements of their target consumers.The primary data was collected through questionnaire from around 50 customers in Patiala city. The collected data is analysedusing structural equation modeling. This comprehension becomes a useful resource for effectively addressing the demands and preferences of consumers.

Keywords : *Consumer, Buying Decision, Influencing Factors*

INTRODUCTION

The study and analysis of the decisions and actions people or groups take when choosing, paying for, utilizing, and getting rid of products, services, concepts, or experiences is known as consumer behavior. It entails looking at the needs, motives, perceptions, attitudes, and preferences of customers, as well as other aspects that affect their ability to make decisions. A thorough understanding of consumer behavior in the marketplace is obtained through the study of consumer behavior, which draws on a variety of academic fields including psychology, sociology, economics, and marketing research. It is essential to comprehend how people make choices and participate in the purchasing of goods and services. Marketers closely monitor the numerous internal and external elements that affect consumer behavior in order to understand it. Through a thorough understanding of consumer behavior, marketers may create strategies that effectively cater to the needs and preferences of their target audience. This study explores the phases of consumer behavior and the variables that influence it.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the decision making process of consumers.
- To investigate the factors that influence consumers' buying decisions

LITERATURE REVIEW

David and Forquer (2001) stated that gold has a special cultural significance. It has a significant impact on how customers behave when making purchases. One could consider this gold purchase to be ceremonial. It's a significant social act that links individuals with consuming, not just a transaction. Furthermore, the importance of gold in society reinforces cultural values. Its significance is not diminished by price concerns. One's cultural identity is reinforced by the motivations for gold purchases and the customs around them. In the end, one culture's customs can influence another.

Kumar (2003) carried out a study that demonstrated how understanding consumer behavior entails knowing how individuals purchase, use, and discard goods and services. Consumers, marketers, intermediaries, and regulatory bodies must always make sincere attempts to examine this. To expand on the corpus of information already in existence, they must periodically take action. The results demonstrate that consumers in both urban and rural regions want high-quality goods at reasonable costs. They are more likely to believe the counsel of retailers.

Magesvaran (2009) in his study titled "Gold : A Best Investment Avenue in India," According to an assessment, gold is used for more than simply decoration in India. Gold is primarily purchased for investment purposes. After bank deposits, it's actually one of the most popular ways to invest. As the world's biggest consumer of gold, India could soon become a "price maker" in this yellow metal market. According to reports, the real price of gold stays rather constant. However, changes in the value of the dollars attached to it are primarily responsible for the price changes we observe. For this reason, gold is frequently regarded by many as a wise investment option.

Rani (2014) implies that service providers need behave like psychologists in order to truly engage with customers in the market. It's about knowing what influences consumers. Businesses can improve customer satisfaction and offer a better experience by taking these aspects into consideration. Gaining knowledge of consumer purchasing patterns is crucial for market success.

Trivedi (2016) investigates the tastes of consumers for branded jewelry. According to the author, jewelry is now seen more as a decoration than as a pure investment. The marketplace shifts from disorganized to organized sectors as a result. Traditional jewelers pose a serious threat to branded players. In Rajkot, Gujarat, the emphasis was on customer purchasing patterns, demonstrating that factors including price, brand perception, and the influence of friends and family are important when making decisions. Curiously, display quality appears to be the least important factor. Major brands, such as Tanishq and Malabar, are taking bold steps to raise brand awareness and have seen success. Even with increased brand knowledge, consumers often turn back to traditional jewelers for gifts because they trust the purity and design they offer.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher employed a questionnaire to personally connect with the 50 respondents from the Patiala city and collect information about their experiences, attitudes, and behaviors surrounding gold purchases. In addition to primary data, the study included secondary data from a variety of sources. Journals, newspapers, books, websites, and official reports from India are among the sources. To augment and support the primary data acquired from the respondents, the researcher most likely undertook a thorough examination of current literature and other relevant sources. This method contributes to a better understanding of the elements that influence customer purchasing behavior.

Buying Decision Process

The purchasing decision process encompasses a series of sequential steps that customers undergo when engaging in a purchase decision. These stages facilitate the examination of the customer's decision-making process and enhance comprehension of their behavioral patterns. The process can be delineated into five distinct steps, commencing with the search for relevant information, followed by the evaluation of various possibilities, and culminating in the final determination to make a purchase. Following the transaction, consideration is given to post-purchase behavior and consumer satisfaction. The subsequent section is an outline of the purchase decision process.

Problem Recognition : It is the preliminary phase of the consumer purchasing decision process in which the necessity for a specific product or service is acknowledged. Recognition can be obtained through either internal or external stimuli, including the desires or aspirations of an individual, advertisements, or recommendations from others. Purchasing urgency fluctuates in accordance with the criticality of the necessity. Immediate purchases of products that hold great significance are made by consumers. Conversely, purchases of goods with a lesser priority are delayed.

Information Search : Following the identification of a specific product's necessity, consumers proceed to conduct an information inquiry. The purpose of the search is to gather information pertaining to the brand, features, benefits, and availability of the product from a variety of sources, including family, acquaintances,

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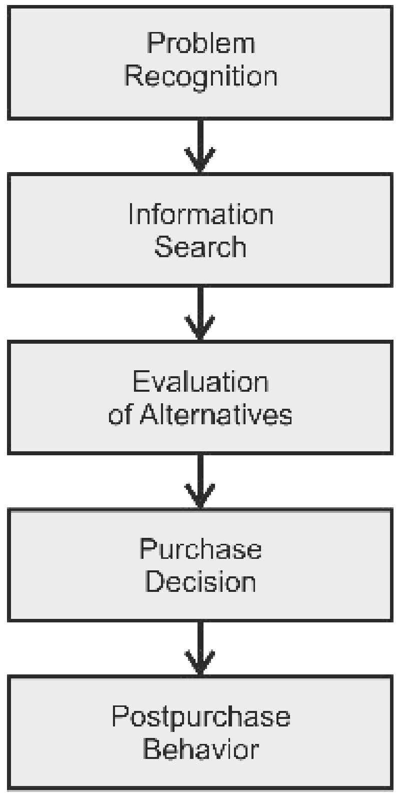

advertisements, mass media, and opinion leaders. By gathering data from a variety of sources, consumers assess numerous alternatives and determine which one best meets their requirements and preferences.

Evaluation of alternatives : Following the collection of data from numerous sources, consumers assess a variety of alternatives according to a variety of criteria, including but not limited to product quality, pricing, and brand reputation. A consumer contrasts and ranks the various options during this phase, taking into account their characteristics, advantages, and disadvantages. The assessment standards employed by consumers are contingent upon the particular product and purchasing scenario at hand.

Purchase Decision: Consumers develop opinions regarding various products after collecting information from diverse sources. These opinions are influenced by factors such as affordability, brand image, quality, design, the dealer's terms and conditions, and the associated risk. In making their ultimate purchasing decisions, consumers rely on opinions. The product selected from a specific brand corresponds to the inclination and perceived worth of the consumer.

Post-Purchase Behavior: For marketers, the post-purchase behavior of consumers represents a formidable obstacle. A consumer is categorized as either content or dissatisfied after utilizing a product. When a product fulfills the expectations of consumers, it results in brand loyalty and continued use. A failure of a product to deliver the intended level of contentment results in discontent among consumers, a reduction in the intention to repurchase, and a rift between vendors and purchasers. In order to tackle this obstacle, marketers' endeavor is to optimize customer contentment through proactive anticipation of customers' requirements, attitudes, and beliefs, as well as by customizing products and services to align with consumers' expectations.

FACTORS AFFECTING CONSUMER BUYING BEHAVIOR

Marketers face the challenge of understanding and navigating the complex and dynamic nature of consumers' buying behavior, which is influenced by personal, cultural, social, and psychological factors that are interlinked with each other, shaping consumers' desires, needs, and purchasing decisions.

I) Personal Factors :

Personal factors exhibit variability across individuals and exert distinct influences during distinct life stages. A number of personal factors, including economic conditions, age, and occupation, are delineated as follows :

Age and Life Cycle: As individuals progress through several life stages, their preferences and interests undergo transformations, resulting in divergent patterns in their consumer behavior. During the adolescent stage, individuals tend to have a desire for consumer goods that are centered around fashion, technology, and entertainment. In contrast, as individuals transition into adulthood, their priorities shift towards things that cater to housing and family-related needs.

Occupation : Due to the unique preferences and spending patterns that many occupations exhibit, careers have a significant impact on people's purchasing decisions. Professionals within the creative industry may exhibit a higher inclination towards allocating their resources towards the procurement of art supplies, while individuals operating within the healthcare sector may place a heightened emphasis on the acquisition of medical equipment.

Economic Condition : The aforementioned factor establishes the ability of consumers to purchase goods and services, as well as their level of affordability. There exists a positive correlation between the income level of consumers and their ability to pay. Individuals with elevated amounts of income tend to have a preference for purchasing branded and costly things. Conversely, individuals with limited financial resources tend to choose unbranded and affordable products.

Personality and Lifestyle : The personality traits and lifestyle preferences of consumers have a significant impact on their purchasing behavior. This is because individuals with varying personalities and lives possess unique interests, beliefs, and consumption patterns. For instance, people with a propensity for adventure may have a greater inclination towards acquiring things associated with travel, whereas individuals with a strong environmental consciousness may prioritize products that are eco-friendly and sustainable.

II) Cultural Factors :

Cultural factors exert a significant impact on the purchasing decisions of consumers, given that cultural environments have a tendency to mould individuals. Variations in preferences for products, brands, and communication styles result from cultural differences. It is crucial for marketers to comprehend the cultural milieu of their intended markets.

Culture : The influence of culture on consumers' purchasing behavior is substantial, as it moulds their consumption patterns through the transmission of shared values, conventions, and traditions. Religious and social customs are just two examples of cultural factors that have an impact on consumer decisions. In order to establish effective connections with consumers, marketers are required to modify their techniques in accordance with the culturalbackgrounds of their target markets.

Sub-Culture : Sub-cultures refer to the cultural groups that coexist within a larger cultural framework. Individuals possess distinct identities, interests, and consumption patterns that set them apart from the dominant cultural norms. Marketers frequently employ targeted strategies to engage with distinct subcultures, aiming to establish connections with these specialized consumer niches.

Social Class: The purchasing behavior of consumers is significantly impacted by social class, as individuals belonging to different social classes exhibit unique patterns of purchasing power, tastes, and consumption. Consumers belonging to higher social strata tend to exhibit a greater propensity for acquiring premium merchandise, whereas individuals hailing from lower social strata tend to prefer cost-effective alternatives.

III) Social Factors

Social variables refer to the external influences that exert an impact on customers' purchasing behavior.The opinions and recommendations of one's family, friends, and coworkers have a big impact on their purchasing behavior. In order to comprehend consumer dynamics, marketers take into account many social elements and employ strategies to effectively reach their intended target consumers.

Family: The family, as a fundamental social entity, exerts a substantial impact on consumers' purchasing behavior, given that family members frequently participate in decision-making processes and mutually affect one another's preferences and selection of purchases.

Reference Groups: The influence of social groups, including peers, friends, and prominent individuals, is a crucial in shaping consumer behavior. Individuals often seek social acceptance, direction, and inspiration factor from these groups when making purchasing choices.

Social Role and Status: Social duties and status refer to the position and associated responsibilities that an individual holds within a given society. Consumers frequently engage in buying decision-making processes with the intention of satisfying their perceived role expectations. For instance, an individual occupying a managerial role may have a propensity to acquire luxury brands as a means of projecting a specific societal standing.

CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS

One of the most important steps in validating the measurement model is Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) with AMOS. This procedure assesses discriminant validity, convergent validity, composite reliability, and model fit. Indexes like the Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI), Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), Chi-square (χ^2), and Comparative Fit Index (CFI) are used to evaluate model fit. A non-significant χ^2, CFI and TLI values above 0.90, and RMSEA values below 0.08 are all signs of a well-fitting model (Byrne, 2016). The internal consistency of the constructs is evaluated by composite reliability (CR), with values more than 0.70 deemed satisfactory (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). Average variation Extracted (AVE) is used to assess convergent validity; values greater than 0.50 suggest that the construct accounts for over half of the variation of its indicators (Hair et al., 2010). When the square root of the AVE for each construct is higher than the correlations with other constructs, discriminant validity is confirmed, ensuring that the constructs are different from one another (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). Overall, the AMOS-based CFA validates the measurement model's validity and reliability, guaranteeing that the constructs are precise and unique for additional study (Hair et al., 2010; Byrne, 2016).

Model fit statistics

Measure	Estimate	Threshold	Interpretation
CMIN/DF	2.633	Between 1 and 3	Excellent
CFI	0.968	>0.95	Excellent
SRMR	0.038	<0.08	Excellent
RMSEA	0.035	<0.06	Excellent
PClose	1.005	>0.05	Excellent

Reliability and Validity statistics

	CR	AVE	MSV	Cultural	Social	Personal	Behavior
Cultural	0.840	0.544	0.025	0.737			
Social	0.878	0.617	0.126	0.063	0.785		
Personal	0.860	0.572	0.116	-0.042	-0.242***	0.756	-0.183
Behavior	0.958	0.709	0.016	0.121	0.117	B	0.842

The model fit parameters, including CMIN/DF (2.633), CFI (0.968), SRMR (0.038), RMSEA (0.035), and PClose (1.005), all fall below acceptable thresholds when compared to benchmark standards established by Hair et al. (2010) and Kline (2011). As a result, the model and the data match nicely. Furthermore, factor loadings surpass 0.50 and maintain statistical significance at p-value 0.05, confirming convergent validity (Hair et al., 2010). Composite reliability for all constructs is higher than 0.70 (Hair et al., 2006), and average variance obtained from variables is higher than the 0.50 threshold (Fornell and Larcker, 1981). It has been determined that every construct in the questionnaire has convergent validity since all requirements for convergent validity have been satisfied. As correlations between construct pairings are less than the square root of Average Variance Extracted (AVE), tables further illustrate discriminant validity. All of these results support the measurement model's discriminant validity, convergent validity, and reliability. Overall, the results of the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and an evaluation of the validity and reliability of the measurement model highlight the dimensionality, sufficiency, and applicability of the measurement scales and related latent variables.

STRUCTURAL MODEL ANALYSIS

Results of relationships

			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
behavior	<---	Cultural	.074	.054	2.972	.029
behavior	<---	social	.196	.078	4.874	***
behavior	<---	personal	-.023	.023	-.608	.219

Estimates, standard errors (S.E.), and critical ratios (C.R.) are used to illustrate the links between the purchasing behavior of rural women in Punjab with regard to gold jewelry and other influencing factors. With an estimate of.074, cultural factors show a substantial impact (C.R. = 2.972, P =.029) and a positive connection with behavior. With an estimate of.196, social factors show a stronger positive link and a significant influence (C.R. = 4.874, P <.001). On the other hand, personal factors show a negative relationship with an estimate of -.023 (C.R. = -.608, P =.219), which is not statistically significant.

These results demonstrate that social variables have the greatest influence on consumer behavior, with cultural elements following somewhat behind. Although they have a negative correlation, personal factors do not reach statistical significance, indicating that they have minimal bearing on purchasing decisions.

FINDINGS

The study of consumer behavior yields the following summarized findings :

- **Understanding Consumer Choices :** The examination of consumer behavior offers valuable insights into the decision-making process individuals employ while making purchases. This study offers significant perspectives on consumer purchasing behavior, encompassing the factors of when, what, and why individuals make their purchases.
- **Factors Influencing Consumer Behavior :** These findings highlight that social factors emerge as the most influential, significantly impacting consumer behavior, followed by cultural factors, although to a lesser extent. Personal factors, while negatively associated, are not statistically significant, suggesting a little role in influencing purchasing decisions.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the process of consumer buying behavior is intricate and multifaceted, subject to the effects of a diverse array of circumstances. These factors can be broadly classified into internal and external impacts. Consumer decisions are influenced by internal elements such as individual qualities, needs, perceptions, attitudes, and psychological aspects. These internal factors play a substantial part in defining the decision-making process of consumers. Consumer decision-making is influenced by a range of external influences, including social, cultural, economic, technological, and environmental elements. A comprehensive comprehension of these elements is vital for firms and marketers who aim to proficiently target and engage their designated audience. By acknowledging the complex interrelationship of these factors, organizations have the ability to customize their marketing tactics and product offers in order to coincide with the preferences and requirements of consumers. The investigation of consumer purchasing behavior is a continuous pursuit that necessitates a profound comprehension of human psychology, societal dynamics, and market trends. By remaining cognizant of these elements, enterprises can establish more robust relationships with their clientele, stimulate revenue generation, and cultivate enduring brand allegiance within a dynamic commercial environment.

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FACTORS AFFECTING BUYING BEHAVIOR TOWARDS HEALTH INSURANCE PRODUCTS IN INDIAN CONTEXT

Harpreet Sandhu
Research Scholar, Punjabi University, Patiala

Dr. Ravneet Kaur
Assistant Professor, Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal (Dhuri)

ABSTRACT

The study's goal is to comprehend the variables affecting consumers' purchasing decisions for health insurance products in the Indian context. This is done by expanding existing Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) & Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) with construct insurance knowledge. The study was conducted by collecting data using convenience sampling from the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi. Structure equation modeling was used to establish relationships between different variables. The findings demonstrated that the Index of insurance knowledge and subjective norms to be the strongest constructs. This study would be helpful to the private as well as public health insurance companies to increase their customer base as well as for the Indian citizens who have not undertaken any health insurance to date.

Keywords : *Buying behavior, Health Insurance, TPB, TRA, Index of insurance knowledge.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In India, there is a lot of competition in the insurance business, and life insurance products accounting for more than 70% of the market. The market suffers from significant information asymmetry as a result of financial illiteracy. Many households lack bank accounts and access to the formal financial sector. Usually, the only sources of information in this situation are insurance agents. Insurance is frequently viewed as a different investment choice, even if the profits from this style of investing may be sub par. Traditional finance assumes that all decisions are viewed from the perspective of risk and return. To believe that people are guided by logic and reason, as well as their independent judgment, is arrogant. It claims that markets are efficient, which implies that the price of any security represents a fair assessment of its intrinsic value. On the other hand, behavioural finance acknowledges the significance of feelings and herd instincts in affecting choices. It claims that how risk and reward are presented in choice circumstances has a big impact on people's perceptions of them. It contends that frame dependence, the effects of emotions, social influence, heuristic biases and errors, and other factors typically lead to a mismatch between market pricing and underlying worth (Sewell, 2008).In the context of developed economies, consumer choice in the insurance sector has received a great deal of attention. Many of these studies make the assumption that customers make logical choices to maximize utility despite having restricted resources and knowledge. The demand for life insurance is typically driven by risk aversion, inheritance considerations, and investment objectives. Instances of insurance purchasing behaviour that defy rational choice theories have been noted by several authors. Anomalies in consumer behavior that anticipated utility models are unable to explain have been explained using behavioral models.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The subject of insurance both life as well as health insurance has been a subject of discussion for a long. Various studies exploring factors determining life as well as health insurance have been conducted in the past. For example, research on life insurance purchases by newlywed couples was conducted by Ferber and Lee (1980). They found that financial circumstances are the main factor influencing the decision to obtain life insurance.They also found that attitudes toward saving and behaviors related to spending and saving have an impact on buying life insurance. Burnett and Palmer (1983) found that insurance brokers have a considerable impact on the decision to buy insurance applying consumer panel data from a south-western American city.

Noticed that clients of insurance agents purchase substantial amounts of insurance and place a high value on it.

Zhang (2007) found in another Chinese study the propensity of life insurance purchase significantly affected by the degree of financial anxiety, economic circumstances, health state, and understanding of life insurance.A considerable portion of Taiwanese respondents, according to Li et al. (1996), buy life insurance as a favor for insurance sales people. Gotllieb (2012) looked on underinsurance among the working class, overinsurance among the elderly, and simultaneous ownership of both life insurance and annuities. He arrived at the conclusion that the conventional economic model did not accurately represent the purchasing behavior of insurance, using a model derived from prospect theory. Additionally, the author made the case that individuals may decide not to get life insurance even in cases where insurance rates are actuarially sound.

2.2 Insurance Purchase Perception - TRA and TPB models

Several studies in the past have examined the insurance purchase decision using behavioral theories like reasoned action and planned behavior theories Fletcher and Hastings (1983) conducted one of the earliest research of this type, looking at the applicability and validity of the Theory of Reasoned Action in relation to life insurance purchases. They discovered that intention to buy insurance was significantly more influenced by attitude than by subjective norms. They also discuss a variety of subjects on how the TRA/TPB models relate to purchasing insurance. These include issues such as the customers' lack of awareness regarding insurance, the belief that it is not attractive enough to generate much interest, and the hasty choice to purchase insurance upon need or upon contact from an insurance salesperson. Omar in 2007 employed the TRA to research the insurance purchasing behaviour of Nigerians.

It was also found the decision to purchase life insurance is affected beliefs rather than attitudes. It was further asserted that purchases of life insurance were harmed by the insufficient confidence in insurance providers. Purchase desire is adversely affected by financial support from relatives and resistance to risk. Omar and Frimpong (2007) found that normative influences affect people's intentions to buy insurance plans in Nigeria. They claim that inadequate social programmes and improved consumer knowledge have contributed towards expansion of the Nigeria's life insurance market.

Rahim and Amin (2011) employed the theory of reasoned action to examine the factors influencing Malaysian bank customers' acceptance of Islamic insurance (Takaful). They discovered that the amount of knowledge, attitude, and subjective norm are all very important indicators of Islamic insurance.Husin & Rahman in 2013 employed the planned behaviour concept as a framework to study the intention to take part in a family Takaful scheme. They also discovered that customer-related factors, including consumer awareness, demographics, situational variables, and religiosity, had moderating effects. In 1995, Kurland conducted a comparative analysis between the ideas of reasoned action as well as planned US financial service representatives behaviour.

They concluded that including this component improves predictability of insurance agents' ethical intentions. They presented an altered version of the theory of planned behavior that included an element of moral obligation. Haron, Ismail, and Razak (2011) demonstrate attitudes as well as subjective norms moderates the effects of supervisor influence & sales objective on agents' intention to act unethically. This was found in their examination of unethical behavior among Malaysian insurance agents.

Research on health insurance in India predominantly on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of life insurance purchasers. Research on the underlying attitudes, presumptions, & norm of the society that support this behavior is still lacking. In addition, another important aspect that is seldom taken into account in the Indian context is the Index of Insurance Knowledge. Given the aforementioned gap, the goal of this work is to construct a model that predicts health insurance buy behaviour among the Indian population and to better understand the decision-making process for acquiring health insurance.

3. Conceptual model and Hypothesis Development

The aim of this research is to learn how Indians decide whether or not to purchase health insurance. The degree to which purchasing life insurance is seen favourably or unfavourably depends on a person's attitude, sense of how much societal norms impact purchasing behaviour, and degree of control over purchasing decisions (or actual behaviour). In light of the substantial literature evaluation, following research hypothesis have been developed:

1. Subjective norms positively influence customer purchase decisions regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
2. Subjective norms have a positive influence on customer attitudes regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
3. Subjective norms positively influence customer perceived behavioral control regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
4. Perceived behavioral control positively influence customer Purchase decision regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
5. Perceived behavioral control positively influences customer Behavior intention regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
6. Perceived behavioral control positively influences customer Subjective norms regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
7. Attitude positively influences customer purchase decisions regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
8. Index of insurance knowledge positively influences customer Purchase decisions regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
9. Index of insurance knowledge positively influences customer Purchase decisions regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
10. Attitude positively influences subjective norms regarding health insurance in the Indian context.
11. Purchase decisions showed a positive influence on customer behavior intention regarding health insurance in the Indian context.

Figure 1 Research model showing proposed relationships

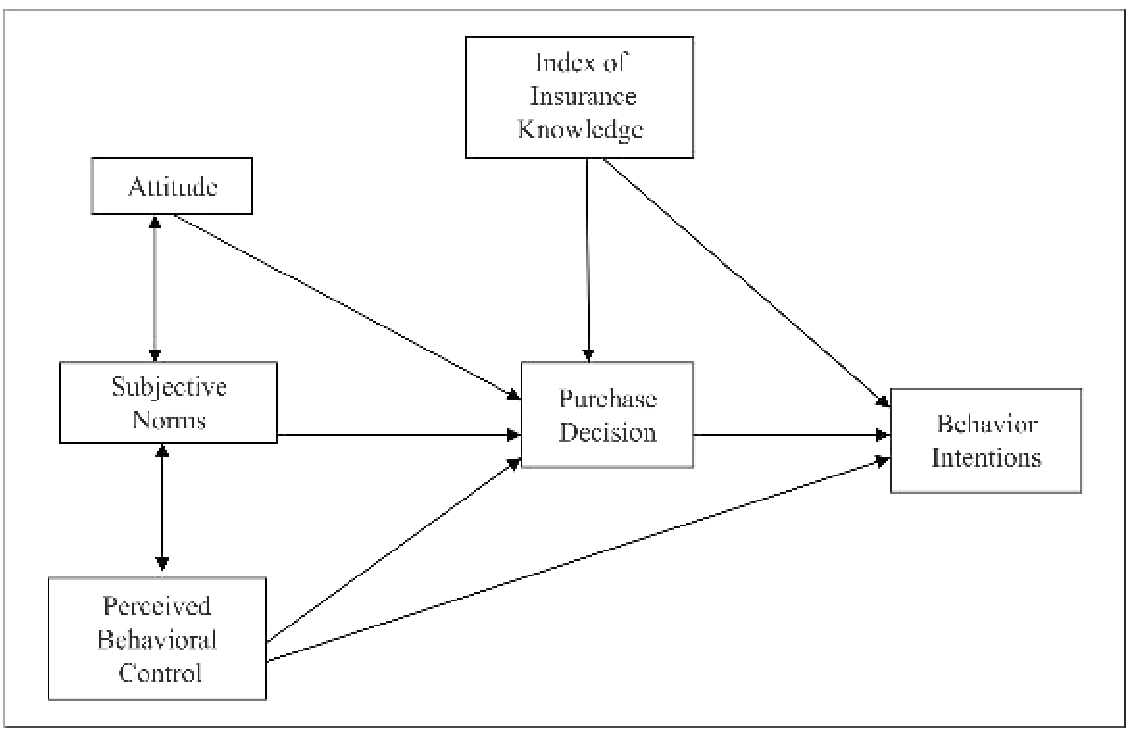

Fig. 1 The proposed model of the study

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Measurement

Using constructs & items from prior research, a structured questionnaire used in order to assess the theoretical hypotheses. Data gathered from Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab's largest cities. The constructs of the study were adapted from Paul et al in 2016, Dragos et. al. in 2020, and Manrai et al. in 2021. The structured questionnaire's questions were graded using a Likert scale with a maximum score of 5, with 1 indicates severe disagreement and 5 indicated strong agreement. The structured questionnaire also included four demographic profile questions such as age, gender, education, and smartphone usage. Additionally, a pre-test using this instrument was carried out in February 2021 with a sample size of 50 participants. The responses have been eliminated from the primary data set utilized for modeling to prevent distortion of the results.

4.2 Data

A method of random sampling has been utilized to collect data, with the main objective of examining customer attitudes on purchase behavior for health insurance products. Another reason for use of this method is that there is no specific list of Indian citizens who have taken or intend to take health insurance products (Matthew et al., 2012). Utilizing convenience sampling, the information was gathered in February 2021 from 350 respondents in various areas of Delhi NCR. The absence of a trustworthy list of health insurance products in India is what led to the selection of this sample technique (Baabdullah et. Al., 2019). Two hundred and eighty-eight legitimate responses were obtained from the three hundred and thirty total responses. According to a recently published study, the minimal sample size was roughly 180 because the study included six constructs and 18 items (Siddiqui, 2013, Hair et.al 2010). Residents of several Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi cities served as the study's respondents. 36 years old was the average age. All respondents had a graduation rate of 72%, 8% had not matriculated, and the remainder respondents had never gone to school.

4.3 Normality

Skewness-Kurtosis has been employed to evaluate variables' normality (univariate) (Hair, et al., 2010; Byrne, 2010). Using SPSS-17, values had been calculated employing SPSS-17. The results of calculations were all found to fall within the suggested range. Table 2 depicted the values for skewness & kurtosis both less than 3 as well as 8, respectively (West et al. (1995)).

4.4 Structural Equation Modeling Analysis

The statistical software analysis moment structures (AMOS) and the structural equation modeling (SEM) technique were used (Figure 1) to test the hypothesis put forth in the research model, and a two-stage approach was employed to test the theoretical relationships (Anderson and Gerbing, 1988; Schumacker and Lomax, 2010). First, the structural model was applied to all of the model's constructs, then the measurement model.

4.4.1 Measurement Model: Confirmatory Factor Analysis

The current research employed the technique of maximum likelihood for determining the model parameters, while confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) has been utilized to evaluate the validity and reliability of the data. For all of them, the variance-covariance matrices were used. The convergent and discriminant validity of the measurement model demonstrated in the table has been evaluated employing, standardized loadings, Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability (CR),as well as average variance extracted (AVE).

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Table 2 : Assessment of Normality

	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	Mean
SN1	.8634	.264	-.052	3.781
SN 2	.8637	.224	.101	3.732
SN 3	.8642	.562	.385	3.753
ATT1	.7638	-.503	.234	3.983
ATT 2	.7937	-.485	.416	3.945
ATT 3	.7353	-.482	.357	3.983
PD 1	.8431	.529	.476	4.037
PD 2	.8366	.310	.296	3.836
PD 3	.7306	.372	-.084	4.043
PBC 1	.8532	.519	.145	3.634
PBC 1	.8907	.262	.044	3.620
PBC 1	.8594	.327	.144	3.634
HK1	.9539	-.282	.024	3.593
HK 2	.9035	-.202	-.095	3.374
HK 3	.9143	-.443	.094	3.636
BI1	1.1372	.452	.094	3.099
BI 2	1.1378	.327	-.369	3.053
BI 3	1.1313	.324	-.134	3.153

Table 3 : Standardized loadings, Cronbach's alpha values, CR & AVE

Constructs	Items	Standardized loadings	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability (CR)	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
SN	SN1	0.789	0.819	0.874	0.607
	SN 2	0.760			
	SN 3	0.825			
ATT	ATT1	0.898	0.946	0.908	0.763
	ATT 2	0.890			
	ATT 3	0.840			
PD	PD 1	0.821	0.837	0.873	0.690
	PD 2	0.822			
	PD 3	0.849			
PBC	PBC 1	0.865	0.852	0.858	0.639
	PBC 1	0.845			
	PBC 1	0.882			
HK	HK1	0.796	0.853	0.834	0.578
	HK 2	0.821			
	HK 3	0.782			
BI	BI1	0.748	0.762	0.783	0.542
	BI 2	0.727			
	BI 3	0.724			

The AVE values surpass Hair et al.'s (2010) 0.05threshold, ranging from 0.0542 (BI) to 0.0763 (ATT). Additionally, Table 4 shows that the measurement model has strong discriminant validity, with all squared AVE values exceeding inter-correlation estimates for other related constructs (Fornell et al. 1981). The multi-collinearity of the independent variables has beenevaluated by researchers. The VIF (variance expansion factors) for each of the independent variables (SN, ATT, PD, PBC, IIK, and BI) were less than 5.0. Belsley& Partners (1980). This suggests that there is no skepticism in the research.

Table 4 : Discriminant Validity

	SN	ATT	PD	PBC	IIK	BI
SN	**0.778**					
ATT	0.175***	**0.876**				
PD	0.495***	0.435***	**0.837**			
PBC	0.537***	0.358***	0.576***	**0.858**		
IIK	0.437***	0.407***	0.655***	0.656***	**0.760**	
BI	0.634***	0.256***	0.439***	0.539***	0.341***	**0.766**

Note : Factor Correlation Matrix with squared roots of AVE on the diagonal

4.4.2 Model Fitness

The model's fitness has been evaluated through an examination at all major as well as recommended fitness indicators (Hair et al., 2010; Kline, 2010). In order to confirm an optimal fit among the data along with the suggested model, purifications as well as reevaluations were performed out for two significant indices, GFA & CFAI, as they failed to satisfy the threshold values. Anderson and Gerbing (1988) describe this as an iterative strategy that employs multiple criteria to enhance model fitness, including standardized regression weights (factor loadings), modification indices, and the standardized covariance matrix. Since every measured value is within an acceptable range, the model is fit.

4.4.3 Structural Model And Hypotheses Testing

The results of the structural model along with the measurement model are quite similar when assessed using the same criteria employed to evaluate the goodness of fit of the proposed model. This shows how well the model fit the data. The following threshold values were found to be within X2/df=2.231, GFI=0.922, AGFI=0.813, CFI=0.971, NFI=0.957, RM=0.037, & RMSEA=0.032: The analysis of the path coefficients demonstrated the importance of the model's various causal relationships.

Table 5 : Path Coefficients

Hypotheses	Path	Standardized total effect	Critical Ratio
H1	PD<—SN	.364***	13.510 ***
H2	ATT<— SN	.512***	16.813***
H3	PBC<— SN	.267***	6.381***
H4	PD<—PBC	.348***	10.892***
H5	BI<— PBC	.142***	5.629***
H6	SN<— PBC	.230***	8.180***
H7	PD<—ATT	.228***	4.945***
H8	PD<—IKK	.690***	5.631***
H9	BI<—IKK	.179***	3.751***
H10	SN<—ATT	.395***	11.980***
H11	BI<—PD	.244***	12.980***

Notes: *p<0.001, **p<0.001, ***p<0.001

5. DISCUSSION

Table 5, which presents the study's results, makes it abundantly evident that all of the hypothesized causal pathways, from H1 to H11, are accepted since they are significant. However, the author would like to specify some of the relationships that are very critical from the perspective of the practical implications of the study. Specifically, the results suggest that the index of insurance knowledge has a very strong influence on the purchase decision. Another important result is the strong impact of subjective norm on investor attitude and vice versa, both the relationships were found to be relatively strong. Subjective norms strongly influence the purchase decision. Additionally, perceived behavior control has a significant and favorable impact on the investor's decision to buy.

Therefore, it can be suggested that the health insurance companies, both private and public should emphasize spreading awareness among people regarding the significance of health insurance and how to select a health product. The companies should try to develop trust factors among the customer both towards the company as well as the insurance agent that the customers are not duped or misguided. This can also be treated as the future scope of the study. Another element that may influence the decision to purchase insurance or the desire to purchase it is result demonstrability, which may be taken into account in further research.

6. CONCLUSION

This research aimed to analyze the characters affecting purchasing behavior for health insurance products within the Indian context. The research was conducted using primary data collection techniques from Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi. The study proposed a theoretical model by extending TRA and TPB models with index of insurance knowledge. To determine how strongly the constructions were related to one another, the structural equation modeling program utilized. All hypothesized relationship was found to be supported and positive. Index of insurance knowledge proved to be the strongest influencer followed by subjective norms. The researchers suggest that the study could be further extended in different states and at different times. The mediating role of trust, digital divide, financial literacy, etc can also be undertaken in future studies.

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A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

Neelam
Faculty in Commerce, Department of Evening Studies- MDRC, Panjab University, Chandigarh

Dr. Rajiv Kumar
Assistant Professor in Commerce, Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali Govt. P. G. College, Kalka (Panchkula)

ABSTRACT

This paper provides an overview of socially responsible investing (SRI) literature. It outlines the development, cost, screening approaches, investors demographic, and SRI performance in the world. This systematic literature review also provides a thorough analysis of four research themes: the first theme is demographic characteristics of SRI investors. The second theme is related to screening approaches followed by investors and third theme is the main factors of motivation of SRI investment. The fourth theme identified is the performance of SRI vehicles in comparison to conventional funds. The literature review finds that most of the studies show the equal performance of SR investments and conventional funds, but these findings are also contradicted by few studies. The period of this study is between 1991-2020. The main aim of this paper is to find future research gaps with the help of a well-documented and structured review of the existing literature.

Keywords : *Socially Responsible Investing, ethical investing, SRI funds, Corporate Social Responsibility, ESG funds, Screening Approach.*

1. INTRODUCTION

SRI (socially responsible investment) includes both ethical and financial considerations. Earlier investors used only financial criteria for the selection of an investment funds and thus attracted towards those investment, which provides them high returns. But more recently, social screening criteria have been developed that allow investors to use non- financial criteria. It includes environmental and social concerns, in investment decision making. Many investors are encouraged to incorporate ESG goals in their investment decision (Schueth,2003; Epstein,2018). In both public discussion and academic research, there is a growing interest in socially responsible investment (SRI) and ethical financial decisions, particularly after the recent financial crisis. In SRI, the investments are made by considering non-financial reasons such as environmental concerns, social and governance issues. According to the Report on US Sustainable and impact investing trends (2020) "Sustainable investing is an investment discipline that considers environmental, social and corporate governance criteria to generate long- term competitive financial returns and positive societal impact." Thus, SRI is all about making a positive impact on society and the world.Existing literature on SRI reveals considerable diversity in the conceptual understanding of SRI. A large group of studies focuses on financial aspects of SRI, without considering their actual goal. Also, the existing literature creates confusion by identifying different results for a similar themes like motivational factors and screening approaches. Similarly, the existing results are not conclusive for the financial performance of SRI funds. In light of this, this study examines the origins of SRI and presents a timeline of its development. It adds to scholarly understanding by examining various research themes in SRI.This paper proceeds as follows: the first section details the origin and development of SRI. The second section defines the methodology of this paper. The third section discusses the literature related to various themes (1) investor's characteristics, (2) screening approaches, (3) motivational factors, (4) SRI performance & cost. The fourth section highlights the discussion of the results and future research direction related to each theme. This paper concludes by determining research gaps for both academic and financial investment purpose.

1.1. Development of SRI Investing

The SRI concept has its origins in a variety of religious movements. Church investing bodies were the first "ethical investors." As a result, the most well-known SRI applications are motivated by religion (Sparkes, 2001). In the early biblical period, Jewish law established precise regulations for ethical investment. The Methodist Church established such regulations for ethical investments in the mid-1700s (Schueth,2003). Early in 1948, UK Church investors developed their own investment portfolios based on ethical considerations. In the early 1900s, the equity market began to place a greater emphasis on religious issues of the Islamic community and excluding specific sectors which hurt the specific community and religion (Renneboog et al, 2008a). Before the 1990s, the practice of removing specific stocks from investing portfolios based on non-financial criteria originated in the United States and the United Kingdom (Schueth,2003). Some of the earlier studies, such as (Knoll,2002; Schueth,2003), shows that SRI practices in the United States and the United Kingdom have grown to the point where SRI investing models are well-developed. According to (Sparks & Cowton,2004), SRI acceptance by influential countries and investors, confirms its mainstream position, although market participants lack a unified understanding of what defines SRI. It is not a new concept, but it has gained momentum in recent years as companies and investors become more concerned with CSR. There are many causes for widespread acceptance of the notion of CSR, including the global financial crisis, global warming, environmental degradation, large corporate frauds, major firms' failure to discuss social concerns, and increased societal awareness. This has prepared the path for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations to become more important in investment decision-making, and thus SRI. With the introduction of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, SRI took centre stage in 2006 (Tripathi & Bhandari,2015). Recently, the investors of the emerging market and developing countries start attracting towards SRI investing such as Islamic SRI funds. SRI hasbeen developed in western economies since the 1980s, but it is still in its infancy in developing markets like India, China, etc. The causes for this range from a lack of investor knowledge to a lack of publicly available ESG information on companies on which investors might base their financial decisions. From the above it can be seen that, SRI eventually progressed to the point where financial investments and portfolios incorporate social and environmental goals into their institutional mission statements. As a result, SRI investment has emerged as one of the most promising and rapidly rising forms of innovative development finance.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Search Strategy

The articles analysed in this review is retrieved from Scopus. The search was performed on June 2, 2024, using a Boolean search with keywords "social* responsible investment OR "social* responsible fund OR "ethic* investment OR "ethic* fund OR "ESG* investing OR "sustainable* investment. The wildcard character (*) is used to obtain results that contain variations of the search keywords. The review is conducted using the thematic analysis of systematic literature review.

2.2. Inclusion Criteria

Those articles are included which fulfilled the following criteria (1) original article; (2) published in A* and A class journal; (3) full article publication; (4) Published between 1991 and 2020; (5) published in English language. The articles are excluded with following characteristics: (1) review articles; (2) articles with irrelevant information.

The flow diagram of the articles selection procedure has been presented in figure 1, which are as follows: 423 articles are found through Scopus database searches; 400 articles identified after duplicate removal; 123 articles remained after screening of the abstract; 55 articles remained after screening of full- text. Out of the 55 articles, studies describe SRI investors' characteristics, motivation, screening approaches and studies describe performance of SRI funds as compared to conventional funds are reviewed.

2.3. Data Analysis

The data from the literature is presented in the form of tables including author, year of publication,

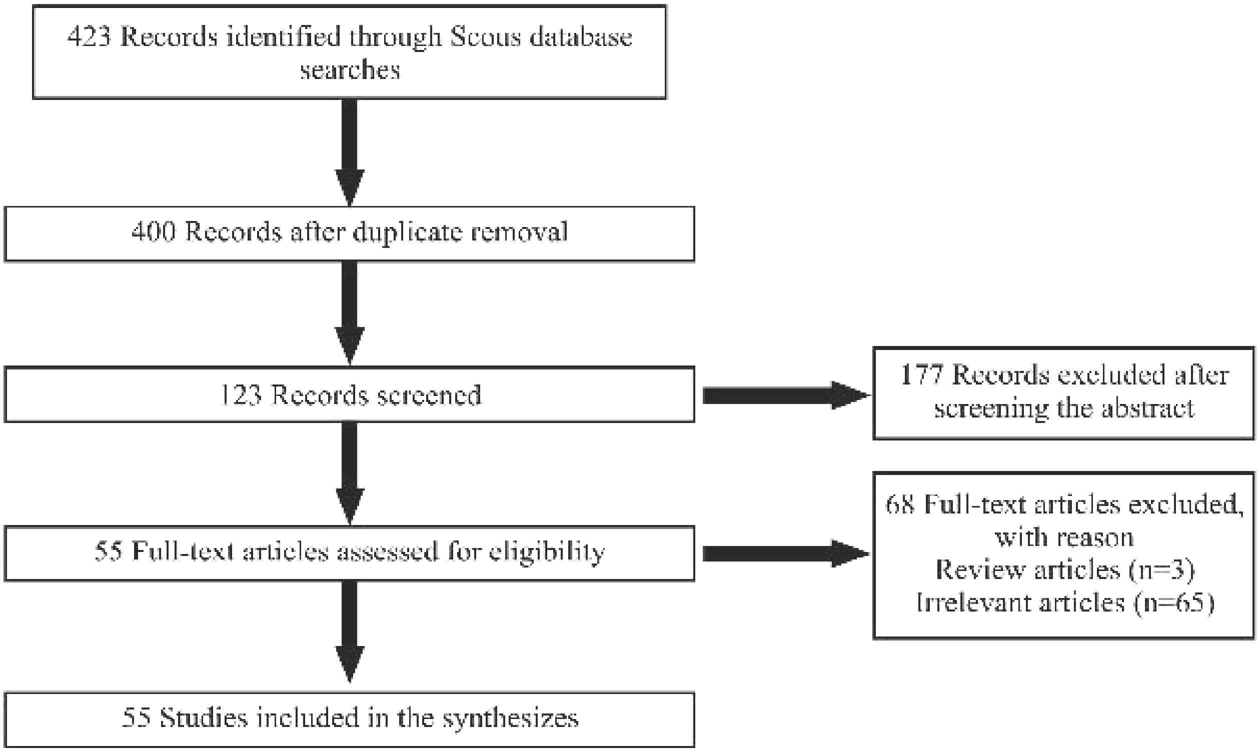

Figure 1 : Flow Chart through Phases of Study Selection

country of the study, type of funds selected, benchmark selected, performance measure, data selected and its sources, research methodology adopted and findings of the study. The citation score is also mentioned in the table which act as a proxy of quality of articles. The literature is analysed to identify various themes of SRI investing.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The Investors Characteristics

The literature on characteristics of SRI investors has focused on various human dimensions like attitudes and attributes of individual investors. The existing literature represent a broad understanding about type of investors, their thinking, motivation of doing investment and decision-making process. It also includes the screening approaches followed as well as the motivation of investors in SRI investing.

3.1.1. Age

Five out of 23 studies conducted in developed countries like US, UK and Australia shows that SRI investors are younger than conventional investors (Rosen et al.,1991; Lewis & Mackenzie,2000; Perez-Gladish et al.,2012; Nath et al.,2013; Dorfleitner & Nguyen,2016). It is possible that younger investors are more aware about environmental concerns than conventional investors Perez- Gladish et al. (2012). It is also possible that the older investors are not aware about the emerging concept of ESG as well as they are loyal to conventional investing (Maclachlan & Gardner,2004). However, one study shows that there is no difference in the age on SRI investors and conventional investors (Maclachlan & Gardner,2004). Thus, evidence available on age is still not conclusive.

3.1.2. Education Level

There are two studies which find that SRI investors are better educated while comparing them with conventional investors and they have tertiary qualification (Perez-Gladish et al.,2012; Rosen et al.,1991).

However, (Maclachlan & Gardner,2004) find no difference in their education level.

3.1.3. Income

Four articles found that the investors from middle-income group mainly prefer to invest in SRI funds (Rosen et al.,1991; Lewis & Mackenzie,2000; Perez- Gladish et al.,2012; Nath et al.,2013). This study shows that ethical investing is a part of ethical investors lifestyle thus having higher income is not an important cause for them for investing in ethical funds (Lewis & Mackenzie,2000). Maclachlan & Gardner (2004) in comparing ethical investors with conventional investors do not found any difference in income. Thus, it can be seen from the existing literature that evidence on income remain inconclusive.

3.1.4. Gender

Four articles found that women are more interested in SRI investment as compares to their male counterparts (Rosen,1991; Humphrey et al.,2014; Drofleinter & Nguyen,2016; Labidi et al., 2020). Nath et al. (2013) in their study shows that Women want more information about CSR than their male counterpart for making ethical investment decision. The studies also shows that women SRI managers have longer tenure than men (Drofleinter & Nguyen, 2016).

3.2. Screening Approaches in SRI Investing

At present, there are no theoretical model or framework that define the best trade-off between social responsibility or environmental sustainability and investment attractiveness (Berry and Junkus, 2013). Financial investors have made a clear distinction between ethical and unethical corporations, during the last few decades (Renneboog et al., 2008b). As a result, financial portfolio compositions started on the basis of ethical screening (Leite & Cortez,2014). The product exclusion approach is frequently used to assess the composition of SRI portfolios because of the difficulty in detecting organizational activities and quantifying corporate actions (Berry & Junkus,2013). The screening strategy includes both positive and negative screening. The positive screening is based on the "best-in-class" approach in selecting investments whereas negative screening uses the exclusion of certain investments based on ESG criteria. In the academic literature, a distinction between these two approaches is made.

3.2.1. Negative Screening Approach

Negative screening involves the exclusion of certain products from funds. The US forum of Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SIF) has listed 12 factors in examining the screening criteria of mutual funds, including tobacco, gambling, alcohol, defense weaponry, animal testing, environment, human relation, labor relation, employment, equality, community investment, and proxy voting. These are also known as "sin stocks" and norm-based exclusion because they are not included in portfolios on ethical and moral grounds (Entine,2003). Furthermore, an increasing number of investors outside the SRI group are also scrutinizing their holdings using norm-based exclusions (Bengtsson, 2008). Financial service providers might avoid criticism about their legality and social usefulness by excluding irresponsible organizations from SRI funds. In this sense, they take strong and sometimes political stances to protect their brand by enacting norm-based exclusions based on specific issues, such as the environment and respect for human rights.

There are six studies that report different findings on involving "negative screening" in investment (Entine, 2003; Bengtsson,2008; Hong and Kacperczy, 2009; Auer, 2016; Nofsinger & Varma, 2014; Trinks and Scholtens, 2017). Some of these articles find a positive abnormal return on "sin- stocks" whereas some find negative return and improved return by excluding sin stocks from the portfolio. Nofsinger & Verma (2014) and Trinks & Scholten (2017) find in their study that investing in "sin- stocks" leads to a negative return than conventional funds. The exclusion of sin stocks leads to higher performance (Auer,2016). In contrast to this view, Hong & Kacpercyzk (2009) shows that even if sin stocks lead to higher return but it is less held by the norm- constrained institutions. Berry &Junkus (2013) argues that negative screening is prevalent in SRI mutual funds SR index construction thus investors reward those firms which behave socially responsible.

3.2.2. Positive Screening Approach

The positive criteria involve investing in those companies which met specific criteria (Cowton,1998).

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Table 1: Description of Studies Related to SRI Investors Motives and Characteristics.

Study No.	Author (year)	Objectives	Country	Data	Methodology	Findings	CS
[1]	Rosen et al. (1991)	To examine behaviour of socially responsible investors.	USA (New) York	Primary data of 4000 SR investors was collected through questionnaire survey.	Descriptive statistics	- Socially responsible investors are younger and better educated than conventional investors. - Socially responsible investors mostly use environmental and labour relations issues to defines socially responsible corporate behaviour. - Although the investors value socially responsible behaviour in companies but not willing to sacrifice financial returns to achieve it.	**105**
[2]	Anand & Cowton (1993)	To explain non-financial dimension of investment by SRI investors.	UK	Secondary data on preferences of 125 ethical investors collected from EIRIS	Principal component analysis	Both financial and nonfinancial motivations influence the SRI decision.	**53**
[3]	Craig & Lewis (1999)	To examine the relationship between the ethical and financial beliefs of ethical investors.	UK	Primary data from 20 ethical investors were collected from semi-structured interview.	Qualitative data analysis software	- SRI investors don't want to sacrifice their financial requirement while considering their ethical concerns. - Investors prefer to invest only small portion of their investment in ethical funds, while leaving the rest in non-ethical investment vehicles.	**92**
[4]	Lewis & Mackenzie (2000)	To examine morals and economic psychology of ethical investors.	UK	Primary data on 1146 individual ethical investors was collected through questionnaire survey.	Descriptive statistics.	The SRI investor takes into consideration moral and ethical concerns while making investment decision.	**110**
[5]	Webley (2001)	Examining behaviour of ethical and conventional investors towards SRI funds.	UK	Primary data of 56 investors (28 conventional and 28 ethical investors) was collected through focus group interview and questionnaire survey.	Focus group, role- play	- Ethical investors invest in less risky assets than conventional investors. - Both ethical and conventional investors, invest heavily with the positive performance of ethical trust units but ethical investors respond more strongly to improved performance of ethical funds than standard investors.	-
[6]	Cox et al. (2004)	To investigate the relationship between pattern of institutional shareholding and socially	UK	The secondary data on 500 UK companies was collected. - Social performance data was obtained from the Ethical	Descriptive statistics and Regression	The long-term institutional investment has positive impact on company social performance.	**193**

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		responsible behaviour by companies.		Investment Research Service (EIRIS). · Accounting data was collected from Data-stream. · Ownership data (2002) was collected from a share owner-ship analysis database.			
[7]	McLachlan & Gardner (2004)	To compare socially res-ponsible and conventional investors	Australia	Primary data on 55 conventional investors and 54 ethical investors were collected through mailed questionnaires.	t-test, chi-square test.	· No differences between age, education level and income of socially responsible and conventional investor · Socially responsible investors rate ethical issues more important when making investment decisions than conventional investors.	**120**
[8]	Benson & Humphrey (2007)	To compare the determinants of fund flows of socially respon-sible investment (SRI) funds and conventional funds	Australia	Data related to 144 SRI funds and 4449 convntional funds was collected from CRSP database.	Descriptive statistics and t-test	· SRI fund flow is less sensitive to returns than conventional fund flow. · SRI investors are more likely to invest in a fund they already own relative to conventional investors.	**109**
[9]	Bollen (2007)	To examine the dynamics of investor cash flow in socially responsible mutual funds.	-	Secondary data on 188 SRI funds and 348 conventional funds collected from CRSP database	Descriptive statistics, OLS regression, t-test.	· Cash flows into socially responsible funds are more sensitive positive returns than cash flows into conven-tional funds. · Cash outflows from socially responsible funds are less sensitive to negative returns. · Investors derive utility from the socially responsible attributes especially returns are positive.	**214**
[10]	Vyvyan et al (2007)	To examine attitude and choices of SRI investors.	Australia	Primary data of 318 respondents were collected through questionnaire.	Descriptive statistics and t-test	SRI investors give More consideration to financial performance criteria than SRI criteria while selecting funds for investment.	**31**
[11]	Hong & Kacperczyk (2009)	To examine the effect of social norms on market and behaviour of norm-cons-trained SRI investors.	US	· Secondary data on daily closing stock prices, daily shares outstanding, and daily dollar trading volumes for NYSE, Amex, and Nasdaq stocks collected from CRSP and compustat.	Descriptive statistics and logistics regression.	· Sin stocks are less held by norm-constrained institutions such as pension plans as compared to mutual or hedge funds. · Sin stocks have higher expected returns than otherwise comparable stocks.	**613**

				· Data on analyst coverage collected from the Institutional Brokers Estimates System (IBES) database. · Data on ownership structures collected from the CDA Spectrum Database.			
[12]	Pasework & Riely (2010)	To investigate the role of personal values in investment decision making.	US	Primary data from 235 undergraduate and graduate business students was collected through questionnaire survey.	Descriptive statistics, factor analysis, logistics regression	The investors prefer to invest in SR funds when the rate of return on SRI funds are higher than conventional funds.	**53**
[13]	Rubaltelli et al. (2010)	To examine the impact of investors' affective reaction on selling investment decision.	Italy	Primary data on 63 students collected through questionnaire.	Descriptive statistics and regression analysis	· Participants wish to sell the fund at different prices depending on their affective reactions. · The affective reactions also influenced participants' confidence. · Socially responsible fund induced a more positive reaction than the ordinary fund.	**-**
[14]	Renneboog et al. (2011)	To examine money flows into and out of socially responsible investment (SRI) funds.	US, UK, Continental Europe and Asia	Secondary data on 321 SRI equity mutual funds was collected from social investment forum database.	Descriptive statistics, Fama- French model, CAPM	SRI investors of the US, UK, Continental Europe, and Asia and the Pacific Rim region does not consider past negative returns of SRI funds as compared to investors of conventional funds.	**43**
[15]	Perez-Gladish et al. (2012)	To examine financial preferences, ESG concerns and socio-demographic characteristics of Australian socially responsible investors.	Australia	Primary data related to 145 investors collected through questionnaire & online survey.	Descriptive statistics and Probit regression.	· SR investors prefer both financial as well as non-financial benefits. · Social conscience and social health issues, as opposed to environmental issues, are important for investors. · SR investors risk tolerance is not an important factor in the choice of SR investments. · SR investors are middle-aged, middle-income professionals and have tertiary qualifications.	**38**
[16]	Berry & Junkus (2013)	To examine behaviour of socially responsible investors.	USA	Primary data related to 5000 investors (including both SRI investors and non-investors) collected through questionnaire.	Qualitative data analysis software (MAXQDA10)	· Both SRI and conventional investors consider environmental and sustainability issues while SR investing. · Investors reward firms with positive social behaviour.	**75**

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[17]	Nath et al. (2013)	To examine the demand of CSR information for decision – making by investors.	USA	Primary data was collected from 750-US retail investors through online survey conducted with the help of GlobalScan Inc.	Descriptive statistics, Factor analysis, paired sis, paired sample t-test, regression	Women want more information regarding CSR than their male counterpart for making ethical investment decision.	-
[18]	Peifer (2014)	To examine fund loyalty among SRI investors.	US	Primary data from 499 Praxis investors were collected through questionnaire and phone survey.	Descriptive statistics, Logistics regression	· SRI Investors who invest in both SRI as well as conventional funds are more loyal to SRI funds than conventional funds · Economic motivations reduce SR fund loyalty and ethical motivations increase SR fund loyalty.	13
[19]	Borgers et al. (2015)	To analyse the economic significance of social dimension in SRI investment.	US	Secondary data on sin stocks collected from CRSP stocks database. Primary data from managers were collected through questionnaire.	Descriptive statistics and OLS regression.	· Fund managers do not invest in controversial stocks because of social considerations and practical constraints.	36
[20]	Humphrey et al (2016)	To compare the manager characteristics, performance of SRI and conventional funds.	Australia	· Secondary data on characteristics of 2000 fund manager was collected from Morningstar in December 2012. · Data related to monthly returns of 151 SRI funds and 3637 conventional funds was collected from the CRSP Survivor-Bias-Free US Mutual Fund Database.	Descriptive statistics, t-test, chi-square test	· SRI managers have longer tenure and are more likely to be a female. · No significant difference in the performance of SRI and conventional funds.	23
[21]	Peillex& Rangau (2016)	To identify the factors behind the decision of a corporate sponsor in launching a socially responsible (SR) fund.	US	Secondary data on 414 SR funds introduced by 46 corporate sponsors collected from Bloomberg.	Descriptive statistics, Pearson correlations, logistics regression	Economic and human resources slack, leverage, low media coverage and high extra-financial performance of the corporate sponsor are the main factors which contribute in launching new SR funds	9
[22]	Dorfleitner & Nguyen	To determine the percentage	-	Primary data on 181 SRI investors and 200	Descriptive statistics,	· Well-educated women and younger persons invest a higher percentage of their portfolio in SR funds.	11

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	(2016)	of SRI funds in investment portfolio of private investors.		conventional investors collected through questionnaire and online survey in English, German and French.	Chi-square test	· The optimal proportion of SRI funds tends to be lower when the available investment volume is higher.	
[23]	Riedl & Smeets (2017)	To examine the behaviour of investors of socially responsible mutual funds.	Netherlands	The primary data from 3382 SR investors was collected through online-survey questionnaire.	Descriptive statistics, OLS regression and probit regression.	· The SRI investors are more influenced by social preferences rather than financial motives. · SRI investors invest in SRI funds even after receiving less return and paying higher management fees.	-
[24]	Trinks & Scholten (2017)	To investigate the impact of negative screening on the investment universe as well as on financial performance.	US	Secondary data on 1634 controversial stocks of S&P 500 was collected from ORBIS data and Thomson Reuters database.	Mean-variance analysis, sensitivity analysis using OLS regression.	· Investing in controversial stocks results in additional risk-adjusted returns, whereas excluding them reduce financial performance. · There are opportunity costs of negative screening.	**42**
[25]	Lapanan (2018)	To examine behaviour of individual investor towards SRI equity mutual funds.	Sweden	Secondary data on 101,912 individual investor's socio-demographic characteristics collected from statistics Sweden. The data on the characteristics of 218 SR mutual funds and 687 conventional mutual funds were collected from the Swedish Investment Fund Association (SIFA)	Descriptive statistics and Regression	· Investors who hold at least one SR fund in any year hold both conventional and SR funds. · The buying decisions of SR investors were similarly sensitive to the past positive and negative returns on SR and conventional funds.	**5**
[26]	Labidi et al. (2020)	To examine the impact of national culture on socially responsible investment (SRI) fund flows.	45 countries	Secondary data related to 14,396 funds (600 SRI funds) from 45 countries collected from the Lipper survivorship bias-free database.	Descriptive statistics, Regression	The higher SRI flows are associated with low masculinity and high religiosity.	-

Investors know that there is no perfect company but for choosing stocks for the investment they start looking for better-managed companies (Scheuth, 2003). Such an approach is more complex because it requires modifying investment weights based on their level of corporate responsibility and accountability (Trinks and Scholtens,2017). Thus, the positive screening approach is considered sustainable and it provides an opportunity for investors in aligning their financial and ethical goals (Scheuth,2003). According to (Berry &Junkus,2013), the investors reward companies that show positive social behavior and exclude others based on their irresponsible social behavior. Nofsinger & Verma (2014) shows that different investment style shows different performance if positive screening is used that the SRI funds outperform in the crisis period.

(Cowton,1999) also identified a mixed-method strategy, which starts with negative screening and then moves on to positive criteria and then generates an overall score. Thus, this strategy is an alternative to the traditional positive and negative screening procedures. It is also called the "Best-in-Class" approach. There are various studies that show that maximum abnormal returns can be achieved when the investor use best-in-class approach in screening (Kempf & Osthoff,2007; Derwall et al.,2005; Bechetti et al., 2015). In France, investments are done through positive screening, according to best-in-class criteria, rather than doing their selections on the basis of ethical exclusions (Gompers et al.,2003). While specific indicators are useful for assessing corporate responsibility and irresponsibility. investors demand a more nuanced analysis of the companies' actions, both positive and negative (Berry & Junkus,2013).

From the existing literature, it can be seen that screening approaches of SRI have been evolved since generation. First, the screening was done that barred egregious offenders. Second, the screening was done on the basis of pioneers and now screening involves best-in-class approaches which help in achieving both financial as well as ethical goals of investors.

3.3. Motivation of SRI

Some of the empirical literature shows that the return from SRI funds is less than conventional investments. Thus, this section summarizes the studies who discusses alternative motivation of SRI investment except return. An early study by Rosen et al. (1991) argues that understanding the characteristics of SRI investors, especially demographics and motivation, is required to understanding their behaviour. Similar studies in the United Kingdom (Lewis & Mackenzie, 2000), Australia (McLachlan & Gardner, 2004), and Sweden (Nilsson, 2009) find that SRI investors have specific characteristics in terms of gender, education, and income. However, Williams (2007) indicates that the demographic characteristics of SRI investors cannot fully explain their decision-making; instead, investors' belief systems motivate SRI investment decisions.

The SRI investors may invest in SRI because they receive non-financial utility related to ethical and social values (Renneboog et al., 2008). It is also supported by the patterns of fund flows by ESG investors that they are more concerned about non-financial issues (Renneboog et al., 2011). Hong & Kacperczyk (2009) identified different preferences by different investors and suggest different utility models for comparing ESG and non- ESG investors. He also used similar modelling related to institutional investment in 'sin-stocks' and find that excluding these stocks by large institution significantly increase cost of capital.

Nine studies show that, ethical investment is a part of SRI investors lifestyle and they don't care about financial return and risk related to SRI investments (Perez- Gladish et al.,2012; Lewis & Mackenzie,2000; Anand & Cowton, 1993; Berry & Junkus, 2013; Benson & Humphrey, 2008; Renneboog et al., 2008; Renneboog et al., 2011; Peifer, 2014; Hong & Kacperczyk,2009). Thus, these studies suggest that SRI investors rate ethical issues more while making investment decision (McLachlan & Gardner,2004) and Investor's reward firms with positive social behaviour (Berry & Junkus, 2013). Labidi et al. (2020) investigated the impact of national culture on socially responsible investment (SRI) fund flows and show that higher SRI flows are associated with low masculinity and high religiosity. However, there are few studies which shows that SRI investor takes into consideration past positive and negative returns of SRI funds (Iapanan,2018; Vyvyan et al.,2007; Craig& Lewis,1999; Webley,2001;Rosen et al.,1991; Pasework & Riely,2010; Peillex & Rangau,2016). This study suggests that even if the SRI investors wish to invest ethically but they don't want to sacrifice their financial need while considering ethical concerns (Craig& Lewis,1999; Rosen et al.,1991). Webley (2001)

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Table 2 : Description of Studies Related to Financial Performance of SRI

Study No.	Author (year)	Period funds of the study	Objectives selected	Country	Types of funds	Benchmark	Data	Metho-dology	Perfor-mance Measure	Findings	CS
[1]	Gregory et al. (1997)	1986-1994	To analyse the financial performance of ethical unit trust.	UK	Ethical mutual funds	Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index (HGSCI) and Financial Times All Share Index (FTASI)	Secondary data on 17 matched pair of ethical and conventional funds collected from the Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS) database.	Cross-sectional regression. t-test.	Jensen alpha	The ethical unit- trust underperform the market benchmark.	**40**
[2]	Cummings (2000)	1986-1996	To examine performance of ethical investment trust	Australia	Socially Responsible ethical funds	The Smaller Companies Index, Industry Average Index and All Ordinaries Accumulation Index	The monthly returns of 7 Australian publicly listed ethical unit trusts was collected from ASSIRT Investment Research and Technology. (Research firm specialising in unit trust performance)	Correlation, Regression.	Jensen alpha, Sharpe and Treynor ratio.	Insignificant difference in the financial performance of ethical investment trusts against three common market benchmarks selected.	**81**
[3]	Statman (2000)	1990-1998	To compare the performance of socially responsible mutual funds and conventional mutual funds.	U.S.	Socially responsible and conventional mutual funds	S&P 500 Domini Social Index	Data on 31 social mutual funds and 31 conventional mutual funds collected from Morningstar.	Descriptive statistics and t-test	Jensen alpha, eSDAR.	· The average monthly alpha was 0.42% for SRI funds and 0.62% for non-SRI funds; the difference was not significant. · The DSI 400 index has a higher Sharpe ratio than the S&P 500 index (0.97 vs. 0.92). · Thus, no difference in the performance.	**357**
[4]	Schroder (2004)	2000-2002	To evaluate the performance of SRI	US, Germany and	SRI equity investm-	MSCI World index, S&P 500 and 10	The data on 30 U.S., 16 Germany & Switzer-	Descriptive statistics, Regression.	Jensen alpha	· The monthly alphas range from 2.06% to 0.87%. 38 out of the 46 alphas are negative. SRI funds do not significantly	-

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			equity investment funds and SRI equity indices.	Switzerland	ent funds and SRI equity indices.	SRI indices (Domini 400 Social, Calvin, Dow Jones Sustainability Indices, Naturaktien index (NAI))	land funds and 10 SRI indices collected from Thomson Financial Data Stream database.			underperform the benchmark portfolio consisting of both large stocks and small stocks. · 11 out of the 16 German and Swiss funds have higher exposures to the small-cap index than to the large-cap index.	
[5]	Bauer et al. (2005)	1990-2001	To examine performance of ethical mutual funds and their investment style.	US, UK and Germany	Ethical Mutual Funds	Worldscope market value equity index and Dow Jones Sustainability indices (DJSGI)	Data on 103 ethical open-ended equity mutual funds and 4384 conventional mutual funds collected from Morningstar (US), EIRIS (UK) and Eco-reporter (Germany). Return data were collected from the CRSP (US) and from Data stream (Germany & UK).	Descriptive statistics, CAPM Model and 4-factor Carhart model.	Jensen alpha	· There is no significant difference in return between ethical and conventional mutual fund returns after controlling for common factors like size, book-to-market and momentum. · Ethical mutual funds have different investment styles in comparison to conventional funds. · Ethical indices perform worse than standard indices.	**470**
[6]	Bello (2005)	1994-2001	To compare performance of socially responsible mutual funds with conventional fund of similar net assets.	USA	Ethical Mutual Funds	S&P 500 & Domini 400 social index	Data related to monthly returns of 42 SR funds and 84 conventional funds collected from Morningstar and Monthly return data on the DSI 400 come from Kinder, Lydenberg, Domini & Company.	Descriptive statistics, Wilcoxon two-sample test.	Jensen alpha and Sharpe ratio, eSDAR	No difference between socially responsible mutual funds and conventional funds in the characteristics of assets they hold, the degree of portfolio diversification, or investment performance.	**158**
[7]	Derwall et al. (2005)	1995-2003	To examine the impact of Socially	US	Environment friendly	NYSE / Amex / NASDAQ	Secondary data on 12 industries collected from	Descriptive statistics, regression,	Jensen alpha, Sharpe	Outperformance of environment friendly portfolios over non-environment friendly portfolios.	**382**

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			Responsible Funds (SRI) on portfolio performance.		and non-environment friendly stocks portfolio.		Morningstar database.	CAPM	Ratio.		
[8]	Kreander et al. (2005)	1995-2001	To examine difference between risk-adjusted financial return of benchmark portfolio and ethical and non-ethical funds.	UK, Sweden, Netherlands and Germany	Ethical Mutual Funds	Financial Times World Index (FTWI)	The data related to 60 European funds (30 ethical and 30 non-ethical) was obtained from DataStream database.	t-test, logistics regression	Jensen alpha, Sharpe and Treynor ratio.	· No significant difference between ethical and non-ethical funds with the performance measures. · Both funds underperformed the benchmarks.	157
[9]	Shank et al. (2005)	2000-2003	To compare performance of socially responsible mutual funds (SRMF) and the NYSE Composite Index with a portfolio made up of firms most valued by SRMF managers.	US	Ethical mutual funds	NYSE composite index	Secondary data on 11 socially responsible firms c ollected from Social Investment Forum (SIF).	t-test, regression and Carhart 4-factor model	Jensen Alpha, Treynor and Sharpe Ratio.	Outperformance by 11 socially responsible firms as compared to SRMF and NYSE Composite index in long term i.e., 10 years or more.	29
[10]	Bauer et al. (2006)	1992-2003	To examine the performance and investment style of retail ethical funds in Australia.	Australia	Retail ethical Funds	Worldscope market value equity index	Data related to monthly returns on 25 ethical open-ended equity mutual equity mutual funds and 281 conventional funds collected from Morningstar Australia.	Descriptive statistics, Carhart multi factor model.	Jensen Alpha.	· Domestic ethical funds underperform domestic conventional funds by 1.56% per year. · International ethical funds outperform their conventional peers by 3.31% per year.	57

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[11]	Brammer et al. (2006)	2002-2003	To examine the relationship between corporate social performance and financial return.	UK	-	FTSE -All Share Index	Secondary data on social performance of 451 UK companies were collected from EIRIS database.	Descriptive statistics and cross-sectional regression, Fama-French and Carhart Model.	Jensen alpha	The firm having good corporate social performance experience negative financial returns.	**19**
[12]	Mill (2006)	1982-2004	To analyse performance of one fund that has switched its investment style from conventional to SRI.	UK	Ethical unit trust	FTSE All-Share index	Data related to UK unit trust funds collected from Reuters Hindsight financial database.	OLS Regression, ARCH, GARCH Model.	Jensen alpha	No statistical difference in performance of both funds but the fund's variance has been higher for 4 years after the style switch.	**76**
[13]	Hill et al. (2007)	1995-2005	To examine the relationship between corporate social responsibility (CSR) and company stock valuation.	United States (North America), Asia, and Europe	SRI portfolios	S&P 500 for the US, Nikkei 225 for Asia, and FTSE 300 for Europe.	Data on 10-stock Asian portfolio and a 12-stock European portfolio collected from Social Investment Forum (SIF).	Regression, CAPM model.	Jensen alpha	· The European companies outperformed their benchmark in the short term. · Asian and US companies did not perform significantly differently to their benchmarks.	**126**
[14]	Kempf and Osthoff (2007)	1992–2004	To examine relationship between SRI portfolio performance and SRI trading strategy.	US	SRI portfolios	S &P 500 DSI 400 Index	Rating data was used which was collected from KLD database.	Regression, Carhart 4-factor model.	-	· The SRI trading strategy leads to high abnormal returns of up to 8.7% per year. · Maximum abnormal returns are reached when investors employ the best-in-class screening approach.	**292**
[15]	Schroder (2007)		To compare the risk-return characteristics of SRI indices with conventional indices.	USA, Europe, Australia, Canada, Sweden.	SRI indices	SRI index families Dow Jones Sustainability indices (DJSI), Ethical, FTSE4Good, Humanix and KLD	Secondary data on 29 international SRI indices was collected from Morningstar.	Descriptive statistics, cross-sectional regression.	Sharpe regression.	There is no difference in returns between both the indices but risk of SRI stock indices is higher than conventional indices.	**124**

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[16]	Galema et al. (2008)	1992-2006	To examine risk and return of US SRI portfolios.	US	-	-	Secondary data on social responsibility was collected from KLD research and analytics Inc. and financial performance data was collected from Data Stream.	Descriptive statistics, Fama-Macbeth Regression, Cross-sectional regression and t-test.	Jensen alpha	Socially responsible investing (SRI) decreases stock returns by reducing the book-to-market ratio and not by increasing alphas.	**260**
[17]	Renneboog et al. (2008)		To examine the performance of SR mutual funds.	Europe, North-America and Asia-pacific	Socially responsible mutual funds	-	Data on 440 SRI funds collected from CRSP (Center for Research in Security Prices) and 16036 conventional equity mutual funds from Bloomberg database.	OLS Regression, CAPM and Fama-French Carhart model.	Jensen alpha.	The risk-adjusted returns of SRI funds are not statistically different from the performance of conventional funds.	**284**
[18]	Cortez et al. (2009)	1996-2007	To compare the performance of socially socially responsible funds relative to conventional and socially responsible benchmark portfolios.	European Countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and UK)	Socially responsible mutual funds	MSCI AC World and MSCI AC indices, FTSE4-Good Global indices, FTSE4Good Europe index, The MSCI European Capital Markets Index.	Data on 88 socially responsible funds obtained from the SRI Funds Service (European database).	Descriptive statistics and CAPM model	Jensen alpha	European socially responsible funds show equal performance in relation to both conventional and socially responsible benchmarks.	**107**
[19]	Derwall & Koedijk (2009)	1987-2003	To compare the performance of socially responsible bond and balanced funds	USA	Socially responsible equity mutual funds	NYSE-AMEX-Nasdaq	Secondary data on SR mutual funds was collected from CRSP database.	Descriptive statistics, regression, CAPM model	Jensen alpha and Sharpe ratio.	· Portfolio of SRI bond funds earned a benchmark-adjusted return similar to that of its conventional counterpart. · Portfolio of SRI balanced funds out performed conventional balanced funds by 1.3% per year.	**59**

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			relative to matched samples of conventional funds.								
[20]	In et al. (2014)	2003-2010	To examine the impact of both socially responsible (SR) and conventional mutual funds on performance of funds.	Australia	Ethical Mutual funds	S & P 500	Data on 227 SR funds (including both incumbent and entrant funds) and 1395 conventional entrants collected from CRSP Mutual Fund Database	Descriptive statistics and regression	Jensen Alpha	Increase in the number of SR fund entrants have a negative impact on fund performance	-
[21]	Mollet & Ziegler (2014)	1998-2009	To examine relationship between socially responsible investing (SRI) and stock performance.	USA & Europe	SRI Portfolios	MSCI sustainability index	Data on corporate sustainability performance was collected from ZKB (the leading suppliers of SRI products on the Swiss financial market).	Descriptive statistics and Carhart 4 factor model	-	SRI leads to abnormal stock returns in both US as well as in European market.	**24**
[22]	Nofsinger & Varma (2014)	2000-2011	To compare the performance of US SRI equity mutual funds with conventional equity mutual funds during crisis and non-crisis periods.	USA	US Mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) funds.	-	Data on 240 US domestic SRI equity mutual fund and ETF funds collected from CRSP.	CAPM, Fama and French (1993) 3-factor model, and Carhart (1997) 4-factor model.	Jensen Alpha	· US SRI funds outperform conventional funds with similar characteristics during crisis periods and underperform during non-crisis periods. · Outperformance of SRI funds during crisis periods which use positive screening.	**129**
[23]	Becchetti et al. (2015)	1992-2012	To compare the performance of Socially Responsible Funds (SRFs) and Conventional Funds (CFs).	Global, North America, Europe and Asia	Self-Defined funds	-	Data on monthly returns of 1213 self-defined SRFs and 860 CFs were collected from Morningstar website.	Descriptive statistics and Fama-French 5-factor model	Jensen alpha and Sharpe ratio.	· SRFs plays an 'insurance role' by outperforming CFs during the 2007 global financial crisis.	**32**

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[24]	Leite & Cortez (2015)	2001-2012	To investigate performance, investment style and managerial abilities of French SRI funds investing in Europe during crisis and non-crisis period.	Europe (France)	French SRI funds	MSCI EMU Index	Data on 40 French SRI funds collected from Vigeo (European ESG rating agency) and data on Characteristics-matched 140 French conventional funds collected from Morningstar.	Regression Model and 5-factor Fama-French and Carhart model (1997).	Jensen Alpha	· High performance of SRI funds than conventional during crisis and low during non-crisis period. · SRI funds exhibit lower stock-picking abilities than conventional funds during non-crisis periods and no differences during crisis periods.	**31**
[25]	Tripathi & Bhandari (2015)	1996-2013	To examine the performance of socially responsible stocks portfolio and portfolios of general companies in the Indian stock market.	India	Indian SRI funds	GREENEX, ESG, NIFTY, SENSEX.	Secondary data on stock prices were collected from PROWESS database of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.	Descriptive statistics and dummy regression model.	Sharpe ratio, Treynor ratio, Jensen alpha, Information ratio.	· Socially responsible stocks portfolios have higher systematic risk. · During crisis and post-crisis period, socially responsible stocks portfolio generated significantly higher return as compared to other portfolios in the Indian stock market. · Environmental, social and governance (ESG) Index and GREENEX Index provided positive returns, especially during crisis period and even on net selectivity basis.	-
[26]	Auer (2016)	2004-2012	To examine impact of socially responsible stock selection on portfolio performance.	Europe	-	European stock market index STOXX 600	Secondary data on ESG of 520 companies was collected from Sustainalystic database and data monthly stock prices and dividends was collected from Factsheet database.	Descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation.	Sortino, Sharpe and Calmar	· Negative screening excluding allow investors to outperform a passive investment in a diversified European stock benchmark portfolio. · Negative screening based on environmental and social scores neither add nor destroy portfolio value, when cut-off rates are not too high.	**54**
[27]	Ur Rehman et al. (2016)	2002-2014	To examine the risk and return profiles	Eight Asian countries:	SRI indices	Dow Jones Sustainability Indices	Secondary Data on daily returns of various fin-	Descriptive statistics, mean-	Sharpe ratios and Jensen's	· No significant differences in the returns or risk-adjusted returns between the ESG indices and the composite indices within	**14**

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			of stock indices composed of companies meeting (ESG) screening criteria and conventional composite indices.	Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, India, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Malaysia		(DJSI), the Morgan Stanley Capital International Environmental Social and Governances Indices (MSCI ESG) and MSCI composite indices.	ancial markets collected from Thomson Reuters DataStream.	variance analysis, single- and multi-factor models	alphas	countries. · The market volatility of the ESG indices is higher than the market volatility of the conventional indices.	
[28]	Reddy et al. (2017)	2004-2014	To compare risk adjusted performance and investment style of conventional, SRI and Islamic funds of United Kingdom.	UK	Islamic SRI & Conventional Funds	MSCI AC World Islamic Index, Dow Jones Islamic US Index, MSCI AC World Index US, MSCI US SRI Index, Dow Jones US Index Asia, MSCI AC Asia-Pacific Index.	Daily price data on 37 SRI funds, 46 Islamic funds and 47 Conventional funds of UK were collected from the Morningstar Database.	Descriptive statistics, t-test and CAPM model	Jensen alpha, Sharpe and Treynor Ratio	· Islamic and SRI funds perform close to the conventional funds with significantly better risk-return trade-off in US focused funds. · The UK-based Islamic and SRI funds are less effected during financial crisis.	**22**
[29]	Chang et al. (2019)	2007-2016	To examine the operating characteristics, risk and performance of all available self-proclaimed socially responsible funds.	USA	SRI equity mutual funds	S & P 500	Data on 189 SRFs have been collected from Morningstar.	Descriptive statistics and Regression.	Jensen, Sharpe, Treynor and Sortino.	The self-proclaimed SRFs underperform the average of all mutual funds in matched equity categories.	**2**

& Pasewrok & Reily (2009) both in their studies found that SRI investors respond more quickly than conventional investors when performance of the SRI funds improve. The extensive literature related to main motives of SRI investors show that both financial and non- financial returns motivate SRI investors and thus remain inconclusive.

3.4. Financial Performance and Cost of SRI Funds

SRI performance is the most supreme research theme in SRI academic literature. This study identified 29 articles examining the financial impact of SRI policies including ethical mutual funds, portfolios, trusts. The SRI indices are also compared with conventional indexes in various countries. In the literature, the performance of SRI is measured by comparing the SRI funds and conventional funds, but there seems to be disagreement in the literature weather SRI is profitable or not.In making comparison, the different performance measures are used in different context. These mainly include Jensen alpha (Jensen, 1967), Treynor Ratio (Treynor,1965), Sharpe Ratio (Sharpe,1966) and some have also used excess standard deviation adjusted return (eSDAR), which estimates the excess return achieved by a portfolio on a certain point of time if same degree of risk is taken (Statman,2000).Investing in a socially responsible funds does not only yield high returns but it can be costly too. The cost is determined by the manager's expertise, the manager's definition of socially responsible investments, the portfolio's size, and the investable universe's base (Timothy et al.,2008) Several variables are used to determine the cost of socially responsible investing. There are nine studies identified which emphasize on cost of ESG investing and their impact on investors decision making.

3.4.1 The Costs of ESG Investing

Neo-classical finance theory infers a cost from ESG investing (Cummings, 2000; Cortez et al., 2009). According to Neo-Classical theory, "ethical investing will underperform over time because ethical portfolios are subsets of the market portfolio that lack sufficient diversification," and "selecting stocks based on ethical screening can be an expensive practice that may eventually have a negative impact on net return" (Bauer et al., 2006). According to the results of a survey of ESG investors, they expect a cost. As a result, there is a trade-off between principles and money (Lewis & Mackenzie,2000). However, the empirical findings suggest that there is minimal evidence that ESG investing has a cost (Cummings,2000; Bauer et al.,2005, 2006; Renneboog et al., 2008; Cortez et al., 2009).

Cummings (2000) argues that market-based mechanisms for corporate social accountability like ethical trusts have the potential to provide an alternative perspective to both the traditional neo-classical position of non-regulatory interference in market processes and the regulatory mechanistic approach. Unfortunately, this promising idea is unlikely to be realized if the lack of cost is actually due to 'legitimizing' behavior by the ESG investors. Haigh and Hazelton (2004) argue that investing in SRI funds promotes socially and environmentally desirable activities, and discourages detrimental activities. Because SRI is such a minor part of the financial market, the authors believe that it will have no impact on business behavior. As a result, it is possible to conclude that the creation of SRI is nothing more than an attempt by investors and fund managers to legitimize their own traditional activities. This theory also explains the reason for having no empirical cost as SRI activity is offset by traditional investing activities.

3.4.2 Financial Performance of SRI

There are numbers of empirical literatures which shows that including ESG criteria has no effect on the SRI portfolio performance and there is no statistical difference in risk-adjusted performance between SRI and conventional investing (Cummings,2000; Statman,2000; Schroder,2004). Out of the 29 most prominent literature on financial performance of SRI, nine studies show that there is no significant difference in the financial performance of SRI and conventional funds (Cummings,2000; Statman,2000; Schroder,2004; Bauer et al.,2005; Bello,2005; Kreander et al.,2005; Bauer et al.,2006; Mill,2006; Cortez et al.2009; Reddy et al.,2017). The result is compatible for ethical trusts (Cummings,2000; Mill,2006), stock indices (Statman,2000; Schroder,2004), mutual funds (Bauer et al.,2005; Bello,2005; Kreander et al.,2005; Bauer et al.,2006; Cortez et al.2009) and Islamic SRI funds (Reddy et al.,2017). These studies suggest that the reason behind same performance of SRI and conventional investing can be the similar management of SRI and conventional funds especially mutual funds (Benson et al.,2006).

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Despite the various empirical literature showing that there is no statistical difference in return, there is a small stream which implies that SRI portfolios can result in excess and low return than conventional one. There are nine studies which shows higher return of SRI funds (Derwall etal.,2005; Shank et al.,2005; Hill et al.,2007; Kempf & Osthoff,2007; Derwall & Koedijk,2009; Becchetti et al.,2014; Mollet & Ziegler, 2014; Nofsinger & Varma, 2014; Leite & Cortez, 2015). These studies show that using a positive screening strategy provides advantages to the SRI investors (Statman,2000) and it also provides positive abnormal return even after taking into consideration the extra transaction cost of SRI investing (Kempf & Osthoff,2007). The result is also consistent for the study who investigates the return of portfolio created on the basis of ESG criteria like eco- efficiency (Derwall et al.,2005). These studies suggests that if SRI investors remain loyal to SRI funds for longer period than they can easily achieve higher return. There are few studies (Becchetti et al.,2014; Nofsinger & Varma, 2014; Leite & Cortez, 2015 which shows the outperformance of SRI funds at the time of crisis- period rather than non-crises period while comparing with conventional funds. It suggests that SRI play an "insurance role' by outperforming conventional funds during crisis period (Becchetti et al.,2014). One of the reasons behind the fact that SRI's firms return is higher than that of their conventional counterpart is that investors might underestimate the impact of negative news due to irresponsible behaviour that can result in underperformance of the conventional firms. Such negative news would lead to conventional portfolio underperformance, and, vice versa, to SRI portfolio outperformance.

In contrast, few studies also find evidence that SRI funds and portfolio based on sustainability criteria results in negative effect on returns as compared to conventional counterparts. Seven studies in this extensive literature shows the underperformance of SRI funds (Brammer et al.,2006; Schroder 2007; Galema et al.,2008; Auer,2016; In et al.,2014; Ur Rehman et al.,2016; Chang et al.,2019). These studies results are consistent with previous literature (Muller, 1991; Luther et al.,1992; Kahn et al.,1997). The study reveals that the companies having high ESG score have lower return than market rate (Brammer et al.,2006). The studies also suggest that even if the returns are not different but risk is generally high in case of SRI funds than conventional one (Schroder,2007; Ur Rehman et al.,2016). Although the empirical studies show negative impact of including social performance on financial returns and supports trade-off between social performance and financial returns (Brammer et al.,2006; Galema et al.,2008), this does not mean that people should not invest in SRI funds but they must take into consideration the trade-off impact of investing in these funds.

The above table 2 give description of the studies reviewed and it can be said that different results are obtained while conducted studies in the similar context, which reflect both convergence and divergence of SRI performance studies and it also provide opportunities for future research as the previous literature is still not conclusive.

4. DIRECTION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The extensive literature review demonstrate that SRI is conceived differently in two basic perspectives: It is a financial invention that arose from ethical concerns about business practices. To put it another way, the

SRI coin has two sides: ethical and financial.

According to ethical paradigm, SRI is viewed as a tool which drive firms to change their policies and operate more ethically and sustainably. According to various SRI supporters and advocates, it is the ultimate purpose of SRI. The key characteristics of this paradigm is the multifaceted and diverse framework of SRI that comes from the nature of ethics and sustainability. This ethical paradigm is mostly represented by investor behaviour and SRI development themes. Given the great variability of SRI mechanisms and the uniqueness of each, a crucial issue in this paradigm involves the best and most effective approaches to attain desired goals.

According to financial paradigm, SRI is viewed as a new financial service offered to certain groups of investors, which assumes that SRI preserves typical features of traditional financial funds. This paradigm is represented by extensive empirical literature on SRI performance that focus on the financial aspects of SRI, such as returns, risks, and quantitative financial models.

This systematic review outlines four major research themes and present two findings that are relevant to them. First, the existing literature related to SRI investors has primarily concentrated on documenting their socio-demographic traits and psychological motivations. While further study on individual investors (e.g., on moral intensity and behavioural biases) is possible, the other human players (workers, customers, and communities affected by company actions) are not yet fully understood. As a result, they provide a more diverse range of research topics. Gender concerns, indigenous rights, employee conditions, and rights-violating regimes are all areas where more research is needed and can be done in the future. Thus, future research should attempt to explore new SRI paradigms. More concerns about the conceptual, cognitive, and behavioural issues of SRI should be explored in such investigations which is more closely tied to SRI's ultimate purpose.

Second, investigations of SRI performance dominate the SRI literature. This review indicates that considerably more studies on SRI performance has been published than other themes. Thus, it can be seen that the literature has overlooked the main goal of SRI, which is to change corporate and individual behaviour. The availability of data is one of the possible explanations for the popularity of SRI performance studies. Despite this, SRI performance studies have yet to adequately explore the diversity of SRI practices. The financial impact of shareholder activism has received little attention. Another explanation for the dominance of SRI performance studies could be that financial markets are increasing their demand on academics to give evidence on the financial impact of SRI activities. However, these studies have failed to reach on any agreement, and further investigation indicates that they are often done in similar, if not identical, settings. For example, studies often use comparable types and sources of data (e.g., mutual fund data from the US SIF or Europe SIF), similar method (e.g., multifactor model), and focus on specific nations or areas (e.g., US, UK, Australia).

In addition, most empirical research focus on SRI mutual fund portfolios rather than indices and other types of funds. One of the reasons of this can be easy availability of data. Thus, the future research on other SRI funds can be conducted to have a better understanding of SRI fund performance. Another area where there are few published articles is fixed income investment. Extending the primary themes (e.g., identifying investor motivations and observing the influence on business behaviour) as well as research that overlaps with other new themes (e.g., exploiting fund flows to uncover investors' genuine preferences) are both possibilities for research. Future study on fixed income could be very diverse and creative (e.g., the impact of green and social bonds).

The regional focus of the existing literature is only on USA, UK and Australia. While several empirical studies have looked into SRI in Europe, primarily in relation to the United States, the coverage of Europe has been limited. Existing European research primarily focus on the United Kingdom, which has the longest history of SRI and the most developed market; these studies, include a small number of other European countries. One explanation they offer is that traditionally European governments had a more responsible role in social issues, whereas firms in Anglo-Saxon countries have had more liberty in this regard. There hasn't been comprehensive research on SRI in Europe to date, and it would be fascinating to learn about the differences in SRI between European countries. Islamic investment vehicles have seen rapid expansion and are only now beginning to piqué scholarly interest. The further research on emerging countries can be done as it is understudied. More investigation on the Islamic principles' application is required. This should disclose whether the subjective aspects of decision-making are in line with conventional ESG investing or, conversely, if these funds face a reputational risk. Both investors and countries receiving financial flows will benefit from future studies. Investors aiming to diversify their portfolio risk should be concerned about the performance patterns of ESG investments in developing nations. in the existing literature, there are only two studies which focus on SRI in India and one focuses on China. These are the countries where SRI is in nascent stage. Thus, future research in developing countries is required. Developing countries receiving funding must be aware of the possibility that socially responsible investing will have a negative impact on their domestic activities and culture. More research into the impact of this on a broader range of rising countries is needed.

5. CONCLUSION

This paper describes the development, motivation and growing interest among individual as well as institutional investors for mixing ethical concerns in their investment decision by making investment in SRI funds. It also demonstrates many approaches for meeting this desire including positive, negative and best-in - class approach. After this, variety of empirical research has been summarised on the ongoing academic debates over the investor's demographic and relative performance of SRI vehicles. Majority of research paper finds that SRI investors are younger and better educated than conventional investors and they are more likely to be females of middle income- professional. On SRI performance, large set of research publications to date have found SRI funds to perform similarly to conventional investments, that a large number have identified outperformance of SR investments, and that some studies have even discovered a negative relationship between the two. These findings, coupled with the proposed future research avenues, are meant to improve the theoretical and empirical knowledge of SRI, which is necessary for its future development. These avenues indicate that SRI investment research has the potential to continue to grow exponentially in richer and more meaningful areas. The findings of future study will be interesting since socially responsible behaviour has the potential to change the world, we live in.

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DECLINE OF PUNJAB'S ECONOMY : REASONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Harmanpreet Singh
Assistant Professor, Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Daroli Kalan, Jalandhar

ABSTRACT

The economy of Punjab is primarily dependent on agriculture. Punjab has made a special contribution in meeting India's food needs. It has made the country independent from foreign dependence by meeting its food requirements and making it self-reliant. That is why it is also called a "Food Basket of India." Apart from being the producer of the best quality of cotton, wheat and rice in India, on Punjab also houses some major industries. But the growth of Punjab economy has become down nowadays.Punjab's GDP has declined since 1991. According to Economic Survey (2023-2024), Punjab has lost his strong position in ranking of states per capita income. Now the economy of Punjab is the 16th largest state economy in India with Rs. 8.02 lakh crore (FY 2024-25) in GDP and a per capita GDP of Rs. 264,000 ranking 19th amongst Indian states. If Punjab's deteriorating situation is not seized, then one day will come, when the shining of star (Punjab) of India will dull and it will lose its name and fame. It will become the poor state of the country. The main aim behind this paper is to find various reasons of Punjab's deteriorating position and suggest new innovative ways to solve this problem.

Keywords : *Punjab Economy, Deteriorating Causes*

1. INTRODUCTION

The economy of Punjab was once a beacon of prosperity and a model of development among Indian states for more than three decades following the introduction of the green revolution. However, the poor performance of Punjab's economy during the era of economic reforms caused its status to shift from a leading economy to one that is now falling behind. In the past, the state had the best infrastructure in the nation. Punjab used to be home to several important industries in addition to producing India's highest-quality cotton, wheat, and rice. However, Punjab's economy is currently seeing a sharp decline in growth. If we talk about the contribution of the state of Punjab in the national GDP, it is found that share of Punjab is only 2.4 percent in 2023-24. The following table shows the share of national GDP by the various states of India.

Table 1 : State share of national GDP

State\UT	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2020-21	2023-24
Large states								
Andhra Pradesh^	7.7	7.7	7.0	7.6	8.2	8.4	9.5	9.7
Andhra Pradesh	*7.7*	*7.7*	*7.0*	*7.6*	*8.2*	*4.6*	*4.9*	*4.7*
Telangana#	.	.	.	.	.	*3.8*	*4.7*	*4.9*
Assam	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.9
Bihar^	7.8	6.9	6.3	6.0	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.3
Bihar	*7.8*	*6.9*	*6.3*	*6.0*	*2.8*	*2.9*	*2.8*	*2.8*
Jharkhand	.	.	.	.	*1.7*	*1.8*	*1.5*	*1.5*
Madhya Pradesh^	6.3	6.1	6.6	6.9	5.8	5.5	6.4	6.1
Madhya Pradesh	*6.3*	*6.1*	*6.6*	*6.9*	*4.3*	*3.8*	*4.7*	*4.5*
Chhattisgarh	.	.	.	.	*1.5*	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.7*

Gujarat	5.8	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.4	7.5	8.0	8.1*
Haryana	1.9	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.8	3.6	3.6
Karnataka	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.3	6.2	5.9	8.1	8.2
Kerala	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.2	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8
Maharashtra	12.5	11.9	14.2	14.6	14.0	15.2	13.0	13.3
Odisha	2.9	3.2	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.7	2.8
Punjab	3.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.3	2.7	2.4
Rajasthan	4.4	5.1	3.9	4.7	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.0
TamilNadu	8.7	7.3	6.9	7.1	8.3	8.4	8.9	8.9
UttarPradesh^	14.4	13.0	13.2	12.6	10.9	9.9	9.3	9.5
UttarPradesh	*14.4*	*13.0*	*13.2*	*12.6*	*10.2*	*8.7*	*8.2*	*8.4*
Uttarakhand	.	.	.	.	*0.7*	*1.2*	*1.1*	*1.1*
WestBengal	10.5	9.7	8.8	7.9	8.2	6.7	5.7	5.6
Delhi	1.4	1.5	2.3	2.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
Small states								
Arunachal Pradesh	.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1*
Goa	.	.	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3*
Himachal Pradesh	.	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Manipur	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1*
Meghalaya	.	.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mizoram	.	.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1*
Nagaland	.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1*
Sikkim	.	.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Tripura	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	.	.	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04*
Chandigarh	.	.	.	.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2*
Jammu & Kashmir	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Puducherry	.	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source : Calculation based on MoSPI data

Note:

(1) Share of state is calculated as GSDP of state as a ratio of sum of GSDP of all states.

(2) For 1960-61 and 1970-71, ratio is calculated as NSDP of state divided by sum of NSDP of all states.

(3) *Number is for 2022-23.

(4) Andhra Pradesh^ is combination of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; Madhya Pradesh^ is combination of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh; Bihar^ is combination of Bihar and Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh^ is a combination of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakh and. Calculated for the state as if it was not bifurcated to allow for comparability.

(5) #Telangana was bifurcated from Andhra Pradesh in 2014, however the data is available since 2010-11.

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This table gives us a clear picture of the Punjab's position. It shows that the contribution of Punjab's economy to the national GDP is continuously declining. Now once contributing at the highest rate for the development of Indian economy but now its participation in GDP of the country is low. It has been suffering from agrarian crisis and the suicides being committed by its Farmer's is a proof of it. The unemployment ratio has also grown. As we know that the large part of Punjab's Economy depends on agriculture sector and hence the slow growth rate in agriculture has hit the overall economy of Punjab.

Punjab after witnessing rapid increase in per capita income levels following the Green Revolutionin1960s, did not keep pace with the national average. Punjab's relative percapita income rose from 119.6 percent of the national average in 1960-61 to 169 percent in 1970-71, but then declined to 146.1 percent by 1980-81. It remained relatively stable at these levels until 2000-01, after which it began to decrease again. Overall, apart from the increases seen post green revolution, the state has not seen any other push to per capita income levels (or even GSDP growth). The per capita income of Punjab was 106.7 per cent of national average in 2023-24, even lower than what it was in 1960-61.

Table 2 : Relative per capita income

State\UT	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2020-21	2023-24
Large states								
Andhra Pradesh^	89.9	92.4	75.4	79.9	100.9	.	.	.
Andhra Pradesh	.	.	.	.	.	108.7	132.1	131.6
Telangana	.	.	.	.	.	123.9	177.4	193.6
Assam	102.9	84.5	70.2	75.5	64.7	61.2	68.3	73.7
Bihar^	70.3	63.5	50.1	46.9	.	.	.	.
Bihar	.	.	.	.	31.2	35.4	33.1	32.8
Jharkhand	.	.	.	.	52.8	64.3	55.0	57.2
Madhya Pradesh^	82.4	76.5	74.2	71.4	.	.	.	.
Madhya Pradesh	.	.	.	.	65.1	60.1	80.2	77.4
Chhattisgarh	.	.	.	.	59.9	76.2	83.4	80.0
Gujarat	118.3	131.0	106.0	103.9	108.4	143.4	162.9	160.7*
Haryana	106.9	138.5	129.5	132.4	140.2	173.7	176.5	176.8
Karnataka	96.7	101.3	83.1	81.1	107.6	115.2	174.3	180.7
Kerala	84.6	93.8	82.4	74.1	121.5	129.5	152.8	152.5
Maharashtra	133.7	123.7	133.0	131.2	132.2	157.1	144.4	150.7
Odisha	70.9	75.5	71.8	54.3	55.8	73.2	81.1	88.5
Punjab	119.6	169.0	146.1	146.7	146.2	128.8	118.4	106.7
Rajasthan	92.8	102.8	66.8	73.9	75.6	82.6	90.3	91.2
Tamil Nadu	109.2	91.8	81.8	87.9	122.9	145.3	164.7	171.1
Uttar Pradesh^	82.4	76.8	69.8	63.3	.	.	.	.
Uttar Pradesh	.	.	.	.	55.3	49.4	48.6	50.8
Uttarakhand	.	.	.	.	77.7	136.6	137.2	141.3
West Bengal	127.5	114.1	96.9	82.4	97.5	87.5	82.6	83.7
Delhi	218.3	189.4	220.2	195.0	256.8	268.7	253.3	250.8

Small States								
Arunachal Pradesh	.	55.9	85.8	95.2	88.8	112.8	142.7	118.0*
Goa	.	144.7	171.8	155.1	300.2	311.0	332.5	290.7*
Himachal Pradesh	.	107.1	93.1	86.6	120.4	126.4	136.1	127.7
Manipur	50.3	60.2	77.5	70.1	66.8	52.5	59.6	66.0*
Meghalaya	.	.	74.4	77.1	88.4	81.0	71.3	74.3
Mizoram	.	.	70.4	78.9	111.7	94.3	136.4	126.9*
Nagaland	.	75.5	74.4	88.0	106.5	102.9	94.1	85.9*
Sikkim	.	.	85.8	93.5	99.7	201.7	326.2	319.1
Tripura	81.4	79.3	71.4	59.4	92.1	85.2	93.1	96.5
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	.	.	142.8	98.6	147.5	149.1	161.4	152.3*
Chandigarh	.	.	.	.	268.9	234.4	228.3	235.8*
Jammu & Kashmir	87.9	86.6	97.0	67.3	77.2	74.2	79.9	77.2
Puducherry	.	130.3	152.7	117.8	212.6	187.1	164.1	142.3

Source : *Calculation based on MoSPI data*

Note:

(1) Relative percapita income is calculated as Per capita NSDP of state divided by Percapita NNI of India multiplied by100

(2) *Data is for 2022-23

(3) ^Data is for states before bifurcation

Both tables highlight that there is imbalance in Punjab's Economy. No doubt, Punjab Economy has been growing but its rate is very slow.

Innovative steps are required to bring back the lost Prosperity and Performance of Punjab so that once regarded as the Shining Star of the Nation can shine again.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the constraints behind Punjab's deteriorating position.
2. To suggest new innovative ways to solve this problem.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **Research Type :** Descriptive Research
- **Type of Data/Data Source used :** Secondary Data/Data source. The present study is based on secondary data. Basically, the required information has been derived from
    - * Articles from Newspapers, Magazines and Journals, and from the various related websites which deal directly or indirectly with the topics related to Reasons for the Decline of Punjab's Economy and Suggestions for Recovery

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study is based on published data and information. No primary data is being collected.
2. Every care has been taken to entic equalitative and correct data; still secondary data have collected for the purposes other than problem at hand.

3. The objectives, nature and methods used to collect secondary data may not be appropriate to the present situation.
4. Secondary data may be lacking in accuracy, or they may not be completely current or dependable.
5. Time constraint remained the major limitation in the study
6. The biasness canal ways be there.

DETERIORATING CAUSES OF PUNJAB'S ECONOMY

There are many causes which are responsible for Punjab's Deteriorating condition. There is need to identify these so that we can take effective steps to control them. These are :

1) **Policies of Government :** The Punjab government is also responsible for the current situation. The government's policies are not good. It likes mostly to invest in unproductive works and matters. Today, government makes many promises with public. But it does not keep its words. Fiscal policy of Punjab is not good since1980. Fiscal deficit of Punjab was 5.3% in 1985-1990 as compared to 14 major states of India whose deficit was 3.3%. The state's revenue deficit for the first six months of the 2024-25 fiscal year was Rs. 18,303 crore, which is 79% of the estimated full year deficit. This is due to revenue receipts falling short of expenditure. This deficit has been managed by borrowings which lead to debt burden and that is increasing day by day. All this ultimately leads to slow economic growth

2) **Slow growth rate in Agriculture :** Punjab's agriculture sector, which is the main source of income, has been suffering from low growth rates due to factors such as soil degradation, falling underground water, and high debt burden on farmers. Its agricultural GDP grew at 5.7% per annum during the period from 1971–72 to 1985–86, which was more than double the growth rate of 2.31% achieved at all-India level in the same period.But the agriculture and allied sectors witnessed a growth of 0.8% in the year 2021-22. Other factors contributing to this unsatisfactory development include pressure on land, shortage of regulated markets, lack of market information, crop diseases, small farm sizes, inadequate irrigation facilities, and low production quality.

3) **Slow Development of Medium and Large Scale Industries in Punjab :** Agriculture is less productive than industries. Punjab undoubtedly has significant industry as well, but less in number. In 2023–2024, the industrial sector grew at a pace of 9.5%. That was when they were crawling. This is primarily due to (a) lack of minerals, (b) s lack of power, (c) a border state, (d) less central government investment, (e) less financial institution investment, (f) an agricultural state, (g) a lack of capital, (h) Punjab government policies, (i) a lack of marketing facilities, (j) raw material problems, (k) a heavy tax burden, (l) no cargo airport, etc. Therefore, Punjab's declining state is partly a result of the industrial sector's sluggish progress.

4) **Lack of Investment :** Inadequacy of investment is also responsible for Punjab's present situation. The investment scenario in Punjab's economy is facing some challenges, but the state has also seen a surge in investment in recent years: In 2021-22, Punjab's investment-state income ratio was 17.59%, which is almost half of the Indian economy's 33.4%.

5) **Lack of Information and Communication Technology :** The development of Information and Communication Technology in Punjab lags behind that of other progressive states, primarily due to insufficient investment, the absence of scientific methodologies, and a shortage of skilled human resources.

6) **Drug Addictive State :** The designation of Punjab as a Drug Addictive State has emerged due to the increasing prevalence of substance abuse among its youth and adolescents. This troubling trend not only contributes to rising crime rates but also reflects a disinterest in employment among the younger population. Many of these individuals prefer to indulge in a lifestyle funded by their parents, ultimately becoming a significant economic burden.

7) **Literacy Rate :** Illiteracy significantly contributes to the declining state of Punjab. It poses challenges to the economic development of the region. Although there are numerous educational institutions at both primary and higher levels, a substantial portion of the rural population remains uneducated. Several factors contribute to this issue, including a lack of teachers in government primary schools and insufficient basic facilities within

these institutions. In some cases, schools are staffed by only one teacher, while others lack any teachers altogether.

These are the main causes of Punjab's present deteriorating situation. Apart from the above-mentionedcauses, many other socio-economic factors such as low quality human capital, corruption, lack of infrastructure development, poor health facilities, and poor facilities for laborer, low wages, unproductive expenditure and international border with Pakistan etc are also responsible for Punjab's present situation. To solve this problem there is need to make collective efforts, so that Punjab can bounce back at it previous number onetrack.

STRATEGIES TO GET BACK ON PREVIOUS TRACK

Punjab, a crucial part of the Indian economy, is facing a crisis. To address this, the government should take effective fiscal policy, ensuring coordination among departments and reducing wastage. To improve agriculture growth, small and cottage industries should be developed in rural areas, and government should provide quality seeds, credit facilities, price stability, regulated markets, correct market information, and electricity facilities. An efficient Agricultural Research Department should be established to improve cultivation productivity and cropping patterns. Agro-based industries should be established to reduce labor pressure on land and provide efficient agricultural inputs. Education should be spread in rural areas to educate farmers on cultivation techniques and loan usage. Investment in manufacturing industries and foreign investments should be made, along with proper facilities and education. Public health and education expenditure should be raised to provide high-quality human capital. Programs to get drug-free Punjab should highlight the harms of drugs and the value of work. The government should spend a percentage of total revenue on R&D to ensure economic development.

CONCLUSION

The study suggests collective efforts are needed to recover the Punjab Economy, which has been struggling since 1980. Factors such as government policies, monetary policies, negative agricultural growth, slow industrial growth, low-quality human capital, poor medical facilities, corruption, and social factors hinder the development. The study suggests minimizing these problems and offering a debt relief package from the Centre government to help the Punjab Government reduce its burden.

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ADOLESCENTS AGGRESSION : A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TYPE OF SCHOOL AND STREAM OF STUDY

Mrs. Tajpreet Kaur
Research Scholar, Department of Education & Community Service, Punjabi University, Patiala

ABSTRACT

Aggression among adolescents today which becomes a global trend is in dire need of grave concern. It impact on the physical, emotional, mental make-up of the adolescents. By being aggressive, the adolescents tend to raise a negative emotional state which may be deleterious to their overall being and total developmental process. Several factors are responsible for aggression, type of school and stream of study can also aggravate or reduce aggression. This paper throws light on the aggression among adolescents across type of school and stream of study. A sample of 1200 was taken for the study. Data was calculated by the tool constructed by researcher i.e. aggression scale. Statistical technique t- test was used to find significant difference. Results found that adolescents studying in government and private schools differ significantly on physical aggression, verbal aggression and hostility dimension of aggression whereas no significant difference has been found on indirect aggression and total aggression. Whereas adolescents belonging to science and arts stream differ significantly on physical aggression, verbal aggression, indirect aggression and total aggression but not on hostility.

Keywords : *Aggression, type of school (government / Private), Stream of study (science/ arts)*

1. INTRODUCTION

An aggression is a word that we use in our day-to-day life to characterize a distinct behaviour of individuals. The people who yell at or hit each other or if they cut off other cars in congestion, or even when they smash their fists on the table in frustration, they usually called aggressive. But certain dangerous acts, such as the injuries that sports players receive during a rough game or the killing of rival soldiers in a war might not be viewed by everyone as aggression. An aggression is a phenomenon that can take various shapes, ranging from relatively small acts (such as name calling or pushing) to little more serious acts (such as hitting, kicking or punching) to severe or extreme acts (such as stabbing, shooting or killing). The fact that aggression appears in so many forms, makes it arduous to decide whether aggression has occurred or not. In social psychology, it is most commonly defined as, a behaviour that is intended to harm another person who is motivated to avoid that harm (Bushman and Huesmann, 2010; DeWall, Anderson and Bushman, 2012). This suffering can take the form of physical injury or emotional injury by hurting the feelings of others or by damaging social relationships. Anderson and Bushman (2002) more specifically defined human aggression as, any behaviour directed towards another individual that is carried out with the proximate (immediate) intent to cause harm. In addition, the culprit must believe that the behaviour will harm the target and that the target is motivated to avoid the behaviour.

The definitions of aggression reveal certain pivotal properties. Firstly, aggression is an interpersonal behavior, representing a social nature. It is accompanied by specific sentiments and attitudes towards a target person or group. Secondly, aggression involves an intent to cause danger directly or indirectly to the target person. Thirdly, aggression is a threat to the violation of social norms.

TYPES OF AGGRESSION

Aggression can be classified into following types :

1. **Physical aggression** : It involves assaulting to others physically—for instance, hitting, kicking, stabbing or shooting them.
2. **Verbal aggression** (yelling, screaming, swearing or name calling)

3. **Relational or social aggression,** which is defined as an intentionally harming another individual's social relationships. For example, by having tittle-tattle about another person, excluding others from friendship or giving them silent treatment comes under this form of aggression. (Crick and Grotpeter, 1995).
4. **Non-verbal aggression** also takes place in the form of sexual, racial and homophobic jokes and epithets, which are designed to cause harm to entities.
5. **Hostile aggression** is encouraged by an aspiration to hurt a person and is characterized as affectively ¯hot behaviour that is angry and impulsive. There would be a fine example of hostile aggression by hitting someone who has made you angry (perhaps by insulting you).
6. **Instrumental aggression** is stimulated by a desire to acquire some other goal (e.g., money, social status or sex) and typically is characterized as affectively cold behavior that is calm and calculated.
7. **Direct aggression** arises when the victim is physically present; whereas**, indirect aggression** occurs when the victim is physically absent (DeWall, Anderson and Bushman, 2012). To illustrate, punching someone in the face would be considered direct aggression, while hiring a hit man to assassinate the same person would be indirect physical aggression
8. **Active aggression in**volves engaging in hazardous behaviour; whereas, **passive aggression** includes failing to engage in benevolent behaviour. To give an instance, kicking or insulting someone would be considered active aggression; whereas, intentionally ¯forgetting to invite someone to a party would both be considered passive aggression (in fact, the latter could be considered passive violence, given its severity
9. **Overt aggression** is highly an apparent behaviour, such as making fun of someone or beating him up in front of his friends. In contrast, **covert aggression** is relatively low in visibility, such as leaving mean notes for a person or spreading rumours about people behind their back.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Aggression in relation to Government and Private Schools

Kumar (2013) which showed that students studying in private institutions had significantly higher means of aggression scores as compared to the students studying in government institutions. The studies of Rathi (2015), Galgotra (2013), Surugiua and Mosoiu (2013) Niwas and Kaur (2017) also supported the results of the present study showing private school students are more aggressive than government school students. The study by kumar (2021) concluded that government school adolescents are more aggressive as compare to private school adolescents. In contrast study by, Singh (2019) found no significant difference between the aggressive behaviour of government and private school students. Sharma (2023) found no significant difference between middle adolescents in government schools and private schools on aggression.

Aggression in relation to Stream (Science/Arts)

Kumar (2013) which found Senior secondary school students studying in science stream have significantly higher means of aggression score than students studying in arts stream. Patel (2016) found significant difference between the means of aggression scores among arts and science students. The study of Kumar (2021) revealed that arts students are more aggressive as compare to science students. In contrast study by Goel and Naaz (2021) found there is no significant difference in aggression between sciences and humanities student teachers.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study and compare aggression and its dimension viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression among adolescents on the basis of type of school (government /private) in which they study.
2. To study and compare aggression and its dimensions viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression among adolescents on the basis of their stream of study (science/arts).

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of aggression and its dimensions viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression between the adolescents studying in government and private schools.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of aggression and its dimensions viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression between adolescents studying in science and arts streams.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey method was employed to conduct the study. The researcher collected the data from the adolescents with the help of standardised tools.

Sample

Adolescents of class 10+1 studying in Government and Private schools of Punjab constituted the universe of the study. A sample of 1200 students was selected from ten districts of Punjab by using random sampling technique.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. Study was delimited to adolescents of 10 districts of Punjab State only.
2. Only adolescents studying in class 10+1 was taken for the study.

Tool Used

Aggression scale constructed by the researcher

Statistical Technique Used

1. t–test technique was employed to compare aggression and its dimensions viz physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression among adolescents on the basis of type of school.
2. Comparison of aggression and its dimensions viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression among adolescents on their stream of study was also one with the help of t-test

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Aggression among adolescents across type of school

The table 1 shows the mean score of adolescents studying in government and private senior secondary schools (N=1200) on total aggression and its dimensions viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression along with their S. D., and t-value indicating the significance of difference between their means.

The group statistics shows that the sample size of adolescents studying in government schools is 590 and those studying in private schools, it is 610. The data in Table 1 reveals that mean score values of adolescents studying in government and private schools on 'physical aggression' are 50.63 and 49.07 respectively. The corresponding values of S. D. for scores of government and private school adolescents are 11.82 and 12.00 respectively with standard error of difference between means 0.68. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 2.26 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance depicting that adolescents studying in government and private schools differ significantly on the 'physical aggression', government school students showing higher 'physical aggression' than that of private school students.

Further it is shown in Table 1 that mean score values of adolescents studying in government and private schools on 'verbal aggression' are 44.91 and 46.62 respectively. The corresponding values of S. D. for scores of government and private school adolescents are 13.19 and 12.76 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 0.70. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 2.28 which is

Table 1 : Comparison of Scores of Aggression and Its Dimensions of Adolescents Studying in Government and Private Schools (N = 1200)

Dimensions	Government/ Private	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std error of difference between Means	t-Value
Physical Aggression	Govt.	590	50.63	11.82	0.68	2.26*
	Private	610	49.07	12.00		
VerbalAggression	Govt.	590	44.91	13.19	0.70	2.28*
	Private	610	46.62	12.76		
Hostility	Govt.	590	55.95	11.88	0.75	3.46**
	Private	610	58.35	12.13		
Indirect Aggression	Govt.	590	51.88	12.06	0.69	1.41
	Private	610	50.89	12.39		
Total Aggression	Govt.	590	203.37	27.45	1.63	0.95
	Private	610	204.92	29.08		

**Significant at 0.01 level of significance

*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

significant at 0.05 level of significance. So, it clearly depicts that government and private school adolescents differ significantly on their 'verbal aggression' level, private school adolescents showing higher level of 'verbal aggression' than that of government school adolescents.

The Table 1 shows that mean score values of adolescents studying in government and private schools on 'hostility' dimension of aggression are 55.95 and 58.35 respectively. The corresponding values of S.D. for scores of government and private school adolescents are 11.88 and 12.13 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 0.75. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 3.46 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance depicting that government and private school adolescents differ significantly on the 'hostility' dimension of aggression, private school adolescents showing higher level of 'hostility' than that of government school adolescents.

Further it is shown in Table 1 that mean score values of adolescents studying in government and private schools on 'indirect aggression' are 51.88 and 50.89 respectively. The corresponding values of S.D. for the scores of government and private school adolescents are 12.06 and 12.39 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 0.69. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 1.41 which is not significant even at 0.05 level of significance depicting that government and private school adolescents do not differ significantly on 'indirect aggression' level.

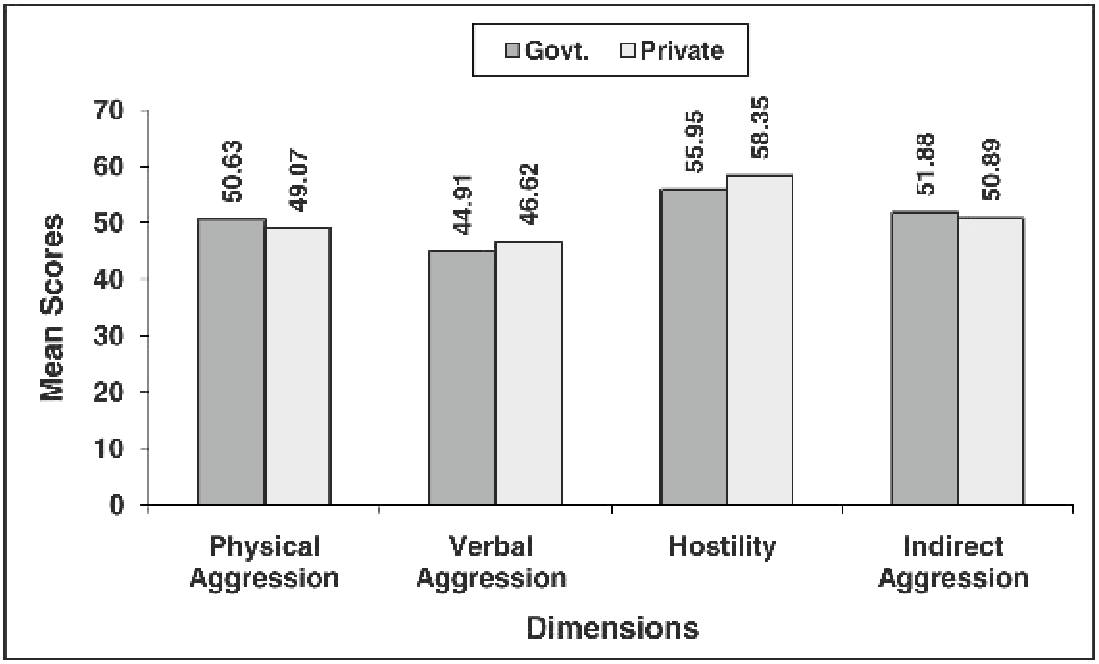

Fig. 1 : Mean Score of Different Dimensions of Aggression among Adolescents across Type of Schools

The Table 1 also reveals that mean score values of adolescents studying in government and private schools on 'total aggression' are 203.37 and 204.92 respectively. The corresponding values of S.D. for the scores of government and private school adolescents are 27.45 and 29.08 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 1.63. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 0.95 which is not significant even at 0.05 level of significance depicting that government and private school adolescents do not differ significantly on their 'total aggression' level.

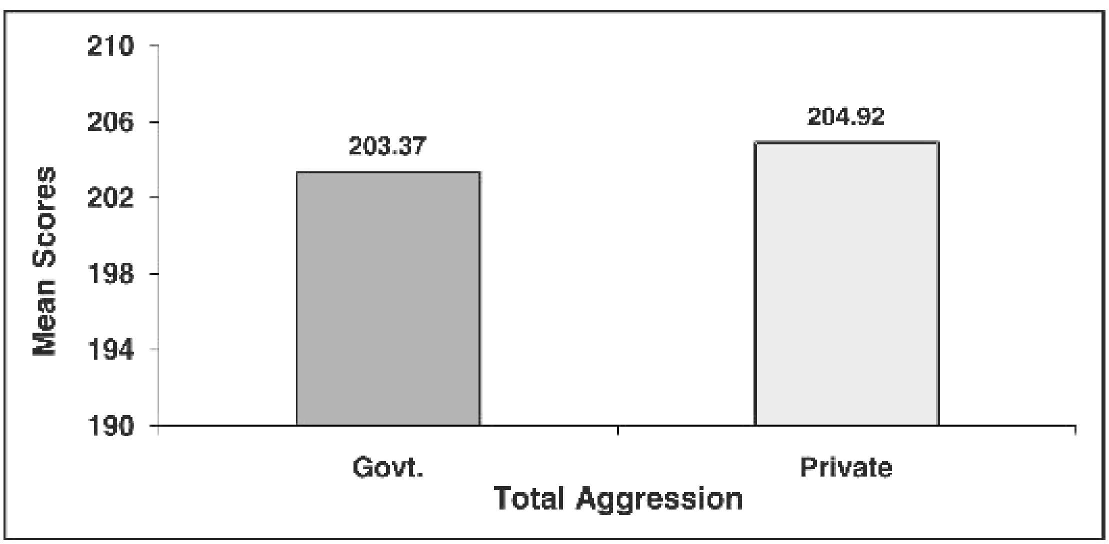

Figure 1.1: Mean Score of Aggression (Total) of Adolescents across Type of Schools

The results of the present study show that adolescents studying in government and private schools differ significantly on physical aggression, verbal aggression and hostility dimension of aggression whereas no significant difference has been found on indirect aggression and total aggression. Thus, the hypothesis 1 stating 'There is no significant difference in the mean scores of aggression and its dimensions viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression between the adolescents studying in government and private schools 'is partially rejected.

2. AGGRESSION AMONG ADOLESCENTS ACROSS STREAM OF STUDY

The table 2 shows the mean score of adolescents studying in science and arts stream on aggression and its dimensions viz. physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility and indirect aggression along with their S. D. and t-value indicating the significance of difference between their means

Table 2 : Comparison of Scores of Aggression and Its Dimensions of Adolescents Studying in Science and Arts Streams (N=1200)

Dimensions	Science / Arts	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std error of difference between Means	t-Value
Physical Aggression	Science	606	49.05	12.00	0.68	2.31*
	Arts	594	50.64	11.82		
VerbalAggression	Science	606	44.84	12.17	0.74	2.53*
	Arts	594	46.74	13.74		
Hostility	Science	606	57.24	11.88	0.69	0.21 NS
	Arts	594	57.09	12.26		
Indirect Aggression	Science	606	50.67	12.05	0.70	2.01*
	Arts	594	52.09	12.39		
Total Aggression	Science	606	201.80	27.38	1.62	2.93**
	Arts	594	206.57	29.01		

**Significant at 0.01 level of significance
*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

The group statistics shows that the sample size of adolescents belonging to science stream is 606 and that belonging to arts stream is 594. The data in Table 2 reveals that mean score values of adolescents belonging to science and arts stream on physical aggression are 49.05 and 50.64 respectively. The corresponding values of S. D. for these scores of adolescents are 12.00 and 11.82 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 0.68. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 2.31 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance. It clearly depicts that adolescent belonging to science and arts stream differ significantly on their physical aggression level, adolescents belonging to arts stream showing higher level of physical aggression than that of adolescents belonging to science stream.

Further it is shown in Table 2 that mean score values of adolescents belonging to science and arts stream on verbal aggression are 44.84 and 46.74 respectively. The corresponding values of S. D. for these scores of adolescents are 12.17 and 13.74 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 0.74. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 2.53 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance depicting that adolescents studying in science and arts stream differ significantly on their verbal aggression level. Adolescents belonging to arts stream showing higher level of verbal aggression than that of adolescents belonging to science stream

The Table 2 shows that mean score values of adolescents of science and arts stream on hostility dimension of aggression are 57.24 and 57.09 respectively. The corresponding values of S.D. for these scores of adolescents are 11.88 and 12.26 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 0.69. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 0.21 which is not significant even at 0.05 level of significance depicting that adolescent studying in science and arts streams do not differ significantly on the hostility dimension of aggression.

It is also shown in Table 2 that mean score values of adolescents belonging to science and arts stream on indirect aggression are 50.67 and 52.09 respectively. The corresponding values of S.D. for these scores of adolescents are 12.05 and 12.39 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 0.70. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 2.01 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance indicating that adolescents studying in science and arts streams differ significantly on indirect aggression level. Adolescents belonging to arts stream showing higher level of indirect aggression than that of adolescents belonging to science stream.

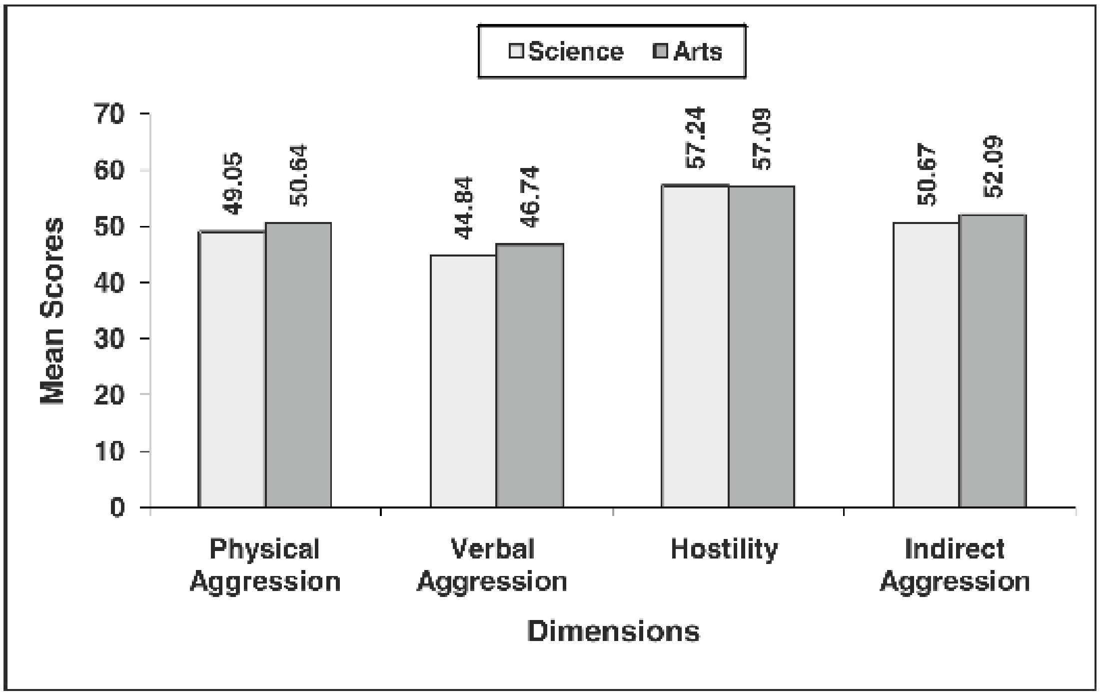

Fig. 2 : Mean score of Different Dimensions of Aggression across Stream of Study Among Adolescents

The Table 2 also reveals that mean score values of adolescents studying in science and arts stream on total aggression are 201.80 and 206.57 respectively. The corresponding values of S.D. for these scores are 27.38 and 29.01 respectively with the standard error of difference between means 1.62. The t-value signifying the difference between the means is 2.93 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance indicating that adolescents studying in science and arts stream differ significantly on their total aggression level, arts students showing higher level of aggression than that of science student's level. It implies that stream of study has a significant effect on aggression and its dimensions except on hostility.

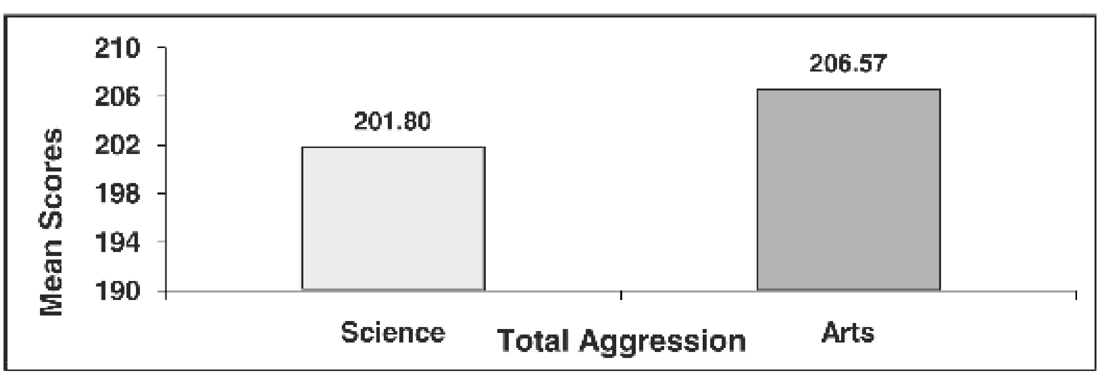

Figure 2.1 : Mean Score of Aggression (Total) of Adolescents Studying in Science Stream and Arts Stream

FINDINGS

1. There was no significant difference between adolescents studying in government and private schools on total aggression and indirect aggression. Government school adolescents had higher level of physical aggression whereas verbal aggression and hostility was higher among adolescents studying in private schools.
2. The results showed that adolescents studying in government and private schools differ significantly on physical aggression, verbal aggression and hostility
3. Adolescents from Science and Arts streams differ significantly on aggression and its dimensions physical aggression, verbal aggression and indirect aggression. Adolescents from arts stream showed higher level of physical aggression, verbal aggression, indirect aggression and total aggression than that of adolescents studying in science stream.
4. Stream of study has a significant effect on aggression and its dimensions except on hostility.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. Government school adolescents show higher level of aggression than that of private school adolescents. Counselling services need to be provided in all schools with special emphasis on developing inherent talents and increasing training programmes and workshops should be arranged so that students will be able to cope up with aggression and prepare themselves for their future life.
2. Adolescents studying in Science and Arts streams differ significantly on aggression and its dimensions except on hostility dimension. So constructive programmes should be organised for arts students to channelize their energy in positive manner. Like sports, meditation programmes, extracurricular activities etc.
3. The teacher should find the causes of aggressive behaviour of adolescents by observing their behaviour in the class and they should be guided properly to modify their aggressive behaviour. The teachers should make the adolescents realize the importance of good mental health and ill effects of aggressive behaviour at their age.
4. To reduce the boredom pattern of teaching learning process, teachers should introduce creative skills, different co-curricular activities such as games, discussions, debates, scouting, dramas, educational exhibition etc.
5. The mistakes of adolescent students should be dealt properly and remedies should be given at appropriate time. Adolescent students should be provided suitable environment so that they may have the feeling of security and good sense of belongingness.

CONCLUSION

The results of the present study showed that there was no significant difference between adolescents studying in government and private schools on total aggression and indirect aggression. Government school adolescents had higher level of physical aggression whereas verbal aggression and hostility was higher among adolescents studying in private schools. On the other hand adolescents from Science and Arts streams differ significantly on aggression and its dimensions physical aggression, verbal aggression and indirect aggression. Adolescents from arts stream showed higher level of physical aggression, verbal aggression, indirect aggression and total aggression than that of adolescents studying in science stream.

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PERCEPTION OF PARENTS ON ONLINE TEACHING LEARNING MODE DURING THE PANDEMIC COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Ms. Harpreet Kaur
Assistant Professor of Education, Desh Bhagat College Bardwal-Dhuri

ABSTRACT

Coronavirus has spread chaos globally, resulting in the closure of all sectors including education. Therefore, to continue a child's learning, the Indian government started online classes from home by involving parents. This study was developed to investigate parents' perceptions on online teaching learning mode due to the COVID-19. This research employed a qualitative approach. The research subjects consisted of 58 parents of secondary school students of District Ludhiana, Punjab. Self-prepared questionnaire was used to collect data. Google form was used for collect data. Percentage was used to analyzed the data.

Keywords : *Parents' Perception, Online Teaching Learning mode, Covid-19 Pandemic*

INTRODUCTION

The pandemic Covid-19 had spread over whole world and compelled the human society to maintain social distancing. It has significantly disrupted the education sector which is a critical determinant of a country's economic future.Most of the states, provinces and even whole countries had closed institutions of learning as a response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, almost 70% of the world's students were not attending school.

The COVID -19 Pandemic forceda rapid transition in education system from physicalmode to onlinemode to reduce its impact on all the stakeholder concerned with knowledge society. To better control and avoid the spread of the virus, online teaching became a necessary strategy to restore regular instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic (Chen et al.,2020). In response, the government of India had also introduced the application of online education through network technology including synchronous or asynchronous and other forms of network learning, during the closure of educational institutions to support and continue the teaching learning process. Parents approved online teaching learning mode and students obtained their results through online learning. On the other hand, online teaching learning mode during the pandemic also had many problems that parents were worried about, such as health problems in children caused by prolonged viewing of electronic screens and financial pressure on families due to the demand for electronics devices to attended online classes.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Lubis & Lubis (2020) reported the parent's perceptions on e-learning during covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Total number of 257respondents were asked regarding this issue by using a web-based survey and the descriptive statistic was employed for the analysis. Results indicated that participants were overall dissatisfied with the implementation of E-Learning during the pandemic. Parents claimed that the poor of ICT infrastructure (e.g. the Internet, digital devices, electricity) and lack of technology skills become the barriers for their children to use E-Learning. Parents also considered that traditional learning is preferable to online learning.

Malik & Tyagi (2020) studied the parent's opinion on online teaching in Delhi-NCR schools. A survey study was conducted with an online questionnaire administered to more than 2000 parents of preprimary and primary classes from ten public schools of Delhi National Capital Region. More than 75% of the parents surveyed were satisfied with the online classes taking place. 41% of the parents were of the opinion that teaching methodology was the most important factor enhancing the teaching-learning process in virtual mode for the parents. 29% of the parents believe that personalized attention given to the children can improve the system.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

While 2020 certainly had no shortage of challenge owing to the onset of COVID-19 Pandemic, online learning was certainly a big one. In this emergency, every nation has applied various techniques and standards for managing changes in the learning system. Inside a couple of months, National education system went to arrangements like online strategies and techniques. Due to stress of online classes,parents start noticed various behavioral changes in their children such as excessive arguments, refusals, opposition, disobedience, or withdrawal.During this phase, parental support and guidance was utmost crucial. In such a scenario, need was felt to take view and perception parents about online teaching learning provided by the schools, so that appropriate decision can be taken for holistic development of children. So, the aim of this study is to understand the parent's opinion on online classes and barriers.

STATEMENT OF THE STUDY

PERCEPTION OF PARENTS ON ONLINE TEACHING LEARNING MODE DURING THE PANDEMIC COVID-19 OUTBREAK.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyze the parent's perception on online classes during covid-19 with regard to their ward's learning experiences, behavioral pattern and study habits.

DELIMITATIONS

- The study was delimited to district Ludhiana, Punjab.
- The sample was delimited to 58 parents of secondary school students.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

The population of this study was 58 respondents. However, the research negated the participants' demographic characteristics (i.e. age, sex, occupation), because the study was emphasizingonly on parent's perception in general. Descriptive Surveywas conducted to explore the perception of parents about online classes during covid-19. Random Sampling was used to collect data from parents ofsecondary school students from district Ludhiana, Punjab.

TOOL

Self-Prepared questionnaire perception of parents on online teaching learning during COVID-19 was used. The questionnaire comprised of statements pertaining to perception about learning experiences of students, perception about behavioral pattern of students and perception about study habits of students in online mode of classes. These questions were on 3-point Likert scale. Data was collected though google form using online mode only.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

Percentage of parents' responses were calculated to analyze the data.

FINDINGS

Survey was undertaken to know the perception of parents about online classes. A questionnaire was sent to parents of 6-10 school going children. Response from 58 parents was collected. Hence the target population was parents. Data was then converted into information to come to a conclusion.

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Table 1 : Parent's perception about learning experiences of their wards

Parent's perception about learning experiences		Disagree	Neutral	Agree
Learning material provided though online classes to my ward is easily understandable and sufficient.	No of individual	11	15	32
	Percentage	18.96%	25.86%	55.17%
Teaching learning mode enables my ward to solve his/her doubts comfortably and independently.	No of individual	19	12	27
	Percentage	32.75%	20.68%	46.55%
My ward understandsthe subject matter taught during online classes.	No of individual	28	11	19
	Percentage	48.27%	18.96%	32.75%
The children were effectively interactingwith teacher during online class.	No of individual	22	8	28
	Percentage	37.93%	13.79%	48.27%
In my opinion. Online instructors tend to focus on theory rather than practical.	No of individual	14	6	38
	Percentage	24.13%	10.34%	65.51%
In my opinion, online teaching learning mode teacher also tried to improve the writing skills of students.	No of individual	15	14	29
	Percentage	25.86%	24.13%	50%
In my opinion. Online teaching learning mode helped to develop creativity among their wards.	No of individual	11	15	32
	Percentage	18.96%	25.86%	55.17%

Source : Primary Survey

Parent's Perception about Learning Experiences

Table 1 depicts the Perception of Parents about Learning Experiences of students in online mode. Parents response was taken on was 7 statements related to the parameter. Analysis of Table 1 shows that most of parents (55.17%) agreed that the learning material provided in online classes was easily understandable and sufficient for the children.

46.55% of the agreed that the students were feeling comfortable and were able to solve their doubt independently while using online teaching learning rather than traditional learning in school. 48.27% of Parentsdisagreed that understanding and solving numerical was easy during online teaching. It implies that students were not understanding were finding difficulty in solving mathematical numerical during online classes .it was considered that the practical subjects like math's and science need class room teaching though face to face mode. only37.93%of Parents believed the students interaction with teachers was not overmuch improved while using online teaching Learning. The highest response rate was65.51% of parents agreed that instructor tend to focused on theory rather than practical.

Similarly, average50%of parents claimed that Child writing skills was not improved because children were not doing homework properly at home so there was no scope of writing improvement. Above Average 55.17% of parents agreed d that students online teaching learning regime limited the creativity of learning minds.

Thus, the result pointed out that majority parents were feeling dissatisfied while their children using online teaching learning as a replacement for traditional learning.

Parent's Perception about Behavioral Pattern of their wards

Table 2 depicts the Perception of Parents about Behavioral Patternof their wards during online teaching mode. Parents response was taken on was 6 statements related to the parameter. Analysis of Table 2 shows that 43.10%of ParentsDisagreed that the students were able to concentrate, focused, attentive while online learning. 53.44% of parents agreed that students were feeling connected with teacher's online teaching. Only34.48% of parents disagreed that online teaching Learning was really joyful and boosting the students' performance and 32.75% Parents were agreed that their child remains very joyful. results in more participative in online mode.44.82% children were worried about online exam and class tests. 48.27% parents were agreedabout students' boredom during online. 55.17% parents agreed that students were shows disobedience or withdrawal behavior while attending online classes.

Table 2 : Parent's Perception about Behavioral Pattern

Perception about Behavioral changes		Disagree	Neutral	Agree
My child remains focused and attentive while learning during using online classes.	No of individual	25	15	18
	Percentage	43.10%	25. 86%	31.03%
In my opinion my ward feeling connected with the teachers on online classes.	No of individual	12	15	31
	Percentage	20.68%	25.86%	53.44%
My child remains very joyful when he/she learns online mode of teaching.	No of individual	20	19	19
	Percentage	34.48%	32.75%	32.75%
In my opinion during online exam and class tests my ward remains worried.	No of individual	23	9	26
	Percentage	39.65%	15.51%	44.82%
My ward feels Boredom and disengaged during online classes.	No of individual	8	22	28
	Percentage	13.79%	37.93%	48.27%
My ward shows disobedience or withdrawal behavior while attending onlineclass.	No of individual	14	12	32
	Percentage	24.13%	20.68%	55.17%

Source : Primary Survey

Table 3 : Parent's Perception about study pattern of their wards

Study habit		Disagree	Neutral	Agree
My ward is following the full-time table as given by school authorities.	No of individual	16	14	28
	Percentage	27.58%	24.13%	48.27%
During online classes my child ignores his/her learning work.	No of individual	11	13	34
	Percentage	18.96%	22.41%	58.62%
My ward is not maintaining note books on daily basis.	No of individual	12	7	39
	Percentage	20.68%	12.06%	67.24%
During online classes, my ward starts playing online games and using another mobile apps.	No of individual	9	9	40
	Percentage	15.51%	15.51%	68.96%
My ward is not regular in online class as compare to traditional classroom.	No of individual	11	8	39
	Percentage	18.96%	13.79%	67.24%

Source : Primary Survey

Perception about study pattern

Table 1 depicts the Perception of Parents about Learning Experiences of students in online mode. Parents response was taken on was 5 statements related to the parameter.

Analysis of Table 3 shows that 48.27% of parents agreed and claimed that online teaching Learning was poor in managing students' learning schedules, supporting their emotions, delivering the learning material and helping students to concentrate on learning.

58.62% of Parents Claimed that their child ignored his / her learning work. only 20.68% were disagreed theirs wards were not maintaining their note books on daily basis. Majority (68.96%) of parents agreed that their ward always playing games and using mobile apps with gadget while studying. Majority 67.24% of parents agreed that children were not regular in online class as compare to traditional class room.

Above Table 3 was about the perception and opinion about the study pattern of children during online classes. Most of the parents agreed that online learning was not good for their ward. Parents had given their opinion that an online class were able to deal with the pandemic situation and was the online option to continue the education. However, they support that face-to-face teaching and learning was still better than online teaching.

DISCUSSION OF RESULT

Based on the findings of the study, parents were feeling uncomfortable while their children using online teaching Learning mode as the replacement for traditional learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents were agreed that online teaching learning had the advantages to enhance their children's technological skill and easiness of learning resources, yet online Teaching Learning had also the disadvantages in the overall learning process. The study revealed a surprising result regarding parents' level of satisfaction on online Teaching Learning mode during COVID-19 pandemicthat online teaching Learning mode had no strength to improve the students' personal development and their general skill.

SUGGESTION

The coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) had brought new challenges to all social groups around the world technology was the most important part in carrying out the online learning process during covid-19. Based on this report, there are some provides suggestions for the teachers. they are expected to provide learning innovations so that learning is not monotonous while studying at home. Parents are expected to be more have time for student when studying at home.

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A STUDY OF SELF CONFIDENCE AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF DISTRICT SANGRUR

Ms. Amandeep Kaur
Department of Education, Desh Bhagat College Bardwal-Dhuri

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to study self confidence among adolescents. The total sample of 200 secondary school students was taken from the Sangrur district of Punjab to collect the requisite data for the present study. Self -confidence scale by Basavanna's (1975) was used for analysis and interpretation of data. Mean, Standard Deviation, t-test statistical techniques employed to find out the mean difference between different variables. The conclusions have been derived from the present investigation that there is no significant difference in self-confidence between, rural and urban student's male and female adolescents.

Keywords : *Self-Confidence, adolescents, Self-Confidence scale.*

INTRODUCTION

In this century of globalization and technological progress education is of paramount importance for human empowerment and development. Education is the most important part of our life. Education is a weapon which can change whole the world. Education is the way of to achieve the self-confidence. Self-confidence is an important concept of any child's development. As children develop a sense of self and interact with and gain experience in the world, their self-confidence is affected. It is not surprising that the root of self-confidence lies in family experiences. A Favorable home environment constitutes of good parent child relationship. Home plays an important role in molding the personality of the children. Home is the first socializing agency where the child learns the patterns of behavior prevalent in the community.

SELF-CONFIDENCE

Self-confidence is an attitude which allows individuals to have positive yet realistic views of themselves and their situations. Self-confident people trust their own abilities, have a general sense of control in their lives and believe that within reason they will be hirable to do what they wish plan and expect. Having self-confidence does not mean that individuals will be able to do everything self-confident people have expectations that are realistic. Even when some of their expectations are not met, they continue to be positive and to accept themselves.

Self-confidence is a belief in yourself and your abilities a mental attitude of trusting or relying on yourself. Confidence is something equated with freedom from doubt, however when confidence is needed is usually. When the outcome is uncertain so that the true confidence is actually about feeling comfortable with uncertainty and not knowing what the outcome will be.

According to Basavanna (1975) "in general terms, self-confidence refers to an individual's perceived ability to act effectively in a situation to overcome obstacles and to get things go all right."

According to Bandura (1986) "Self-confidence is considered as one of the motivators and regulators of behavior in individual's everyday life."

A self-confident person perceives himself to be socially competent, emotionally mature, intellectually adequate, successful, satisfied, decisive, optimistic, independent, self-reliant, self-assured, forward moving, fairly assertive and having leadership qualities. Confidence is learned it is not inherited. If one lacks confidence, it probably means that, as a child, one was criticized, undetermined or suffered an inexplicable tragic loss, for which one either blamed one or were blamed by others. Confident people have deep faith in their future and can accurately assess their capabilities. They also have a general sense of control in their lives and believe that, within reason, they will be able to do what they desire, plan and expect, no matter what the foreseeable obstacle. This faith is guided by more realistic expectations.

Even when their goals are not met, those confidences continue to be positive, believe in themselves and they accept their current limitations with renewed energy. Self-confidence can be defined as having a positive, realistic self-image. With self-Confidence comes the ability to handle criticism, show affection, and be optimistic and assertiveness. Self confident people have a positive outlook and think positive thoughts about themselves, believing that their abilities match the tasks that they must take on. Emotional maturity and the ability to pragmatically evaluate capabilities are also markers of confidence.

TYPES OF CONFIDENCE

In today's scenario three types of confidence may be found.

- **False confidence** is that when person who talks big and poses like a big shot. The person often takes big risks in an effort to either impress others or to assuage their own discomfort, and the result can be terrible.
- **True confidence**, which does not depend on recent results. It is based on a deep sense of inner trust. The person who has a history of doing the right thing regardless the outcome, It means that they act in their own best interest and trust and understand that doing such over time has a positive impact on results.
- **Temporary confidence**, which is conditional on recent performance. The person whose self-esteem is tied to their account equity, when a good run, they feel confident and take larger risks. And when performance is lousy they start grasping at anything.
- **Attributes of Truly Confident Person :** A lot of people might believe that they are confident, depending on how they feel on any given day but confidence is not a fleeting thing that is here today and takes a holiday tomorrow confidence is all pervasive. It shows itself in every aspect of our lives. The way one view oneself, perceives one's world, approaches crises, the way one treats others, one's world, one's readiness to exercise, compassion and forgiveness and most important, the way one treats oneself. True confidence has following attributes.
- **Self-belief :** With self-love comes amazing self-belief in what is truly possible. People who think highly of themselves do not see barriers to achievement or obstacle in their paths. The main difference between a confident and low **confidentperson**: one believes that they have the power to affect their life; whereas the other looks to others do it for them.
- **Self-love :** It is the first crucial attribute. If anyone has no self-love, has no confidence because it is the heart of confident; self-love and self-acceptance, which decides our self-esteem. Any lack of self-love is a prelude to misery and dissatisfaction with our lot. Happiness begins from within and when one love oneself and do not seek the approval of anyone, one reach to the next attribute.
- **Happiness :** Confident people are truly happy with their life. It does not mean they are never sad. It means if they are down it lasts very briefly and then they are back up again. They know they can always do something else and change the result people of low self-esteem always blame themselves and reinforce that with even thoughts of their abilities, so they stay in the doldrums much longer. Above all, being contended with themselves and their bodies confident people tend to be truly happy, often cheerful and with a ready smile.
- **Comfortinthemselves :** Confident people are happy in their own skin. They love who they are, do not wish to be anyone else and they seek no one's approval to whom theywish to be. That is a sure sign of a strong sense of belonging and personal security. They tend to do what they please without following the fashion or being lemmings. Being natural elders, they tend to set the pace for others and to inspire them.
- **Fearlessness :** Confident people tend to be pioneers, fearless in their approach and their actions it is not that they do not the usual fears of survival. Those with high self esteem are keen to get on with it so they tend to act first and be afraid later. Willing to take risks and to make sacrifices, they have very little fear in living their own life to the maximum.
- **Experiment :** Really confident people love to experiment, to try out new situations, innovate and create. They are always pushing the boundaries of their talents because of their self belief. Unlike people of low self-esteem, confident ones do not care about making mistakes, because they know that's

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how they learn and grow. They are not worried about being wrong, but at arriving at a solution or a different result, no matters how many times they have to change their approach. Failure is not in their vocabulary and so they obstacle in their paths. The main difference between a confident and low confident person: one believes that they have the power to affect their life; whereas the other looks to others do it for them.

- **Self-Assuring :** Confident people believe in themselves. They know about their strengths and have accepted their weakness.
- **Sociable :** Confident people know how to endear themselves to others and how to take compliments and criticisms gracefully.
- **Competitive :** Really confident people love competition, they love to test their mettle against the best efforts of anthers, because they believe they can win, even when they lose.
- **Hardworking :** Confident people know best path to achieve their goals is through putting in hard efforts, no matter how exhaustive or arduous.
- **Ambitious :** Confident people know what they want. They easily define their goals and strive to achieve them.
- **Determined :** Confident people never give up on their goals, even when it sometimes seems impossible, they know that it is better to try and fail and try again than to give up and let doubt take over.
- **Positive :** These people are positive. They know how to assuage doubts, conquer eras and how to find every silver lining in a sky gone gray with storm clouds.

They know that while failure is a part of everyday life, even in failure fresh starts are always possible. Self confidence seems to related to self esteem. According to Cohen (1959) "a person with high self esteem tends to deal with the life confidently and values the self highly". On the other hand, a person with low self esteem tends to deals with life less confidently and places a low value on self. Schlenker, Soraci and McCarthy (1976) suggested that individuals with high self esteem are accustomed to experience personal success with high self confidence levels. Individuals with low self condolence are accustomed to experience failure.

Self-confidence also seems to be related with self efficacy. It is a term used in psychology, roughly corresponding to a person's belief in their own competence. Ormord (2006) defined it as the belief that one is capable of performing in a certain manner to attain certain goals. It is believed that our personalized ideas of self efficacy affect our social interactions in almost every way. Self confidence connotes how individuals perceive their ability to succeed at a particular endeavor or how they judge their effectiveness once the task is finished.

IMPORTANCE OF SELF CONFIDENCE

Self-confidence is a general and realistic belief in one's own abilities. Self-confident people trust in their own ability to achieve goals that they plan and set out to achieve. This belief needs to be realistic Self confidence does not mean that an individual can achieve anything and everything, even absurd goals. It simply means that the person will have a sense of control over his own destiny, a positive frame of mind and is likely to make the best use of his talents and skills in achieving positive outcomes. Achieving self confidence is a fine balance. Lack of self confidence or under-confidence will result in an individual doubting his abilities. Such people seek the approval of others for reassurance. They believe they have to conform to the expectations of others to fit in and be accepted. They will tend to avoid taking risks for fear of failure. They expect to fail, and this becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy! On the other hand over confidence is not desirable either, as such individuals may tend to have unrealistically high expectations and beliefs in their abilities and therefore take unwarranted risk.

Self-confidence is not necessarily all-pervasive. An individual who is completely comfortable and confident in one area of activity such as his work or profession may lack confidence in other areas such as social situations.

FACTORS AFFECTING SELF CONFIDENCE

Many factors affect the development of self confidence. Parents' attitudes are crucial to children's feelings about themselves. When parents provide acceptance, children receive a solid foundation for good feelings about themselves if one or both parents are excessively critical or demanding, if they are overprotective and discourage moves towards independence, children may come to believe that they are incapable, inadequate or inferior. If parents encourage children's moves towards self-reliance and accept and love their children when they make mistakes, children will learn to accept themselves and will be on their way to develop self confidence. Self-confidence is also affected by focusing upon too much on unrealistic expectations or standards of others, especially parents and society. Peer group or friends also affect one's self confidence at crucial stage of life i.e. adolescence stage. Self confidence can be learned, not inherited. So lack of confidence does not have to be permanent.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Ghaonta (2015) conducted a study on self-confidence of senior secondary school students of Shimla district. The sample of the study was 200 school students.The result showed that school students notdiffer in self-confidence W.r.t. their gender and area.

Abatkun & Mohan (2017) conducted a study on comparison of anxiety and self-confidence variables among Ethiopian sports academy male soccer players of different playing positions. The sample of the study was 150 Ethiopian sport academies male soccer players. The result showed that there were no significant mean differences in anxiety and self-confidence of Ethiopian sports academy male soccer players.

Putra et. al (2020) conducted a study on attitude and self-confidence students in learning natural sciences; Rural and Urban junior high school. The sample of the study was 926 students with 511 for urban junior high school 415 for rural junior high school. The result showed that students'self confidence in urban schools tend more higher than in rural schools.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Adolescence is the most important period of human life during which the young Individual develops physically, intellectually, mentally, socially and emotionally. It is a period of great excitability and turbulent emotions. The individual is faced with a perennial conflict in all spheres of life. So, it is crucial time to draw out attention towards. The youngsters so that they can develop positive and healthy attitude towards life. Population especially of adolescents. One of the most challenging problems of Adolescents faced by educationists today are that of accurate prediction of their self-confidence.

Parents, guardians, teachers, educationists, institutions and society at large areconcerned about how best to enhance self-confidence. Students should be engaged inintellectually and socially satisfying activities so that they can become confident enough to forge ahead in their thinking on the basis of information, facts, clues and concepts. The students who are aversive and think negatively cannot concentrate for a long time and have more difficulty in reaching their potentials than others.

OPREATIONAL DEFINITION

SELF CONFIDENCE

The self is a composite of a person's thoughts and feelings, strivings and hopes, Fears and fantasies, his view of what he is, what he has been, what he might become, and His attitude pertaining to his worth. Self-confidence is a positive attitude of oneself towards one's self-concept. It is an attribute of perceived self. Self-Confidence refers to a person's perceived ability to tackle situations successfully without leaning on others and to have a positive self-evaluation.

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STATEMENT OF THE STUDY

A STUDY OF SELF CONFIDENCE AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF DISTRICT SANGRUR

OBJECTIVES

- To compare the self confidence among rural and urban senior secondary school students.
- To compare the self confidence among boys and girls senior secondary school students.

HYPOTHESIS

- There will be no significant difference in self-confidence based on gender.
- There will be no significant difference in self-confidence based on locale.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

- For any research there is need of proper planning and preparation of appropriate research design. In sample language a research design is a plan of action.
- In the present study, the descriptive survey method was employed. School students of Sangrur district have been taken to find out the self-confidence on the gender and locale basis.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

Sampling is an essentials step in the field of research. In the present study, school students from Sangrur district affiliated with Punjab school education board and center board of secondary education constituted the universe of the study. High schools were selected as per the convenience of the investigator and students from these schools were selected with randomization techniques of sampling.

DELIMITATIONS

1. The study will be delimited to senior secondary school students of Sangrur district only.
2. Only 200 students will be selected from these schools.

TOOL USED

For the present study, following tool was used :

- 1. Self-confidence scale by Basavanna's (1975)

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

The statistical techniques were employed to give concise picture of the whole data so that it could be easily comprehend. The data was treated statistically. Following statistically techniques were used to analysis the data.

1. Descriptive statistics: Mean, Median, Mode and S.D. were used to describe the variable.
2. t-values were used to find out significant difference between mean scores of students belonging rural and urban areas.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Self confidence among students

The frequency distribution and cumulative percentage frequency of scores of students on test of Self-confidence are given below in Table 1

Table 1 : Frequency Distribution of self-confidence scores of students (N=200)

Class Interval	Frequency	Percentage	CPF
0-9	2	1	1
10-19	17	8.5	9.5
20-29	100	50	59.5
30-39	76	38	97.5
40-49	5	2.5	100
MEAN	**MEDIAN**	**MODE**	**S.D.**
27.7	**27.6**	**27.3**	**7.06**

The scores of students on the variable of self-confidence range from 6-45 on a scale ranging from. It may be observed from table 1 that the mean score of self-confidence student came out to be 27.7. The distribution of self-confidence scores shows that 50% of the students lie in mean interval there are 40.5% of the students who have self-confidence scores less than mean interval and 9.5% of the students have scores higher than mean interval.

This means that 50% of the students have average self-confidence, 40.5% of the students have below average and 9.5% of the students have above average self-confidence.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEANS OF SELF CONFIDENCE SCORES OF RURAL AND URBAN STUDENTS

Self-confidence scores of students belonging to rural and urban areas were noted. Their means and standard deviation were found out, and then critical ratio was calculated to find out the significance of difference between their means Table-2 shows the significance of difference between the means of self-confidence scores of rural and urban students.

Table 2 shows that the values of mean and S. D of self-confidence scores of students belonging to rural areas are 29.8 and 5.30 respectively whereas these values for Urban areas students are 27.7 and 7.01. The value signifying the difference between the means of self-confidence scores of rural and urban students 2.39.This value of CR is not significant at 0.05 level of significance, suggesting that significant difference of does not exist in the self-confidence of rural and urban areas do not differ significantly in their self-confidence is accepted. This means residential locality of students does not have any significant effect on their self-confidence.

Table 2 : Significance of difference between the means of self-confidence scores of studentsbelonging to Rural and Urban areas

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	S.E.	T
Rural	100	29.8	5.30	0.877	2.39
Urban	100	27.7	7.01		NS

NS Indicates Non-significant value

SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEANS OF SELF CONFIDENCE SCORES OF MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS

Self-confidence scores of students belonging to male and females were noted. Their means and standard deviation were found out, then critical ratio was calculated to find out the significance of difference between the means Table 3 shows the significance of difference between the means of self-confidence scores of male and female students.

Table 3 shows that the values of mean and S. D of self-confidence scores of students belonging to male are 28.1 and 6.26 respectively whereas these values for female students are 29.6 and 7.22. The value signifying the difference between the mean of self-confidence scores of male and female students is 1.57. This value of CR is not significant at 0.05 level of significance, suggesting that significant difference does not exist in the self-confidence of male and female students. Thus hypothesis 2 that students belonging to male and female do not differ significantly in their self-confidence is accepted. This means male and female students do not have any significant effect on their self-confidence.

Table 3 : Significance of difference between the means of self-confidence scores of students belonging to male and female students

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	S.E.	T
Male	100	28.1	6.26	0.95	1.57
Female	100	29.6	7.22		NS

NS Indicates Non-significant value

CONCLUSION

The mean score of self-confidence is 27.7 with S.D. 7.06 among total sample 50% of students possess average level of self-confidence, 40.5% possess below average & 9.5% of the students possess above average self-confidence. No significant difference was found in self-confidence of students belonging to rural and urban areas. Self-confidence among male and female students was also equivalent as no significant difference was found.

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IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Himanshu Jain
Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal-Dhuri

ABSTRACT

Social media has become an integral aspect of students' lives, influencing both academic performance and mental well-being. This study examines the dual role of social media as a learning tool and a source of distraction among undergraduate students at Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal. Using a mixed-methods approach, data were collected from a sample of 177 students across various disciplines to explore their social media usage patterns, its impact on academic outcomes, and its psychological effects. Quantitative data were gathered through structured surveys, while qualitative insights were obtained through interviews and focus group discussions. Academic performance was measured through self-reported grades and attendance records. The findings revealed that 68% of the participants used social media for academic purposes, such as accessing study materials and engaging in group discussions, while 70% reported experiencing distractions that impacted their productivity.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid proliferation of social media platforms has significantly transformed how individuals, including undergraduate students, interact with information, peers, and the educational process itself. Social media plays a dual role in students' academic experiences, it serves as a tool for accessing resources, collaborating on assignments, and staying informed, but it also acts as a major source of distraction and psychological stress. Social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram offer students access to course materials, peer discussions, and educational videos, which can enhance engagement and support learning beyond the classroom. These platforms enable students to share resources, clarify doubts, and collaborate on assignments with their peers, creating an informal, peer-driven learning environment that can complement traditional teaching methods. For students at Desh Bhagat College, where many come from semi-urban and rural areas with limited access to academic resources, social media serves as an invaluable tool for accessing global information and academic discussions. However, despite these benefits, the overuse of social media has been associated with reduced academic performance. Numerous studies suggest that excessive use of social media can distract students from their academic responsibilities, lead to procrastination, and impact their ability to concentrate and manage their time effectively. Constant notifications, social media updates, and engaging content can pull students away from their studies, resulting in incomplete assignments, missed deadlines, and lower academic productivity. For students at Desh Bhagat College balancing academic rigor with social media usage can be particularly challenging, as they are often navigating multiple responsibilities, including work, family obligations, and study commitments. The paper aims to study the impact of social media's on academic performance among undergraduate students.

REVIEW OF RELATED LIERATURE

The role of social media in shaping academic performance among undergraduate students has been widely studied in recent years. This literature review synthesizes existing research by examining different methodologies and techniques employed in studies exploring the dual impact of social media as both an academic tool and a source of distraction.

Junco (2012) conducted a large-scale study involving 1,800 students at U.S. colleges, employing a survey methodology to assess how students' time spent on social media correlated with their GPA. The results indicated that students who spent more time on social media had lower academic performance, as they reported engaging in multitasking, where they divided their attention between studying and social media use.

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Liu et al. (2018) administered SMUS to a sample of 400 students at a university to assess their time spent on social media and correlate it with their academic results. The study found that students who spent more than three hours a day on platforms like Facebook and Instagram had significantly lower academic scores. This quantitative approach has provided valuable insights into the extent to which social media consumption negatively impacts students' focus, time management, and study habits.

Longitudinal Studies on Social Media and Its Long-Term Impact

Shensa et al. (2017) followed a unit of students over three years, collecting data on their social media use and mental health status each year. The study found that sustained high use of social media over the three-year period was associated with increasing levels of depression and anxiety. Furthermore, students who reported higher social media engagement early in their academic career experienced a greater decline in academic performance over time.

METHODOLOGY

This research investigates the impact of social media usage on the academic performance of undergraduate students at Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal district Sangrur, Punjab. Given the complexity of the topic and the need for comprehensive insights, a mixed-methods research design was employed to explore both the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of social media's influence.

Population and Sample Size

The target population for this study was undergraduate students enrolled at Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal. The sample size consisted of 177 students, selected using a stratified random sampling technique. The stratification was done based on the academic year (first-year, second-year, and third-year students) and the field of study (science, arts, and commerce).

1. Data Collection Methods

A. Quantitative Data Collection

The quantitative data for this study were gathered using two primary instruments: a **structured questionnaire** and an **academic performance record.**

1. **Structured Questionnaire :** The questionnaire consisted of 30 questions designed to measure two main areas: (a) the frequency and type of social media use, and (b) students' academic performance. The questionnaire included Likert-scale questions (ranging from 1-5, with 1 being "Strongly Disagree" and 5 being "Strongly Agree") to capture students' usage patterns and self-reported impacts of social media on their academic work.
2. **Academic Performance Record :** To measure academic performance, students were asked to provide their cumulative GPA or marks for the current semester. This data was collected to establish a correlation between time spent on social media and academic outcomes. This self-reported data was cross-checked with institutional records to ensure accuracy.

B. Qualitative Data Collection

In addition to the quantitative survey, **semi-structured interviews** were conducted with a subset of 30 students to gain deeper insights into the psychological and emotional impact of social media on their well-being. The students were selected randomly from the initial sample of 177, ensuring diversity in terms of academic discipline, gender, and year of study.Interviews were conducted face-to-face, with all sessions recorded (with consent) and transcribed verbatim. The qualitative data collected provided rich narratives that allowed the researchers to capture nuanced perspectives on the emotional and cognitive effects of social media usage.

2. Data Analysis Techniques

A. Quantitative Data Analysis

The quantitative data were analyzed using **descriptive statistics** and **inferential statistics**. Descriptive statistics, such as mean, median, and standard deviation, were used to summarize the demographic characteristics of the sample and the distribution of social media usage patterns.

To test hypotheses about the relationship between social media usage and academic performance, **correlation analysis** was conducted. The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to measure the strength and direction of the relationship between the variables, such as hours spent on social media and self-reported GPA or academic performance.

B. Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data from the semi-structured interviews were analyzed using **thematic analysis**. The results of the qualitative analysis were integrated with the quantitative findings to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of social media on undergraduate students.

LIMITATIONS

The study's limitations include the reliance on self-reported data, which can introduce biases, such as social desirability bias or inaccuracies in the self-reporting of academic performance. Moreover, the sample is limited to students at Desh Bhagat College, which may affect the generalizability of the findings to other institutions or regions.

RESULTS

The results of this study are presented based on the analysis of the data collected through both the quantitative and qualitative methods. The quantitative results focus on the statistical relationships between social media usage and academic performanceof students. The qualitative results provide insights into students' perceptions, experiences, and attitudes regarding the role of social media in their academic and personal lives.

1. Quantitative Results

A. Demographic Profile of Respondents

The sample of 177 students included a diverse group from different academic years and disciplines. Of the 177 students, 34% were from the first year, 37% from the second year, and 29% from the third year. In terms of academic disciplines, 40% were from the science stream, 35% from the commerce stream, and 25% from the arts stream. The gender distribution was fairly balanced, with 51% male and 49% female students. This diversity ensured that the study represented a broad range of students and their experiences with social media.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristic	Frequency (n = 177)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	92	51%
Female	85	49%
Age		
18–20 years	72	41%
21–23 years	85	48%
Above 23 years	20	11%
Year of Study		
First Year	60	34%
Second Year	65	37%
Third Year	52	29%

Source : Primary Survey

B. Social Media Usage Patterns

The survey data revealed that a significant proportion of students engage with social media regularly. On average, students reported spending 3.5 hours per day on social media, with 40% of the respondents spending over 4 hours daily. The most commonly used platforms were WhatsApp (90%), Facebook (78%), Instagram (72%), and YouTube (65%). The usage of platforms like LinkedIn and Twitter was relatively lower, at 35% and 28%, respectively.

In terms of academic use, 56% of students reported using social media for educational purposes, such as accessing academic resources, participating in study groups, or seeking academic help. However, 71% of students acknowledged that social media often distracted them from their academic tasks. Respondents reported that social media usage was more frequent during evening hours (5:00 PM - 10:00 PM), a time when students typically engage in study sessions or revision.

Table 2 : Social Media Usage Patterns

Usage Pattern	Frequency (n = 177)	Percentage (%)
Daily Time Spent on Social Media		
Less than 1 hour	32	18%
1–3 hours	82	46%
3–5 hours	45	25%
More than 5 hours	18	11%
Purpose of Social Media Use		
Academic	88	50%
Entertainment	53	30%
Social Interaction	36	20%

Source : Primary Survey

C. Academic Performance and Social Media

Table 3 : Academic Performance and Social Media Usage

Social Media Usage	Improved Academic Performance	Disrupted Academic Focus
Less than 1 hour	24 (75%)	08 (25%)
1–3 hours	52 (63%)	30 (37%)
3–5 hours	20 (44%)	25 (56%)
More than 5 hours	4 (22%)	14 (78%)

Source : Primary Survey

The quantitative data showed a moderate negative correlation between the amount of time spent on social media and self-reported academic performance. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the number of hours spent on social media and students' self-reported GPA was -0.31, indicating a weak to moderate negative relationship. Students who reported spending more than 4 hours daily on social media had lower GPAs compared to those who spent fewer hours. The mean GPA of students spending less than 2 hours per day on social media was 7.3 (on a scale of 10), while the mean GPA for students spending over 4 hours was 6.0.

Multiple regression analysis revealed that time spent on social media accounted for approximately 11% of the variance in academic performance. However, other factors, such as study habits, attendance, and sleep quality, also contributed to academic success. Social media usage was found to be a significant predictor of lower academic performance, with the regression analysis suggesting that unit increase in time spent on social media was associated with a 0.3-units decrease in GPA.

In response to the negative impacts of social media, many students reported implementing strategies to manage their usage. The most common strategies included setting time limits (48%), using apps to block social media during study hours (34%), and engaging in physical activities to reduce stress (29%). Interestingly, 19% of students reported using social media as a motivational tool by following educational pages, academic groups, or professional networks like LinkedIn. These students perceived social media as a dual-purpose tool, providing both academic resources and a platform for social interaction.

2. Qualitative Results

A. Perceptions of Social Media's Role in Education

The semi-structured interviews revealed that students have mixed perceptions of social media's role in education. While 58% of interviewees acknowledged that social media helps them access educational resources, exchange ideas, and collaborate with peers on academic projects, they also expressed concerns about its potential for distraction. One student noted, "Social media is great for getting quick answers to questions or sharing study material, but I get easily distracted when I check notifications and end up spending hours scrolling."

Despite the educational benefits, the majority of students (73%) stated that social media often led to reduced focus and productivity, especially when they tried to balance academic work and socializing online. One third-year student mentioned, "I find myself studying and checking my Instagram or WhatsApp at the same time, and that affects my ability to concentrate on studying."

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study reveal a multifaceted relationship between social media usage, academic performance among undergraduate students at Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal. This section critically examines these results, placing them within the broader context of existing research, discussing their implications, and offering potential recommendations for mitigating the adverse effects of social media on students.

1. The Dual Role of Social Media in Education

The results affirm the dual nature of social media as both a supportive tool and a source of distraction for students. On the one hand, 56% of students reported using social media for academic purposes, such as accessing study materials, participating in online discussions, and engaging with educational content. These findings align with prior studies highlighting the potential of social media to foster collaborative learning, broaden access to information, and enhance student engagement. Platforms like YouTube and Facebook have been recognized for their ability to host educational communities and provide diverse learning resources.

However, the study also reveals that 71% of students experienced significant distractions due to social media. This supports research by Junco (2012), which found that non-academic social media use during study hours negatively impacts focus and productivity. The correlation between excessive social media use and lower academic performance (Pearson's $r = -0.31$) further underscores its role as a hindrance when not managed effectively.

2. Academic Performance and Time Management

The negative relationship between social media usage and academic performance observed in this study resonates with findings from similar research. Students who spent more than 4 hours daily on social media reported lower GPAs compared to those who spent less time. This supports studies by Kirschner and Karpinski (2010), which suggest that excessive social media use reduces the time available for focused academic activities, leading to poorer performance.

Additionally, the regression analysis highlighted that while social media usage is a significant predictor of academic outcomes, other factors such as study habits, attendance, and sleep quality also play a crucial role. These results indicate that while social media alone does not determine academic success, its influence is compounded when combined with poor time management and unhealthy study practices.Educational institutions should focus on equipping students with time management skills and strategies to prioritize academic responsibilities over recreational social media use. Integrating digital literacy programs into the curriculum may help students understand how to balance academic and non-academic online activities.

3. Strategies for Managing Social Media Impact

The study found that students employ various strategies to mitigate the negative effects of social media, such as setting time limits, using blocking apps, and engaging in physical activities. These proactive approaches reflect students' awareness of the challenges posed by excessive social media use and their willingness to self-regulate.

However, the effectiveness of these strategies depends on consistent implementation and support from educators and institutions. Colleges can play a pivotal role by fostering awareness about the impact of social media on academic and mental health outcomes. Workshops, counseling sessions, and peer support groups can help students develop healthier habits and coping mechanisms.

Digital detox campaigns and "screen-free" days could also encourage students to disconnect periodically and focus on offline activities. Integrating digital wellness into the college culture could empower students to harness the benefits of social media while minimizing its adverse effects.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the complex impact of social media on the academic performance and mental well-being of undergraduate students at Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal. While social media serves as a valuable tool for accessing educational resources and fostering collaboration, excessive usage negatively affects focus, productivity, and academic outcomes. The study found a clear correlation between higher social media engagement and lower academic performance.

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REVOLUTIONARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION : HOW NEP 2020 ENCOURAGES INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY IN PUNJAB

Dr. Anjum Khan
Assistant Professor of Physical Education, Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal-Dhuri

ABSTRACT

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to transform India's education system, including physical education. This paper explores how NEP 2020 promotes inclusivity and diversity in physical education in Punjab. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining surveys, interviews, and document analysis. The findings indicate that NEP 2020's emphasis on inclusivity and diversity has led to increased participation of marginalized groups, such as girls, students with disabilities, students from disadvantaged backgrounds in physical education.

***Keywords :** Education, Policy, Disabled, Physical*

INTRODUCTION

Physical education is a vital component of the education system, contributing to the overall development of students. However, traditional physical education programs have often been criticized for being exclusive and discriminatory, neglecting the needs of marginalized groups.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, unveiled by the Government of India, brings a transformative shift in the landscape of education across the country, emphasizing holistic development, inclusivity, and diversity. One of the sectors witnessing a profound change is physical education (PE), which has been remained to accommodate the evolving needs of all learners. This paper explores how NEP 2020 promotes inclusivity and diversity in physical education in Punjab.

The NEP 2020 and Physical Education

The NEP 2020 promotes a balanced, multidisciplinary approach to education, where physical education is not only seen as an extracurricular activity but is integrated into the broader educational curriculum. The policy outlines key principles such as accessibility, inclusion, and promoting the physical, emotional, and social well-being of students. According to the NEP, physical education is a critical area for fostering lifelong learning, skills development, and overall well-being (Ministry of Education, 2020).

The policy encourages a more inclusive approach by suggesting physical education activities that cater to students with various needs, including those with disabilities. This is part of a broader commitment to universal access to education and the integration of all children in mainstream educational settings. Inclusivity in physical education, as outlined in NEP 2020, aims to break down barriers and ensure that students from different socio-economic, cultural, and physical backgrounds can actively participate in sports and fitness activities.

Inclusivity and Diversity in Punjab's Context

Punjab, with its diverse demographic, faces unique challenges in ensuring access to quality education for all students. The state is home to a mix of rural and urban populations, with distinct cultural identities, religious beliefs, and linguistic variations. For inclusive education to thrive in Punjab, it is crucial to address the barriers posed by socio-economic disparities, gender roles, and limited access to facilities, especially in rural areas.

In Punjab, physical education has traditionally been more accessible in urban areas, where infrastructure, trained teachers, and resources are relatively abundant. However, in rural regions, the situation is different. The NEP 2020 encourages the development of sports infrastructure in these areas and highlights the need for teacher training to better equip educators in facilitating inclusive PE activities. Schools in rural Punjab can benefit from initiatives like government-funded sports programs and the development of local sports clubs, which will increase opportunities for all students, regardless of their socio-economic background.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research has consistently shown that inclusive physical education programs can have numerous benefits, including increased participation, improved self-esteem, and better academic performance (Spencer-Cavaliere & Watkinson, 2010; Vickerman & Maher, 2017).

The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has spurred considerable academic interest in how educational reforms are likely to shape physical education (PE), inclusivity, and diversity in Indian schools. The following review of related literature highlights key studies that discuss these concepts in the broader context of Indian education and, specifically, within Punjab. The literature reveals both the challenges and opportunities arising from the policy's implementation and its influence on physical education and inclusivity in diverse regions.

National Education Policy 2020 and Physical Education

The NEP 2020 has outlined several significant changes in the realm of education, one of which is the elevated role of physical education in fostering a holistic and inclusive educational framework. According to the NEP, physical education is not merely an extracurricular activity but an essential component of the school curriculum aimed at enhancing the overall development of students (Ministry of Education, 2020). The policy advocates for physical education to be integrated across all stages of schooling, ensuring that physical activity is not limited to just the middle and high school levels but also extends into primary education.

Several studies have examined the implications of NEP 2020 in reshaping physical education curricula to be more inclusive and diverse.. As highlighted by Ahuja and Saini (2021), the NEP calls for inclusive educational practices, which includes the integration of students with disabilities into physical education programs, thereby breaking down traditional barriers to participation.

Inclusive Education and Special Needs Students

The integration of students with disabilities into mainstream educational settings has been a priority of the NEP 2020. Ahuja and Saini (2021) discuss how the policy's commitment to inclusive education has significant implications for physical education, specifically the inclusion of children with disabilities. In Punjab, where special education resources may be limited, the implementation of the NEP's inclusive guidelines is seen as a crucial step toward ensuring that children with various physical and cognitive impairments can participate in physical education programs.

Adaptive physical education (APE) is one of the strategies suggested to meet the needs of students with disabilities. These programs often modify traditional sports or create new activities that can be accessed by all students, regardless of their abilities. Ahuja and Saini (2021) noted that training teachers to implement adaptive PE strategies is a critical component of ensuring inclusivity in schools. For Punjab, where access to specialized training may be inconsistent, this presents both an opportunity and a challenge. However, with the right resources and commitment, the state can lead the way in implementing adaptive physical education programs.

The Role of Teacher Training and Capacity Building

Effective teacher training and professional development are crucial to the successful implementation of inclusive physical education programs. In Punjab, a significant barrier to the implementation of inclusive PE programs is the lack of qualified physical education instructors who are trained to teach students with diverse needs. As noted by Sharma (2023), teacher training is an essential aspect of ensuring that PE programs align with the NEP's inclusive and diverse goals. The NEP's focus on holistic and multidisciplinary learning also calls for physical education teachers to be trained in both physical activity and psychosocial aspects of student development, enabling them to create supportive and engaging learning environments.

Teacher training initiatives that emphasize diversity and inclusivity can help overcome resistance to change and build awareness of the importance of inclusive education. Singh (2022) suggests that partnerships with local NGOs, community leaders, and educational bodies could help provide teachers with the necessary skills to implement NEP-compliant PE programs, particularly in rural areas.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining surveys, interviews and document analysis. A survey was administered to 200 physical education teachers in Punjab, exploring their perceptions of NEP 2020's impact on inclusivity and diversity in physical education.

FINDINGS

The study demonstrates that NEP's vision for inclusive and diverse physical education is being implemented in Punjab with positive outcomes for marginalized groups. The survey findings indicate that 80% of physical education teachers in Punjab believe that NEP 2020 has led to increased participation of marginalized groups in physical education.

Table 1
Participation of Marginalized Groups in Physical Education

Group	Pre-NEP 2020	Post-NEP 2020
Girls	40%	60%
Students with Disabilities	20%	40%

Source : Primary Survey

As shown in Table 1, there has been a significant increase in the participation of marginalized groups in physical education in Punjab since the implementation of NEP 2020. The increase in the percentage of participation is also indicated by various efforts are taken by the governments for promoting sports for disables. These efforts include development of disabled friendly infrastructure, cash awards and incentives, special trainers and coaches, establishment of sports centre of excellence for differently abled. The organizations such as Paralympic Committee of India, All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD) and Special Olympics Bharat are also working to promote sports among disabled individuals in india.

Table 2 : Perceptions of Physical Education Teachers on NEP 2020

Statement	Agree	Disagree
NEP 2020 has led to increased participation of marginalized groups in physical education	80%	80%
NEP 2020 has improved the overall quality of physical education in Punjab	70%	30%
NEP 2020 has addressed the needs of students with disabilities in physical education	60%	40%

Source : Primary Survey

As shown in Table 2, the majority of physical education teachers in Punjab agree that NEP 2020 has led to increased participation of marginalized groups in physical education and improved the overall quality of physical education.

Table 3 : Barriers to Participation in Sports among Disabled Students

Barrier	Percentage
Lack of Accessible Infrastructure	60
Limited Availability of Adaptive Equipment	50
Insufficient Training and Coaching	40
Social Stigma and Discrimination	30

Source : Primary Survey

As shown in Table 3, majority of teachers i.e. 60 percent perceive that the students with disability were not able to participate due to lack of accessible infrastructure followed by 50 percent respondents who believe that the students were not able to participate due to limited availability of adaptive equipments. 40 percent consider insufficient staff and coaching as barrier whereas 30 percent believed that due to social stigma and discrimination the disabled students are not able to participate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although there has been an increase in the participation rate of students with disabilities but in order to increase it to higher rate following measures should be adopted :

1. Provide training for physical education teachers on inclusive teaching methods and disability awareness.
2. Invest in accessible infrastructure, including adapted sports facilities and equipment.
3. Promote awareness about the importance of inclusive physical education among students, teachers, and parents.

CONCLUSION

The findings suggest that NEP 2020's emphasis on inclusivity and diversity has led to positive changes in physical education in Punjab. However, challenges persist, including inadequate infrastructure and lack of trained teachers. The results revealed that physical education teachers have made conscious efforts to adapt their teaching methods to include students with disabilities. This study also demonstrates that NEP 2020's vision for inclusive and diverse physical education is being implemented in Punjab, with positive outcomes for marginalized groups As Punjab grapples with its unique challenges of gender inequality, regional disparity and limited resources, the policy's provisions offer substantial opportunities to foster a more inclusive educational environment. However, realizing the full potential of the NEP will require overcoming challenges related to infrastructure, teacher training, and cultural resistance. By integrating indigenous sports, promoting gender-neutral physical education, and ensuring that all students—regardless of their abilities—can participate in physical activities, Punjab can emerge as a model for inclusive physical education in India.

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REVOLUTIONARY KHUDIRAM BOSE & HIS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Dr. Rintu Kumar Biswas
Associate Professor in Political Science, Krishna Chandra College,
Hetampur, Birbhum, West Bengal, India

ABSTRACT

India's freedom movement was organized in two main methods following two contrasting philosophies. Moderate & Extremists followed & tried to justify their methods of movements with their own logics. Extremists believe that no freedom movement in the world has ever organized with only peaceful methods. Without the application of revolutionary path freedom can never be achieved from the Britishers. Revolutionary methods as propounded by the extremists in the country cast a huge impact upon the minds of young brigades in Bengal as well as in India. Thousands of youths get ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of their motherland. Khudiram Bose (1889-1908) was one of them. It happens to be very surprising to watch the spirit of revolutionary nationalism that worked within him at such tender age during that period of British India. He had a fearless heart & was ready to make his country free from the foreign rule. Present paper seeks to analyse theoretically the revolutionary contribution of Khudiram Bose towards India's freedom struggle.

Keywords : *Freedom Movement, Extremists, Revolutionary Path, Mother Land, British Raj*

INTRODUCTION

Khudiram Bose (also spelled *Khudiram Basu*) (3 December 1889–11 August 1908) happened to be an Indian revolutionary from Bengal Presidency who opposed British rule in India along with Prafulla Chaki & other revolutionaries. He was sentenced to death and subsequently executed for his role in the Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case. The incident made him one of the youngest martyrs of the Indian Independence Movement.

The present story commemorates the era when politics was for national interest to end the British Raj and re-establish true Indian virtues. It is the historic & legendary tale of a patriot whose dreams perfectly aligned to the mission of complete freedom for his matrubhoomi (motherland). He set the true symbol of well-directed power and pure devotion towards his country. Khudiram Bose was among those martyrs because of whom we have the privilege of independence and empowerment.

The young warrior martyred, at the age of 18, was an active participant in the freedom movement. 'Sonar Bangla' by Gupta Samiti portrayed the damage caused to Indians by the British. At the time of distributing the booklet and propagating the anti-British sentiment in the minds of Indians, Khudiram was arrested by the police. He was saved from imprisonment due to his age (14 years). But he was marked as a defaulter by the British.

Along with Prafulla Chaki,Khudiram attempted to assassinate a British judge, Magistrate Douglas Kingsford, by throwing bombs on the carriage they suspected the man was in. However, Magistrate Kingsford was seated in a different carriage, and the throwing of bombs resulted in the deaths of two British women. Before the arrest Prafulla fatally shot himself. Khudiram was arrested and trialed for the murder of the two women. Ultimately, he was sentenced to death. He was one of the first Indian revolutionaries in Bengal to be executed by the British.

At the time of his hanging, Khudiram was 18 years, 8 months, and 11 days, 10 hours old making him one of the second youngest revolutionaries in India.

Mahatma Gandhi, the great national leader, however, denounced the violence, lamenting the deaths of the two innocent women. He stated "that the Indian people will not win their freedom through these methods. But Bal Gangadhar Tilak, in his newspaper *Kesari*, defended the two young men and called for

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immediate *swaraj*. Charges of sedition was imposed upon Tilak & he was arrested by the British colonial government.

Early Life

Khudiram was born on December 3, 1889, in West Bengal's Medinipur (then Midnapore) district.He lost his parents at an early age. His was brought up by his sister with motherly care and aspirations for his future as a well-educated and learned man. He had patriotic ambition - freedom of his homeland. Agarwal,2006:10

In a family of three daughters Khudiram was the fourth children. His parents, Trailokyanath Bose and Lakshmipriya Devi had two sons before the birth of Khudiram but both of them died prematurely. In an attempt to save him from dying at an early age the new born child was symbolically sold to his eldest sister in exchange of three handfuls of food grains locally known as Khud following the traditional customs prevalent in the culture. This is how he acquired the name, Khudiram.

When he was six years oldhe lost his mother. A year after his father died. His elder sister, Aparupa Roy, brought him to her house at Hatgachha village under the Daspur Police Station. Anurupadevi's husband, Amritalal Roy, got him admitted to Tamluk's Hamilton High School.

Inspired by his headmaster, great revolutionaries like Aurobindo, and the need for the Swadeshi Movement (boycott of foreign goods), Khudiram was the young revolutionary energy that left his golden presence in history of the Indian Freedom Movement. Chaturvedi, 2007: 34-36

In 1902 and 1903, Sri Aurobindo and Sister Nivedita visited Midnapore. They held a series of public lectures and private session with the existing revolutionary groups for freedom. Khudiram, a teenager, was an active participant in the discussions about the revolution.

Apparently, he joined *Anushilan Samiti*, and came into contact with the network of Barindra Kumar Ghosh of Calcutta. He became a volunteer at the age of 15, and was arrested for distributing pamphlets against the British rule in India. At the young age of 16, Khudiram took part in planting bombs near the police stations and targeted government officials. Heehs,2008:25-28.

Assassination Attempts at Muzaffarpur

On a fateful day, Kingsford and his wife were playing bridge with the daughter and wife of Pringle Kennedy, a British barrister. At around 8.30 PM they decided to head home. Kingsford and his wife were in a carriage & it was identical to the one carrying Kennedy and his family. Khudiram and Prafulla ran towards the carriage and threw the bombs into the carriageas their carriage reached the eastern gate of the compound of the European Club. A loud explosion ensued and the carriage was taken to Kingsford's house. The carriage was shattered because of the explosion and the Kennedy ladies sustained terrible injuries. Within an hour Miss Kennedy died and Mrs. Kennedy died on 2 May of sustained injuries. Patel, 2008:34-36

Escape

To escape capture Khudiram and Prafulla went their own way. By morning, Khudiram had walked 25 miles.He reached a station called Waini.At a tea stallhe asked for a glass of water. There he was confronted by two armed constables, Fateh Singh, and Sheo Pershad Singh. They immediately suspected something upon seeing his dusty feet, and his exhausted and perspiring appearance. Their suspicion became stronger, after a couple of questions and they decided to detain Khudiram. Khudiram started struggling with the two men, and immediately, one of the two hidden revolvers fell out.One of the constables held him from behind in a bear-hug before Khudiram could use the other one to fire on the constables. As he was much younger and lightly built, Khudiram had no more chance of defence or escape. 37 rounds of ammunitionon his possession were found.In addition to this Rs. 30 in cash, a railway map and a page of the rail timetable were also found with him. The fate of Khudiram was sealed forever. The Waini station is presently known as Khudiram Bose Pusa Station. Popplewell,1995:15-18

On the other hand, Prafulla had travelled long arduous hours A civil named Trigunacharan Ghosh noticed a young boy coming his way, around midday. He was well aware of the bomb blast and realized that Prafulla was the other revolutionary. Ghosh was sympathetic to the revolutionary & decided to save his life, and let him bathe, eat, and rest in his house. He also arranged for Prafulla to return to Kolkata the same night. He boarded a train from Samastipur for Mokamaghat, and continue his onward journey with a train to Howrah. A sub-inspector in the Indian Imperial Police, Nandalal Bannerjee, was travelling in the same compartment in the same train. During the travel he struck a conversation and realized Prafulla to be the other revolutionary. To drink waterwhen Prafulla got down at the Shipwright station, Bannerjee sent a telegram to the Muzaffarpur police station. Sub-inspector Banerjee tried to apprehend Prafulla at the Mokamaghat station. Prafulla tried to fight his way through with his revolver but in the end, down to his last bullet, he shot himself in the mouth.

The handcuffed Khudiram was brought from Wainito Muzaffarpuron 1st May. At the police station the entire town descended to take a look at the teenage boy surrounded by a team of armed policemen. Khudiram was taken to the house of the district magistrate, Mr. Woodman. The English daily, The Statesman, wrote on the following day, 2 May 1908 :

The Railway station was crowded to see the boy. A mere boy of 18 or 19 years old, who looked quite determined. He came out of a first-class compartment and walked all the way to the phaeton, kept for him outside, like a cheerful boy who knows no anxiety. On taking his seat the boy cheerfully cried 'Vandemataram'. Ryves,1908:5-8

As per existing rule Khudiram had to give a statement or declaration to the magistrate. At the time of giving declarationhe took full responsibility for the assassination, unknown that Prafulla was dead. Only after Khudiram finished giving his statement the body of Prafulla reached Muzaffarpur. Khudiram realized that lying would go in vain. He identified the body of Prafulla.The British also received details from the encounter with sub-inspector Bannerjee, The British colonial authorities thought it more proper to detach Prafulla's head from his corpse and send it to Calcutta for better confirmation instead of believing Khudiram.Samaddar,2005:20-24

First Hearing

On 21 May 1908the historical trial started. Itwas presided by Judge Corndoff, Nathuni Prasad and Janak Prasad in the Jury.Two others were tried for assisting the revolutionaries in their mission — Mrityunjay Chakraborty and Kishorimohan Bandopadhyay. along with Khudiram They had accommodated Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki in his Dharmashala for their mission.During the trial. Mrityunjay died, and subsequently, the trial of Kishorimohan was separated from that of Khudiram.

For the British colonial governmentMannum and Binod Bihari Majumdar were the prosecutors. On the other hand, lawyers Kalidas Basu, Upendranath Sen, and Kshetranath Bandopadhyay took up Khudiram's defence. They were joined later in the trial by Kulkamal Sen, Nagendra Lal Lahiri, and Satischandra Chakraborty—all of them fought the case without any fees. Sanyal,2014:1-4

Immediate and spontaneous response of Khudiram was to smile. Being surprised, the judge asked Khudiram whether he had understood the meaning of the pronounced sentence. Khudiram replied that he surely had. When the judge asked him again whether he had anything to say, in front of a packed audience, Khudiram replied with the same smile that if he could be given some time, he could teach the judge the skill of bomb-making. Hearing this the Judge was instructing the police to escort the boy out of the courtroom.

As per the legal system, Khudiram had 7 days to appeal to the High Court. Khudiram *refused* to appeal. However, after some persuasion by his counselors — with the logic that if he receives a life sentence instead of getting hanged because of this appeal, he would live to serve his nation once free and he would have age on his side when that happens — Khudiram finally agreed, in a detached manner, to go along with his defenceteam. Chatterjee,1961:54-56

Second Hearing

On 8 July 1908 the High Court hearing took place.To save a revolutionary boy that the country had ever produced Narendrakumar Basu came to Khudiram's defence and concentrated all his legal skills and experience in this case.

He argued & reasoned that according to article 164 of the penal code, the accused is required to submit his statement in front of a first-class magistrate, which Mr. Woodman was not, and moreover, during the first statement Khudiram was not told anything of the person's identity and position.

Secondly, pointed out by Basu, the article 364 requires that all questions to the accused be made in the mother tongue of the same, and all answers from the accused in his mother tongue be documented verbatim in that language, but which was done in English in Khudiram's case. Gupta,1972:18-20

Lastly, Narendrakumar Basu said that Prafulla aka "Dinesh" (the name used in the trial) was stronger than Khudiram was. He was the bomb-expert among the two of them. Thus, it is highly likely that the actual thrower of the bomb was "Dinesh". Further, Prafulla's suicide on the verge of capture only reinforces the possibility of his being the actual thrower of the bombs.

The final verdict would be passed on 13 July 1908was announced by the two British judgesafter the defence. Heehs,1988:40-42

Final Judgement

As Khudiram was the only of the two alivehis lone statement of a two-man team was the foundation for the entire case.Since all the legal arguments put forth by Narendrakumar Basu were believed to be technically correctit was hoped that for the sake of the law—about which the British prided themselves ad infinitum —Khudiram's life would, at least, be spared. But the British judges confirmed the conviction and sentence and dismissed the appeal on a historical day. Nath,1980:12-14

Execution of Khudiram

The region around the prison became packed with a swelling crowd before the scheduled time, 6 AMon 11 August. It was seen that people holding flower garlands filled up the front rows of the crowd. Upendranath Sen, the lawyer-journalist of the Bengali news daily "Bengalee", who was close to Khudiram, reports having reached the venue by 5 AM, in a car with all the necessary funerary arrangements and clothes the funeral procession went through the city, after the hanging. Police guards held back the crowd all along the central artery street. As the carriage passed bythe people kept throwing their flowers on the body. Raj,2008:11-12

In this context it is worthy to mention the statements as made by different newspapers in the country.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika, one of the prominent dailies of that era, carried the story of the hanging the next day, on 12 August. Under the headline "Khudiram's End: Died cheerful and smiling" the newspaper wrote: "*Khudiram's execution took place at 6 a.m. this morning. He walked to the gallows firmly and cheerfully and even smiled when the cap was drawn over his head.*"

An established Anglo-Indian newspaper, *The Empire*, wrote:

"*Khudiram Bose was executed this morning...It is alleged that he mounted the scaffold with his body erect. He was cheerful and smiling.*"

The *Kesari*, nationalist *Marathi* newspaper, observed on 26 May 1908:

"*Neither the Jubilee murder of 1897, nor the reported tampering of the Sikh regiments had produced so much commotion, and the English public opinion seems inclined to regard birth of the bomb in India as the most extraordinary event since the mutiny at 1857.*

After martyrdom, Khudiram became so popular that weavers of Bengal started weaving a special type of dhoti, with 'Khudiram' written on its side. Boys studying in school colleges wore these dhotis and stitched and walked on the path of independence. Khudiram Bose is considered to be the first fighter to sacrifice his life in the Indian freedom struggle. Sen,2012:15-18

Khudiram Bose's Statement

In his own words, Khudiram made a statement (which was updated) while under arrest, recorded by the special branch of the police, before he was hanged: "I was naughty in my childhood, but after I entered Midnapore Collegiate School a change overtook me".

CONCLUSION

People & the political leaders in our country at that time could not assess the role he played through his revolutionary thoughts & acts. Later the Britishers admit that they were frightened to a great extent by the revolutionary activities as Khudiram & other revolutionaries had shown during the period between 1905 & 1920. There is no denial of the fact that the extraordinary zeal of this brave heart, who contributed a lot to our sovereignty and independence, will continue to inspire us forever. The epitome of commitment and sacrifice, Khudiram Bose showed has to be praised through the ages. Heroismas the scholars found in the thought process of this little revolutionaryhas to be defined in the right way by the Indians.

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A KEY FOCUS ON BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Pradip Karmakar
SACT-II, Dept. of Political Science, S.F.S. Mahavidyalaya, Khayrasole, Birbhum

ABSTRACT

"Prakriti Rakshati Rakshita" : Nature protects if she is protected. Nature has been very kind to man and others lives. Biodiversity and sustainable development are crucial concepts in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our planet. Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth, including plant and animal species, while sustainable development refers to the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.Understanding the interconnection between biodiversity and sustainable development is crucial in promoting a sustainable future.Biodiversity conservation is crucial in preserving the health and stability of ecosystems. Humans can promote biodiversity conservation through protected areas, restoration of degraded habitats, and reducing the introduction of invasive species. Sustainable development involves meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This can involve promoting sustainable practices in agriculture, energy production, and transportation, as well as reducing waste and promoting resource conservation.

Keywords : *Prakriti, Biodiversity, Sustainable, Ecosystem, Planet.*

INTRODUCTION

"Prakriti Rakshati Rakshita" : Nature protects if She is protected. Nature has been very kind to man and others lives. The term 'Biodiversity' is the shortened form of two words 'biological' & 'diversity'. Here 'Bio' refers to' life' and 'Diversity' indicates 'variety'. Biological diversity first used by Thomas E.Lovejoy in 1980 & popularised by the sociologist E.Willson. Biodiversity refers to all the variety of plants, animals, fungi, organisms etc of life on the earth. It represents the wealth of biological resources available to us. The biological resources of the Earth are vital to the economic and social development of mankind .Biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to present and future generations. Biodiversity encompasses the variety of all life on earth. It can be divided as three types — (i) Genetic diversity - variation of genes in species that is a single population. (ii) Species diversity - it is the basic way to keep an account of biodiversity as it includes all forms of life from single cell organisms, such as organisms, plants and animals & (iii) Ecosystem diversity — it differentiates between different habitats, ecological processes and ecosystems in which the species exist. This can be a forest , marine & desert ecosystem and so on. Biodiversity forms the web of life of which we are an integral part and upon which we so fully depend.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main aims & objectives of this paper, how to conserve our biodiversity, maintain Sustainable Development tool and some measures to protect the world ecosystem through reforestation, botanical & zoological garden and biosphere reserve etc. for getting sustainable benefits for our future generation.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed study is supposed to be based on a theoretical framework with some empirical findings. It is also based on secondary data and information. The source of data collection from many books, journals, articles, Govt.data, newspaper & internet websites etc.

DEFINITION

An important and widely used definition is that included within the Convention on biodiversity (CBD). It defines biodiversity as - "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia,

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terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within the species, between species & ecosystems".

Sustainable development is an organizing principle that aims to meet human development goals while also enabling natural systems to provide necessary natural resources and ecosystem services to humans. The desired result is a society where living conditions and resources meet human needs without undermining the planetary integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development tries to find a balance between economic development, environmental protection, and social well-being.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of seventeen interlinked objectives designed to serve as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future". Those SDGs goals are - no poverty; zero hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals. The SDGs emphasize the interconnected environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development by putting sustainability at their center.

The SDGs were formulated in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which sought to create a future global development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, which ended that year. They were formally articulated and adopted in a UNGA resolution called the 2030 Agenda, known colloquially as Agenda 2030. On 6 July 2017, the SDGs were made more actionable by a UNGA resolution that identifies specific targets for each goal and provides indicators to measure progress.

VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Biodiversity is important to maintain the 'web of life'. Environmental services from species and ecosystems are essential at local, regional & global level. Maintaining the water cycle, protecting soil, and reducing carbon dioxide are important services. The loss of biodiversity contributes to global climate changes. Biological diversity is also essential for preserving ecological processes, such as recycling air & water, formation of soil, gasses, nutrients and maintaining balance of ecosystem. on the other side every living creature is found in a food chain. There are several food chains, which can be dependent only on the environment. For example that- grasshoppers eat grass and turn eaten by frogs; snakes eat frogs and it continues the chainprocess. Medicine,food, energy, clothing, housing are all resources that are directly or indirectly linked to the biological variety present in the biosphere. This is most obvious in the agricultural communities who used biodiversity for growing their crops, tribal communities gathering the forest resources and also urban communities generally use the greatest amount of goods and services. So, the preservation in our biological resources is most essential for utilitarian,moral and ethical values and wellbeing to the long term benefits for our human life.

As mentioned above, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a set of fundamental values which are known as sustainable development values such as ; solidarity, tolerance, Liberty, equality respect for nature, and shared responsibility. Although these values have been discussed extensively by educationist & researcher, nevertheless there is a lack of studies that address these values from developing countries perspective. Therefore, not all citizens of the developing countries are fully aware of the notion of sustainable development value. Furthermore, the notion of sustainable development values greatly varies from country to country, culture to culture. Indeed, there are differences in perceiving these values from developed country and developing country perspective as well. As such, there is a need to provide a holistic definition on SDV and its dimension based on developing country perspective. This is because the current conceptualization provided by United Nation is defined based on developed country perspective which may not fully represent the developing countries' needs and demand. Moreover, since economic aspect, technological aspect and socio-cultural aspects differ from developed countries to developing countries, the value, belief, norms also greatly vary among these countries. Therefore, there is a necessity to define sustainable development value and its dimension based on developing country perspective.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education for sustainable development (ESD) is a term officially used by the United Nations and is defined as education practices that encourage changes in knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to enable a more sustainable and just society for humanity. ESD aims to empower and equip current and future generations to meet their needs using a balanced and integrated approach to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Agenda 21 was the first international document that identified education as an essential tool for achieving sustainable development and highlighted areas of action for education. ESD is a component of measurement in an indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG) for "responsible consumption and production". SDG 12 has 11 targets By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. 20 years after the Agenda 21 document was declared, the "Future we want" - document was declared in the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, stating that We resolve to promote education for sustainable development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

One version of education for Sustainable Development recognizes modern-day environmental challenges and seeks to define new ways to adjust to a changing biosphere, as well as engage individuals to address societal issues that come with them In the International Encyclopedia of Education, this approach to education is seen as an attempt to shift consciousness toward an ethics of life-giving relationships that respects the interconnectedness of man to his natural world in order to equip future members of society with environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility to sustainability.

CAUSES FOR BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Loss of biodiversity occurs when either a particular species is destroyed or damaged. The extinction of species may also occur due to ecological reasons like biological, pathological factors which can be caused by either nature or man.

1) Natural causes of the loss of biodiversity include floods, earthquakes,landslides, rivalry among species.
2) Manmade causes for the loss of biodiversity is that,-
   (a) Destruction of habitat in the wake of developmental activities like housing,construction of roads,dams, railway tracks etc.
   (b) Inequity in ownership and access to natural resources.
   (c) Inefficient use of toxic chemicals and overexploitation of wildlife resources for narrow commercial purposes.
   (d) Inadequate knowledge and no information for how to use environmental benefits.
   (e) Unsustainably high rates of human population growth and biological resources consumption.
   (f) Genetic erosion arising from the loss of habitats rich in ecosystem and violation of the conservation of wild species by the rural & tribal people. Even the loss of a single species is tragic, because each species is an integral part of the ecosystem and extinction of any one species will have a big impact on the web of life and cause an irreplaceable loss or threat of biological resources.

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CONSERVATION MEASURE OF BIODIVERSITY

Conservation of biodiversity refers to planning and management of ecological resources and to secure their wide use, supply and also maintaining quality and values. The process of conservation can be divided into two types :-

1. **In-situ conservation**:- When conservation is attempted to the natural habitat of the species by creating;
   (a) **National parks :-** protected areas under Govt. activities like grazing, forestry etc. are not permitted in these areas. Some examples in our India -Gir national park, Kaziranga national park etc.
   (b) **Wildlife sanctuaries :-** Govt. owned areas bounded to conserve the wild flora & fauna. Limited human activities are allowed such as collection of forest products, cultivation etc. Bandipur in Karnataka, Bhitarkanika in odisha is an example of this process.
   (c) **Biosphere reserves :-** It protects larger areas of natural habitat in comparison to national parks or animal sanctuaries.People are an integral component of this system. It consists of - Core zone; representing an undisturbed or least disturbed area;buffer zone; refers to managing the research,education and training activities & transition zone area; is active cooperation between reserve management and local people. Sunderbans in W.B (1989),Kachchh in Gujarat (2008),Simlipal in Odisha (1994) is our biosphere reserves in India.
2. **Ex-situ conservation** :- means the conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats. It includes many activities like;
   (a) **Zoological gardens** :- where the animals are confined in enclosures, displayed to the public for educational & recreational motives and may even be bred for conservation purposes.
   (b) **Botanical gardens**; has a collection of wide range of plants grown outside natural habitat in some artificially provided conditions and are meant for conservation, research and education.
   (c) **Nurseries**; are a place where plants are propagated to a usable size, usually up to the seedling stage.
   (d) **Field gene banks**; are useful for conserving plant genotypes as live plants that undergo continuous growth and maintenance.

INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL POLICY ON BIODIVERSITY

At the international arena , many conventions have been made to protect biological diversity. In 1992 the United Nations convention on biological diversity was most significant and Ramsar conservation of wetlands in 1971, world conservation strategy in 1980, The wild birds & animals protection act in 1912,Forest conservation act in 1980, Environmental protection act 1986 are other related national conventions. In India, the Biodiversity Act 2002, is the most important policy that provides for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits.This act also includes some policies like national biodiversity act (NBA), state biodiversity boards (SBB) & biodiversity management committee (BMC).

CONCLUSION

Biodiversity and Sustainable development are very much inter related phrase. These two items is the life support system of our Earth- we depend on it, for air we breathe, water we drink, food to eat and medicines from wild species such as penicillin, quinine, etc. which save our human lifes. Sustainable development value is a set of fundamental values that drive individual's attitude and behaviour in a way that enables the sustainability for the present and future generation. In India the fast growing human population has put tremendous pressure on biological resources. So the result is the loss of biological diversity in our country.

Conservation of biodiversity is the need for the fulfillment of food, timber, fuel, agricultural production, medicinal elements, ecological balances and also preservation for getting natural benefits for our future generation.

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DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Dr. Deepu Kumar Singh
Associate Professor, Desh Bhagath University, Mandi Gobindgarh, Panjab

Smitha
PV Lecturer, IET, Malappuram, Kerala

ABSTRACT

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, hailed as the architect of the Indian Constitution, was a visionary social reformer, an influential freedom fighter, and a staunch advocate for the rights of marginalized communities, including Dalits and women. His mission extended beyond securing political independence from British rule to addressing deeply entrenched social inequalities and unethical practices in Indian society. Ambedkar's unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and liberty propelled transformative reforms aimed at uplifting the oppressed and ensuring their rightful place in the socio-political fabric of India. This paper focuses on Dr. Ambedkar's ground breaking contributions to women's empowerment. which have left a lasting legacy on modern Indian society.

***Keywords :** Empowerment, Society, Dalit, Hindu*

INTRODUCTION

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the prime architect of Indian constitution, a freedom fighter and a national leader, was a successful revolutionary to raise his voice against unprivileged women in the society. Ambedkar not only own the title of "The father of Indian Constitution" but also is appreciated as a great freedom fighter, a political leader, an economist, a thinker, a social reformer and a famous writer. He was able to change the mental attitude of millions through his effective writings. He made significant efforts to lead the society towards the path of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Ambedkar's contribution towards women's rights is often overlooked, and he needs to be recognized as a great promoter of social justice and integrity. His work to empower all sections of vulnerable communities needs to be acknowledged, and his vision of equality despite caste, gender, race, and ethnicity differences is a pioneering thought of social justice. Women's rights and their liberation are crucial for building a progressive society, and Ambedkar's ideas and vision continue to guide feminist principles in India.

One of his most important contributions is the "Hindu code bill" where he tried to establish a balance between the religion and equality among women. He tried to eradicate social evils like sati, child marriage, devadasi system and advocated family planning for the welfare of women and girl children. He had his vision of empowering women which was reflected in his works and reforms. He always stood forward for equality and thus the concept of equality is clearly mentioned in Article 14 and various parts of the Constitution e.g. Article 15, 39,42 and in other professions of Indian Constitution, he discussed about empowering women. Empowerment not only meant equality but also included wide dimensions of political, social, economic and cultural participation and rights.

Ambedkar's view on women empowerment

Despite the phenomenal impact that it had in transforming the lives of dalits and its continuing contemporary relevance, Ambedkar's social and educational thought remains surprisingly neglected in Indian educational discourse. Education had a revolutionary role in Ambedkar's conception of social progress and in his vision of a just and equal society. It was seen as a powerful instrument of liberation from oppressive structures of Hindu caste-patriarchy as well as of reconstruction of a new social order. Women were integral to this visionary equality and were consciously mobilised as political activists in the dalit liberation movement led by Ambedkar in the early decades of the twentieth century. The paper shows how the imbibing of Ambedkar's thought and participation in his movement constituted the bedrock of women's political education. The arena of formal education was a significant key to women's political involvement, and they played foundational roles as political educators and educational activists. He strongly believed women redefined ideals of both womanhood and educational purpose in terms of counter-hegemonic reconstructions of nation, society and community, and articulated new subject positions grounded in them.

Ambedkar's Advocacy for Women's Rights

- Equal participation of women: Ambedkar advocated for equal participation of women in both personal and professional aspects. He was the first man to raise his voice against the unequal treatment of women in their workplaces.
- Number of legislations: Ambedkar drafted legislations such as the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, which demanded equal pay and equal rights for coal mine workers, ensuring that the question of maternity leave for women was taken into concern and they were protected under labour laws.
- Improving working conditions. He strongly stood up for reducing working hours and improving working conditions.
- Reproductive rights of women: Ambedkar was a strong advocate of reproductive rights of women and urged them to make their own choices about conception.

Ambedkar's Contribution to Women's Rights

- Hindu Code Bill: Ambedkar's most important contribution towards the upbringing of women's rights was the Hindu Code Bill, which revolutionized property and marriage practices and established laws of maintenance for women.

Four acts, resulting from the Bill, were passed:

1. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, which gave women the right to divorce and maintenance for women.
2. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which gave them the legal right to inherit property.
3. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, which allowed women to legally adopt a child.
4. The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, which allowed women to be the natural guardian of their children. However, Pro-women Acts: The influence of these reforms led to other pro-women Acts such as the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976 and the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, which enlightened the dark roads of women's struggles.

Ambedkar's Vision for Women's Rights

- Women's right to education : Ambedkar believed that education was essential for the country's progress and regularly spoke up for women's right to education, defying the Manusmriti and the Dharmashastra.
- Targeted hierarchical social order : He targeted the hierarchical social order and condemned it for unsignifying women, and believed that spousal relationship was the root cause of caste consolidation.
- Caste system and atrocities on women : His 1917 paper, titled 'Castes in India: Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development' outlines how atrocities on women are embedded in the caste system.
- For instance : He criticised sati, child marriage, and the condemnation of widow remarriage, which were all meant to control women.
- Vision of equality : Ambedkar's vision of equality in spite of caste, gender, race, and ethnicity differences is a pioneering thought of social justice.

Ambedkar's views on Education

Ambedkar argued that The object of primary education is to see that every child that enters the portals of a primary school does leave it only at a stage when it becomes literate and continues to be literate throughout the rest of his life.

He placed due focus on gender equality and the need for education through his works and highlighted the problems of both the oppressed and women. In January1928, Dr. Ambedkar along with his wife Ramabai, established a women's association in Mumbai. In order to give economic rights and freedom to women, Ambedkar demanded educational rights, equality and right toProperty for women, To educate women, and he asked coeducation for women with men.

Insipired from Dr. Ambedkar, many women came in front to encourage other women and wrote various topics, e.g., Tulsibai Bans ode started a newspaper "Chokhamela" to publish many articles regarding the struggles of women in the society. This shows how Ambedkar generated awareness among poor, illiterate women and inspired them to fight against the unjust and social practices like child marriages and devdasi system. If Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts on encouraging women are truly taken in to practice, the present picture of the society can change drastically, and women can claim equal rights in society as well.

Ambedkar always honoured women for their work and hardships. While addressing women conferences, he could easily communicate with them as a homely person. He evoked women with the following words. "Never wear such clothes which will degrade your personality and character. Avoid wearing the jewellery on your body everywhere. It is not fare to make a hole in the nose and wear nath." In this, he condemned all the bad traditions, practices and ways of life which made life difficult and complex. And to the surprise, even the illiterate women followed his advice from the bottom of their heart. In his letter of resignation dated Sept. 27, 1951 to the Prime Minister, he wrote "For a long time, I have been thinking of resigning my seat from the cabinet. The only thing that had held me back from giving effect to my intention was the hope that it would be possible to give effect to the Hindu Code Bill before the life of the present Parliament came to an end. I even agreed to break up the bill and restrict it to marriage and divorce in the fond hope that at least this much of our labour may bear fruit. But even that part of Bill had been killed. I see no purpose in continuing to be a member of the cabinet".

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's approach to women's right is exclusively different from other social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Mahatma Gandhi. All others tried to reform the Hindu society of certain outdated customs and practices without pointing out the hierarchical social order. However, Ambedkar had his own view on the women rights and that has been reflected in Indian constitution later.

To secure the goal of social justice to Women, Ambedkar has given equal position to women at par with men by providing many provisions in the Indian constitution. The Preamble of Indian constitution guarantees the social and economic justice to women and that is because of Ambedkar's contribution. Dr. Ambedkar tried an adequate inclusion of women's right in the political vocabulary and constitution of India like Article14 provides equal rights and opportunities in political, economic and social aspects, article 15 prohibits discrimination on the ground of sex, article 39 provide equal means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work, article 42 gives human conditions of work and maternity relief and Article 51 (A) (C) deals with fundamental duties to renounce practices, derogatory to the dignity of women. Article 46 allows the state to promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the oppressed section of people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Article 47 empowers the state to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and the enhancement of public health and so on.

Nowadays women in India have seen significant improvement in their social and economic status. They are Educated and financially well-off .Women used politics to achieve status, however, the number of Dalit women who were involved in politics later declined due to increasing income and educational levels. The status of Dalit women within the households is also noted to have been improved.

In the Indian Armed Forces women are allowed to join in combat service support branches and in non-combatant roles only and they can only become officers except the Corps of Military Police of the Indian Army where women can become sepoys too. The Indian Air Force had 13.09% (2018) and 8.50% (2014) women; the Indian Navy 6% (2018) and 3% (2014); the Indian Army 3.80% (2018) and 3% (2014). As of 2020, three officers have the rank of lieutenant-general or equivalent, all in the Medical Services. In May 2021, 83 women were inducted as sepoys for the first time in the Indian Army and in the Corps of Military Police. In 75th republic day celebration in India, we were surprisingly watching the parade of 265 women representing Army, Navy, Airforce and Delhi police team and their adventurous riding performance in the motorcycle which is indeed a great leap in the empowerment of women of our country.

Gender inequality in India refers to health, education, economic,social and political inequalities between men and women in India. Various international gender inequality indices rank India in a different way on each of these factors, as well as on a composite basis, and these indices are controversial. Gender inequalities, and their social cause have great impact on India's sex ratio, women's health over their lifetimes, their educational attainment, and even the economic conditions too. When India's population is examined as a whole, women are at a disadvantage in several important ways. Although the constitution of India grants men and women equal rights, gender disparities remain.

Research shows gender discrimination mostly in favor of men in many areas including the workplace. Discrimination has effects on many aspects in the lives of women from career development and progress to mental health disorders. While Indian laws on rape, dowry and adultery have women's safety at heart, these highly discriminatory practices are still taking place at an alarming rate, affecting their lives daily.

Ministry of Women and Child Development, a branch of the Government of India, is an apex body for formulation, administration and implementation of the rules and regulations and laws relating to women and child development in India. The current minister for the Women and Child Development is Smriti Irani having held the portfolio since 31 May 2019. For holistic into development of the child, the Ministry has been implementing the world's largest outreach program of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) providing a package of services covering supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up and referral services, pre-school non-formal education etc. There is effective management and monitoring of various sectorial programs. Most of the programs of the Ministry are run through non-governmental organizations. Efforts are made to have more effective involvement of NGOs. The major policy initiatives undertaken by the Ministry in the recent past includes universalisation of ICDS and Kishori Shakti Yojana, launching a nutrition programme for adolescent girls, establishing a Commission for protection of Child Rights and enactment of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.The ministry also gives the annual Stree Shakti Puraskar in six categories, namely Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, Kannagi Award, Mata Jijabai Award, Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang Award, Rani Lakshmi Bai Award and Rani Rudramma Devi (for both men & women).

The degree to which women participate in public life that is outside their home varies by region and background. For example, the Rajput's, a patrilineal clan inhabiting parts of India, especially the north-western area, have traditionally practiced ghunghat, and many still do to this day. In recent years however, many women have started to challenge such social norms: for instance women in rural Haryana are increasingly rejecting the ghunghat. In India, most population (about two thirds) is rural, and, as such, lives in conservative communities where it is very easy for a woman to ruin her family's 'honour' through her behaviour. The concept of family honour is especially predominant in northern India. For example, Izzat, it is a concept of honour, prevalent in the culture of North India and Pakistan. Izzat applies to both sexes, but in different ways. Women must uphold the 'family honour' by being chaste, passive and submissive, while men must be strong, brave, and be willing and able to control over the women of their families. The rural areas surrounding Delhi, the capital of india, are among the most conservative regions of the country. It has been estimated that 30% of all honor killings of India take place in Western Uttar Pradesh,while Haryana has been described as "one of India's most conservative when it comes to caste, marriage and the role of women in society.

CONCLUSION

Ambedkar brought a new trend for uprising women through his thoughts and beliefs and he was a leader for all the women irrespective of religion, caste, creed, gender. Along with women, all the people of India should be proud for his immense contributions and everlasting steps for the empowerment of women in Indian society. He opposed thewearing of the veil by Muslim women, some of their religious traditions, and marriages and stood against all kinds of discrimination against women throughout his whole life. It can be served that women are mostly concerned with some kinds of religious ceremony where a man acquires his confidence from there.

Formal kind of description can be seen to canvass the efficiency of women and they can be called as the equal half of all the men. But in the opinion of Dr. Ambedkar, woman can be idealised as the victims to be stated for the caste-based relativity, dictatorship assumed, inflexible criteria can be seen within the hierarchical assumption to be conducted under the inhumanity and social biasness. The women can be signified as the mother and can play different vital role in daily life. They can be recognized as the head of the family. It is said that wherever the women are worshipped, the god is meant to reside at that place.

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THE RECENT MIGRATION FROM PUNJAB TO OTHER COUNTRIES : IMPACTS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Lakhwinderjeet Kaur
Associate Professor of Social Science, B.A.M. Khalsa College, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur

ABSTRACT

The tendency of migration presents major obstacles for colleges in Punjab; in order to keep students and uphold levels of education, a planned reaction is necessary. Improving the standard and competitiveness of Punjab's higher education on a worldwide scale while tackling the issues that prompt students to pursue study overseas might be the long-term answer. In order to ensure that education acts as a link between local needs and global prospects, this circumstance also necessitates a balanced approach to preserving global connectedness and local roots. Higher education institutions in the region face a variety of possibilities and problems as a result of the trend of Punjabi students migrating abroad.This movement has resulted in lower enrolments, financial hardship, and possible losses in educational quality for institutions in Punjab. The migration is motivated by ambitions for better lifestyle prospects, career chances, and educational standards overseas. It is necessary to take strategic action to counteract this trend and its negative impacts. I've tried to address the causes, effects, and solutions to stop Punjab's exceptional student exodus to other nations after completing their 12th grade in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

A complex interaction of socioeconomic forces is transforming the goals and trajectories of people and families, as seen by the recent movement of Punjabis to foreign nations in search of better opportunities. This migratory trend is representative of both local reality and larger global forces, going beyond the immediate appeal of better educational and job chances. First off, in an increasingly linked world where chances and employment are very competitive, Punjab's youth are seeing the value of exposure to and education from around the world. Many people are choosing to study overseas in order to get specialised knowledge and skills that might not be easily obtained or acknowledged inside Punjab's educational system. This is because they believe that having an international education and experience would provide them a competitive advantage in the job market. Further more, economic factors have an important influence in determining migration decisions. Punjab, like many other regions in India, has issues such as unemployment, underemployment, and restricted opportunities for socioeconomic growth. The prospect of greater wages, better working conditions, and access to social assistance systems in destination countries attracts people looking to raise their standard of life and create a more stable future for themselves and their families. Furthermore, the possibility of remittances sent home by migrants provides a lifeline for many Punjab households, helping to boost local economies and lives.

Cultural and societal elements both impact migratory trends. Punjab has a long history of valuing education and upward mobility, and current societal norms frequently prioritise education as a road to success. Furthermore, diaspora networks and communities formed by previous migrants overseas provide support, direction, and social capital to incoming migrants, aiding their absorption into other society and smoothing the transition process.

However, despite the excitement and potential connected with migration, it is critical to recognise the obstacles and complications involved. Migration frequently involves considerable compromises, such as separation from family and friends, adjusting to new cultural norms and settings, and negotiating complex legal and bureaucratic processes.Moreover, the phenomenon of brain drain, whereby skilled individuals leave their home countries, poses long-term challenges for Punjab's development and capacity-building efforts.

The continual movement reflects a complex interaction of personal goals, global processes, and local

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surroundings. Migration, while motivated by the desire for education, economic opportunity and social mobility, is often fraught with significant trade-offs and problems. Recognising and comprehending these processes is critical for governments, communities, and people as they negotiate the opportunities and consequences of migration in an increasingly linked world.

Have you ever wondered why so many young Punjabis are leaving their homes in India to migrate abroad? In this blog article, we will investigate the causes of this phenomena by looking at the historical backdrop, cultural issues, and economic possibilities that contribute to Punjabi youth migration.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

You might be shocked to find that the trend of Punjabi youth leaving India and travelling overseas has long-standing origins. During British colonial authority, a large number of Punjabis joined the British army, notably during World War II. Many Punjabis came to the United Kingdom to work in sectors like mining and steel furnaces. This migration set the groundwork for the development of Southall, sometimes known as Mini Punjab, in the United Kingdom. Similarly, Punjabi migrants migrated in Australia, Canada, and the United States, producing diasporas.

THE INFLUENCE OF MIGRATION CULTURE

Over time, the culture of migration grew engrained in Punjab, with an emphasis on greater possibilities outside. In schools across Punjab, children are frequently pushed to study hard in order to gain admission to top colleges in Canada or other foreign countries. The idea that studying abroad leads to better professional success has been deeply ingrained in the minds of Punjabi youth.

FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

1. **Australia:** Punjabi migration to Australia began with Punjabis who were dispatched to Hong Kong and Singapore and had glimpses of the country on their route. This exposure removed their original misgivings and revealed the country's potential for growth. Punjabis gradually got aware that Australia provided safety and possibilities for a better life.
2. **Canada:** Punjabis first migrated to Canada in 1897 for Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. Despite bigotry and challenges, Punjabis have persevered and established themselves in a variety of fields. They even became major politicians, influencing the Punjabi community's position in Canadian society.
3. **United States:** Punjabis in the United States have made significant contributions to several sectors, including politics. Punjabis came to the United States seeking better prospects and believing that hard effort would be rewarded.
4. **Rural vs. Urban Perspectives**

   Rural Punjab: If you journey into Punjab's rural districts, you will discover that possibilities in agriculture and farming still exist, but at a reduced rate owing to reasons such as monocropping and a lack of enthusiasm among the offspring of farm owners. Despite the abundance of chances, the rural population in Punjab is impacted by the perception that more substantial prospects exist outside, as well as the prevalence of drug addiction in some places.

   Urban Punjab: A variety of causes contribute to people's desire to move. Schools play an important role by hosting foreign university representatives who encourage study abroad. Furthermore, the ubiquitous show-off culture represented in Punjabi music and movies promotes the desire to travel abroad and purchase expensive products. Many Punjabi adolescents choose occupations and careers beyond their native country due to financial pressures and a desire to improve their level of living.
5. **Lack of Opportunities in Punjab:** Another motivating element for migrating is the impression that Punjab does not provide enough possibilities for you, the youth. Punjab has limited exposure to a wide

range of academic and career opportunities. Top universities for English degrees or culinary arts are limited, and the IT business, for example, pays lesser wages than other areas in India. This lack of chances, both in terms of monetary remuneration and job advancement, drives young Punjabis to seek greener pastures abroad.

Historical, cultural, and economic reasons all influence the migration of Punjabi youth from India to foreign nations. This phenomenon is influenced by a history of migration, a culture of chasing opportunity abroad, and a sense of restricted prospects in Punjab. Understanding these variables would aid us comprehend why Punjab's youth leaves for foreign places.

A large number of students from Punjab are voyaging to foreign nations after finishing their 10+2 education, which has numerous consequences for the state's universities. This tendency, which is frequently stirred by the craving for better educational opportunities, lifestyle, and work possibilities overseas, has an impact on both educational institutions and the Punjab's larger socioeconomic environment.

THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION FROM ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

1. **Brain Drain :** Punjab's higher education institutions face a serious challenge from the exodus of gifted students seeking further education in other nations. Future leaders, scholars, and inventors frequently develop at these institutions. Punjab loses out on the potential contributions bright students could make to the country's academic and research scene when they decide to continue their education overseas. Not only does this brain drain reduce the number of highly qualified individuals in Punjab's higher education sector, but it also lowers the caliber of research and innovation to which these students could have made contributions.
2. **Decreased Enrolment :** Punjab's higher education institutions may see a decline in enrolment for specific courses or programs as a result of the migratory trend. Enrolment may fall in courses like engineering, medical, and business administration that are widely sought after by individuals pursuing study elsewhere. This might have an effect on the programs' and the institutions' ability to sustain their financial viability, which could result in the reallocation of resources or the termination of certain programs.
3. **Faculty Retention :** The retention of skilled faculty members in Punjab's higher education system may also be impacted by student migration. Academics may decide to pursue chances overseas in order to take advantage of better research collaboration, opportunities for academic progress, or financial incentives. This could make it more difficult for Punjab's higher education institutions to retain qualified and experienced professors, which would worsen the brain drain effect.
4. **Quality of Education :** The retention of skilled faculty members in Punjab's higher education system may also be impacted by student migration. Academics may decide to pursue chances overseas in order to take advantage of better research collaboration, opportunities for academic progress, or financial incentives. This could make it more difficult for Punjab's higher education institutions to retain qualified and experienced professors, which would worsen the brain drain effect.
5. **Financial Implications :** Enrolment declines have a direct impact on educational institutions' finances. Colleges that have fewer students also receive less in fees, which can have an effect on their budget for upkeep, teacher salaries, and new facilities. This could result in less money being invested in educational infrastructure and supplies, which would lower the standard of instruction provided.
6. **Reputation and Global Rankings :** Punjab's educational institutions may be viewed and ranked differently internationally if enrolment declines and, maybe, so does the quality of instruction. Lower rankings and perceptions could discourage even more students from enrolling, preferring colleges with more international recognition. This creates a vicious cycle problem.
7. **Socio economic Impact :** Colleges are important to the local economy and frequently serve as community hubs. Less students could mean a decline for nearby businesses that rely on the student population, such

as lodging, food services, and entertainment. Furthermore, the anticipation of moving abroad for education can drastically alter family finances, frequently necessitating substantial outlays for study abroad at the expense of local expenses.

8. **Research and Innovation :** The pace of academic research and technical breakthroughs in numerous disciplines may slow down in Punjab since fewer students are involved in research and innovation. Research initiatives may encounter difficulties with finance, teamwork, and personnel, which could impede the creation of new technologies, discoveries, and solutions. Long-term effects of this can include Punjab's inability to compete in the global knowledge economy its ability to address pressing societal challenges.
9. **Resource Allocation :** Higher education establishments in Punjab might have to revaluate how they allocate their resources in light of shifting student enrolment trends and academic priorities. This can entail shifting resources—such as money, people, and infrastructure—to regions with greater demand or strategic significance. Institutions might also need to fund programs designed to draw in and keep bright faculty members and students, strengthen their capacity for conducting research, and raise the standard of instruction generally.
10. **Curriculum Development :** The trend of migration highlights the necessity for Punjab's universities to update and modify their curricula in order to conform to industry demands and international educational standards. The curriculum may need to be updated to reflect new teaching strategies, interdisciplinary approaches, and technologies. Courses and programs that address the changing requirements of students returning to Punjab from overseas studies may also need to be offered. Furthermore, there might be a stronger focus in the curriculum on developing practical skills, cross-cultural awareness, and experiential learning.
11. **Internationalization Efforts :** The student exodus emphasizes how crucial internationalization initiatives are to Punjab's higher education system. It may be necessary for institutions to concentrate on developing alliances with foreign colleges, advertising exchange programs, and drawing in foreign students to Punjab for their studies. This can foster collaboration and cross-cultural interaction, increase Punjab's higher education institutions' competitiveness on the world stage, and give students insightful experiences and viewpoints from other countries.
12. **Skill Transfer :** Returned students bring important information, skills, and experiences that can enhance the learning environment and advance Punjab's higher education sector, despite the difficulties associated with migration. These students might represent Punjab's universities overseas as ambassadors, encouraging cooperation, knowledge sharing, and research alliances. Their worldwide experiences can also encourage and inspire their colleagues, instructors, and administrators to pursue global involvement, innovation, and quality in Punjab's higher education sector.
13. **Policy Response :** It might be necessary for policymakers to develop plans and measures to deal with how migration affects Punjab's higher education system. This might entail taking steps to keep exceptional students on campus, improve research capacity, and build relationships with overseas universities. Policies can include financial possibilities for research and innovation, encouragement for students to return to Punjab after completing their studies elsewhere, and assistance for internationalisation programmes in higher education institutions. Policymakers may also need to deal with more general issues like workforce development, quality assurance procedures, and educational infrastructure in order to guarantee Punjab's higher education sector's long-term viability and competitiveness in the face of growing international competition and migration patterns.

According to the most recent data from the Union Ministry of Education in New Delhi's All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report 2021–22, the state's colleges and universities are beginning to empty as a result of the youth migration from Punjab to nations like Canada and Australia. According to the data, there

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has been a decrease of at least one lakh students enrolled in Punjab's colleges and universities during the last five years, but there is a bright spot. In the last year, there has been a minor increase in the state's overall enrollment. However, Punjab's Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), which is a crucial measure of how many people in a population participate in higher education, is lower than the national average. Punjab's GER is only 27.4, which is less than the 28.4 national average. The shocking decline in Punjab's GER from 29.2 in 2017–18 to 27.4 in 2021–22 is concerning.

Another blow to the state has been the fall in the number of students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, and even diploma programmes in Punjab over the last five years (from 2017–18). However, the numbers show a slight improvement in 2021–22 compared to 2020–21, suggesting that the worrying migration to Canada and other countries may have come to a slight halt.

The total enrollment in Punjab in 2017–18 was 9.59 lakh, according to the AISHE report 2021–22. This figure decreased to 8.58 lakh in 2021–22, which was somewhat better than the 8.33 lakh enrollment that fell in 2020–21. The data indicates that the number of students studying in Punjab's higher educational institutions has come down by at least a lakh when compared to five years ago.

Total enrolment during last five years in India and Punjab

Years	India	Punjab
2021-22	4,32,68,181	8,58,744
2020-21	4,13,80,713	8,33,335
2019-20	3,85,36,359	8,69,463
2018-19	3,73,99,388	9,19,576
2017-18	3,66,42,378	9,59,536

The little increase in enrollment is the result of population growth rather than a decline in migration. And this only pertains to enrollment. The statistics on dropout and pass rates are alarming. Even when young people sign up for studies in Punjab, they often leave the programme in the middle and relocate abroad to Canada, Australia, or other countries. Leaders need to realise that young people in Punjab are not travelling to Canada in search of a better education or curriculum; rather, they are planning to move there permanently since there aren't enough jobs and prospects back home. While our curriculum and course materials are on level with those in Canada and other nations, young people are more interested in employment and a higher standard of living. The strength in the colleges and universities across Punjab has seen a drop of at least 30% to 40%, all due to migration. Punjab is in a serious brain drain woe.

"In 2019, approximately 10.9 lakh Indian students pursued their education abroad. This figure witnessed a 7 per cent growth in 2022, escalating to around 13.24 lakh students. If the current growth rate of 15 per cent sustains, the number of Indian students studying overseas is projected to soar to approximately 20 lakh by the year 2025," the report said.

"Traditionally, Indian students have preferred countries like the US, Canada, UK and Australia. However, recently other countries have also emerged as preferred destinations, including Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Ireland, Singapore, Russia, Philippines, France and New Zealand," it added.

Top states in India in terms of students going abroad include Punjab (12.5 per cent), Andhra Pradesh/Telangana (12.5 per cent), Maharashtra (12.5 per cent), Gujarat (8 per cent), Delhi/NCR (8 per cent), Tamil Nadu (8 per cent), Karnataka (6 per cent) and 33 per cent from other states.

The report has projected that the spending by Indian students on overseas education is expected to skyrocket to an astounding $70 billion by 2025.

"In 2019, Indian students spent an estimated $37 billion on education abroad. This expenditure experienced a 9 per cent surge in 2022, reaching a substantial $47 billion. If the sector continues to grow at

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the current rate of 14 per cent, the projected spending by Indian students on overseas education is expected to skyrocket to an astounding $70 billion by 2025," it added.

The report has been compiled by University Living Accommodations Pvt. Ltd., a global student-housing managed market place and One Step Global, a specialised market entry firm, helping global academic institutions, academic service providers and government organisations to grow their footprint across Asia. By integrating job opportunities into the education system, Punjab can retain its talent pool, boost economic growth, and create a self-sustaining cycle of education and employment.

STEPS NEEDED TO DISCOURAGE INDIAN STUDENTS FROM GOING ABROAD TO STUDY

1. **Strengthening Local Institutions :** In addition to expanding their admission capacity, universities must work with nearby companies and industry. Form collaborations for research projects, internships, and employment placements. Because of this integration, students will be more likely to remain in Punjab because they would be able to find work there. A new university may choose to focus on subjects related to the local economy. Consider concentrating on technology, healthcare, or agriculture. Programmes should be tailored to industry demands to guarantee that graduates have employment opportunities in Punjab. Local colleges should be committed to providing industry-relevant courses, skill development workshops, and campus placements. Students require confirmation that obtaining an education will result in fulfilling work.
2. **Awareness and Counselling :** During the student orientation, provide workshops on potential job paths. Emphasise the achievements of alumni who have obtained employment in Punjab. Stress that pursuing a job does not have to stop at staying in the state. Parents frequently fear for the future of their children. Organise workshops where experts in the field share their knowledge. Reassure parents that employment options in Punjab are varied. Career counsellors ought to advise students in light of regional employment markets. Talk about industries that have a lot of demand and room to grow
3. **Teacher Training and Inclusivity :** Teachers need to know what's going on in the business. They are able to direct pupils towards appropriate coursework and skill enhancement. Additionally, educators want to promote an entrepreneurial mindset. Promote cooperation between the business and academic sectors. Organise industry visits, invite guest lecturers, and assist with internships. Being in real-world situations improves employability.
4. **Community Integration :** Include local companies and business owners in groups that oversee schools. They can throw light on skill shortages and needs for jobs. Assist local governments in establishing employment hubs. Construct IT clusters, industrial parks, and startup incubators. These programmes bring in businesses and create jobs.
5. **Monitoring and Accountability :** Monitor graduates' employment results. Compile information about the places they work. Make changes to instructional programmes based on this information. Evaluate the fit between the labour market and schooling on a regular basis. Adjust courses in response to industry feedback.
6. **Start professional, short-term courses :** These days, educational institutions are overflowing with students, but they struggle to retain staff, even in the form of low-paid guest lecturers. There is currently very little enrollment in colleges due to the historically high rate of unemployment in all sectors. It makes sense that a large number of them are in danger of closing down because recent graduates either enter the workforce as unskilled labourers or flee under the guise of pursuing higher education. It is not possible to advise someone to pursue further education if there is no assurance of employment or career opportunities at any level. I believe that a lot of our colleges—especially the rural ones—are at a dead end. You reap the whirlwind if you sow the wind.

7. **Create employment & business prospects :** The fact that students do not want to study and remain in Punjab is a terrible reality. To fulfil their aspirations and pursue higher education, many would rather travel abroad. For the simple reason that work prospects in the state are severely reduced, if not completely eliminated, students are leaving Punjab by plane. The government must provide young people with work opportunities. Unwritten and unspoken rules prohibit recruitments. Rarely are openings announced. It is not recommended to hire people on a permanent basis. The ad hoc or contractual system of employment is being encouraged. The new hire receives pitiful compensation. The Punjabi young are deeply frustrated by the systemic rot that has crept into the recruitment policy. They have been forced to permanently leave their state as a result.
8. **Ensure jobs for youth**: Schools and colleges are contemporary educational shrines. Our young people want to move overseas and settle down with their families, despite the fact that universities and institutions abroad have raised their tuition. The government should guarantee youth employment and inspire the people that India would soon become a developed nation with limitless work opportunities and generous pay scales.

CONCLUSION

Educational institutes face serious obstacles as a result of the migratory trend, which necessitates a calculated reaction to keep students and uphold standards. Improving the standard and competitiveness of Punjab's higher education on a worldwide scale, while tackling the issues that prompt students to pursue study overseas could be the long-term answer. In order to ensure that education acts as a link between local needs and global prospects, this circumstance also necessitates a balanced approach to preserving global connectivity and local roots. Higher education institutions in the region face a variety of opportunities and challenges as a result of the trend of Punjabi students migrating abroad.

This migration has resulted in lower enrollment, financial hardship, and possible decreases in educational quality for colleges in Punjab. The migration is motivated by hopes for better living opportunities, career chances, and educational standards abroad. It is necessary to take strategic action to counteract this trend and its negative impacts. These include improving education's quality and relevance, developing alliances with overseas colleges, offering financial aid and incentives, boosting local job prospects, fortifying facilities and resources, changing educational regulations, and encouraging social and cultural integration. By putting these policies into place, Punjab will be able to hold onto its young talent, support the growth of local talent, and establish a vibrant higher education system that serves the interests of both its citizens and students.To reduce student migration and provide a sustainable future for higher education in Punjab, educational institutions, legislators, industry stakeholders, and the society must work together.

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राष्ट्रीय निर्माण के संदर्भ में 'प्रताप सहगल' के नाटक 'अन्वेषक' का विवेचन

मनीषा रानी
शोध छात्रा, हिंदी विभाग, पंजाबी विश्वविद्यालय, पटियाला

राष्ट्रीय निर्माण की प्रक्रिया में साहित्य अहम् भूमिका निभाता है। समाज पर युग की भाव धाराओं का प्रभाव पड़ता है। साहित्य में इसका लेखा–जोखा रहता है, किंतु साहित्य नई प्रेरणा देकर समाज का निर्माण भी करता है। डॉ. गार्नर के अनुसार "राष्ट्र समाज का वह भाग है, जो प्रकृतिक, भौगोलिक सीमा द्वारा अन्य से पृथक है, जहां के लोगों का जातीय मूल्य एक है और जो एक भाषा बोलते हैं। जिनकी सभ्यता व संस्कृति एक–सी हो जिनके रीति रिवाज तथा साहित्य एक हो।"[1] इस प्रकार राष्ट्र शब्द भावात्मक है। बहुत से लेखकों ने राष्ट्र शब्द को राष्ट्रीयता का पर्यायवाची माना है परंतु दोनों शब्दों में बहुत अंतर है राष्ट्र शब्द का उपयोग राजनीतिक संगठन के लिए होता है जबकि राष्ट्रीयता का राजनीति से कोई संबंध नहीं। राष्ट्रीयता, राष्ट्रीय निर्माण से पहली की प्रक्रिया है। डॉ. जी. डी. तिवारी के अनुसार "एक निश्चित भूखंड में निवास तथा विसंगत एकता ही राष्ट्र के निर्माणकारी तत्व नहीं है। इसके साथ–साथ भाषा, धर्म, संस्कृति, इतिहास, साहित्य आदि की एकता का होना भी किसी जनसमूह के लिए राष्ट्र के रूप में संगठित होने की भावना को प्रदर्शित करता है।"[2] राष्ट्रीय निर्माण का अर्थ उन नीतियों का समुच्चय है जिनका उद्देश्य राष्ट्रीय एकता को बढ़ावा देना है। साहित्य राष्ट्रीयता की भावना पैदा करने में सहयोगी होता है। हमारे देश में स्वतंत्रता से पूर्व साहित्य ने देशवासियों को राष्ट्रीयता की भावना से जोड़ने का कार्य किया। जिसके परिणाम स्वरुप भारत को स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त हुई। स्वतंत्रता के पश्चात भी भारत के नवनिर्माण के प्रश्न को साहित्य में समय–समय पर उठाया गया। आज भूमंडलीकरण के दौर में भारत की सांस्कृतिक और आध्यात्मिक विरासत को विश्व स्तर पर प्रतिष्ठित करने में हिंदी साहित्य अहम् भूमिका निभा रहा है।

साहित्य की अन्य विधाओं की तुलना में अपने दृश्यात्मक तत्व के कारण नाटक आरंभ से ही लोकप्रिय रहा है। डॉ. बच्चन सिंह के अनुसार "हिंदी के उपन्यास, कहानी तथा निबंध संस्कृत–साहित्य की क्रमागत परंपरा से बहुत कम प्राप्त कर सके हैं। किंतु काव्य और नाटक सीधे उसके विकास क्रम में पड़ते हैं।"[3] हिंदी नाटकों को परंपरा चाहे संस्कृत नाटकों से मिली परंतु अधिकतर विद्वान भारतेंदु युग से ही हिंदी नाटक का आरंभ मानते हैं। नाटकों के महत्व को रेखांकित करते हुए आचार्य शुक्ल लिखते हैं "आधुनिक गद्य साहित्य की परंपरा का प्रवर्तन नाटकों से हुआ।"[4] नाटक का गद्य साहित्य में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। आरंभ से ही नाटक जन समूह में चेतना उत्पन्न करने का सशक्त साधन रहा है। भारतेंदु हरिश्चंद्र, जयशंकर प्रसाद, उदय शंकर भट्ट, मोहन राकेश, नरेंद्र मोहन, शंकर शेष, दया प्रकाश सिन्हा आदि नाटककारों ने अपने नाटकों में समाज की विसंगतियों पर व्यंग्य करते हुए उन्हें दूर करने तथा नव निर्माण की ओर उन्मुख होने का संदेश दिया है। हिंदी नाटकों की इसी परंपरा को आगे बढ़ाने का कार्य आधुनिक नाटककार भी कर रहे हैं।

आधुनिक हिंदी नाटककारों में प्रताप सहगल ने अपने नाटकों में भारतीय सांस्कृति, समाज, राजनीति और मूल्यों को केंद्र में रखा है। आधुनिक युग में प्रत्येक व्यक्ति विकास और उन्नति की दिशा में भाग दौड़ करते–करते स्वयं दिशाहीन हो गया है। उसके जीवन में कटुता, खालीपन और संघर्ष के अतिरिक्त कुछ नहीं है। इसी यथार्थ को प्रताप सहगल ने अपने साहित्य में प्रस्तुत किया है। अपने नाटकों के माध्यम से उन्होंने राष्ट्र के निर्माण की प्रक्रिया में आने वाले अवरोधों को दूर करने का प्रयास किया है। वह परंपरागत रूढ़ियों का त्याग कर आधुनिक व वैज्ञानिक बोध को अपनाकर राष्ट्र के नवनिर्माण की बात करते हैं। इस दृष्टि से उनका नाटक 'अन्वेषक' महत्वपूर्ण है।

'अन्वेषक' नाटक का कथानक ऐतिहासिक है। इस नाटक में पांचवी शताब्दी के उत्तरार्ध में सम्राट बुद्ध गुप्त के राज्य में हुए अन्वेषक आर्यभट्ट की कहानी को आधार बनाया गया है। ऐतिहासिक कथानक को आधार बनाकर नाटककार हमारे भारतवर्ष की ऐतिहासिक धरोहर की ओर संकेत करना चाहता है। नाटक की भूमिका में नाटककार ने कहा है "मन में यह भी लोभ है कि आर्यभट्ट की वह स्थापनाएँ भी साहित्य के माध्यम से सामने आएं, जिन्हें लगभग डेढ़ हजार साल तक विश्व के और खासकर पश्चिम के विद्वानों ने स्वीकृति नहीं दी। पर आज उनकी मान्यताओं एवं खोजों को विश्व व्यापी स्वीकृति मिल चुकी है।"[5] आज की युवा पीढ़ी हमारे ऐसे महान अन्वेषकों को भूलते जा रही है जिन्होंने आज से हजारों वर्ष पूर्व अपने अन्वेषण से भारत राष्ट्र को विश्व स्तर पर प्रतिष्ठित किया थाध्। यह राष्ट्र गौरव की बात को नाटककार पुनः स्मरण करवाना चाहता है। कथानक भारतीय इतिहास के महत्वपूर्ण खंड से संबंधित है

और अपने प्रतिभा से प्रताप सहगल जी ने इसमें कल्पना का समावेश करते हुए इसे समकालीन संदर्भ से जोड़ दिया है। इसमें बुद्ध गुप्त के समय और परिस्थिति के आंकलन के साथ–साथ उस दौर की सांस्कृतिक और बौद्धिक स्थिति की तरफ भी संकेत है। इस तरह से देखे तो यह नाटक इतिहास का उपयोग अपने ढंग से करता है।

राष्ट्रीय निर्माण में सत्ता की निष्ठा को भी नाटक में रेखांकित किया गया है। जिसकी पुष्टि सम्राट बुद्ध गुप्त का यह कथन करता है "गुप्त वंश की परंपरा का अनुसरण करते हुए शिक्षा, सांस्कृति, धर्म के विस्तार के लिए मैं कुछ भी करने के लिए तात्पर्य हूं।"[6] बुद्ध गुप्त प्रजा हितैषी सम्राट है। वह प्रजा के हित और राष्ट्र के विकास के लिए कठोर निर्णय लेने से भी नहीं घबराता। विरोध के कारण जब महामात्य सभा को स्थगित करने की बात करता है तो सम्राट कहते हैं "राज्यसत्ता निर्णय को स्थगित कर देने से नहीं चलाई जा सकती महामात्य! और निर्णय चाहे कितने ही कठोर क्यों ना हो, कितने ही अप्रिय क्यों ना हो, अगर उसे प्रजा का, देश का हित होता है, तो उन्हें टालना नहीं चाहिए।"[7] नाटककार ऐसी निर्णय दृढ़ता और निष्ठा की आशा आज के सत्ताधारियों से भी करता है जिससे राष्ट्र निर्माण की प्रक्रिया बिना किसी रूकावट के चलती रहे।

अन्वेषक नाटक में दिखाया गया है कि किस प्रकार आर्यभट्ट सामाजिक विषमता, अंधविश्वास, जर्जर रूढ़ियों और घिसे हुए सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों और बिंबो का विरोध करते हुए अपने अन्वेषणों से प्रमाण सहित नए मूल्यों को स्थापित करते हैं। आर्यभट्ट का यह कथन "अन्वेषण परंपरा का निषेध, नहीं उसका विकास है। कोई भी अन्वेषक तब तक अन्वेषण नहीं कर सकता जब तक वह परंपरागत मूल्यों, मानों और निष्कर्ष पर प्रश्न चिन्ह न लगाए।"[8] परंपरा और आधुनिकता के समन्वय को रेखांकित करता है। नाटककार रूढ़ियों का विरोध करने की बात करते हुए परंपरागत मूल्यों पर नए ढंग से विचार करने के लिए बुद्धिजीवियों को प्रोत्साहित करता है। परंपरागत रूढ़ियों राष्ट्रीय निर्माण के रास्ते की रुकावट है परंतु परंपरा से प्रेरणा प्राप्त कर नए मूल्यों और निष्कर्ष को स्थापित किया जा सकता है। नाटक में दर्शाया गया है कि आर्यभट्ट उच्च कोटि का खगोल शास्त्री तथा गणितज्ञ है। वह समाज में प्रचलित मान्यताओं का खंडन करता है और अपने शोध से यह सिदध् करता है कि पृथ्वी स्थिर नहीं है, वह भी अन्य ग्रहों की भांति सूर्य के इर्द–गिर्द चक्कर लगाती है। उसके इस नए तथ्यों का चिंतामणि और चूड़ामणि द्वारा विरोध किया जाता है तथा जन समूह को उसके खिलाफ खड़ा कर दिया जाता है परंतु आर्यभट्ट जानता है

"सत्या तो सूर्य होता है उसे छलनी से ढका नहीं जा सकता।"[9]

वह पौराणिक शास्त्रों से ज्ञान प्राप्त कर नए सत्य की स्थापना करता है। इस प्रकार नाटककार ने परंपरा और आधुनिकता के समन्वय को दर्शाने का प्रयास किया है।

इस नाटक के माध्यम से प्रताप सहगल जी ने राष्ट्रीय निर्माण और विकास में एक अन्वेषक की भूमिका को दर्शाया है। आर्यभट्ट अपने राष्ट्र के प्रति पूर्ण समर्पित है, वह दिन रात अपने शोध कार्य में लगा रहता है। सम्राट बुद्ध गुप्त द्वारा दिए गए नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति के पद को ग्रहण करने के प्रस्ताव का उत्तर वह इस प्रकार देता है "दोनों कार्यों के साथ न्याय न हो सकेगा। मुझे अपना शोध कार्य पूर्ण करने दे, उसके लिए मैं कुसुमपुर चला जाऊंगा और प्रयोग वेधशाला में ही करूंगा। नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति का पदभार अभी नहीं संभाल पाऊंगा, क्षमा करें हूं।"[10] आर्यभट्ट का अपनी प्रेमिका केतकी को कहा यह कथन "बातों का समय नहीं है मेरे पास केतकी, मुझे तो एक उच्च शिखर पर पहुंचना है...., दुर्गम है मार्ग और अवरोध खड़ा करने वाली शक्तियां.... आओ ! इन सबको तोड़कर सूर्य की ओर देखें....आओ !"[11]

इस बात की ओर संकेत करता है कि अपनी शोध को समर्पित वह अपने प्रेम का भी त्याग कर देता है। आर्यभट्ट जिस तल्लीनता से सत्य की तलाश में जुट है वह आज के अन्वेषकों के लिए प्रेरणा स्त्रोत बना गया है। नाटक के अंत में आर्यभट्ट के यह शब्द अन्वेषक के चरित्र को और भी ऊंचा उठा देते हैं "मेरे तो यही इच्छा है, कि मुझे एक अन्वेषक के रूप में याद किया जाए। अन्वेषक जो सत्य के सामने मिथ्या ज्ञान और मिथ्या अभिमान को स्वीकार नहीं करता। अन्वेषक जिसकी राहें दुर्गम और लंबी होती हैं। अन्वेषक चरैवेति–चरैवेति करता हुआ निरंतर चलता रहता है।"[12] नाटककार ने निष्ठावान अन्वेषक की राष्ट्रीय निर्माण में भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए उसके संघर्ष और त्रासदी को दर्शाया है। आर्यभट्ट की यह निष्ठा उसके राष्ट्र प्रेम की ओर संकेत करती है। उसका यह राष्ट्र प्रेम केवल शोध कार्य तक ही सीमित नहीं है, अपनी प्रेमिका केतकी के रोकने के बावजूद भी वह अपने राष्ट्र की रक्षा के लिए युद्ध में लड़ने के लिए भी तैयार हो जाता है। इस प्रकार हम देखते हैं की नाटककार ने राष्ट्रीय प्रेम को आत्म प्रेम से उच्च दिखाया है। आज प्रत्येक व्यक्ति स्वयं केंद्रित हो गया है। अपनी हित की पूर्ति के लिए वह राष्ट्रीय हित को दाव पर लगाने में भी संकोच नहीं करता।

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ऐसे में 'अन्वेषक' नाटक के नायक आर्यभट्ट की निस्वार्थ राष्ट्र प्रेम की भावना पाठकों व दर्शकों को राष्ट्र के प्रति अपने दायित्व को समझने के लिए प्रेरित करती है।

निष्कर्ष

इस प्रकार हम कह सकते हैं कि प्रताप सहगल का नाटक अन्वेषक प्रसाद जी के ऐतिहासिक नाटकों की परंपरा को आगे बढ़ता है। नाटककार ने इतिहास के महत्वपूर्ण पात्रों को आधार बनाकर भारतीय संस्कृति के वैभवशाली इतिहास का पुनः बोध करवाया है। नाटक में दर्शाया गया प्रतिगामी और प्रतिगामी शक्तियों का संघर्ष समकालीन समाज के संदर्भ में भी देखा जा सकता है। आज भी प्रगति के रास्ते में बहुत सी प्रतिगामी शक्तियां रुकावट बनती है। अन्वेषक सदा प्रगतिगामी होता है। वह अपने स्वार्थ के ऊपर राष्ट्र के हित को रखता है। नाटककार यह बताना चाहता है कि परंपरागत मूल्य पर नई दृष्टिकोण से विचार होना चाहिए। नए अन्वेषण को परंपरा विरोधी कहकर नकार देना सही नहीं। परंपरा और आधुनिकता के समन्वय से ही राष्ट्र का निर्माण संभव है।

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ECOHORRIFIC UTOPIA IN OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S *XENOGENESIS*

Srijita Sarkar
Guest Faculty in English, Surya Sen Mahavidyalaya, Babupara, Siliguri, Dt. Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

ABSTRACT

Enlightenment and humanist philosophy has worked tirelessly to advocate for human individuality, subjectivity, and autonomy. The approach to science and culture, has been such that humans have been overwhelmed with the need to transcend nature. Such transcendence spells, separation, and the human-nature divide has never been more obviously felt. Octavia E. Butler, a celebrated speculative author, adheres to the posthumanist philosophy in many of her works to incite discussions on the causes and consequences of ecohorror. This paper, with a special focus on Butler's Xenogenesis novels, aims to study how humans' capability to perceive utopia depends on its extent of familiarity. Anything unfamiliar (and not simply the non-human 'other') evokes a sense of horror. In Xenogenesis, Butler has created an alien species – the Oankali – that defies all feats of the humanist philosophy in order to dissolve human-nature binaries. These posthuman bodies – or futurebodies – are just as much sites of Butler's ecohorror as they are parts of the utopian collective. Butler adopts several contrarian perspectives to undo human subjectivities, and instead establish a utopian sense of place where the human and non-human become an undivided symbiotic unit.

Keywords : *Ecohorror, utopia, ecotopia, posthumanism, futurebodies, queer futurity, transformative environmentalism.*

INTRODUCTION

Literatures and discourses concerned with the ecological question has taken a precedence in recent years as readers and critics alike revisit texts in order to re-contextualise their importance within the ecocritical framework. Octavia E. Butler is one such author – predominantly labelled as a writer within the science-fiction genre – whose futurist prophecies echo the ecocritical anxiety louder than the decibels tolerable for humans. One of her well-acclaimed works, *Xenogenesis* – alternatively, *Lilith's Brood* – is a trilogy set in the far future where an unnamed man-made conflict has destroyed the Earth as well as their own species. A few humans were saved, however, by an extraterrestrial species called the Oankali, who had intervened and extended their benevolence in exchange for the acceptance of a trade offer that is equal parts utopian and horrific.

The Oankali had come to Earth with the intention to perform a 'genetic trade' with humans. This genetic trade, carried out through a tripartite performance of copulation amongst a male (Human or Oankali), female (Human or Oankali) and Ooloi (a third Oankali gender), leads to the creation of 'construct' children whose hybridity will bear the fruits of that trade. So the question arises: How does that particularly benefit the human species? As Jdahya explains to Lilith in the first book, *Dawn*:

"Your bodies are fatally flawed." [...] "You have a mismatched pair of genetic characteristics." [...] "You are intelligent," [...] but also, "You are hierarchical. That's the older and more entrenched characteristic. We saw it in your closest animal relatives and in your most distant ones. It's a terrestrial characteristic. When human intelligence served it instead of guiding it, when human intelligence did not even acknowledge it as a problem, but took pride in it or did not notice it at all...That was like ignoring cancer."[1]

For ages, scientists have had a bio-essentialist approach to the sciences in order to justify their racism, sexism and other forms of hierarchical violence. Octavia E. Butler subverts and reframes that same approach to emphasise a flaw in the very science of human existence. The genetic contradiction between intelligence and hierarchy is what leads humans to self-destruct. The Oankali arrival and their proposal for a trade is to correct this contradiction so as to avoid a repetition of history. This marks an eventual shift to the posthuman.

Butler's Ecohorror

According to Francesca Ferrando, posthumanism is 'post' to the concept of the human and to the historical occurrence of humanism, both based on hierarchical social constructs and human centric assumptions.[2] Octavia Butler has created three types of posthuman bodies in *Xenogenesis* novels: First, the genetically-enhanced Humans like Lilith who can communicate with the environment around her unlike unaltered Humans; second, the Oankali who defy every Human definition of 'natural'; and third, the Human-Oankali hybrid constructs who are the products of their combined genetic traits. Additionally, the Oankali have also terraformed the Earth – after its destruction – by planting the seeds of its 'spaceship', *Chkahichdahk*, which is no passive, controllable metal thing, but a giant organism in itself. As Lilith explains in *Adulthood Rites* in a conversation with Tino :

"Tino frowned. 'What do you mean, *aware* of you? I thought you were telling me it was a plant.'

'It's an Oankali construct. Actually, it's kind of a larval version of the ship. A neotenic larva. It can reproduce without growing up. It can also get a lot bigger without maturing sexually. This one will have to do that for a while. We don't need more than one.'

'But you've got more than one. You've got –'

'Only one in this village. And a lot of that one is underground. What you see appears to be houses, grasses, shrubs, nearby trees, and, to some extent. Riverbank. It allows some erosion, traps some newly arrived silt. Its inclination though is to become a closed system. A ship.'"[3]

They refer to this larval version of the ship as the 'Lo entity'. These posthuman bodies – collectively referred to *futurebodies* henceforth – ultimately lend shape to Butler's *ecohorror*. Ecohorror can be characterised as a broader approach to acknowledge not only the damages done to ecology in the anthropocene, but also the inextricable link between the human/non-human that defies humanist philosophy and decentres the *ánthrôpos*. Corresponding to the classification of futurebodies in *Xenogenesis*, Butler's ecohorror can also be studied in their respective layers. For the genetically-enhanced Humans, the source of horror is the gradual becoming of something other than Human – in this case, becoming more alike Oankali – while maintaining the familiar physicality of *Homo Sapiens*. The genetic enhancements and adjustments entail a better connection with the terraformed Earth-organism (the Lo entity), better health, and a 'un-humanely' long life. Moreover, the Oankali are such an unearthly species that on the first encounter with their kind, Lilith is overtaken with awe and horror; the only way she could describe them was 'Medusa'.

The image of the Medusa invokes a sense of Freudian horror in *Xenogenesis*, and the understanding of this horror too has a layered approach. Medusa, as a mythical figure, is defined by the hideousness of her snake hair. The horror of her appearance is recollected by Lilith when she meets Jdahya for the first time. The Oankali are a many-tentacled species – so unlike Humans that the only natural reaction to them is revulsion. J. Adam Johns says,

"The initial image of Medusa is also an invocation of Freud, who understands Medusa as a figure of female genitalia and castration. We are therefore confronted by the image of a castrated, monster-hunting woman and a castrating, monstrous male. Traditional gender roles are doubly confused: in the novel, Lilith, a female Perseus, is castrated by a male Medusa."[4]

Humans, after being saved and offered a proposal for trade, is 'genetically castrated' by the Oankali such that they are incapable of copulating and bearing children unless aided by a third party: the ooloi. Lilith is thus referred to as the castrated, monster-hunting, female Perseus; meanwhile, Jdahya is the castrating male Medusa – the source of that Freudian horror. This castration further dissolves not only the human/non-human boundaries but also the human subjectivities so that they are no longer able to exist as subjects outside of its association with the 'other' species.

The final layer to Butler's ecohorror is the terraformed Earth, transformed into the 'Lo entity' that exists in symbiotic relationship with its Oankali and Human-Oankali construct inhabitants. As highlighted by Christy Tidwell and Carter Soles, "Ecohorror reflects this estrangement and reveals the horror of *knowing* we live on a terraformed planet, one not terraformed for our benefit".[5]

While Tidwell and Soles are talking along the lines of the climate crisis and a planet inevitably affected by it, for Butler it is quite the opposite. The planet is not destroyed but healed by the terraformation. It is not a consequence of the climate crisis but an Oankali-induced evolution that now supports all natural life. And yet, it evokes a sense of horror for the remaining Humans because it no longer resembles the Earth they were familiar with. Moreover, the Lo entity facilitates the dissolution of anthropocentric subjectivities because it is chiefly characterised by its symbiotic relationship with *all* existing life on the planet. Decentering the *ánthrôpos* thus generates ecohorror which is catalysed by Butler's futurebodies.[6]

Furthermore, the queer family structure and queer reproductive futurity in the *Xenogenesis* novels dislodge the ecocritical thinking informed by heteronormative perspectives. In fact, there is a unique and 'alien' way Butler engages with the subject of the erotic and nature that emancipates the queer gender and queer sexuality, and fundamentally opposes the idea of patriarchy and masculinity. Copulation is a three-way act where the ooloi is the giver as well as the seeker of pleasure when it connects and intertwines the male and the female (Human or Oankali). Their method of procreation itself is an epitome of Oankali's non-hierarchical nature as the sperm uniting with the egg is not an act of 'deposition' of the sperm but 'collection' by the ooloi. No one is, therefore, assigned a passive 'receiving' role.[7]

Queer family structure in Butler's *Xenogenesis* comprises a five-peopled mating link – two Oankali, two Humans, and one ooloi – who share and trade their genetic information to give birth to 'construct' children. Queer reproductive futurity further enables the dissolution of human subjectivities, and instead prioritises posthuman subjectivities – or what I would like to call futurebodies subjectivities. A more obvious engagement with this phenomenon is observed in the third book, *Imago*, written in first-person perspective of an ooloi construct child whose ability of penetration of the human/non-human border exceeds the ability of an average male or female construct.[8]

Xenogenesis As Ecohorrific Utopia

Octavia Butler fully utilises and enhances the contact zones between the human and the non-human. In fact, she makes the impenetrable borders (made so by humanist philosophy) so horrifyingly permeable that the ecohorrific consequences are beyond the human imagination. However, the Oankali evidently symbolises a utopian collective. All of Butler's futurebodies are vessels of Donna Haraway's 'cyborg vision' – the human and non-human miscegenation that will undo the injustices wrought by human-centric binaries on nature. Despite being ecohorrific, these futurebodies also promise an *ecotopia* (emphasising the etymological link between ecology and utopia) where the planet and nature have been restored; where humans can become a more technologically-evolved species; where hierarchical subjectivities have been annihilated.[9]

Butler presents ecophobia as a source of ecohorror, because symbiotic coexistence with other species without any hierarchical disturbances defines the humanist anxiety. Oankali are a manifestation of that horror – hence the extreme 'Medusa' figure that must be vanquished – while also being a collective ecotopian hope. According to Eric C. Otto, "Ecotopian fiction portrays worlds far different from the originary world that it contests, articulating ecologically conscientious life ways hitherto contained or eradicated by modern social, political, economic, educational, and religious life. Ecotopian fiction is an instructive 'educational machinery', a cognitively estranging lens through which readers can compare their world with that proposed in fiction and as a result better perceive the inadequacies of current worldviews and practices."[10] Butler's ecotopia resonates with what Otto calls *transformative environmentalism* that "borrows insights from science to challenge explicitly and change those governing worldviews that to the detriment of global health fail to generate knowledge about Earth and its interconnected species." It primarily targets the dominant anti-ecological ways of thinking and being that privileges anthropocentrism, and instead shifts the perspective to the ecologies of the subalterns. Butler's work is constantly in conversation with ecofeminism, queer ecocriticism, posthuman ecocriticism, and so on. *Xenogenesis* not only problematizes these queries, but also tries to find 'utopian solutions' to persisting problems that threaten our nature and ecology.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

This paper is a study on how Octavia E. Butler uses the conventional dystopian themes to speculate on a possible ecohorrific utopia (alternatively, horrific ecotopia). Alien invasion, near-extinction of human species are all futuristic nightmares that have only found representation in dystopian fiction. To label it a utopia would be a bold claim, and yet the future promised by Butler's Oankali is way more ecologically sound. Butler's craft involves an admixture of paradoxes to represent the contraries – dystopian themes to create utopian possibilities; ecohorror to give meaning to an ecotopian futurity. *Xenogenesis* defies most generic labels to speculate on human nature extending beyond the known as well as unknown realms of non-human nature.

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MALL CULTURE IN URBAN INDIA : INSIGHTS FROM SPATIAL THEORY AND LITERATURE

Dr. Inderpreet Kaur
Assistant Professor of English, S.D. College, Barnala

ABSTRACT

The rapid rise of mall culture in urban India is a significant marker of the country's socio-economic revolutionsince economic liberalization in the 1990s. This paper explores the cultural, social, and psychological implications of shopping malls in Indian cities through the lens of spatial theory. Drawing on the works of prominent Indian writers such as Aravind Adiga, Kiran Desai, and Anita Desai, the paper investigates how these commercial spaces function as symbols of globalisation, modernity, and class divisions. The paper argues that malls are not mere consumer spaces, but complex cultural sites where identity, aspiration, and social mobility are enacted and negotiated. The paper further examines how the rise of consumerism and the mall in Indian literature reflects tensions between tradition and modernity and social exclusion. Through literary representations, the paper highlights how the mall functions as both a site of aspiration for the urban elite and a symbol of alienation for the marginalised.

Keywords : *Globalisation, Mall culture, Urban Space, Consumerism, Urbanity*

INTRODUCTION

Of late, Indian cities have witnessed a dramatic change in their urban landscapes due to rapid globalization, economic liberalization, and the expansion of the middle class. The shopping mall is one of the most significant representation of this shift. Malls, once considered a western luxury, have become widespread in Indian urban life. In many areas, malls have replaced traditional markets and emerged as symbols of consumerism and status. With an emphasis on how Indian literature both reflects and critiques the commercialisation of space, this paper attempts to investigate the cultural and social implications of malls in urban India, examining how these places affect identity, behaviour, and social relations. It further investigates how the malls not only serve as places of consumption but also act as symbols of the hopes and alienation that define the urban Indian experience in the global era.

With the expansion of critical geographical imagination into new directions such as Edward Soja's concept of 'Thirdspace', Michel Foucault's study of 'heterotopias' and Henry Lefebvre's notion of the 'trialectics', the study of space culminated into a well-organized spatial turn. Through the theoretical framework of spatial theory, particularly the ideas proposed by Henri Lefebvre and Michel Foucault, the paperanalyses how malls function as places that influence the lives of individuals. Drawing upon novels by Indian authors such as Aravind Adiga, Kiran Desai, and Anita Desai, the paper focuses on the usage of a mall as a metaphor for the societal shifts toward consumerism and class divisions.

Barney Warf and Santa Arias in their book *The Spatial Turn: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* argue that space matters, "not for the trivial and self-evident reason that everything occurs in space, but because where events unfold is integral to how they take shape... Space is not simply a passive reflection of social and cultural trends, but an active participant, i.e., geography is constitutive as well as representative" (10). The idea of space in spatial theory refers to the geometrical and abstract dimensions of the environment, as well as the arrangement of its different components. Place, on the other hand, is a more nuanced concept that describes how people and social groupings live in and interpret spaces. Thus, space refers to the physical environment, whereas place is what unfolds when people inhabit space and give it cultural and social meanings. The worldwide existence of malls illustrates this distinction. Even if a mall is a physical space with several floors, air-conditioning, parking lots, shopping stores, escalators, and food courts, it becomes a place when people use it, interact within it, and give it meaning. Shopping, dining, socialising and even

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walking through the mall add a sense of belonging and aspiration in an individual. Spatial theory, with its focus on the distinction between space and place and its emphasis on the interaction between physical and social spaces, provides a useful framework to analyse malls.

In the contemporary era, malls have transformed from physical space into meaningful places influenced by capitalism, consumerism, and social interactions. Henri Lefebvre, a French Marxist philosopher and sociologist, has made a noteworthy contribution in the field of spatial theory. In his book *The Production of Space*, he defines the capitalist spatiality as a fragmented and hierarchical geography. He perceives spaces to be composed of three moments that coexist and are produced in relation to one another : *spatial practice* – also known as 'perceived space' which is the physical space around us and creates the material conditions for our society; *representation of space* – also known as 'conceived space' which is the organization of our knowledge of space; and *spaces of representation* – also known as 'lived space' which is the space where social relations take place and where we actively experience it in everyday life or the spaces lived, occupied and transformed by its inhabitants. Lefebvre argues that space is socially produced, shaped by economic, political, and cultural forces. Lefebvre's notion of 'abstract space' refers to physical, planned environments like malls, whereas 'lived space' encompasses the personal and emotional experiences individuals associate with these spaces. The emergence of shopping malls as new forms of public spaces in the post-liberalisation era is linked with Lefebvre's concept of space as socially produced. Malls are not merely physical structures, they are products of economic, social, and cultural forces. As microcosms of globalised, capitalist society, malls act as spaces of consumerism, representing the rise of mass culture and the increasing emphasis on consumption. Therefore, malls represent a blend of 'abstract space,' as they are meticulously designed environments, and 'lived space,' as they foster unique personal and cultural connections for individuals.

The culture industry (as theorized by Adorno and Horkheimer) transformed cultural products into commodities in the West, that could be mass-produced and consumed. In India, the expansion of malls represents a similar shift as shopping and consumption are no longer limited to necessity but are interwoven with identity, social status, and lifestyle. The culture industry describes how cultural experiences are commodified, packaged, and sold as part of a predominant capitalist agenda. The mall functions as a powerful tool in reinforcing consumer culture. The mall is deliberately designed to encourage consumption. Features like wide atriums, window displays, and rows of stores with 'Sale' advertisements are all components of a meticulously planned space meant to encourage visitors to make purchases. By strategically organising the stores, it controls the flow of people and their shopping habits. In a mall, recreational and cultural experiences are advertised to the masses. The food courts, cinema halls, and luxury stores in malls cater not only to the need for consumption but also to the yearning for cultural participation. The customer's purchasing decisions are influenced through the use of sensory elements such as music, lighting, and fragrances. Thus, the consumer culture in malls is not limited to material goods but extends to the cultivation of a lifestyle through consumer choices.

Michel Foucault, a postmodern geographer, devised the concept of 'heterotopia' that refers to spaces of 'otherness', which are neither here nor there, simultaneously physical and mental. It is different from the rest of society yet still deeply embedded in it. In light of Foucault's concept of heterotopia, malls can be understood as spaces that exist outside the conventional social order but also reflect broader societal norms. Foucault explains that heterotopias outline the interrelations between the real and the unreal spaces and show how they mirror and reflect each other in daily lives. The mall, with its heterotopian characteristics, "seems profoundly embedded in everyday culture, in the commodification of everything, the reproduction of conformity and consumerism, rather than being a celebration of alterity." (Dehaene and Cauter 7)

Indian literature provides valuable insights into how the rise of the mall and consumer culture has transformed urban India. Through the works of authors like Aravind Adiga, Anita Desai, and Kiran Desai, the mall emerges as a symbol of the tensions and contradictions of a society caught between tradition and modernity, globalization and localism, aspiration and alienation. In Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*, the intersections of class, consumerism, and social mobility are explored. In this novel, Balram perceives Gurgaon as the 'modernist' suburb of Delhi that has undergone a drastic transition with the expansion of American companies and shopping malls. The novel highlights how the rural poor, embodied in the protagonist Balram Halwai, are excluded from the shimmering spaces of consumption that the mall represents. In the narrative, the shopping mall emerges as a powerful symbol of the divide between the urban elite and the disadvantaged, a divide shaped by the neoliberal economic policies of the 1990s in India. Balram, the protagonist, illustrates how the mall represents an inaccessible space for the poor, where the physical and social barriers reinforce class distinctions.

While the rich shop and socialize inside the mall, the poor, like Balram and his fellow chauffeurs, are relegated to the outside, waiting in the parking lot – "we—a dozen or so chauffeurs—were waiting for our masters to finish their shopping. We weren't allowed inside the mall, of course—no one had to tell us these things" (123). This segregation highlights the stark contrast between the lifestyles of the affluent and the marginalized. The scene where a driver assumes that his master's daughter makes "pots and pots of money" because she spends it all day in the mall highlights how the rich's consumption habits are perceived as a sign of their wealth and success by the poor. While rich people like Mr. Ashok and Pinky spend long hours inside the mall, poor drivers like Balram wait outside, looking at the mall with awe and a sense of alienation. It becomes a metaphor for the exclusion of the poor from the spaces of privilege and consumption.When Balram observes Mr. Ashok, Mukesh Sir, and Pinky Madam leaving the mall with shopping bags and driving to their high-rise homes, it deepens his sense of the class divide.

The mall, with its glass facade, security checks, and restrictions on entry, becomes a fortress of exclusivity. A poor man's experience, who has been denied access for not being dressed according to the mall's standards, reinforces the humiliation and alienation faced by people of his class. The incident with the guard pointing out the 'sandals' worn by that man -allowing only those in shoes to enter - further emphasizes how the mall enforces a rigid class system. This exclusionary practice makes it clear that the space is not just a marketplace but a space of cultural and social capital, reserved for those who belong to the elite class.

When Balram attempts to enter the mall after buying a new T-shirt and black shoes like his master, his fear and self-consciousness illustrate the internalization of these class divides. The scentedand cool air-conditioned air and bright lights amplify his sense of alienation, as these are elements of comfort and luxury that are foreign to his daily existence. Despite his attempt to mimic the consumer behaviours of the elite, he remains unable to fully access the lifestyle represented by the mall. His curiosity about the elevators made of "pure golden glass" and the shops with walls of glass further underscores the opulence of the space, which seems designed to elevate the shopping experience into something aspirational (152). The images of "European men and women" on the walls point to the global, Westernized aspirations embedded within the mall, further emphasizing the cultural divide between the global elite and the local poor (152). Balram, who has lived in a world of poverty, now feels momentarily privileged by the opulence of his surroundings, a fleeting illusion of belonging that starkly contrasts with the reality of his life outside the mall. When Balram takes Pinky Madam to the mall, he notices the flashing red lights on the top floor of the Sahara Mall and wonders what happens there. He imagines it might be a disco, a place for young people to socialize, reinforcing the idea that the mall is not just a shopping space, but a center of entertainment, youth culture, and socialization for the wealthy.

Furthermore, the rapid expansion of malls in cities like Gurgaon, as described from Balram's perspective, symbolizes the growing power of consumer capitalism. The proliferation of malls, office blocks, and hotels signifies the transformation of urban spaces into playgrounds for the wealthy, where the poor are pushed to the margins, both physically and socially. The construction of these malls, without accompanying public spaces like parks or lawns, underlines the prioritization of consumerism over community welfare. The city, as Balram observes, is becoming a landscape dominated by spaces of consumption, leaving no room for the poor to inhabit the city in any meaningful way. For Balram, the mall represents a space of aspiration that remains out of reach, a metaphor for the false promises of upward mobility that economic liberalization has brought to the country. On the one hand, it is a space of aspiration, but it can also lead to a sense of alienation, especially for those who cannot afford to engage with its consumerist promises. Thus, the mall in this narrative does more than serve as a space of shopping; it becomes a microcosm of the larger socio-economic divides in post-liberalization India. Through Balram's experiences, the mall is shown as a site where class distinctions are made visible, reinforced by the physical and cultural architecture of the space. The mall is both a product and a perpetuator of social inequalities, offering a stark reminder of how urban spaces are shaped by global capitalism, reinforcing privilege, and marginalizing those left outside.

In Aravind Adiga's *Selection Day*, the mall serves as a metaphor for the characters' social mobility. The protagonist, Manju, yearns to break free from his modest background and enter the world of the elite, a world represented by the shopping mall. The mall becomes a place of aspiration for Manju and his brother, Radha, but it also exposes the darker side of social ambition. The mall, much like the sport of cricket, becomes a symbol of competition and exclusivity, where the desire for social ascent often leads to personal loss. This reflects the competitive nature of contemporary Indian society, where success is closely tied to material wealth and consumption. Similarly, in *The Inheritance of Loss*, Kiran Desai uses the motif of consumerism to critique the social and psychological impact of globalization. Although the novel does not focus explicitly on malls, it reflects the changing dynamics of a globalized world where Indian characters find themselves caught between the desire to belong to the global consumer culture and their cultural heritage. The dislocation and disillusionment of her characters mirror the challenges faced by those who are trying to navigate the contradictory spaces of tradition and modernity. For the characters in Desai's novel, the shopping mall, as an extension of Western consumerism, represents both a promise of modernity and a source of cultural disintegration.

In Anita Desai's *Fasting, Feasting*, written towards the end of the twentieth century, the looming presence of shopping centres is palpable. The characters, particularly the young protagonists, are caught in the struggles of global consumption and modernity. Through their yearning for material goods and modern experiences, Desai critiques the way in which consumer culture has penetrated the lives of Indian families. The novel underscores how the pursuit of consumption can alienate individuals from their deeper desires and cultural roots. In this way, Indian writers use the mall not just as a literal space but as a metaphor for the emotional, psychological, and social impact of globalization and consumerism. The mall represents the shifting boundaries of social class, identity, and belonging, reflecting a society increasingly defined by its economic and cultural choices.

The rise of mall culture in urban India offers a complex lens through which to explore the changing dynamics of class, identity, and consumerism. By examining these spaces through the frameworks of spatial theory and literary analysis, it becomes clear that malls are more than just consumer spaces; they are sites of social performance and identity negotiation. In urban India, malls have become a reflection of evolving social identities, while also commodifying leisure. The urban poor or working-class individuals find themselves excluded from this luxury space. At the same time, the middle class, particularly the young urban elite, find this space as a means of asserting their place within a new globalized order. The literary texts provide critical insights into how these spaces reflect the broader societal tensions between tradition and modernity, aspiration and alienation, localism and globalization. As Indian cities continue to evolve and malls become apervasive part of urban life, these literary critiques offer valuable perspectives on the effects of consumerism on individuals and society. The mall, in all its commercial splendour, is not just a space for shopping; it is a microcosm of the broader cultural and economic forces that shape lgcontemporary India.

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THE EVOLUTION OF MALWAI DIALECT OF PUNJABI

Dr. Manjit Singh
Assistant Professor, Department of Punjabi, Desh Bhagat College, Bardwal-Dhuri

ABSTRACT

This paper explores the history and evolution of the Malwai dialect, a prominent variant of the Punjabi language spoken in the southern region of Punjab, India. The dialect's linguistic roots, geographical and cultural context, distinct features, and contribution to literature and folk culture are examined. The paper also discusses the significance of Malwai in Sikhism and its current challenges, including decline in usage and marginalization. Efforts to preserve and promote the dialect are emphasized to maintain linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

Keywords : *Malwai, Language, Heritage and Culture*

INTRODUCTION

One of the most well-known and extensively spoken varieties of Punjabi is the *Malwai* dialect, which is mostly spoken in the southern part of Punjab, India. The dialect, spoken in the Malwa area, has greatly influenced the region's linguistic and cultural identity. Through a variety of historical, cultural, and social influences, Malwai has developed throughout time, becoming a distinct linguistic variation within the larger Punjabi language family. This paper traces the linguistic origins, characteristics, and cultural significance of the *Malwai* dialect.

The southern region of the Indian state of Punjab, including the districts of Ludhiana, Bathinda, Mansa, Sangrur, and Ferozepur, is referred to as Malwa. The Malwa plain, which crosses portions of Pakistan and India, is the source of the region's name. The Malwa area is renowned for its historical landmarks, rich cultural traditions, and agricultural significance. The *Malwai* dialect has played a crucial role in maintaining the distinctive cultural identity that the people of this area have formed.

There has been a significant impact of a number of linguistic and cultural elements on Malwa region. The region has witnessed migrations and invasions from various groups, including Indo-Aryans, Greeks, Persians, and Central Asian invaders, which have shaped the linguistic evolution of the *Malwai*

STAGES OF PUNJABI LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The Punjabi language group, which is a part of the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European language family, includes the *Malwai* dialect. From the languages of the ancient Vedic writings, Punjabi underwent evolution from Prakrit and Apabhramsha.

Following are the stages that shaped the virtue of Punjabi language :

1. **Indo-Aryan Influence :** *Malwai*, like other Punjabi dialects, developed from Indo-Aryan languages, especially the ancient Prakrits. Similar to other Punjabi areas, the Malwa region's language changed from Prakrit, which was based on Sanskrit, to Apabhramsha and then to contemporary Punjabi (McLeod, 1997).
2. **Influence of Sanskrit and Prakrit :** The *Malwai* dialect was permanently influenced by the existence of Sanskrit and Prakrit in the area, particularly as a result of the Mauryan and Gupta empires' influence. Early variants of the dialect were influenced by the vernaculars that developed from the ancient languages, and the Malwa area was a hub of study and culture during this period (Grewal, 1990).

3. **The Impact of Persian and Mughal Rule :** *Malwai*'s growth was greatly influenced by Punjab's Mughal era, which lasted from the 16th to the 18th century. The court language was Persian, and a large number of administrative terminology as well as a large vocabulary spread into the regional languages. The *Malwai* dialect incorporated many Persian and Arabic terms, particularly in domains like administration, culture, and religion, while retaining its essential Punjabi lexicon (Shackle, 1988).
4. **Colonial and Post-Colonial Influence :** Punjab adopted English as the official language of government and education during the British colonial era. English terms have been more and more integrated into ordinary speech, especially in metropolitan areas, and this effect is notably evident in the vocabulary of the contemporary *Malwai* dialect (Kohli, 2002)

CHARACTERISTICS OF *MALWAI* DIALECT'S

Although the *Malwai* dialect is a variation of Punjabi, it differs from Majhi and Doabi in a number of phonetic, lexical, and syntactic ways. The *Malwai* Dialect's salient characteristics

1. **Phonetic Features :** Unlike Majhi, which has harsher, more guttural sounds, the *Malwai* dialect is known for its gentle, melodic pronunciation. The decrease in aspirated noises is among the most noticeable characteristics. To give it a smoother sound, terms like "kh" and "gh" are frequently pronounced as "k" and "g" in *Malwai*. Additionally, *Malwai*'s vowel system differs from other dialects in that some vowels are pronounced more rounded (Gill, 1982).
2. **Lexical Features :** Although the vocabulary of *Malwai* is mostly derived from Punjabi, it also includes localized terms and idioms that are indicative of the local way of life. In terms of architecture, governance, and religion, Persian and Arabic influences are especially apparent. For example, the historical Persian influence on *Malwai* is shown in the use of terms like "*madrasa*" (school), "*peshgi*" (progress), and "*shahbaz*" (brave) (Shackle, 1977).
3. **Syntax :** Although there are some regional variances, *Malwai*'s grammatical structure generally adheres to Punjabi syntax. *Malwai* speakers frequently employ more intricate verb forms and inflections. Their word order and postpositional usage may differ slightly from other dialects. Furthermore, earlier, more archaic varieties of Punjabi are still often used, particularly in rural speech (Wells, 2011).
4. **Stress and Intonation :** What distinguishes *Malwai* speakers from other dialects is their unique intonation. *Malwai*'s melodic quality is influenced by its generally more rhythmic and singsong stress pattern. This characteristic is especially noticeable in *Malwai* folk songs, where intonation is essential to maintaining the language's rhythm and tone.

SIKHISM AND *MALWAI*

Sikhism's history revolves around the *Malwai* dialect. The Malwa area was the site of several significant historical occurrences involving the Sikh Gurus. This area is home to Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak, and other significant Gurdwaras, strengthening the bond between *Malwai* and Sikh religious traditions.

The spoken language of the Gurus and their adherents was impacted by the *Malwai* dialect, while the written form of Punjabi was standardized using the Gurmukhi script created by Guru Angad. The significance of the dialect in the region's religious life is further demonstrated by the fact that many early Sikh holy books were composed in a dialect of Punjabi that was quite similar to *Malwai* (McLeod, 1997).

MALWAI IN FOLK CULTURE AND LITERATURE

The rich fabric of Punjabi folk literature has benefited greatly from the contributions of the *Malwai* dialect. *Malwai* has been an important form of expression in Punjabi culture, ranging from poetry and ballads to folklore and traditional melodies. The lively linguistic subtleties of *Malwai* are frequently reflected in folk customs like bhangra (traditional dance), kafi (ballads), and dohe (couplets).

1. **Folk Songs :** An important component of the area's cultural legacy is the *Malwai* folk songs. A lot of traditional songs, particularly those sung at weddings and harvest celebrations, are in *Malwai* because of the dialect's melodic intonation, which makes it a good choice for music. These songs, which include tales of love, nature, and rural life, are a reflection of the area's agricultural heritage (Bhatia, 2007).
2. **Contemporary Literature and Media :** *Malwai* still has a significant influence on Punjab's cultural scene today. The dialect is frequently used by contemporary Malwa poets, painters, and authors to convey local identity and conserve cultural history. In order to emphasize the region's unique identity, *Malwai* is utilized in conversation, lyrics, and storylines in Punjabi music and film (Kaur, 2014).

DIFFICULTIES AND *MALWAI*'S FUTURE

The *Malwai* dialect has difficulties in the modern world despite its rich cultural legacy. The use of *Malwai* has gradually decreased as standardized Punjabi, particularly the Majha-based dialect spoken in major cities like Amritsar and Chandigarh, has proliferated. Regional languages have also been further marginalized by Hindi and English's growing dominance in media, education, and government. Cultural organizations and linguists are attempting to document and promote the dialect as part of the growing effort to conserve *Malwai*. The value of regional dialects, such as *Malwai*, in preserving linguistic variety is being increasingly acknowledged, and efforts are being made to encourage their usage in educational institutions, the media, and cultural gatherings (Kaur, 2014).

An important role in Punjab's linguistic and cultural history is played by the *Malwai* dialect. It provides a window into the history and changing identity of the area through its unique phonetic, lexical, and syntactic characteristics. The rich and varied legacy of the Malwa area is reflected in *Malwai*, from its origins in ancient Indo-Aryan languages to its contemporary manifestations in literature, folk culture, and religious rituals. In order to guarantee that this distinctive dialect endures as a lasting component of Punjab's cultural heritage, measures to conserve and promote *Malwai* are essential as obstacles to its usage emerge continuously.

CONCLUSION

The *Malwai* dialect holds a pivotal place in the linguistic and cultural history of Punjab. With its distinct phonetic, lexical, and syntactic features, it offers a window into the region's past and its evolving identity. From its roots in ancient Indo-Aryan languages to its modern-day expressions in literature, folk culture, and religious practices, *Malwai* reflects the rich and diverse heritage of the Malwa region. As challenges to its continued use arise, efforts to preserve and promote *Malwai* are crucial in ensuring that this unique dialect remains an enduring part of Punjab's cultural legacy.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL, MYTHICAL AND FEMINIST CONTOURS IN THE NOVELS OF OLGA TOKARCZUK

Kiranjot Kaur
Research Scholar, S.G.G.S. World University, Fatehgarh Sahib

Dr. Baljeet Kaur Anand
Assistant Professor, Department of English, S.G.G.S. World University Fatehgarh Sahib

ABSTRACT

This research critically examines Olga Tokarczuk's novels through the lenses of psychology, myth, and feminism, focusing on her unique narrative style that blends fragmentary structures with rich, aesthetic worlds. By analyzing six key works — Primeval and Other Times, House of Day, House of Night, Flights, Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, The Books of Jacob, and The Lost Soul — the study explore Tokarczuk's mythopoetic methods, psychological insights, and feminist themes. It delves into her use of mythical structures to connect the human and non-human worlds, her feminist reinterpretations of traditional narratives, and her psychological depth influenced by Freudian and Jungian theories. Employing critical tools from Campbell, Barthes, Freud, and feminist theorists, this research aims to reveal the complex.

Keywords : *Fragmentary, Aesthetic, Regionslism, Universalism, Unorthodox, Bizarre.*

INTRODUCTION

Olga Tokarczuk's novels, such as *Primeval and Other Times* (1996) (2010), *House of Day, House of Night* (1998) (2003), *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* (2009) (2019), *The Lost Soul* (2017) (2021), *Flights* (2007) (2018), and *The Books of Jacob* (2014) (2021), all translated by various translators including Antonia Lloyd-Jones and Jennifer Croft, offer a complex and multifaceted worldview. This worldview blends elements of psychology, myth, feminism, and fragmented storytelling into an aesthetic and philosophical whole. Tokarczuk's unique narrative style invites an exploration of how these themes interact with her innovative narrative techniques and structural choices. By employing the relevant critical tools, we can delve deeper into her works and uncover the ways in which her stories come together as intricate, thought-provoking pieces of literature.

Olga Tokarczuk, the first Polish woman writer to win The Noble Prize in Literature *"for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life"* (noble prize. org), occupies an important place in World Literature. An activist and public intellectual, Olga has been awarded The Man Booker International Prize and The Nike Award for her novel *Flights* and International Dublin Literary Award for her work *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead.*

After graduating from C.K. Norwid School, she obtained master degree in clinical psychology from University of Warsaw and worked as clinical psychologist for a short period. She moved to England in early 1990s and later migrated to Krajanów, Poland where she joined the Polish writer's association. She visited England, the United States, China, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Syria and Egypt. She had developed a deep interest in literature while in school and published poems and short stories. She had a rich literary oeuvre comprising ten novels, two short stories, a collection of poetry and five non- fiction works. Tokarczuk, an advocate for climate justice, a vegetarian, and a feminist, has been labelled as unpatriotic, anti- Christian and supporter of eco- terrorism by few nationalist groups in Poland. She has defended these allegations and defined herself as "True Patriot".

Trained as a clinical psychologist, Olga has "a bent for creating minutely crafted psychological depictions and the flair for folkloristic and mythological storytelling" (Kowalcze 2).

The freshness and originality is one of the main features of her works where the elements of regionalism and universalism balance and rebalance the dynamics involved in human tendencies around us. She explores the world around her with such a verbal tapestry and minuteness that the creativity developed by her reaches significantly new heights. In her work, *House of Day, House of Night* she accepts the truth that it is impossible to capture and comprehend the phenomenon around us. This intriguing reality is evident when she says, "The world is constantly in motion, always vibrating. It has no zero point that can be committed to memory and understood" (Tokarczuk 138).

Olga Tokarczuk has adopted a range of approaches in constructing imaginary worlds and her fictional characters come out with their own eccentric identities. Tokarczuk's works employ non linear plot that is structured in far ranging fragments that hopscotch between different times, places and perspectives. In her fictional world, Olga establishes the link between ordinary and extra ordinary that many a time create hazy view of the world that needs to be understood in terms of existential importance. Przemyslaw Czaplinski opines "She maintains faith in a literature that can be both comprehensible and existentially vital" (9).

Well trained in Freudian and Jungian studies, Olga unravels the secrets of the world. Freud's text *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* was one of the main forces that made her aware of the varied and mysterious avenues of human life. She expresses her making of a writer "I first read Sigmund Freud's *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* as a young girl, and it helped me to understand that there are thousands of possible ways to interpret our experiences, that everything has the meaning, and that interpretation is the key to reality. This was the first step to becoming a writer" (Tokarczuk 3).

Myth consists of the stories that belong to the cultural norms. It deals with the stories that are considered to be facts and truth based by the readers. Stories of myth can be traced to the ancient period which resolves on the fact regarding how the world came into existence. Stories of Myth include the portrayal of gods and goddesses who posses supernatural powers.

Myths grow into effective units from the cultural environments in which they grow. The mythical variations of different cultures also carry with them some similar motives. According to Barthes, "Myth is based on humans' history, and myth cannot naturally occur. There are always some communicative intentions in myth. Created by people, myth can easily be changed or destroyed. Also, myth depends on the context where it exists. By changing the context, one can change the effects of myth" (Barthes 1).

Tokarczuk's mythopoetic method achieves unity between the human and non human world and provides the figments of normal and abnormal incidents because reality for her not only lies in the ordinary perspectives of life but it can also be found in all the horizons of the universe. Its shifting and drifting nature is the route for Olga's creativity. Many of her texts offer a microcosm of human kind steeped in myth and psychological subtlety. Her psychological subtlety comes with a wide range in which the elements of mystery are markedly visible. It is noteworthy that her works reveal a definite and deeply embedded myth structures. As Przemyslaw Czaplinski opines, "Tokarczuk is aware of the fact that, on one hand, myth offers us a coherent and meaningful existence, while on the other hand- it justifies the existing world and it recognizes all of human suffering as a part of sacral necessity" (24)

Olga ascribes new meanings to mythical structures and thus myth reinterprets itself and is suitable to certain contemporary conditions. She presents a number of ideas or issues couched in myth. Anna *In in Tombs of the World* is one of the most important examples where Olga's mythical structures become the potent weapons through which she uses myth to carry forward her message. In *The Books of Jacob,* Frank, the protagonist of novel rumoured to be messiah, mystic, even fraud by somehas mythical undertones. He goes through so many unorthodox and bizarre experiences. His conversion from one religion to another is one of the most radical dramas of the text. His wrecking havoc on the conventional order and his iconoclastic beliefs are submerged with some mythical interpretations. In Olga's *Flights* various characters and incidents allude to Greek Mythology. The novel is a curious narrative is a blend of realistic and mythical characters. Achilles, God's of Time – Kirnos and Chronoh are prominent mythological figures referred to in this novel.

Olga Tokarczuk's works have strong feministic reverberations. She has declared herself a feminist at many forums. "Tokarczuk has openly acknowledged the feminist stance in her fiction and even claimed that any wise woman would have to be a feminist" (Rosalind 5). Her feminist stand is quite rich and suggestive as far as its literary value is concerned. In her works she creates a space for feminine knowledge that transcends cultural dimensions and binary distinctions such as male/female and reality/dream. Her feminist objective is to legitimize fantasy and the supernatural, while rejecting patriarchal reason as a valid basis for interpreting and comprehending the universe. Tokarczuk avoids essentializing gender by juxtaposing male reason with female intuition and creativity. She is continually emphasizing the ultimate arbitrariness and fluidity of all binary distinctions. Her emphasis on the ephemeral nature of all borders serves as a reminder that the male/female dichotomy is socially and culturally created. Her purpose is to disrupt such boundaries while valuing attributes that are usually associated with women. Tokarczuk while dealing with the phallogocentric binaries comes closer to Cixous concept of Ecriture Feminine. Helen Cixous argues that in Western Cultural Practices language plays a repressive role as it marginalizes the existence of women. Ecriture Feminine brings in a new set of language in which masculinist language is replaced by the feminist language. The binaries of Western cultural system, which provide the basic structures of language, align all the valued concepts with the male, and that the female is consequently repressed in language, that is, language does not account for women's experience (50). Thus, the newly defined syntax in language defies the masculine discourse.

In Tokarczuk's novels feminism has a very distinctive appeal as the myths and the fairytales are the important ingredients for her feminist leanings. Many of her literary scenes resonate with contemporary eco feminist and eco critical theories about women's self discovery through the natural phenomenon. She is of the view that if the equilibrium of nature is not restored, then humanity will soon be without source of food. Her feminist concerns are markedly different from other writers. The feminism of her novels is not based on the traditional approach where the women come out of the suppressed zone.

In *House of Day, House of Night*, gender binariness is visible in the characters of Paschallis, a medieval Christen monk who is born with the qualities of girl having beautiful face and hair, and medieval saint, Kummernis who is saved from unwanted marriage due to male face. This novel is also the instance of Ecriture Feminism as Tokarczuk focuses on the dimensions of language that belong to male discourse. In line with Cixous and Kristeva, Olga recognizes the faults in Polish language and formulates a matriarchal diction in order to subvert the signs of the gendered language. In *The Books of Jacob* feministic tendencies are perceptible through the actions of Jacob Frank; the protagonist had its own laws in which he showed his transgressive tendencies. His bodyguards were not men but women and such kind of approach was highly unprecedented in those times.

Primeval and Other Times is the novel in which the mythical elements are dominant. The village Primeval described by the writer is not a run of the mill territory as the village and its residents are under the care and protection of angels. All the four directions of this village are guarded by the four angels. Novel represents a collision between modernity and nature. Village described in this text has mythical connotations as it does not exist in reality. The entire atmosphere of the text is mythical in nature as all the characters play the roles that defy the norms of a normal existence. Anything can happen in mythical narrative structures that transcend the real life incidents. The character named Cornspike in the text leads abnormal lives. Ghosts and angels make their appearance. The place 'Primeval' contains many bizarre and abnormal incidents and characters that make the narrative excessively as subnormal experiences.

House of Day, House of Night is loaded with the vibrant poetic imagination in which the element of mysticism and feminism are the visible forces. The novel can also be studied as a feminist document. Olga was deeply interested in the political systems and argued for a balanced society in which women must enjoy all the rights.

She touches upon various forms of realities that go on drifting and never find a suitable fixed point. The fragmentary style adopted in this novel brings forth the idea that life is ambiguous and indefinable. The boundaries between different binaries are fluid and the meanings can only be sensed and not grasped whatever she presents in this novel is very slippery. It tends to make the readers realize the fact that they are all moving forward with a little clear understanding. All stories within this book create the kind of impression that prompts the reader to explore the hidden dimensions of existence. Krysia, a bank clerk, looks for a lover she had heard his voice in her left ear as a whisper. Kummernis, a holy and lovely woman, awakens with Christ's face rather than her own.The reader is taken on an imaginary trip both inside and beyond the boundaries of ordinary life in *House of Day, House of Night*. The very idea of existence of different characters in this novel is quite interesting as they explore the possibility of the wider dimensions of existence that is beyond the visible, the mundane and the rational.

Flights is a significant literary text that emerges from the intensely fertile creativity of Olga Tokarczuk. Through several narrative portions such as migration, the novel Flights depicts diverse historical events, myths of human existence, and death. The novel opens with the narrator's biography "Here I am," (Tokarczuk 2) a few years old child left alone in the house surrounded by toys and dolls, and continues with the 116 fragmented narrations. The home is dark and silent, save for the voices and footsteps of the tiny girl's parents. She feels alone since everyone has abandoned her. Later, she realizes that her own existence is the only thing that has changed, and there is nothing anybody can do about it. The novel offers the kind of literary milieu from where the creative figments of the winter churn out adventure and mystery of the human soul. The stationary life that was earlier the hallmark of the human existence has now become more mobile and active. Our moving from one place to another with such a quick leap has significantly impacted our lives.

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead is a specimen of Olga's new style of creating the fictional spaces. The novel is very well routed in socio- political and ecological ills. Olga Tokarczuk expands the feminist ideology by adding the eco feminist feature in her novel, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*. The concept of eco feminism is a vibrant and dynamic feature of Olga's writing. The novel previews the elements of mystery and myth that are woven into complex linguistic structures. The layers of meaning embedded in Olga's writings provide a kind of challenge from where the unheard reality becomes audible. The novel opens with the discovery of a dead body. The narrator poses out many questions before it freezes. Protagonist of the novel Janina lives in the remote area of Poland. She attempts to justify the succession of inexplicable deaths in the region as revenge on humans for their mistreatment of animals, carried out by animals themselves. At the end it is revealed to the readers that Janina herself was involved in these murders.

The Books of Jacob is another significant novel whose preoccupation with the adventures of Jacob Frank becomes a huge literary enterprise. The novel is a narrative of an 18^{th} century Jewish Man born in Poland and his hybrid technique of adopting elements of Catholicism and Islam into his teachings. He temporarily converts to these faiths and as a result he is in conflict with Catholics, Muslims and Jews. The interfaith dialogue emanating from the preaching of Jacob becomes a crucial force in the novel. In this novel Frank is depicted as a mysterious character. *The Books of Jacob* depicts a world on the edge of complete change, looking for answers and seeking divinity.

The Lost Soul is a psychological drama that meditates on the fullness of life. It is about a character that lives in the world without a soul. Olga describes a man named John who is very good at his everyday tasks and is looking for his own soul. Losing one's soul is a philosophical and mystical dilemma that pervades around the narrative of the text.The protagonist of the novel grapples with a very different kind of existential problem that is beyond a physical entity. He travels in a very sophisticated kind of plane-

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a kind of condition that is characteristic of Olga's writings. Writer's literary style in this text is a kind of film that moves back and forth showing a fragmentary style and jumps and walks in such a way that it reflects the new form of creativity

Olga Tokarczuk incorporates Freud into her work in a creative, humorous manner. Freud's theories are reinterpreted as narrative possibilities by her. The opacity of Freud's most difficult writing is reincarnated as a chorus of dream voices in her book *Flights*, with each divergent narrative reifying both the human and the narrative subconscious. Characters vanish and reappear, go insane, and lose portions of them both metaphorically and literally, much like we do in our dreams. In her novel *Flights* men and women are tormented by the past and cycle obsessively through the present, which is comparable to Freud's concept of repetition compulsion in *Beyond The Pleasure Principle*.

The mythical approach in Olga Tokarczuk's works can be analyzed from both religious and psychological perspectives. Her treatment of mythical structures aligns with the theoretical framework established by Joseph Campbell in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. Campbell's work elucidates the archetypal myth of the hero's journey, wherein the protagonist ventures into a hostile world, encounters numerous perilous trials, and ultimately emerges victorious. According to Campbell, the supernatural and the real are not separate domains; rather, the metaphors employed in the supernatural realm are directly applicable to the challenges encountered in everyday life. In Tokarczuk's *House of Day, House of Night*, this mythological structure is evident in the portrayal of Kummernis, the protagonist, who is depicted as a female saint. In her narrative, Kummernis receives the face of Christ as a protective shield against male lust, illustrating Tokarczuk's adaptation of Campbell's mythic framework to explore themes of power, spirituality, and gender. Olga Tokarczuk goes much beyond the discussion of exploitation, suppression and negation of women's rights where the issues of eco feminism become a dominant political force to reckon with. In Eco feminism, the patriarchal value systems create the conditions where women and environment become the victims of the hegemonic forces of this value system.

Przemyslaw Czaplinski in the research paper "Concatenations On the works of Olga Tokarczuk" 'has described Olga Tokarczuk various phases of her literary production. According to her, Olga stands out as extra ordinary writer because she has gone beyond the personal, political and ethical concerns. Olga Tokarczuk's creativity encompasses all that is ordinary and extraordinary, normal and paranormal. The article provides some rich insights into Olga's literary career (Czaplinski 5).

Joanna Trzeciak Huss's research article "The Literary Landscape of Olga Tokarczuk" discussed the concept of Tender Narration in the works of Olga. Author explained that Olga in her literary works focuses upon the fourth person narration which includes elements of tenderness and sensitivity. Further, the author explained the ideas of Monika Swierkosz regarding the works of Olga Tokarczuk. Benjamin Paloff in in his research paper "Olga Tokarczuk Listening" explains that in her novels Tokarczuk always depicts some hidden meanings which are constructed on the basis of loose plotting. (Paloff 2) We as the readers can observe the fact that Paloff is creating and differentiating the difference of Tokarczuk and Gracq where it is shown that writings of later are superstitious in nature and are explained in a very clear and direct way. Speakers of Tokarczuk poses questions very frequently that sometimes the situation arises in their mind that they are not able to have clear understanding of the idea Tokarczuk elaborates in her prose works.

To conclude, Olga Tokarczuk's works intricately blend myth, psychology, feminism, and fragmented storytelling, offering a profound exploration of identity, spirituality, and gender. Through novels like *House of Day, House of Night* and *Flights*, she merges the supernatural with everyday life, employing Joseph Campbell's hero's journey to highlight the interplay between reality and myth. Her feminist perspective challenges traditional gender roles, emphasizing the fluidity of identity and the power of intuition and creativity. Additionally, her ecofeminist themes critique the exploitation of both women and nature, pushing for a rethinking of societal structures. Tokarczuk's innovative narrative style encourages readers to question established boundaries and reconsider cultural and personal perceptions of reality.

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FUTURE OF INDIAN DIGITAL RUPEE IN INDIA

Dr. Narinder Pal Singh
Assistant Professor, Punjabi University, Patiala.

ABSTRACT

The introduction of CBDC or e-Rupee is a massive rise in India's digital transformation mechanism. Digital-Rupee may prove to be an appropriate currency and alternate to the paper currency for financial transactions that the economy wants to usher with more security, trust, resilience, and efficiency in the currency management system. In the present scenario, the UPI (Unified Payment Interface) deserves a great applause with its ease and flexibility that has reduced the cash usage in the financial markets at retail levels also emerged as a game changer in the Indian financial system. Moving further in this way, if the potential challenges related to implementation of digital currency are addressed properly, CBDC could make a great impact on the economy and helps in creating global economy with ease in doing businesses by removing financial hurdles and geographical barriers. In this framework, Digital-Rupee/CBDC ensures financial and environmental stability in the economy and ultimately boosts financial inclusion in the country bringing everyone under formal financial system.

Keywords : *Digital-Rupee, Financial Inclusion, Currency, Economy, Blockchain.*

INTRODUCTION

During recent years, with the speedy growth in global cashless transactions, digital currencies have gainedworld-wide attention in the industry. A digital currency is like any other physical currency, but its availability is truly in electronic form. The step of demonetization of currency in the year 2016 by the Indian government paved the way towards the adoption of digital payment system in India. Now the world is adopting digital currency and India is also exploring digital rupee like many other countries in the world and has launched its own **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**. Almost 114 countries are exploring CBDCs, and many of them about 60 countries are at the stage of advancement. Countries which have already launched a retail CBDC (R-CBDC) are Cambodia, East Caribbean Union, Bahamas, China and Jamaica, Nigeria. Central banks which are exploring an exclusive wholesale CBDC (W-CBDC) are Australia,Singapore, the European Union, and Saudi Arabia.

"Digital Rupee" or "e₹ " is a legal tender quitelike sovereign paper currency issued in India, in digital form by the Reserve Bank of India. Digital rupee offers features of physical cash like safety, trust, and settlement finality with atomicity or in other words the immediate settlement of transactions in digital way. The Indian Digital Rupee was proposed in January 2017 and launched on 1st December 2022 with the blockchain distributed-ledger technology. As like banknotes it has unique identification and is regulated by Reserve Bank of India. With the involvement of blockchain technology, the digital rupee will work with increased efficiency and more transparency. Blockchain technology will also help in enabling real-time tracking and the maintenance of ledgers. This payment system will be available for wholesale and retail customers round the clock. Indian customers can pay without the involvement of any middleman.

The launch of e-Rupee or Digital Rupee in India is a step towards making of our economy digital, while having a rise in the adoption of internet-based and mobile payments, besides making improvements in the heavy cross-border financial transaction process. The financial institutions that are having reserves in the RBI can make transactions in CBDC / Digital-Rupee and make it simpler to reduce potential counter party risks. CBDC is also anticipated to accelerate the procedure by automating the method of financial transaction and its settlement. Some other potential zones where CBDC can be leveraged to make the process simpler for transactions involving international forex trade and government securities.

Digital-Rupee can function as a practical alternative to paper currency, the issuance and circulation of paper currency involve a long process with the government while incurring heavy costs. As the circulation of cash increases, it brings pressure on storage and distribution channels, as well ason the environment due to its carbon footprint. A greater amount of cash or paper currency in circulation means too much pressure on government and its regulators in terms of printing, storage, and distribution. This poses several risks such as spoilage,counterfeits, and other currency related security risks. While talking about paper currency, a major risk involved in carrying cash is the risk of being lost or theft. To overcome this particular risk, e-Rupee hasbetter control over its usage and distribution to the central bank. This is one of the principal inspirations for the RBI to launch Digital-Rupee in the economy.

If we talk about the design and structure of Digital-Rupee/CBDC, it depends upon the functions it is being expected to perform underlined by the RBI in its concept note. The implications of digital currency for monetary policy, payment systemsand the structure and stability of the financial system will be based on its design.A primary consideration for the design of CBDC is that it should be least troublesome.

ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL CURRENCY

1. It works as a faster mode of payment in comparison to other traditional payment methods.
2. It will result into cheaper and easy way to make international financial transaction.
3. It works offline round the clock to facilitate the retail transactions on ground level especially in rural areas.
4. It puts little financial load on the government as it doesn't require any printing and storing costs because physical currency involves a lot of expenditure on its printing, distribution, and other security features.

EFFECTS OF DIGITAL-RUPEE/CBDC IN INDIA

In these days Central banks of various countries and developing economies are implementing retail CBDCs in emerging markets. The reasons behind this are to enhance the efficiency in the payment systems. In context to India, following effects and motivations arise :

1. **Boost in Financial Inclusion :** A digital transaction at any point of time and round the clock can work even offline and doesn't need any brick-and-mortar branch or functional bank account. This will give a major lift to the financial inclusion drive.
2. **Cashless Economy :** Keeping cash in hand or at home has always been so risky because of theft and other storage related concerns. Even carrying cash during shopping also puts mental pressure. But with the introduction of Digital-Rupee with restrictive anonymity will give upper hand to cashless transactions in the economy and will be a step towards encouraging a cashless economy.
3. **Boost in Payment Mechanism :** CBDC couldwork as a new platform for revolution in payment system and bring diverse options to the customers. It involves no liquidity and credit risks and that will lead to removal of barriers for firms to innovate and generate new capabilities.
4. **Curbing Money Laundering :** There always remains a concern about privately issued digital assets and a substantial share of the population trading, transacting and holding in such assets like Digital Currency but this is not the case with Digital Rupee/CBDC as it is not that much vulnerable to instability and volatility. It ensures safeguarding of individual rights.
5. **Reduction in Operational Costs :** In India large amount of cost is involved in the cash management services that involves printing, storing, distributing etc. The introduction of Digital Rupee/CBDC will surely ease out the pressure on the government in context to costs of printing, distribution and storage of currency notes, and will also contribute towards India's ESG goals by helping in reduction of carbon footprints.
6. **Ease in Security Settlements :** This system will help in the settlement of securities easily, safely, and effectively within no time. It is based on the DvP settlement mechanism that is used to ensure

that the delivery and settlement of financial securities in the payment system will occur simultaneously.

CONCLUSION

Digital currencies are revolution in financial technology and that will give impact in many ways especially in payment & settlement systems and services. Now the concept of digital currency is not persistent, it will appear strongly with disruption to the existing payment and settlement systems. Since its inception, India's stand on crypto currencies hasn't been inspiring and hopeful which is quite evident from RBI's directives to stop dealings in cryptocurrencies in the Indian financial markets. But now RBI is exploring Digital-Rupee with block chain technology that can be introduced at the first stage for retail transactions with the appropriate security features and can be allowed further while examining its viability for investment related transactions in coordination with the existing payment. Blockchain technologyis bringing up a great transformation in the financial system to change the financial dealings and the payment mechanism. It is concluded that the adoption of block chain technology in the digital currency will prove to be a game changer in the coming years and will surely rule the economies in the world.

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ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ : ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ
(ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਸੰਦਰਭ ਵਿਚ)

ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਕੌਰ
ਅਸਿਸਟੈਂਟ ਪ੍ਰੋਫੈਸਰ (ਪੰਜਾਬੀ), ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਕਾਲਜ, ਭਵਾਨੀਗੜ੍ਹ

ਐਬਸਟ੍ਰੈਕਟ

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਜਟਿਲ ਸਮਾਜੀ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਨਵੀ ਸੰਦਰਭਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਉਪਜ ਰਹੀ ਜਟਿਲ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਭਿੰਨ ਨਵੀਨ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਪਕੜਨ ਤੇ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਯਤਨ ਕਰ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਦਾ ਆਂਤਰਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਹਰੀ ਚਿਹਨ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਸੰਤੁਲਨ /ਅਸੰਤੁਲਨ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕੀ ਚੱਕਰ ਨਾਲ ਸਬੰਧ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ। ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਪੂਰਬਲੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਵਿੱਥ ਸਿਰਜ ਕੇ ਵਿਚਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੋਈ ਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਸੁਨੇਹਾ ਜਾਂ ਸਿੱਧਾ ਮਸਲਾ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਸੀ ਤੇ ਅੰਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸ ਮਸਲੇ ਦਾ ਨਿਵਾਰਨ ਵੀ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਆਪ ਹੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਸੀ ਉੱਥੇ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਪੇਚੀਦਗੀ ਭਰਪੂਰ ਮਸਲਾ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਅੰਤਿਮ ਤੇ ਇੱਕੋ ਸਮਾਧਾਨ ਨਾ ਤਾਂ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਕੋਲ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਨਾ ਹੀ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਜਾਂ ਵਕਤਾ ਦੇ ਕਿਆਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਸਦਾ ਹੱਲ ਹੈ।

ਡਾਕਟਰ ਗੁਰਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ, "ਮੁਢਲੇ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਸਰਲ ਤਬਦੀਲੀ ਦਾ ਵਰਣਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਵਿਸਤਾਰ ਮੁੱਖ ਪੈਮਾਨੇ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਕਰਦੇ ਸਨ ਤੇ ਲੇਖਕ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਕਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਰਬੱਗਤਾ ਦੀ ਖੁੱਲ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਸਨ ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਵਕਤਾ ਇੱਕ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਾਦਕੀ ਕਾਰਜ ਨਿਭਾਉਂਦਾ ਸੀ ਪਰ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਉਲਟ ਅਜੋਕਾ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਵਸਤੂ ਸਮਗਰੀ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਵਿਧੀ ਤੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਨਿਸਬਤਨ ਸੁਚੇਤ ਹੈ।"[1]

ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਸੁਚੇਤਤਾ ਹੀ ਅਜੋਕੇ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਨਵੇਂ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਮਾਡਲ ਤਹਿਤ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਇਸ ਨਵੇਂ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਮਾਡਲ ਦੇ ਚੌਖਟੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਜੜਤ -ਬੀੜਤ ਵਿਉਂਤਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਰਚਨਾਵੀ ਥੀਮਕ ਪਸਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਉਭਾਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਹ ਪਿੱਛਲਝਾਤ, ਉੱਤਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਪੂਰਵ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਤਹਿਤ ਰਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਇਕ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਚੌਖਟਾ ਉਲੀਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਹਰ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਰਚਨਾ ਕੁਝ ਖਾਸ ਕਿਸਮ ਦੀਆਂ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ, ਪ੍ਰਸਕਿਤੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੰਯੁਕਤਤਾ ਤਹਿਤ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਰਚਨਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਇੱਕ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਲੀ ਇਹ ਘਟਨਾਵੀ ਤਰਤੀਬ ਜਾਂ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਕਾਲਕਰਮਿਕ ਨਾ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਮਸਨੂਈ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਆਪਣੀ ਲੋੜ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਜੜਤ ਬੀੜਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮੇਂ ਨੂੰ ਭੰਜਨਾਰਥ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਆਪਣੇ ਮੂਡ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਰਚਨਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾਵੀ ਤਰਤੀਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਈ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਪਰਿਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਵ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਕਈਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉੱਤਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਜਰੀਏ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਪੂਰਵ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਫੈਲੇ ਥੀਮੈਟਿਕ ਪਸਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਬਹੁਪਰਤੀ ਤੇ ਬਹੁਦਿਸ਼ਾਵੀ ਅਰਥ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਹਿੱਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜਿਵੇਂ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਰਮਾਏਦਾਰੀ ਦੇ ਅੰਤ ਅਤੇ ਆਮ ਲੁਕਾਈ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਤਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਦਰਸਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਮੋਹਨ ਭੰਡਾਰੀ 'ਤਿਲਚੌਲੀ' ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅੰਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੂਰਵ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਤਹਿਤ ਕੀੜਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਚਿਹਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਾਪਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਇਸ ਵਰਤਾਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ :

"ਵੱਡੇ ਕੀੜੇ ਤੋਂ ਗੁੜ ਦੀ ਨਿੱਕੀ ਜਿਹੀ ਡਲੀ ਖੋਹ ਕੇ ਛੋਟੇ- ਛੋਟੇ ਪੰਜ ਛੇ ਕੀੜੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਖੁੱਡ ਵੱਲ ਚਾਈਂ ਚਾਈਂ ਲਿਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਸਨ।"
(ਤਿਲਚੌਲੀ, ਮੋਹਨ ਭੰਡਾਰੀ)

ਇਥੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਰੋਲਾਂ ਬਾਰਤ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੇ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਤਹਿਤ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੇ ਸਾਰਹੀਨ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰਕੇ ਦੂਜੇ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੇ ਸਾਰਗਰਭਿਤ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਦਾ ਹੈ।[2] ਜਿੱਥੇ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੇ ਅਰਥ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਜੁੜਨ ਉਥੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਪੱਧਰ ਤੇ ਅਰਥ ਲੁਕਾਈ ਦੀ ਸੰਯੁਕਤਤਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਬਦਲਾਵ ਦੀ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨਦੇਹੀ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਪੂਰਵ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਦਾ ਮਾਪਦੰਡ ਗ੍ਰਹਿਣ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਉੱਥੇ ਉੱਤਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਵੀ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਤਾ ਦਾ ਅਹਿਮ ਖਾਸਾ ਹੈ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਬੀਤ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਘਟਨਾ ਤੇ ਆਧਾਰਿਤ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਕਾਲ ਭੂਤ ਕਾਲ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਖਾਤਿਬ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੇ ਤਿੰਨਾਂ ਕਾਲਾਂ ਭੂਤ, ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਤੇ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਕਾਲ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਕਾਲ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਆਮ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਸੀਮਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਭੂਤਕਾਲ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਸਤ੍ਰਿਤ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿਰਜਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਸੰਕੇਤਕ ਛੋਹਾਂ ਜਰੀਏ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿਰਜਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੁੰਦਾ।

ਉੱਤਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਤਹਿਤ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਬੀਤ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਘਟਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਭਾਗਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੰਡ ਲੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਖਾਸੀਅਤ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੱਕ ਸਿਰੇ ਤੋਂ ਛੂਹਣ ਦੀ ਬਜਾਏ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੱਕ ਨੁਕਤੇ ਤੋਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਵਿਉਂਤਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਹੋਏ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਹੋਏ ਵੱਖ ਵੱਖ ਪਸਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਕਰਮਵਾਰ ਤੇ ਲੜੀਵਾਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼

ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਇਹ ਘਟਨਾਵੀ ਲਗਾਤਾਰਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਕਰਮਵਾਰਤਾ ਸਿਰਜਣ ਲਈ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਪਿੱਛਲ ਝਾਤ ਤਕਨੀਕ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ :

1. "ਉਦੋਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਛੋਟੇ-ਛੋਟੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਸੀ ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਸੱਤਵੀਂ ਜਾਂ ਅੱਠਵੀਂ ਕਲਾਸ ਚ ਪੜ੍ਹਦੇ ਸੀ।"
(ਦਰਦ ਦਿਲਾਂ ਦੇ, ਹਰਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਾਹਲ)
2. "20 ਕੁ ਸਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਹੈ ਮੈਂ ਸੱਤ ਵਰੇ ਦਾ ਸਾਂ ਤੇ ਮੇਰੀ ਵੱਡੀ ਭੈਣ 11 ਵਰੇ ਦੀ।"
(ਪ੍ਰੇਮੀ ਦੇ ਨਿਆਣੇ, ਸੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੇਖੋਂ)
3. "ਮੈਂ ਉਦੋਂ ਕੋਈ ਨਵਾਂ ਦਸਾਂ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਦਾ ਹੋਵਾਂਗਾ ਜਿਸ ਕੋਠੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸੀਂ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਸਾਂ ਉਸਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿਣ ਲਈ ਤਿੰਨ ਟੱਬਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਖੁੱਲੀ ਥਾਂ ਸੀ।" (ਰਾਸ ਲੀਲਾ, ਸੁਜਾਨ ਸਿੰਘ)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਆਈਆਂ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਸਤਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਸਰੋਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਬੋਧਨੀ ਲਹਿਜੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਪਿੱਛਲਝਾਤ ਦੀ ਤਕਨੀਕ ਜਰੀਏ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀ ਪਿਛਲੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਭਾਵ ਉਸਦੇ ਭੂਤ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਖਾਤਿਬ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਵਰਤੀ ਗਈ ਤਕਨੀਕ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਕਈ ਪੜਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਲੰਘਦੀ ਭੂਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਵਰਤਾਰਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਭੇਦਤਾ ਸਿਰਜਦੀ ਹੋਈ ਚਰਮ ਬਿੰਦੂ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਦੀ ਹੈ। ਚਰਮ ਬਿੰਦੂ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਹੋਰ ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰੀਆਂ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਸ਼ਾਸਤਰੀ ਕਾਰਜੀ ਇਕਾਈਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਕਲੇਵਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਂਦੀ ਤੁਰੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕੀ ਇਕਾਈਆਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਘਟਨਾਵੀ ਬਾਰੰਬਾਰਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਹੁਤ ਹੀ ਸੂਖਮਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਬਾਰਮਬਾਰਤਾ ਦੀ ਤਕਨੀਕ ਜਰੀਏ ਹੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੁਪਤ ਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ, ਪ੍ਰਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ, ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ, ਪਾਤਰਾਂ ਆਦਿ ਦੇ ਯਥਾਰਥ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਫੋਕਸੀਕਰਨ ਨੂੰ ਲਕਸ਼ਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ :

"ਹੁਣ ਹਰ ਡੁੱਬਦੇ ਸੂਰਜ ਨਾਲ ਚੌਧਰੀ ਰੌਣਕ ਮੱਲ ਕੀੜਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਭੌਣ ਉੱਤੇ ਤਿਲਚੌਲੀ ਪਾਉਣ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡਾ ਕੰਮ ਛੱਡ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਹੱਥੀ ਤਿਲਚੌਲੀ ਪਾ ਕੇ ਆਉਂਦਾ।" (ਤਿਲਚੌਲੀ, ਮੋਹਨ ਭੰਡਾਰੀ)

'ਤਿਲਚੌਲੀ' ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚਲਾ ਇਹ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਦੋਹਰਾਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਇੱਕ ਪਾਸੇ ਲੋਕ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਸੇ ਅਗਲਾ ਜਨਮ ਸਵਾਰਨ ਦੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਹਿੱਤ ਇੱਕ ਲੋਕ ਧਰਾਈ ਰੀਤ ਦੀ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨਦੇਹੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਉੱਥੇ ਦੂਜੇ ਪਾਸੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਪਾਤਰ ਚੌਧਰੀ ਰੌਣਕ ਮੱਲ ਦੇ ਅਵਚੇਤਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਸੇ ਡਰ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਸੰਤੁਸ਼ਟਤਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਵੇਚਨ ਵੀ ਰਚਨਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਿਲਚੌਲੀ ਦਾ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹ ਵਿਭਿੰਨ ਪ੍ਰਕਰਨ ਕੀਤੇ ਕਰਮ ਅਤੇ ਚਾਹਤ ਤੋਂ ਉਲਟ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਸਿਰਜਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਰੀਤੀ ਅੰਧ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਦਾ ਵਿਸਫੋਟ ਵੀ ਸਿਰਜਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਇੱਕੋ ਘਟਨਾ ਜਾਂ ਇੱਕੋ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਦੇ ਵਿਭਿੰਨ ਦੋਹਰਾਯੁਕਤ ਪਰਵਚਨ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਦਾ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਦੇ ਹਨ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਘਟਨਾ ਜਾਂ ਕਾਰਜ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਦਾ ਮੂਲ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸ ਇੱਕ ਵਾਰ ਵਾਪਰੀ ਘਟਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਦੁਹਰਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਇੱਕੋ ਘਟਨਾ ਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਭਿੰਨ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਦੋਹਰਾਯੁਕਤ ਕਥਾਨਕ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ3 ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੋਹਰਾਓ ਦਾ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਜੁਗਤ ਜਰੀਏ ਆਉਣਾ ਬਹੁਤ ਵੱਡੇ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਪਾਠਕ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਪਾਦਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਸਥਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੁੱਚੇ ਚਰਿੱਤਰ ਦੇ ਉਭਾਰ ਲਈ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੇ ਬੁੱਲਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਕਾਰਜਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਵਕਤਾ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਵਿਵਹਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਚਿਹਨੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਵਾਕ ਦੇ ਦੁਹਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਦਾ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਵਰਿਆਮ ਸੰਧੂ ਦੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ 'ਜਮਰੌਦ 'ਦਾ ਪਾਤਰ ਅਮਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਆਪਣੇ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਨੂੰ ਲੁਕਾ ਕੇ ਕਨੇਡਾ ਪਹੁੰਚਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ :

"ਉਹ ਪੁੱਤ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਤੇ ਉੱਚੀ ਉੱਚੀ ਧਾਹਾਂ ਮਾਰ ਕੇ ਕਨੇਡਾ ਨਾ ਜਾਣ ਦਾ ਖਤਰਾ ਮੁੱਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਸੀ।"
(ਜਮਰੌਦ, ਵਰਿਆਮ ਸੰਧੂ)

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਪੂਰੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿੱਧੇ/ ਅਸਿੱਧੇ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਕਾਰਜਸ਼ੀਲ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਪੁੱਤ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਨੂੰ ਲੁਕਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਕਾਰਜ ਉਸਦੀ ਡਰੀ ਹੋਈ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਉਪਜ ਹੈ। ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਰਥਿਕ ਮੰਦਹਾਲੀ ਨੇ ਅੰਤਰੀਵੀ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਉਥਲ-ਪੁੱਥਲ ਲਿਆ ਕੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪੁੱਤ ਮੋਹ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀ ਸੰਵੇਦਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਦਬਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਉਸ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਕਾਰਜ ਉਸਦੇ ਚਰਿੱਤਰ ਦੀ ਇਸ ਪਰਤ ਜਰੀਏ ਪੂਰੇ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਵਿਵਹਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਚਿਹਨੀਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕਿਸਮ ਦੇ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਜਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ-ਨਾਲ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਜ ਦੀ ਬਾਰੰਬਾਰਤਾ ਵੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿਰਜਤ ਹੋਈ ਮਿਲਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਵੇਂ 'ਪਰਛਾਵੇਂ' ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਮੈਂ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੇ ਚੇਤਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਸੇ 1947 ਦੀ ਦਹਿਸ਼ਤਗਰਦੀ ਤੇ ਡਰ ਕਾਰਨ ਨੀਂਦ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਾਰ-ਬਾਰ ਉੱਠਣ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਜ ਨੂੰ ਬਹੁਤਾਤਯੁਕਤ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਤਹਿਤ ਸਮੇਟਦਾ ਹੈ :

ਬਚਪਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਈ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਤੱਕ ਮੈਂ ਸੁਪਨੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਡਰ ਕੇ ਚੀਕ ਮਾਰ ਕੇ ਉੱਠ ਪੈਂਦਾ। ਮੈਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਦੂਰ ਤੱਕ ਲਾਲ ਸੁਰਖ ਹੋਣ ਦਾ ਸਮੁੰਦਰ ਠਾਠਾ ਮਾਰਦਾ ਦਿਖਾਈ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਜਿਸ ਉੱਤੇ ਬਲਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਛਲਪ-ਛਲਪ ਕਦਮ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਤੁਰਿਆ ਫਿਰਦਾ ਉਹ ਮੇਰੇ ਵੱਲ ਵੱਧਦਾ ਤਾਂ ਮੇਰੀ ਚੀਕ ਨਿਕਲ ਜਾਂਦੀ। (ਪਰਛਾਵੇਂ, ਵਰਿਆਮ ਸੰਧੂ)

ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਹੁਤਾਤ ਯੁਕਤ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਤਹਿਤ ਆਈਆਂ ਇਹ ਸਤਰਾਂ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਡਰ, ਸਹਿਮ, ਭੈ ਤੇ ਹਿੰਸਾ ਦੇ ਪਰਛਾਵੇਂ ਦੇ ਬਾਲ ਮਨ ਦੀ ਸੁਪਨ ਅਵਸਥਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਾਖਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਿਰਜਤ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੇ ਅਵਚੇਤਨੀ ਡਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਣ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਿਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਨ ਉੱਥੇ ਮਾਨਵੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਸਰਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਦੇ ਹੋਂਦ ਮੂਲਕ ਸੰਕਟ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਬੇਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸੀ, ਸ਼ੰਕਾ, ਦੁਬਿਧਾ, ਓਪਰਾਪਨ ਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਖਲ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਸਿਰਜਤ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।

ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਉਂਤਣਾ ਓਨਾ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਕਾਰਜ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਜਿੰਨਾ ਕਿ ਉਸਦਾ ਸੰਖ੍ਰਿਪਤ ਬਿੰਦੂ

ਲੱਭ ਕੇ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਮਾਇਨੇਖੇਜ਼ ਮੋੜਾ ਦੇਣਾ, ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਤੇੜਾ ਝਾੜਨਾ ਵੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।[1] ਇਹ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਪਲਟਾਓ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਕਲਾਤਮਕਤਾ ਦਾ ਚਰਮ ਬਿੰਦੂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪਾਤਰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਉਚਾਰਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਇੱਕ ਵਾਕ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਅੰਤਰ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਜੁਗ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਦੇ ਪਸਾਰ ਤੋਂ ਪਾਠਕ ਨੂੰ ਵਾਕਿਫ ਕਰਾਉਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਾਇਨੇ ਖੇਜ ਰੋਲ ਨਿਭਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵੀ ਇਸ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਸਮਰੱਥਾ ਦਾ ਸੁੰਦਰ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਣ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰੀਆਂ ਕਹਾਣੀਆਂ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਅਖੀਰ ਤੱਕ ਸਹਿਜ ਤੁਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ ਪਰ ਅਖੀਰ ਤੇ ਪਲਟਾਓ ਜੁਗਤ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਾਕ ਤੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਖਤਮ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਾਰੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅਰਥ ਹੀ ਬਦਲ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ ਤੇ ਪਾਠਕ ਹੁਣ ਤੱਕ ਪੜੀ ਸਾਰੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਮੁੜ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਰੁਚਿਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਸੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੇਖੋਂ ਦੀ 'ਪੇਮੀ ਦੇ ਨਿਆਣੇ' ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਕਹਿਣਾ ਕੇ 'ਅਸੀਂ ਕਹਾਂਗੇ ਕਿ ਅਸੀਂ ਪੇਮੀ ਦੇ ਨਿਆਣੇ ਹਾਂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਨਾ ਫੜ', ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਗਰੇਵਾਲ ਦੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ 'ਸੂਰਜ ਦੀ ਕਦੇ ਪਿੱਠ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ' ਵਿੱਚ ਮਾਮੇ ਭਾਣਜੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਬਾਹਰਲੇ ਮੁਲਕ ਜਾਣ ਲਈ ਰਚਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ। ਨਕਲੀ ਵਿਆਹ ਭਾਵਨਾਤਕ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਪਹਿਲੇ ਪੱਧਰ ਤੇ ਅਸਲੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਤਿਲਾਂਜਲੀ ਦੇ ਪਤੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਦੇ ਦੂਜੇ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੇ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਮੋਹਰ ਲਗਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੀਕਰਣਾਂ ਬਦਲ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਅਰਥ ਹੀ ਬਦਲ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਪਾਤਰ ਪਤੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਦੇ ਨਕਲੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਖਤਮ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਡਾਈਵੋਰਸ ਪੇਪਰ ਫਾੜਦੀ ਹੋਈ ਇਹ ਕਹਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ :

"ਨਹੀਂ ਅੰਕਲ ਜੀ ਸੂਰਜ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਪਿੱਠ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਤੇ ਟੁਕੜੇ ਟੁਕੜੇ ਹੋਇਆ ਡਾਈਵੋਰਸ ਫਾਰਮ ਲੇਖਰਾਜ ਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਿੰਡ ਗਿਆ।" (ਸੂਰਜ ਦੀ ਕਦੇ ਪਿੱਠ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ, ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਗਰੇਵਾਲ)

ਇਸ ਕਿਸਮ ਦਾ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਪਲਟਾਓ ਜਸਵੀਰ ਰਾਣਾ ਦੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ 'ਚਾਦਰ' ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਦੇਖਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜਦੋਂ ਬਿੱਕਰ ਤੇ ਪਿੰਦਰ ਦੇ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਦਾ ਅਸਲ ਸੱਚ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅਖੀਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਭ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ :

"ਮੁੰਡੇ ਦੀ ਕੀ ਗੱਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਏ ਪਿੰਦਰੇ! ...ਤੇਰੇ ਲਈ ਤਾਂ ਪੂਰਾ ਜੱਟ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਐ....! ਤੇਰੇ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਤਾਂ ਮੈਂ ਉਦਣ ਰਾਤ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਦੀ ਘਰਵਾਲੀ ਸੀਬੋ ਮਾਰਤੀ ਤੀ ਗਲ ਘੁੱਟ ਕੇ....! ਸਾਲੀ ਡਰਾਬੇ ਦੇਣ ਲੱਗ ਪਈ ਆਪਣੇ ਸੰਬੰਧਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ.... ਕਹਿੰਦੀ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੂ ਵੀ ਆਪਦੀ ਭੂਆ ਦੀ ਕੁੜੀ ਨਾਲ.... ਦੱਸ ਲੈ....! ਹੁਣ ਥਾਈ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਐ ਵੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਪਤਾ ਵੀ ਮਰੀ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਤੀ.....?, ਅਚਾਨਕ ਹੀ ਬਿੱਕਰ ਨੇ ਮੌਤ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਵੀ ਵੱਡਾ ਰਹੱਸ ਖੋਲਿਆ।" (ਚਾਦਰ ਜਸਵੀਰ ਰਾਣਾ)

ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅਖੀਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੱਖ ਬੋਲਾਂ ਜਰੀਏ ਆਇਆ ਸੱਚ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪੂਰੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੁਪਤ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਸੀ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਿੱਕਰ ਦਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਭੂਆ ਦੀ ਕੁੜੀ ਨਾਲ ਨਜਾਇਜ਼ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਾ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅਖੀਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਆ ਕੇ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਪਲਟਾਓ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਅਜੋਕੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿਚਲੀ ਵਿਗਠਿਤ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਦੀ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨਦੇਹੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਇਥੇ ਆ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਯਥਾਰਥ ਵਰਨਣ ਨਾਲ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਪਾਠਕ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਝਟਕਾ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਉਸੇ ਯਥਾਰਥ ਨੂੰ ਪਾਠਕ ਸਨਮੁਖ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੁਪਤ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਸੀ। ਇਹ ਲੁਕਾਓ ਓਹਲੇ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਅਸਲ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਅਖੀਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਪਾਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਵੰਦਾਤਮਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਚਿਤਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਹੁਣ ਤੱਕ ਲੰਘੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਤਰਾਸਦੀ, ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਤੇ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਨਵੇਂ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀਕੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਾਠਕ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਪਾਠਕ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰੀ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਘਟਨਾਵੀਂ ਪ੍ਰਪੰਚ ਦੇ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਵੱਲ ਮੋੜਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਫੋਕਸੀਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਨਾ ਹੀ ਮਹਿਜ਼ ਵੱਡੇ ਹਾਦਸਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਨਿਰਭਰ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਨਾ ਹੀ ਘਟਨਾ ਵੀ ਕ੍ਰਮ ਦੀ ਵਿੱਕੋਲਿਤਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਅਚੰਭਾਦਾਇੱਕ ਲੜੀ ਸਿਰਜਦੀ ਹੈ ਸਗੋਂ ਇਸਦਾ ਪੂਰਾ ਦਾਰੋ ਮਦਾਰ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਰਦੇ ਸਧਾਰਨ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਜਟਲ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਉੱਪਰ ਟਿਕਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਵਿਚਲਾ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਵੀ ਜਟਿਲ ਸੰਰਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਧਾਰਨੀ ਹੈ। ਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਸਤਹ ਵੀ ਉਨਾ ਹੀ ਜਟਿਲ ਬਣ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਜਟਿਲ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ ਲਈ ਡਾਕਟਰ ਗੁਰਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਕਥਨ ਬਹੁਤ ਹੀ ਜਾਇਜ਼ ਹੈ ਕਿ "ਮਨੁੱਖ ਸਰਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਤਾਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਸਰਲ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।"[2] ਇਸ ਦੌਰ ਦਾ ਹਰੇਕ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਇਸ ਨਵੇਂ ਜਟਿਲ ਸੰਰਚਨਾਤਮਕ ਬੁਣਤੀ ਨਾਲ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਸਿਰਜਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ। ਇੱਕੋ ਮੌਕੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਪੱਧਰ ਤੇ ਕਈ ਪਰਤਾਂ ਉਸਾਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਦੇ ਉਹ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਨੋਵਿਗਿਆਨਿਕ ਤਕਨੀਕਾਂ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਹ, ਅਵਚੇਤਨ ਚਿਤਰਨ ਸੁਪਨੇ, ਯਾਦਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਆਸ਼ਰਿਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਦੇ ਬਦਲਵੇਂ ਤੇ ਸਥਿਰ ਫੋਕਸੀਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਜੁਗਤ ਦਾ ਧਾਰਨੀ ਬਣਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਦੇ ਮੈਂ ਪਾਤਰ ਵਜੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਵੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਵਕਤਾ ਨਾ ਹੋਣ ਦਾ ਭਰਮ ਸਿਰਜਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਕਦੇ ਪਾਤਰ ਨਾਲ ਇੱਕ ਰੂਪਤਾ ਸਿਰਜ ਕੇ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਵਕਤਾ ਵਜੋਂ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਦਮਾਨ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਸਾਰੀਆਂ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਸ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੀ ਪਿਛੋਕੜਲੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਕਤਾ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਵਿਥ ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਅਜਿਹੇ ਸੰਦਰਭ ਤਹਿਤ ਉਹ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਸਰੋਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਣ ਦੇ ਅਮਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੂਰੀ ਕਾਰਜਸ਼ੀਲ ਧਿਰ ਮੰਨਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦਾ ਰਚਨਾਤਮਕ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਸਮਝਣ ਦਰਸਾਉਣ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਦਿਖਾਉਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਵੱਧ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੀ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ ਵਕਤਾ, ਪਾਤਰ ਤੇ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਬਦਲਵੇਂ ਪੈਟਰਨ ਜ਼ਰੀਏ ਲਵਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਥੀਮਕ ਪਸਾਰ ਉਭਾਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਜਟਿਲ ਬਹੁ-ਪਰਤੀ ਤੇ ਬਹੁ-ਦਿਸ਼ਾਵੀ ਥੀਮਕ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਰ ਡੂੰਘਾਈ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਚਿੱਤਰਪਟ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਰਚਨਾ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਵਕਤਾ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਜਾਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਰਹਿ ਕੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਥੀਮ ਨੂੰ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਜਾਵੀਏ ਤੋਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਹਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਗੈਰ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਸੰਚਾਰ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਵੇਸ਼ ਵੀ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਸੰਚਾਰ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਵੇਸ਼ ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਘਟਨਾਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਪੰਚ ਦੀ ਤਣਾਅਪੂਰਨ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ ਪਾਠਕ ਨੂੰ ਬਾਹਰ ਕੱਢਣ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਮਾਰਗ ਬਣਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ ਵਿਚ ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਫਿਲਾਸਫੀਕਲ ਅੰਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਰਮਾਰ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਤਾਂ ਕੋਈ ਵੱਖਰਾ

ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਪਾਉਂਦੇ ਪਰ ਪਾਠਕ ਲਈ ਸਹੀ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ ਦੇਣ ਹਿੱਤ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਚੌਖਟੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਜਰੂਰ ਫੋਕਸ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ, ਜਿਵੇਂ :

1. "ਮਨੁੱਖ ਵੀ ਅਜੀਬ ਸ਼ੈ ਹੈ ਆਪੇ ਸਭ ਕੁਝ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਜਾਊ... ਫਿਰ ਇਕਦਮ ਭੰਨ ਤੋੜ ਕੇ ਤਬਾਹ ਕਰਨ ਤਾਈਂ ਜਾਊ.... ਕੱਲ ਤੀਕ ਚੰਗਾ-ਚੰਗਾ ਲੱਗਦਾ ਸਭ ਕੁਝ ਬੁਰਾ -ਬੁਰਾ ਲੱਗਦਾ ਸਭ ਕੁਝ ਚੰਗਾ ਕਿਉਂ ਲੱਗਣ ਲੱਗਦਾ?"

(ਇਕ ਮਿੰਟ ਦਾ ਪੰਧ, ਅਤਰਜੀਤ)

2. "ਕੁਝ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਣਾ ਸਾਡੀ ਆਦਤ ਬਣ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਕੁਝ ਨੂੰ ਜਰੂਰਤ ਤੇ ਕਈਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਝੱਲਣਾ ਹੀ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ।"

(ਬਣਵਾਸ ਗੁਰਪਾਲ ਲਿਟ)

ਅਸਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰੀ ਸੰਗਠਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਰ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਕਾਰਜੀ ਇਕਾਈ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਮੱਗਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਾਈ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਨਾ ਕੋਈ ਕਾਰਜ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ, ਵਕਤਾ ਤੇ ਪਾਤਰ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਦੇ ਧਾਰਨੀ ਹਨ ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਆਪਸੀ ਸੰਯੋਜਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਉਸਾਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਹਾਣੀਕਾਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟਾਂਤ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਤੇ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ, ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਦਮਿਤ ਅਕਾਂਖਿਆਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਥੀਮ ਨੂੰ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਇਕਾਈਆਂ ਜਾਂ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਜ਼ਰੀਏ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਦੇ ਇਹ ਬਾਰੰਬਾਰਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ, ਕਦੇ ਸੰਤੁਲਿਤ, ਕਦੇ ਫੋਕਸੀਕਰਨ, ਕਦੇ ਬੋਲ ਵਕਤਾ ਦੇ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਦੇ ਗੈਰ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਜਰੀਏ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੁੰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕਾਰ ਪਾਤਰ ਨੂੰ, ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਨੂੰ ਰਚਨਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਹਿੱਤ ਹੀ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤਕ ਜੁਗਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਿਪੁੰਨ, ਸਹਿਜ ਅਤੇ ਕਲਾਤਮਕ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਜਗਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਸਹਿਜੇ ਹੀ ਵੇਖੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

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ਅਸਿਸਟੈਂਟ ਪ੍ਰੋਫੈਸਰ, ਪੋਸਟ ਗ੍ਰੈਜੂਏਟ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰ.ਯੂ.ਟੀ.ਪੀ.ਡੀ. ਮਾਲਵਾ ਕਾਲਜ, ਰਾਮਪੁਰਾ-ਫੂਲ

ਐਬਸਟ੍ਰੈਕਟ

ਸੰਸਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਆਚਾਰੀਆ ਭਰਤਮੁਨੀ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਨਾਟਯ ਸ਼ਾਸਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਾਟਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਮੰਨਿਆ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਸਥਾਪਤੀ ਨਾਟਕ ਨੂੰ ਅਧਾਰ ਮੰਨ ਕੇ ਹੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ। ਰਸਵਾਦੀ ਆਚਾਰੀਆਂ ਵੀ ਨਾਟਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਮੰਨਦੇ ਹਨ। ਭਰਤ ਮੁਨੀ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਦਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਬਿੰਦੂ 'ਰਸ' ਨੂੰ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਹੈ। ਇਹੀ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਿਦਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਭਰਤ ਮੁਨੀ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਰਸ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਦੇ ਮੋਢੀ ਵਜੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਭਰਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਧਾਨਕ ਧਨੰਜਯ ਨੇ ਨਾਟਯ ਸ਼ਾਸਤਰ ਦੀ ਵਿਆਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਇਸ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਦੇ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਨੂੰ ਦਾਰਸ਼ਨਿਕ ਆਧਾਰਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਭਿਨਵ ਗੁਪਤ, ਆਚਾਰੀਆ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਨਾਥ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਡਿਤ ਰਾਜ ਜਗਨਨਾਥ ਵਰਗੇ ਆਚਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਨਾਟਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ, ਮਿਥਿਹਾਸਕ ਪਿਛੋਕੜ ਕਾਰਨ ਰਸ ਪੂਰਵ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਸੀ। ਨਾਟਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਸਮੇਂ ਇੱਕ ਹੀ ਰਸ ਉਪਜਦਾ ਸੀ। ਦਰਸ਼ਕ ਜਾਂ ਪਾਠਕ ਦੇ ਮਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਭਾਵ ਲੰਮਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਚਲਦੇ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਸਨ ਤੇ ਇੱਕ ਰਸ ਦਾ ਰਸਾਭਾਸ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਸੀ। ਲੰਮਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਮਨ ਉਸ ਦਾ ਆਨੰਦ ਮਾਣਦਾ ਸੀ ਪਰ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਕਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੁਝ ਵੀ ਪੂਰਵ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਅਜੋਕੇ ਸਮੇਂ 'ਚ ਸ਼ੰਕਾਵਾਂ ਤੇ ਸਵਾਲਾਂ 'ਚ ਘਿਰੇ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਵਜੂਦ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਨਾਂਤਰ ਕਾਵਿ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅਨੰਤ ਨਾਦਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਧੁਨੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੱਖਦੀ ਹੈ। ਪਲ ਪਲ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਅੱਗੇ ਵਸਤੂ ਯਥਾਰਥ ਵੀ ਸਥੂਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਤਰਲ ਯਥਾਰਥ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਇਕਹਿਰੇ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਤੱਕ ਸੀਮਿਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਹਿ ਸਕਦਾ। ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਅਤੇ ਇਕਹਿਰੇ ਭਾਵ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਪੁਰਾਤਨ ਕਾਵਿ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਸਮੇਂ ਇੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਭਾਵ ਉਪਜਦੇ ਸਨ ਪਰ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੇ ਮਨ ਵਾਂਗ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਵ ਪਲ ਪਲ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਹਨ, ਇਹ ਸਥਿਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਨ, ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਇੱਕ ਹੀ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਅਨੁਭੂਤੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ, ਸਗੋਂ ਰਸ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਹਨ ਜਾਂ ਝਲਕਾਰਾ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਬਹੁਤੀ ਵਾਰੀ ਇੱਕ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਸ ਪੂਰਨ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਉਪਜਦਾ ਕੇਵਲ ਛਿੱਟੇ ਮਿਲਦੇ ਹਨ। ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਕਾਵਿ ਦੀ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਤੀ / ਫਿਤਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਮਨ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਹੀ ਸਮਝਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦੀ ਪੜ੍ਹਤ ਸਮੇਂ ਪਾਠਕ ਸਿਰਜਤ ਸ਼ਬਦ-ਸੰਸਾਰ ਨਾਲ ਨਾਤਾਗੀਰ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦੇ ਭਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਬਦਲਾਵ ਨਾਲ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਚਿੱਤ ਦੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵੀ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਕਾਵਿ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੁਰਾਤਨ ਕਾਵਿ ਵਾਂਗ ਭਾਵ ਸਥਿਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ, ਸਗੋਂ ਗਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿਕੇ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਧਰਮ ਕੰਮੇਆਣਾ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਰਚਿਤ ਕਾਵਿ ਪੁਸਤਕ ਕਾਵਿ ਨਾਟ 'ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ' ਉਸਦਾ ਇੱਕਾ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਹੈ। ਕਵੀ ਇਸ ਕਾਵਿ ਨਾਟਲਈ ਪੀਲੂ ਦੇ ਕਿੱਸੇ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਧਰਮ ਕੰਮੇਆਣਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਕ ਨਵੇਕਲੀ ਪਛਾਣ ਰਖਦਾ ਹੈ ਉਹ ਨਾਵਲਕਾਰ ਤੇ ਕਵੀ ਵਜੋਂ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਨਾਲ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਂਝ ਪਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸੀਂ ਉਸਦੇ ਕਾਵਿ ਨਾਟ 'ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ' ਦਾ ਰਸ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਦੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਅਧਿਐਨ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ।

ਕੇਹਾ ਸੋਹਣਾ ਦਿਨ ਅੱਜ ਚੜ੍ਹਿਆ
ਧਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਚੜ੍ਹਿਆ ਚਾਅ।
ਨੀ
ਜਿੰਦੇ ਮੇਰੀਏ
ਕੋਇਲ ਹੈ ਕੂਕਾਂ ਮਾਰਦੀ
ਜਿਉਂ ਬਿਰਹਣ ਰਹੀ ਕੋਈ ਗਾ।[2]

ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਕਾਵਿ ਨਾਟ ਵਿਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਪਿਆਰ ਹੋ ਜਾਣ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਦਾ ਮੇਲ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਮਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਠੇ ਪਿਆਰ ਦੇ ਭਾਵਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਅਵਗਤ ਕਰਵਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕਾਵਿ ਤੁਕਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਯੋਗ ਸ਼ਿੰਗਾਰ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਅਭਿਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਆਲੰਬਨ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਆਸਰਾ ਆਲੰਬਨ ਹੈ। ਕੋਇਲ ਦਾ ਕੂਕਾਂ ਮਾਰਨਾਂ ਉਦੀਪਨ ਵਿਭਾਵ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਰਤੀ ਸਥਾਈ ਭਾਵ ਹੈ।

ਜਦ ਅੰਬਰੀਂ ਤਾਰਾ ਚੜਦਾ ਏ
ਮੈਨੂੰ ਮਿਰਜ਼ੇ ਦਾ ਮੁਖ ਲੱਗਦਾ ਏ
ਰੁੱਤ ਬਿਰਹੋਂ ਦੀ।
ਜ਼ਹਿਰ ਸਿਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਚੜ੍ਹਦਾ ਏ।
ਜਦ ਰਾਤ ਬੀਤ ਸੁਬ੍ਹਾ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਏ
ਜਾਪੇ ਜਿਉਂ ਬਿਰਹਣ ਰੋਂਦੀ ਏ
ਰੁੱਤ ਬਿਰਹੋਂ ਦੀ
ਮੈਨੂੰ ਮੂਲ ਨਾ ਭਾਉਂਦੀ ਏ।[3]

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ਜਦੋਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਤੇ ਮਿਰਜ਼ੇ ਦਾ ਪਿਆਰ ਜੱਗ ਜ਼ਾਹਿਰ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਦਾ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਉਸਦੇ ਘਰ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਨਿਕਲਣ ਤੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਲਗਾ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਮਿਰਜ਼ੇ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਛੜਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਹੇਲੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਿਛੋੜੇ ਦਾ ਪਲਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਂਝਾ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਮਿਰਜ਼ੇ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ ਹੋਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਇੱਥੇ ਵਿਯੋਗ ਸ਼ਿੰਗਾਰ ਰਸ ਉਪਜ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਆਲੰਬਨ ਤੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਆਸਰਾ ਆਲੰਬਨ ਹੈ।ਅੰਬਰੀਂ ਤਾਰਾ ਚੜਨਾ ਤੇ ਰਾਤ ਉਦੀਪਨ ਵਿਭਾਵ ਹਨ।

ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਨਾਲ ਤੂੰ
ਧੋਖਾ ਗਈ ਕਮਾਅ
ਤੈਨੂੰ ਮੋਹ ਵੀਰ ਦਾ ਆ ਗਿਆ
ਦਿੱਤੇ ਪਿਆਰ ਦੇ ਕੌਲ ਭੁਲਾਅ
ਮੈਨੂੰ ਕਰ ਨਿਹੱਥਾ ਮੌਤ ਦੇ
ਤੂੰ ਮੂੰਹ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਪਾ।[4]

ਜਦੋਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਮਿਰਜ਼ੇ ਦੇ ਸੁੱਤੇ ਪਏ ਤੋਂ ਕਾਨੀਆ ਤੋੜ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਚੰਦੜ ਤੇ ਸਿਆਲ ਚੜ ਆਉਦੇ ਹਨ ਤੇ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਸੁੱਤਾ ਉਠ ਕੇ ਦੇਖਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਨੇ ਉਸਦੀਆਂ ਕਾਨੀਆ ਤੋੜ ਦਿੱਤੀਆਂ ਹਨ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਬੋਧਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦੇ ਮਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ੋਕ ਦੇ ਭਾਵ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਸ਼ੋਕ ਦੇ ਭਾਵਾਂ ਕਾਰਨ ਕਰੁਣਾ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਨਿਸ਼ਪੱਤੀ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਦਾ ਧੋਖਾ ਦੇਣਾ, ਕਾਨੀਆ ਤੋੜਨਾ ਉਦੀਪਨ ਵਿਭਾਵ ਹਨ।

ਪਹਿਲਾ ਤੀਰ ਨੀ ਮਾਰੂੰ ਉਸਦੇ
ਜਿਹੜਾ ਆਇਆ ਲੈਣ ਨਿਕਾਹ
ਮੈਂ ਚੰਦੜ ਚੰਦਰਾ ਮਾਰਨਾ
ਸਾਡਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਵਿਛੋੜਾ ਪਾ[5]

ਜਦੋਂ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਧਾਲ ਕੇ ਲੈ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਤੇ ਜੰਡ ਤੇ ਜੰਡ ਥੱਲੇ ਸੌਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਦਾ ਡਰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ ਹਿੱਤ ਆਪਣੀ ਤਾਕਤ ਤੋਂ ਸਹਿਬਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੂ ਕਰਵਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਆਪਣੇ ਦੁਸ਼ਮਣਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਗੁੱਸੇ ਦਾ ਇਜ਼ਹਾਰ ਕਰਦਾ ਜੋ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਿਲਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਰੁਕਾਵਟ ਬਣਦੇ ਹਨ। ਦੁਸ਼ਮਣ ਨੂੰ ਯਾਦ ਕਰਨ ਕਾਰਨ ਰੋਦ੍ਰ ਰਸ ਉਪਜ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਚੰਦੜ ਇੱਥੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਆਲੰਬਨ ਹਨ ਤੇ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਆਸਰਾ ਆਲੰਬਨ ਹੈ। ਕ੍ਰੋਧ ਸਥਾਈ ਭਾਵ ਹੈ।

ਮੈਂ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਅੱਬਾ ਜੀ!
ਹੁਣ ਦੇਰ ਨਾ ਲਾਉ।
ਇਸਨੂੰ ਜਾਨੋਂ ਮਾਰ ਮੁਕਾਓ।
ਫਿਰ ਜਿਥੋਂ ਵੀ ਲੱਭਦਾ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ,
ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਛੇਤੀ ਲੱਭ ਲਿਆਓ।
ਵੱਢ-ਵੱਢ ਕੇ ਉਹਦੇ ਟੋਟੇ ਕਰ ਦਿਉ,
ਕਾਵਾਂ ਕੁੱਤਿਆਂ ਤਾਈਂ ਪਾਓ।[6]

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕਾਵਿ ਤੁਕਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਭੀਵਤਸ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਅਭਿਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਜਦੋਂ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਿਆਰ ਬਾਰੇ ਸ਼ਮੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਪਤਾ ਲੱਗਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਮਾਰਨ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਥੇ ਵੱਢ-ਵੱਢ ਕੇ ਟੋਟੇ ਕਰਨਾ, ਕਾਵਾਂ ਕੁੱਤਿਆਂ ਪਾਉਣਾ ਉਦੀਪਨ ਵਿਭਾਵ ਹਨ।

ਮੈਂ ਤਾ ਮਾਸੀ ਲਈ ਹੁਣ ਪੱਕੀ ਧਾਰ ਨੀ!
ਦਾਨਾਬਾਦ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਜਾਣੀ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਨਾਰ ਨੀ!
ਪਿਆਰ ਕੀ ਹੈ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਜੱਗ ਨੂੰ ਵਖਾਦੂੰਗਾ!
ਮੈਂ ਤਾਂ ਝੰਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਭੜਥੂ ਮਚਾਦੂੰਗਾ!
ਹੁਣ ਪਤਾ ਲੱਗਾ ਸਿਆਣਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਕਹੀ ਦਾ।
ਮੰਗਿਆਂ ਮਿਲੇ ਨਾ ਹੱਕ ਖੋਹ ਲਈਦਾ।
ਸੁੱਚਾ ਮੋਤੀ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਹੱਥੋਂ ਮੈਂ ਗਵਾਦੂੰਗਾ?
ਮੈਂ ਤਾਂ ਝੰਗ ਵਿਚ ਭੜਥੂ ਮਚਾਦੂੰਗਾ।[7]

ਪਿਆਰ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਪ੍ਰੇਮੀ ਦਾ ਜੀਵਨ ਭਰ ਸਾਥ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਦੀ ਚਾਹਨਾ ਰੱਖਦੇ ਹਨ ਤਾਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨਾਲ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੁੰਦਾ। ਜਦੋਂ ਇਸ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਦੇ ਬਾਵਜੂਦ ਵੀ ਉਹ ਪਿਛੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਟਦੇ ਤਾਂ ਟਕਰਾਅ ਦੀ ਅਵਸਥਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਟਕਰਾਅ ਕੇਵਲ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਇਕ ਪੂਰੇ ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਨਾਲ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪਿਆਰ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਇਕ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਇਸ ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਰਾਹ ਤੁਰੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਕਾਵਿ ਟੋਟੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਆਹ ਚੰਦੜਾ ਨਾਲ ਤਹਿ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਮਿਰਜ਼ਾਂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਹਿੱਤ ਹਰ ਹੱਦ ਪਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਰਾਹ ਨੂੰ ਚੁਣਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਥੇ ਜੋਸ਼ ਸਥਾਈ ਭਾਵ ਕਾਰਨ ਬੀਰ ਰਸ ਦੀ ਉਤਪੱਤੀ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ।

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ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਰਣਨ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਕਹਿ ਸਕਦੇ ਕਿ ਧਰਮ ਕੰਮੇਆਣਾ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਰਚਿਤ ਕਾਵਿ ਨਾਟ 'ਸਾਹਿਬਾਂ' ਦਾ ਰਸ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਦੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਅਧਿਐਨ ਦਰਸਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਰਸਵਾਦੀ ਕਵੀ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦੀ ਇਸ ਰਚਨਾ ਵਿਚ ਹਾਸ ਰਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਬਾਕੀ ਸਾਰੇ ਰਸਾਂ ਦੀ ਅਭਿਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਹੋਈ ਮਿਲਦੀ ਹੈ।

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ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਿਖਮਤ ਦੀ ਲੋਕਪ੍ਰਿਯਤਾ

ਦਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ
ਮੁਖੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਦੇਸ਼ ਭਗਤ ਕਾਲਜ, ਬਰੜਵਾਲ (ਧੂਰੀ)

ਐਬਸਟ੍ਰੈਕਟ

ਸੂਫ਼ੀਵਾਦ ਨੇ ਬਾਰਵੀਂ ਸਦੀ ਦੇ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਪੱਖ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਹੁਣ ਤਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਾਵਿ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ, ਵਿਸ਼ਾ-ਵਸਤੂ ਤੇ ਸੁਭਾ ਉੱਤੇ ਲਗਾਤਾਰ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਪਾਇਆ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਕੋਈ ਛੋਟੀ ਗੱਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਾਵਿ ਦੇ ਬਹੁ-ਪੱਖੀ, ਬਹੁ-ਰਸੀ ਤੇ ਬਹੁਤ-ਮਜ਼ਮੂਨੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਵਿਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਾਦ ਦੀ ਐਨੀ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਲੰਬੀ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਹੋਵੇ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਸੁਹਿਰਦ ਵਿਚਾਰਵਾਨਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮਨੁਖੀ ਏਕਤਾ ਦੇ ਹਾਮੀ ਚਿੰਤਕਾ ਨੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਨੂੰ ਭਰਪੂਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਗ੍ਰਹਿਣ ਕੀਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਕਾਵਿ-ਰਚਨਾ ਵਿਚ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਪ੍ਰਗਟ ਹੋਏ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਸ਼ਿਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਕਵੀ ਸਾਰਿਆਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਲੋਕਪ੍ਰਿਯਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਅੱਗੇ ਨਿਕਲ ਗਏ ਹਨ। ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਕਾਵਿ ਅਤੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਵਿਚ ਅਦਵੈਤਵਾਦ ਦਾ ਅੰਸ਼ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਹੈ। ਦੋਵਾਂ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਖ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਕੁਝ ਤਾਂ ਪਰਸਪਰ ਮਿਲਦੇ ਹਨ ਤੇ ਕੁਝ ਇਕ ਦੂਜੇ ਦੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਨੇੜੇ ਹਨ।

ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਕਾਵਿ ਦਾ ਆਰੰਭ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਤੋਂ ਕਾਫ਼ੀ ਸਮਾਂ ਪਿਛੋਂ ਪੰਦਰਵੀਂ ਸਦੀ ਵਿਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਤੋਂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਕਾਵਿ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਸਿਧਾਤਾਂ ਵਾਂਗ ਉਦਾਰਵਾਦੀ ਨੀਤੀ ਅਪਣਾਉਂਦਿਆਂ ਸਾਰੇ ਧਰਮਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸਹਿਣਸ਼ੀਲਤਾ ਦਿਖਾਈ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਧਾਰਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ -ਵਸਤੂ ਦੀ ਸਾਂਝ ਹੈ। ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਕਈ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਜਿਉਂ ਦੇ ਤਿਉਂ ਜਾਂ ਬਹੁਤ ਘੱਟ ਅੰਤਰ ਨਾਲ ਬਿਆਨੇ ਮਿਲਦੇ ਹਨ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੇ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਨੁਕਤੇ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਕਰਨ ਸਮੇਂ ਕੁਝ ਵਿਦਵਾਨ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਭਗਤੀ ਮੱਤ ਤੇ ਵੇਦਾਂਤ ਦਾ ਮੁਸਲਮਾਨੀ ਰੂਪ ਮੰਨਦੇ ਹਨ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਵਿਚ ਰੱਬ ਨੂੰ ਸਭ ਜਗ੍ਹਾਂ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਮੰਨਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਤੇ ਗੱਲ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਡਾਕਟਰ ਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਇਕ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਦੀ, ਹਜ਼ਰਤ ਮੁਹੰਮਦ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਮੁਹੱਬਤ, ਜਿਸ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਪਾਈ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਉਸ ਵਿਚ ਵੈਸ਼ਨਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਨ-ਭਗਤੀ ਦੀ ਨਕਲ ਤੇ ਝਲਕ ਹੈ। ਆਪਣੇ ਮੁਰਸ਼ਦ ਨੂੰ ਅਸਮਾਨ ਤੇ ਚੜ੍ਹਾ ਦੇਣਾ ਤੇ ਉਸ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸਖੀ ਭਾਵ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਵੀ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਵੈਸ਼ਨਵੀ ਰੰਗ ਹੈ। ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਦੇ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਨਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੋਣ ਦਾ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਅਦਵੈਤਵਾਦ ਦੀ ਝਲਕ ਹੈ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਅਤੇ ਸੱਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਦੀ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ-ਕਾਵਿ ਨੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਇਨਸਾਨੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਪੈਗ਼ਾਮ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਦਰਵੇਸ਼ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਹਬ-ਏ-ਇਸ਼ਕ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਜਿਸ ਤੋਂ ਭਾਵ ਹੈ ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਪਿਆਰ ਦਾ ਪੈਗ਼ਾਮ ਦੇਣਾ। ਇਸੇ ਲਈ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਸਭ ਮਜ਼ਹਬਾਂ, ਕੌਮਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਇਲਾਕਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਕ ਸਾਂਝ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿਚ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਦਰਵੇਸ਼ਾ ਨੂੰ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਾਣ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਇਸ ਦਾ ਸਬੂਤ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਧਰਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦਾ ਅੱਜ ਵੀ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਦਰਵੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਰੀਦ ਹੋਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਪੀਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਦਰਗਾਹਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਅਕੀਦਤ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿਚ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਕਲਾਮ ਇਸ ਕਦਰ ਮਕਬੂਲ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਕਈ ਕਲਾਮ ਤਾਂ ਲੋਕ ਕਹਾਵਤਾਂ ਦਾ ਰੂਪ ਧਾਰਨ ਕਰ ਗਏ ਹਨ। ਉਦਾਹਰਨ ਵਜੋਂ ਬਾਬਾ ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਦੇ ਸਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ :

ਕੰਧੀ ਉਤੈ ਰੁਖੜਾ ਕਿਚਰਕੁ ਬੰਨੈ ਧੀਰ॥[1]
ਫ਼ਰੀਦਾ ਲੋੜੈ ਦਾਖ ਬਿਜਉਰੀਆਂ ਕਿਕਰਿ ਬੀਜੈ ਜਟੁ॥[2]
ਰੁਖੀ ਸੁਖੀ ਖਾਇ ਕੈ ਠੰਢਾ ਪਾਣੀ ਪੀਉ॥[3]

ਸੂਫ਼ੀਵਾਦ ਦੀਆਂ ਜੜ੍ਹਾਂ ਭਾਵੇਂ ਇਸਲਾਮ ਵਿਚ ਹਨ ਪ੍ਰੰਤੂ ਹਰ ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਨੂੰ ਅਪਣਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਦਾ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਨਾਲ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਾ ਸ਼ਰੀਕੇਬਾਜੀ ਵਾਲਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਵੇਦਾਂਤ, ਭਗਤੀ ਲਹਿਰ, ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਤੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਵਾਦ ਵਿਚ ਰੂਹਾਨੀ ਸਾਂਝ ਹੈ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਸਰਬ ਧਰਮ ਸਮਭਾਵ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੇ ਅਲੰਬਰਦਾਰ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਦਾਇਕ ਸਦ ਭਾਵ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਅਹਿਮ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਲੋਕ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਮਨੋਕਾਮਨਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਪੂਰਤੀ ਲਈ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਦਰਗਾਂਹਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਨਮਸਤਕ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅਵਚੇਤਨ ਵਿਚ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਡੂੰਘੀ ਉਤਰੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਦੀ ਬਜਾਏ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕੀਤੀ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਲੋਕ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣੇ ਕਲਾਮ ਲਿਖੇ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਸਹਿਣਸ਼ੀਲਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਨਿਰਪੱਖਤਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਹੀ ਲੱਗੇ। ਬੁਲ੍ਹੇ ਸ਼ਾਹ ਨੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਵਿਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਵੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਤਾਂ ਔਰੰਗਜੇਬ ਵਰਗਾ ਕੱਟੜ ਸ਼ਾਸਕ ਸੀ। ਉਹ ਸੰਗੀਤ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਸੀ ਪਰ ਬੁਲ੍ਹੇ ਸ਼ਾਹ ਨੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਹ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ, ਸਗੋਂ ਗਲੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਜ਼ਾਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਸਰੂਰ ਵਿਚ ਆਕੇ ਰੱਬੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਦੇ ਗੀਤ ਗਾਏ। ਕੱਟੜ ਪੰਥੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੱਜਕੇ ਭੰਡੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਤਸੱਵੁਫ਼ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਖਰਾ ਕੀਤਾ :

ਹਿੰਦੂ ਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਮੁਸਲਮਾਨ
ਬਹੀਏ ਤ੍ਰਿੰਜਣ ਤੱਕ ਅਭਿਮਾਨ
ਸੁੰਨੀ ਨਾ ਨਹੀ ਹਮ ਸ਼ੀਆ
ਸੁਲ੍ਹਾ ਕੁਲ ਕਾ ਮਾਰਗ ਲੀਆ[4]

ਬੁੱਲ੍ਹੇ ਸ਼ਾਹ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸੱਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚ ਇਸ ਕਦਰ ਸਮਾ ਲਿਆ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਨਾਇਕ ਰਾਂਝੇ ਨਾਲ ਤੁਲਨਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹੀ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋਕਪ੍ਰਿਯਤਾ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਬਣਿਆ। 'ਰਾਂਝਾ ਰਾਂਝਾ ਕਰਦੀ ਨੀਂ ਮੈਂ ਆਪੇ ਰਾਂਝਾ ਹੋਈ' ਕਾਫ਼ੀ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਤੁਕ ਲੋਕ ਜੁਬਾਨਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਚੜ੍ਹੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਉਸਦਾ ਫ਼ੱਕਰ ਸੁਭਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸੁਭਾ ਨਾਲ ਮੇਲ ਖਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਵਿਚ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਰੱਖਣ ਵਾਲੇ

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ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਸਦੀ ਫ਼ਕੀਰੀ ਬਹੁਤ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਲੱਗੀ। ਉਸਦੀਆਂ ਕਾਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਅੱਜ ਵੀ ਮਕਬੂਲ ਹਨ ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸ਼ੇਖ ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਪੰਜ ਵਕਤ ਦੇ ਨਿਮਾਜ਼ੀ ਸੀ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਿਮਰਤਾ, ਸਹਿਜਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਨਵਤਾ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਖਿਚ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਬਣੀ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸੱਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਨਾਲ ਇਕਮਿਕ ਬਿੰਬਾਵਲੀ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਮਕਬੂਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੀ ਜੀਵਨ-ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਨਾਲ ਮੇਲ ਖਾਂਦੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਲੋਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਸਰਮਾਇਆ ਹਨ :

ਫ਼ਰੀਦਾ ਬਾਰਿ ਪਰਾਇਐ ਬੈਸਣਾ ਸਾਂਈ ਮੁਝੈ ਨਾ ਦੇਹਿ॥
ਜੇ ਤੂੰ ਏਵੈ ਰਖਸੀ ਜੀਉ ਸਰੀਰਹੁ ਲੇਹਿ॥[5]

ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਅਪਣੀ ਇੱਜਤ ਤੇ ਅਣਖ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਹੈ। ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਸਲੋਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਨਯੋਗ ਵਿਰਸੇ 'ਦੋ ਪੈਰ ਘੱਟ ਤੁਰਨਾ ਪਰ ਤੁਰਨਾ ਮਟਕ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ' ਦੀ ਹਾਮੀ ਭਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਕਦਰ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰੋੜਤਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਸਲੋਕਾਂ ਕਾਰਨ ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਪੀਰ ਹਨ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਾਦਗੀ ਦਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ ਗਰੀਬ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਤਸੱਲੀ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਗਰੀਬੀ ਦਾ ਝੋਰਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ ਸਗੋਂ ਉਹ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੱਬ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਇਸੇ ਸੰਜਮ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਕਲਾਮਾਂ ਵਿਚਲੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਰੰਗਤ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧੀ ਦਬਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਸਾਦੀ ਬੋਲੀ, ਸ਼ੈਲੀ, ਸ਼ਬਦਾਵਲੀ, ਬਿੰਬਾਵਲੀ, ਚਿੰਨ੍ਹ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਚਿੱਤਰ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਮਝ ਵਿਚ ਆਉਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਹੋਏ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਔਰਤ ਦੀ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਦਿਆਂ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਕਮਜ਼ੋਰ ਧਿਰ ਵਜੋਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿਚ ਔਰਤ ਦੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਤੀ ਨਾਲ ਸਬੰਧਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਨਿਰਭਰ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਔਰਤ ਦਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਤੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ ਹੋਣਾ ਜਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ। ਜਿਸ ਔਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਪਤੀ ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਜ਼ਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਸਨੂੰ ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਮਿਲਣਾ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਹੈ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਔਰਤ-ਮਰਦ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧਾਂ ਦੀ ਮਹੱਤਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਦਿਆਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਕਲਾਮਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੀ :

ਸਾਹੁਰੈ ਢੋਈ ਨ ਲਹੈ ਪੇਈਐ ਨਾਹੀ ਥਾਉ॥
ਪਿਰੁ ਵਾਤੜੀ ਨ ਪੁਛਈ ਧਨ ਸੋਹਾਗਣਿ ਨਾਉ॥[6]

ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਸਲੋਕ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਾਜਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਮਿਲਣਾ ਸੁਭਾਵਿਕ ਸੀ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਲੋਕ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਦਿਆਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਮਰਦ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਕਤੀਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਦਿਖਾਇਆ। ਜੇ ਔਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਕਤੀਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੇ ਤਾਂ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਸਵੀਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਕਠਿਨ ਹੋਣਾ ਸੀ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆ ਨੇ ਰੱਬ ਦੀ ਤੁਲਨਾ ਮਰਦ ਨਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਭਗਤ ਦੀ ਤੁਲਨਾ ਔਰਤ ਨਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ। ਜਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਪਤੀ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਲਈ ਔਰਤ ਹਰ ਹੀਲਾ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਭਗਤ ਨੂੰ ਨਮਾਣਾ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਰਹਿਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ। ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਇਸ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਨੇ ਗਹਿਰਾਈ ਨਾਲ ਟੁੰਬਿਆ:

ਜੋਬਨ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਨਾ ਡਰਾਂ ਜੇ ਸਹੁ ਪ੍ਰੀਤਿ ਨ ਜਾਇ॥
ਫ਼ਰੀਦਾ ਕਿਤੀ ਜੋਬਨ ਪ੍ਰੀਤਿ ਬਿਨੁ ਸੁਕਿ ਗਏ ਕੁਮਲਾਇ॥[7]

ਬਾਬਾ ਵਜੀਦ ਨੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੱਖ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਦਬੇ ਕੁਚਲੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੱਕ ਵਿਚ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਲਗਾਈ। ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਅਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਫੈਲੀ ਹੋਈ ਸੀ। ਅਸਥਿਰ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਨੇ ਅਧਿਆਤਮਕ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਪਾਇਆ। ਵਜੀਦ ਜੀ ਨੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਵਿਚ ਆਏ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ, ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਨਿਘਾਰ ਵੱਲ ਸੰਕੇਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਉਸ ਦੇ ਕਲਾਮ ਵਿਚ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੀ ਕਹਾਵਤ 'ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਘਰ ਦਾਣੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਮਲੇ ਵੀ ਸਿਆਣੇ' ਦੀ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਨਸ਼ਰ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਵਿਦਵਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਯੋਗ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਸੁਧਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਪੁਕਾਰ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਚੋਰਾਂ-ਠੱਗਾਂ, ਮੂਰਖਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਚਾਪਲੂਸਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਵਿਅੰਗ ਕਸਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਨਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਲਾਂਭੇ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ:

ਮੂਰਖ ਨੂੰ ਅਸਵਾਰੀ, ਹਾਥੀ ਘੋੜਿਆਂ।
ਪੰਡਿਤ ਪੈਰ ਪਿਆਦੇ, ਪਾਟੇ ਜੋੜਿਆਂ।
ਕਰਦੇ ਸੁਘੜ ਮਜੂਰੀ, ਮੂਰਖ ਦੇ ਜਾਇਘਰ।
ਵਜੀਦਾ ਕੌਣ ਸਾਈਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਖੇ, ਐਉਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਅੰਜ ਕਰ।[8]

ਸ਼ਾਹ ਹੁਸੈਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਕਾਲ ਦੇ ਉੱਘੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ। ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਹ ਪੂਰਨ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸੀ। ਉਸਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਸੱਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਚੌਗਿਰਦੇ ਨੂੰ ਬਾਖੂਬੀ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਕਾਫੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ। ਉਸਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿਚ ਪ੍ਰਚਲਿਤ ਕਦਰਾਂ-ਕੀਮਤਾਂ, ਲੋਕ-ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਰੱਬ ਦੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਵਰਗੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਪੱਕਿਆਂ ਕੀਤਾ।

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿਚ ਸਿਖ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਵਿਚ ਭਗਤੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਜੋ ਸਰੂਪ ਉਜਾਗਰ ਹੋਇਆ, ਉਹ ਮੂਲ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣਵਾਦੀ ਜਾਤੀ ਦਰਜੇਬੰਦੀ, ਮੁਸਲਿਮ ਸ਼ਾਸ਼ਕ ਵਰਗ ਦੀ ਧੱਕੇਸ਼ਾਹੀ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਲਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਕੱਟੜਤਾ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਨਾਬਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼, ਵਿਲਾਸੀ ਜੀਵਨ-ਚਾਚ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਅਮਾਰਗੀ, ਮੁਲਾਂ-ਪੰਡਤਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਕਰਮਕਾਂਡੀ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਖੰਡੀ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਰੀਤੀਆ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਨਿਰੋਲ ਭਗਤੀ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਨਾਲ ਮੁਕਤੀ, ਜੋਗੀਆਂ, ਤਪੀਆ ਦੀਆਂ ਕਠੋਰ ਸਰੀਰਿਕ ਤਪੱਸਿਆ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਸਹਿਜ ਅਤੇ ਗ੍ਰਹਿਸਥੀ ਮਾਰਗ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪ੍ਰਭੂ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਧਾਰਨਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ ਕਰਨਾ ਸੀ। ਦੂਜੇ ਪਾਸੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਹੀ ਹਾਮੀ ਭਰੀ "ਭਾਰਤ ਵਿਚ ਇਸਲਾਮ ਦੇ ਤਿੰਨ ਪ੍ਰਾਰੂਪ ਸਨ। ਇਸਲਾਮੀ ਰਾਜ-ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ, ਇਸਲਾਮ ਸੰਸਥਾਈ ਧਰਮ ਅਤੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਰਹੱਸਵਾਦੀ ਤੇ ਬੁੱਧੀਜੀਵੀ। ਇਸਲਾਮੀ ਰਾਜ-ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਹਾਰ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿੱਥ ਉੱਤੇ ਰੱਖਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਸੀ।... ਇਸਲਾਮੀ ਰਾਜ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਲੱਛਣ ਮੱਧਵਰਗੀ ਕੁਲੀਨ (Elitist Class) ਰਾਹੀਂ ਰਾਜ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਸੀ। ਮੁਸਲਿਮ ਚਰਚ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਰਾਜ ਤੋਂ ਮੱਦਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਸ ਦਾ (ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਦੇ) ਧਰਮ ਬਦਲਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਮੰਤਵ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਜੀ ਹਜ਼ੂਰੀਏ ਬਣਨਾ ਸੀ। ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਰਹੱਸਵਾਦੀ ਹੀ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਨੇੜੇ ਸਨ ਤੇ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਜਿੰਨੀ ਕੁ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰ ਆਲੋਚਨਾਤਮਕ ਸੀ ਉਨੇ ਕੁ ਉਹ ਰਾਜ-ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਅਤੇ

ਚਰਚ ਤੋਂ ਵਿੱਥ ਉੱਤੇ ਸਨ।"[9]

ਇਕ ਅਧਿਆਤਮਵਾਦੀ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਭੂ ਸਿਮਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਲੀਨ ਰਹਿਣ, ਆਪਣੇ ਪਥ-ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਲਈ ਗੁਰੂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਦੀ ਸਰਬ-ਵਿਆਪਕਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ, ਮਾਰਗ ਦੀ ਸੇਧ ਸਹੀ ਰੱਖਣ ਹਿਤ ਕੁਸੰਗਤ ਦਾ ਤਿਆਗ, ਸਤਸੰਗ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਮਰਤਾ ਧਾਰਨ ਕਰਨ, ਹੰਕਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਦੰਭ ਦਾ ਤਿਆਗ ਕਰਨ, ਸਿਦਕ ਭਰੋਸੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਕਾਇਮ ਰਹਿਣ ਅਤੇ ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਦੀ ਰਜ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਰਾਜ਼ੀ ਰਹਿਣ ਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਮੱਤਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਹਨ :

ਬੁੱਲ੍ਹਾ ਸ਼ੌਹ ਤੇ ਕਮਲੀ ਮੈਂ ਹੋਈ
ਸੁਤੀ ਬੈਠੀ ਮੈਂ ਯਾਰ ਪੁਕਾਰਨੀ ਹਾਂ।

ਦੂਜੇ ਪਾਸੇ ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਕ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਅਰਜਨ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਆਸਾ ਦੀ ਵਾਰ ਵਿਚ ਫਰਮਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ :

ਊਠਤ ਬੈਠਤ ਸੋਵਤ ਧਿਆਈਐ।
ਮਾਰਗ ਚਲਤ ਹਰੇ ਹਰਿ ਗਾਈਐ।

ਦਾਰਸ਼ਨਿਕ ਪੱਧਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਤ-ਕਵੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਬ੍ਰਹਮ, ਸ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ, ਜੀਵ ਆਦਿ ਸੰਕਲਪਾ ਦੀ ਪੁਨਰ ਵਿਆਖਿਆ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲੋਕ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਦੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਅਨੁਰੂਪ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਯਤਨ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਨਿਰਗੁਣ ਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਕੋਈ ਨਿਰਪੱਖ ਹਸਤੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਬਲਕਿ ਸਿੱਧੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਇਹ ਸ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਕ, ਚਾਲਕ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਲਕ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਿੰਤਾਵਾਨ ਹਸਤੀ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿਚ ਭਗਤੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਨੂੰ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਸੰਗਠਤ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਸਰੂਪ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਸਿਧਾਂਤਕ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ-ਨਾਲ ਵਿਹਾਰਕ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਅੰਦੋਲਨ ਦਾ ਰੂਪ ਧਾਰਨ ਕਰ ਗਿਆ। ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕ੍ਰਾਂਤੀਕਾਰੀ ਸੁਜੱਗਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਧੀਗਤ ਢੰਗ ਨਾਲ ਇਕ ਨਿਰੰਤਰ ਅਮਲ ਜਾਰੀ ਰੱਖਣਾ ਹੈ। "ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਮਤ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਗਿਆਸੂ ਦਾ ਅਧਿਆਤਮਕ ਮਾਰਗ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਲੰਘਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਹ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ-ਜੁੱਟਾਂ 'ਚ ਬੱਝੇ ਸੰਕਲਪਾਂ ਸਚਿਆਰ-ਕੂੜਿਆਰ, ਸੱਚ-ਅਸੱਤ, ਗੁਰਮੁਖ-ਮਨਮੁਖ, ਨਿਮਰਤਾ-ਹਉਮੈ, ਭੋਗ-ਤਿਆਗ, ਬੰਧਨ-ਮੁਕਤੀ ਆਦਿ ਨੂੰ ਅੰਤਰ-ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਰੂਪ 'ਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਕੇ ਦੋਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਕਾਰਾਤਮਕ ਅਤੇ ਨਕਾਰਾਤਮਕ ਪੱਖਾਂ ਦਾ ਬੋਧ ਕਰਾ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਫਿਰ ਸੰਜਮੀ ਜੀਵਨ-ਜਾਚ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਕਾਰਾਤਮਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਦਾ ਗੁਰ ਸਮਝਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ। 10 ਬਾਕੀ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਇਸੇ ਲਹਿਰ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਰੰਤਰ ਜਾਰੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ। ਗੁਰੂ ਅਰਜਨ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਨੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੀ ਸੰਪਾਦਨਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਦੀ ਬਾਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਮਿਲਾਵਟ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਸੰਭਾਵਨਾ ਖਤਮ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ। ਜਿਸ ਨਾਲ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਵਿਚ ਹੋ ਗਏ।"

ਉਹ ਕਬੀਰ ਬਾਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਪਰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਬਰਾਬਰ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਕਵੀ ਤੁਲਸੀ ਦਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਅਣਗੌਲਿਆਂ ਕਰ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਤੁਲਸੀ ਦਾਸ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਨਾਲ ਬੱਝਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਜਦੋਂ ਸ਼ੇਖ ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਹ ਹੁਸੈਨ ਦੀ ਰਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਤੁਲਨਾਤਮਕ ਵਿਸ਼ਲੇਸ਼ਣ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਤਾਂ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸ਼ੇਖ ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਜੀਵੰਤ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਿਤ ਹੈ ਜਦ ਕਿ ਹੁਸੈਨ ਅਸ਼ਾਤ ਨਿਜਤਾ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੰਤਾਪੀਆਂ ਭਾਵਨਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਅਰਜਨ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਸ਼ਾਹ ਹੁਸੈਨ ਦੀ ਰਚਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਹਿਬ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਦੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਸ਼ੇਖ ਫ਼ਰੀਦ ਦੀ ਬਾਣੀ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਸਿਧਾਤਾਂ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਹੋਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਕੀਤਾ।

ਪਰੰਪਰਾਵਾਦੀ ਤੇ ਖੜੋਤਮੁਖੀ ਜੀਵਨ-ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਨਕਾਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਜਮੁਖੀ ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਗਤੀਸ਼ੀਲ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ-ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਵੀਕਾਰਨ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਗੁਰੂ ਨੀਤੀ ਅਸਲ ਵਿਚ ਸਥਾਪਤੀ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੀ ਹਾਮੀ ਭਰਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਸੀ। ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਸਿਖ ਲਹਿਰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਵਚੇਤਨ ਦਾ ਅਟੁੱਟ ਅੰਗ ਬਣ ਗਈ। ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਲੋਕ-ਪੱਖੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਪਹਿਰਾ ਦਿੰਦਿਆਂ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ। ਸਥਾਪਤੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਵਿਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਮੀਰੀ-ਪੀਰੀ ਦਾ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਰੂਹਾਨੀ ਉਚਤਾ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ-ਨਾਲ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਦੇ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਨੂੰ ਉਜਾਗਰ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਸੁਲਤਾਨ ਬਾਹੂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਸੁਚੇਤ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਸੱਚ ਦੀ ਤਲਾਸ਼ ਵਿਚ ਸਾਧਨਾ ਮਾਰਗ ਉੱਤੇ ਚਲਦਿਆਂ ਹਾਸਲ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਕੀਕੀ ਗਿਆਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸੱਚੀ ਸੁਚੀ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਨਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਇਆ। ਬਾਹੂ ਅਰਬੀ ਫ਼ਾਰਸੀ ਦਾ ਇਕ ਸਿਰਕੱਢ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਿਤ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਾ ਵੀ ਇਕ ਹਰਮਨਪਿਆਰਾ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਕਵੀ ਹੋ ਨਿਬੜਿਆਂ। ਉਸਦੀ 'ਹੂ' ਅੱਜ ਤੱਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਹੂਕ ਬਣੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਸਾਧਨਾ ਮਾਰਗ ਉੱਤੇ ਚਲਦਿਆਂ ਅਧਿਆਤਮਿਕ ਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਮਸਲਿਆਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਖੁਲ੍ਹ ਕੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਏ। ਡਾ. ਲਾਜਵੰਤੀ ਰਾਮਾ ਕ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਨਾ ਨੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚਿੰਤਨਵਾਦੀ ਸਕੂਲ ਦਾ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਮੰਨਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸੁਲਤਾਨ ਬਾਹੂ ਦੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਾਵਿ-ਰਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਮੁਖ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਇਸ਼ਕ ਹਕੀਕੀ ਦਾ ਸੰਕਲਪ, ਮੁਰਸ਼ਿਦ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਰੂਹਾਨੀ ਗਿਆਨ ਤੇ ਸ਼ਰੀਅਤ ਦੀ ਰੂਹਾਨੀ ਵਿਆਖਿਆ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸਨੇ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਦੀ ਨਾਸ਼ਮਾਨਤਾ ਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਸਹਿਨਸ਼ੀਲਤਾ ਦੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ। ਪਾਖੰਡੀ ਆਲਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਭੰਡਿਆ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਆਲਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਹਿਦਤ ਦੇ ਦਰਿਆ ਵਿਚ ਚੁਭੀ ਲਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਇਨਸਾਨੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਪਾਠ ਪੜ੍ਹਨਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਜ਼ਬਰ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਖਾਲਸੇ ਦੀ ਸਥਾਪਨਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਭੇਦਭਾਵ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਅਪਨਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਪੰਜ ਪਿਆਰੇ ਸਾਜੇ ਜੋ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਜਾਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਪੈਰੋਕਾਰ ਸੀ। ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਨੇ ਸਾਹਿਤ, ਧਰਮ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਲੋਕ-ਹਿਤ ਦੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੇ ਪਤਨਮਈ ਸਾਮੰਤਕ ਬਣਤਰ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਚੁੱਕਣ ਲਈ ਹਥਿਆਰ ਵਾਂਗ ਵਰਤਿਆ।

ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿਚ ਹੋਰ ਧਰਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਸੰਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਥਾਂ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ-ਰਹੱਸਵਾਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਭਗਤ ਕਵੀ ਇਸ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਨਿਰੰਤਰਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿਚ ਸਿਖ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤੀ ਕਾਰਨ ਸਿੱਖ-ਮਿਸਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਰਦਾਰੀ ਕਾਇਮ ਹੋ ਗਈ। ਮਹਾਰਾਜਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਸਾਂਝਾ ਰਾਜ ਕਾਇਮ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਕਸਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਯਤਨ ਕੀਤੇ। ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਸਿਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਮਾਨਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ

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ਹੋਈ। ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਨਤੀਜਾ ਇਹ ਹੋਇਆ ਕਿ ਲੋਕ ਸਿਖ ਧਰਮ ਨੂੰ ਅਪਨਾਉਣ ਲੱਗੇ।

ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਲੋਕਪ੍ਰਿਯਤਾ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਾਦਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਮਰਤਾ ਸੀ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਮਤ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਕਲੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਧਿਆਤਮਕ ਖੇਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਮਾਨਵਵਾਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਸੀ। ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਦੁਰਦਸ਼ਾ ਦੀ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਾਰੀ ਕਰਦੀ ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਪੂਰੀ ਕਰਦੀ ਸੀ। ਮਨੁੱਖਵਾਦੀ ਚਿੰਤਕ ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਇਕ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੀ ਭਾਲ ਵਿਚ ਸਨ ਜਿਹੜੀ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ, ਸਮਾਜਿਕ, ਆਰਥਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਵਿਤਕਰਾ ਖਤਮ ਕਰੇ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਅਪਨਾਈ ਅਨਪੜ੍ਹ ਅਤੇ ਪੜ੍ਹੇ ਲਿਖੇ ਵਿਦਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਹੀ ਧਿਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਫ਼ੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਪਸੰਦ ਆਈ। ਸੂਫ਼ੀਵਾਦ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰੀ ਅਡੰਬਰਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਆਤਮਿਕ ਸ਼ੁੱਧੀਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਨੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦਾ ਧਿਆਨ ਖਿਚਿਆ। ਅਧਿਆਤਮਕ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਨਵੀਂ ਅਵਸਥਾ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ ਹੋਈ।

ਦੂਜੇ ਪਾਸੇ ਸਿਖ ਲਹਿਰ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਆਦਰਸ਼ਵਾਦੀ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਦੇ ਵਿਭਿੰਨ ਸੰਕਲਪਾਂ ਦੀ ਪੁਨਰ-ਵਿਆਖਿਆ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਭਾਵ-ਬੋਧ ਨੂੰ ਰੱਦਣ ਦਾ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਯਤਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਪਰਉਸਾਰ ਦੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਰਤਨ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਜਾਤ-ਪਾਤ, ਊਚ-ਨੀਚ, ਰੰਗ-ਭੇਦ, ਧਰਮ-ਭੇਦ, ਲਿੰਗ-ਭੇਦ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਦਰਜੇਬੰਦੀ ਨੂੰ ਨਕਾਰਿਆਂ ਬਰਾਬਰਤਾ, ਮਾਨਵਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਲੋਕਤੰਤਰੀ ਕਦਰਾਂ-ਕੀਮਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਥਾਪਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਸਿਖਮਤ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ।

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ਡਾ. ਦੀਪਕ
ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਸੈਂਟਰ ਫ਼ਾਰ ਡਿਸਟੈਂਸ ਐਂਡ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਐਜੂਕੇਸ਼ਨ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ

ਐਬਸਟ੍ਰੈਕਟ

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਬਾਹਰੋਂ ਆਏ ਹਮਲਾਵਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਵੇਸ਼ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕਿਹਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਉੱਥੇ ਹੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦਾ ਅੰਦਰੂਨੀ ਮਾਹੌਲ ਵੀ ਕਦੇ ਬਹੁਤਾ ਸੁਖਾਵਾਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ। ਰਾਜਿਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਰਾਜਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਜਮਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਭੁੱਖ ਅਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਫਿਰਕੂਵਾਦ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਕਾਰਨ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਧਰਤੀ ਉੱਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਹੀ ਵਹਾਇਆ ਰੱਤ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਡੁੱਲਦਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। 1947 ਵਿੱਚ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਿਰੰਕੁਸ਼ਤਾ ਖ਼ਤਮ ਹੋਣ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਭਾਰਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਧਰਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਾ ਕੇ ਹੋਣ ਲੱਗੀ, ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਭਾਰਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਘੱਟ ਗਿਣਤੀਆਂ (ਸਿੱਖ) ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਹੋਂਦ, ਅਸਤਿੱਤਵ, ਪਛਾਣ, ਸੱਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਰਾਸਤ ਨੂੰ ਖਤਰਾ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਹੋਣ ਲੱਗਾ। ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਘੱਟ ਗਿਣਤੀਆਂ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਦਵੰਦ ਆਖਿਰਕਾਰ ਇੱਕ ਘੱਲੂਘਾਰੇ ਦਾ ਰੂਪ ਇਖਤਿਆਰ ਕਰ ਗਿਆ। ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਕਾ ਨੀਲਾ ਤਾਰਾ, ਉਪਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਬਲਿਊ ਸਟਾਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸੰਕਟ, 1984, ਆਦਿ ਨਾਵਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਜਾਣਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਉੱਪਰ ਗਹਿਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਪਾਇਆ ਹੈ।

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਨਾਲ ਜੇਕਰ ਵੇਖਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ 1984 ਦੇ ਘੱਲੂਘਾਰੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਈ ਖਾੜਕੂਵਾਦ ਦੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਅਮਰ ਚਮਕੀਲੇ ਦੇ ਕਤਲ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਦੋਗਾਣਾ ਗਾਇਕੀ ਲਗਪਗ ਖ਼ਤਮ ਹੀ ਹੋ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਦੌਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਗਾਇਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਲਾਗੂ ਕੀਤੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਗੀਤ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਕਰਵਾਉਣੇ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ। ਸਾਡੇ ਇਸ ਖੋਜ-ਪੱਤਰ ਦਾ ਮਨੋਰਥ ਉਹ ਗੀਤ ਜੋ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਵਿਸ਼ਾ ਬਣਾ ਕੇ ਗਾਏ ਅਤੇ ਲਿਖੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ, ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਅਧਿਐਨ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਾ ਬਣਾਉਣਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਅਧਿਐਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੀਤਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦੇ ਬਿੰਬ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਸ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਚਿੱਤਰਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਭਾਈ ਕਾਨ੍ਹ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਭਾ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ — "ਬਿੰਬ-ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬਿੰਬ, ਛਾਇਆ, ਅਕਸ। ਉਹ ਵਸਤੂ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਤਿ-ਬਿੰਬ (ਅਕਸ) ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ।"

ਕਾਲਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੇਦੀ, "ਬਿੰਬ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਕਲਪਨਾ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਜਾਂ ਯਾਦ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਉਹ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਧਿਅਮ ਨਾਲ ਮੂਰਤੀਮਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।"[2]

ਭਾਵ ਬਿੰਬ ਇੱਕ ਅਕਸ, ਰੂਪ, ਸ਼ਕਲ, ਮੂਰਤ, ਤਸਵੀਰ ਜਾਂ ਚਿੱਤਰ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਨਿਰਮਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਚਿੱਤਰਕਾਰੀ, ਬੁੱਤਕਾਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰੀ ਆਦਿ ਕਲਾਵਾਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਬਿੰਬ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਪਰੰਪਰਾਗਤ ਸਰੋਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕਲਾਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਨਿੱਜੀ ਕਲਪਨਾ, ਭਾਵਨਾ ਜਾਂ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀਕੋਣ ਤੇ ਆਧਾਰਿਤ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਚਿੱਤਰਕਾਰ ਜਾਂ ਬੁੱਤਕਾਰ ਸਮੂਰਤ ਬਿੰਬ ਦਾ ਨਿਰਮਾਣ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਗੀਤਕਾਰ ਜਾਂ ਲੇਖਕ ਅਮੂਰਤ ਬਿੰਬ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਬਿੰਬ+ਨਿਰਮਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੋਂ ਭਾਵ ਕਿਸੇ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼, ਮੂਰਤ, ਅਕਸ, ਤਸਵੀਰ ਜਾਂ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀਕੋਣ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਲਪਨਾ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਉਸਾਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਬਿੰਬ ਇੱਕ ਨਜ਼ਰੀਆ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਲੇਖਕ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਲਪਨਾ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਿਰਜਦਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਸਰੋਤੇ ਅਤੇ ਦਰਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਸੇ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀਕੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਵੇਖਣ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਖਾੜਕੂ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਦੀ ਪਰਿਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣਨ ਲਈ ਅਸੀਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਪੰਥ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਕੋਸ਼-ਡਾ. ਰਤਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੱਗੀ, ਮਹਾਨ ਕੋਸ਼-ਭਾਈ ਕਾਨ੍ਹ ਸਿੰਘ, ਪ੍ਰਮਾਣਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕੋਸ਼ - ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਕੋਸ਼-ਭਾਈ ਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ, ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਕੋਸ਼ - ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਚਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕੋਸ਼ - ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਕੋਸ਼-ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਾਲ ਕੋਸ਼ (ਭਾਸ਼ਾ, ਸਾਹਿਤ ਤੇ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ)-ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨਿਰੁਕਤੀ ਕੋਸ਼-ਜੀ.ਐਸ.ਰਿਆਲ, ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਕੋਸ਼ - ਡਾ. ਜੋਧ ਸਿੰਘ, ਲੋਕਧਾਰਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਕੋਸ਼ - ਸ. ਸ. ਵਣਜਾਰਾ ਬੇਦੀ ਆਦਿ ਕੋਸ਼ ਨੂੰ ਵਾਚਿਆ ਪਰੰਤੂ ਬਹੁਤ ਅਫ਼ਸੋਸ ਨਾਲ ਕਹਿਣਾ ਪੈ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਅਤੇ ਧਰਮ ਦੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਕੋਸ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਜਾਂ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਇੰਦਰਾਜ ਦਰਜ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਕੋਸ਼ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੌਮ ਜਾਂ ਧਰਮ ਦਾ ਖਜ਼ਾਨਾ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਜੋ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਉਸ ਸਾਹਿਤ, ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਧਰਮ ਬਾਰੇ ਸਾਧਾਰਨ ਪੁਸਤਕਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਣਿਕ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੇਣ ਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ, ਪਰੰਤੂ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਨੂੰ ਪਰਿਭਾਸ਼ਤ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਜ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਬੁੱਧੀਮਾਨਾਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਇੰਟਰਨੈੱਟ ਵੈੱਬ ਸਾਇਟ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ-ਪੀਡੀਆ ਉੱਪਰ ਡਾ. ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਹੇਠ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦਾ ਇੰਦਰਾਜ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਅਰਥ ਖੜਕਾ-ਦੜਕਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ, ਨਿਡਰ, ਦਲੇਰ, ਸੰਗਰਾਮੀਆਂ, ਲੜਾਕੂ, ਅੱਤਵਾਦੀ, ਦਹਿਸ਼ਤਪਸੰਦ ਆਦਿ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।[3] ਦਰਅਸਲ ਇਹ ਪਰਿਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਚਲਿਤ brave, courageous, bold, daring dreaded, feared, domineering, dominating, assertive, terrorist ਆਦਿ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਂ ਦਾ ਹੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਕੇ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡੀ ਭੁੱਲ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਪਰਿਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ, ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ, ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਕਸ ਆਦਿ ਪੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਾ ਕੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਪਰਭਿਾਸ਼ਾ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਅੱਤਵਾਦੀ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਅਰਥੀ ਹੀ ਮੰਨ ਲਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ

ਮੀਡੀਆ ਅਕਸਰ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਦਲਾ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀਕ ਹਾਲਾਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਦੇਣ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦਾ ਖਾੜ੍ਹਕ ਆਪਣੀ ਅਸਤਿਤਵ ਦੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਲਈ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਕਰ ਰਿਹਾ ਯੋਧਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਦਹਿਸ਼ਤਪਸੰਦ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਜਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕਣ ਲਈ ਹਥਿਆਰਬੰਦ ਲੜਾਈ ਦਾ ਰਾਹ ਅਪਣਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਕੌਮੀ ਪਛਾਣ ਲਈ ਜੂਝਦਾ ਹੈ, ਅੱਤਵਾਦੀਆਂ ਵਾਂਗ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੇ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਅਧੀਨ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਹਥਿਆਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਦਾ।

ਰਾਜਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ; ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ (ਅਕਾਲੀਆਂ) ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੂਚੀ ਬਣਾ ਕੇ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨੂੰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ। ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਨੂੰ ਪਵਿੱਤਰ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਦਰਜਾ ਦੇਣਾ, ਹਰਿਮੰਦਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਤੋਂ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਸਿੱਧਾ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਰਿਤ ਕਰਨਾ, ਫਲਾਇੰਗ ਮੇਲ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਗੋਲਡਨ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਐਕਸਪ੍ਰੈਸ ਕਰਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਆਲ ਇੰਡੀਆ ਗੁਰਦਵਾਰਾ ਐਕਟ ਬਨਾਉਣਾ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਸਨ। ਇਹ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਬਹੁਤੀਆਂ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਆਸਾਨੀ ਨਾਲ ਮੰਗੀਆਂ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਸਨ ਪਰ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਜਿੰਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਦੇਣਾ, ਦਰਿਆਈ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਅਤੇ ਆਨੰਦਪੁਰ ਮਤੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਰਾਜਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵੱਧ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਦੇਣ ਦੀਆਂ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਦੂਸਰੇ ਰਾਜਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਸੰਵਿਧਾਨਕ ਚੌਖਟੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਸਨ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੱਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸੌੜੇ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਹਿਤਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਉੱਠ ਕੇ ਦੂਰਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਵਾਲੀ ਸੋਚ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਸੀ ਜੋ ਬਦਕਿਸਮਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਂਗਰਸ ਪਾਸ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ। ਕਾਂਗਰਸ ਅੱਗੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਹਿਮਾਚਲ ਦੀਆਂ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਵੋਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਬਣੀ ਹੋਈ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਅਕਾਲੀਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਦੇ ਕਈ ਦੌਰ ਹੋਏ ਪਰ... ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਦੇ ਦੌਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਅਸਫਲਤਾ ਨੇ ਅਕਾਲੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਸਾਖ ਕਮਜ਼ੋਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਭਿੰਡਰਾਂਵਾਲੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਵਿਤਕਰੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਗੱਲਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤੀ ਮਿਲੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਣਾ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਇਹ ਸੁਰ ਤਿੱਖੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਆਪਣਾ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਵਿਰਸਾ ਛੱਡ ਕੇ ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਦੇ ਗੁਲਾਮ ਬਣੇ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ।[4]

ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ, ਅਸਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਜੋ ਗੱਲ ਅਕਾਲੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਕੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਾਂਗਰਸ ਅਤੇ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਜੜ੍ਹੋਂ ਉਖਾੜਨ ਲਈ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਉਹ ਅਪਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਕੀਤਾ, ਉਹ ਸੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਵੱਖਰੀ ਕੌਮ ਮੰਨਣਾ।[5]

ਭਾਵ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਜਨਮ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਦੀ ਸੌੜੀ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਤੇ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੀ ਹੋਇਆ। ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਪਛਾਣ, ਆਪਣੇ ਰਾਜ ਉੱਪਰ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਕਤੀ, ਆਪਣੀ ਰਾਜਧਾਨੀ ਤੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਲੈਣ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਸਨ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨੇ ਪੂਰਾ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਪਾਸਾ ਵੱਟਿਆ। ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਨੇ ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਰਾਜਸੀ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਮਹੱਤਤਾ ਦਿੱਤੀ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਦੇ ਮਾੜੇ ਵਿਵਹਾਰ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਬੇਗਾਨਗੀ ਦਾ ਅਹਿਸਾਸ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਅੰਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੜਾਈ ਸਿਰੇ ਨਾ ਲੱਗਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਹਥਿਆਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੜਾਈ ਦਾ ਮਾਹੌਲ ਬਣਿਆ। ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਦੀ ਏਕੀਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਨੀਤੀ ਤਹਿਤ ਇਕ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ, ਇਕ ਰਾਜ, ਇੱਕ ਧਰਮ ਅਤੇ ਇੱਕ ਸਭਿਅਤਾ ਦੇ ਅਜੰਡੇ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਸਿੱਖ ਦੀ ਸਵੈ-ਪਛਾਣ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਇਮ ਰੱਖਣ ਦੀ ਇੱਛਾ ਸੱਤਾ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਹੋਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਟਕਰਾਅ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਬਣੀ।

ਖੜ ਖੜ ਕਰਕੇ ਕੁੰਡਾ ਖੜਕਿਆ, ਸਭ ਜੁੱਲਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੁਕ ਗਏ
ਬਾਪੂ ਨੇ ਅਰਲ ਬੂਹੇ ਦੀ ਖੋਲ੍ਹੀ, ਤਖ਼ਤਪੋਸ਼ ਤੋਂ ਉੱਠ ਕੇ
ਰੱਜੇ ਦਾਰੂ ਨਾਲ ਪੰਜ ਪੁਲਸੀਏ ਘਰ ਨੂੰ ਪੈ ਗਏ ਟੁੱਟ ਕੇ
ਵੱਡੇ ਬਾਈ ਨੂੰ ਕੈਂਟਰ ਲੈ ਗਈ, ਜੁੱਤੀ ਆਲਿਓਂ ਚੁੱਕ ਕੇ
ਛੋਟੀ ਭੈਣ ਦੀ ਪਾੜ ਕੇ ਚੁੰਨੀ, ਗਏ ਵੱਡੀ ਬੀਬੀ ਤੇ ਥੁੱਕ ਕੇ
ਮਾਂ ਨੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਜੰਮਿਆਂ ਖਾੜਕੂ, ਬਣਿਆਂ ਅੰਦਰੋਂ ਫੂਕ ਕੇ (ਹਿੰਮਤ ਸੰਧੂ)

ਇਸ ਗੀਤ ਦੇ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਬੋਲਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟ ਜਾਪਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਅੰਦਰੂਨੀ ਨਹੀਂ, ਸਗੋਂ ਬਾਹਰੀ ਜਬਰ ਤੇ ਕਰੂਰਤਾ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਥਿਆਰ, ਸੈਨਾ, ਜੰਗ, ਫੌਜ, ਲੜਾਈ ਆਦਿ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਦਾ ਆਗਾਜ਼ ਵੇਖਣਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਪਰਿਪੇਖ ਵੱਲ ਝਾਤ ਮਾਰ ਲੈਣੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ। ਪਹਿਲੇ ਪੰਜ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਨਾਂ ਕੋਲ ਕੋਈ ਹਥਿਆਰਬੰਦ ਸੈਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ ਤੇ ਨਾਹੀਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਕੋਈ ਜੰਗ ਲੜੀ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਵਕਤ ਤੱਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਦੀ ਨੀਂਹ ਵੀ ਰੱਖੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ ਤੇ ਆਦਿ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੀ ਸੰਪਾਦਨਾ ਵੀ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਸੀ। ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਲੜਾਈ ਹਥਿਆਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਹੀਂ, ਸਗੋਂ ਬਾਹਰੀ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਅੰਦਰੂਨੀ ਭਾਵ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਮਨੋਵਿਕਾਰ (ਕਾਮ, ਕ੍ਰੋਧ, ਲੋਭ, ਮੋਹ, ਹੰਕਾਰ) ਜਾਂ ਗੁਰਮੁੱਖ ਤੇ ਮਨਮੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਅਧਿਆਤਮਿਕ ਪੱਧਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਹੀ ਵਿਚਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਪਹਿਲੇ ਪੰਜ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਵੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮਿਲਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਦੀ ਰਜ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੇ, ਭਗਤ ਬਿਰਤੀ ਵਾਲੇ, ਸਭ ਦਾ ਭਲਾ ਚਾਹੁਣ ਵਾਲੇ, ਸੇਵਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ, ਨਿਮਰਤਾ ਦੇ ਪੁੰਜ ਅਤੇ ਫ਼ਕੀਰ ਸੁਭਾਅ ਦੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਪਰੰਤੂ ਪੰਜਵੇਂ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਨੂੰ ਜਦੋਂ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਅਤਿਆਚਾਰ ਦੇ ਰੋਸ ਵਜੋਂ ਹੀ ਛੇਵੇਂ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਮੀਰੀ ਤੇ ਪੀਰੀ ਦੀ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਦਾ ਆਗਮਨ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇੱਥੇ ਵੀ ਇਹ ਗੱਲ ਧਿਆਨਯੋਗ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਹਥਿਆਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਮਦ ਜਬਰ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਰੀ ਵਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਹੀ ਜਦੋਂ ਨੌਂਵੇਂ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਜ਼ੁਲਮ ਦੀ ਇੰਤਹਾ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਅਨਿਆਇ ਨਾਲ ਟੱਕਰ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਸਵੈ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਤੇ ਧਰਮ ਦੀ ਰਾਖੀ ਲਈ ਹਥਿਆਰਬੰਧ ਫੌਜ਼ ਭਾਵ ਖਾਲਸੇ ਦੀ ਸਾਜਨਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਕਹਿਣ ਦਾ ਭਾਵ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਬੁੱਧ

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ਧਰਮ ਤੇ ਭਗਤੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਕਾਰਨ ਅਹਿੰਸਾਵਾਦੀ ਧਰਮ ਸੀ ਪਰ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਤੇ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਕ ਦਬਾਅ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ੁਲਮ ਨੇ ਹੀ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਸਤਰਧਾਰੀ ਬਣਨ ਦੇ ਰਾਹ ਪਾਇਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਹੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਮੁੜ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ 1984 ਵਿੱਚ ਦੁਹਰਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇੰਦਰ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਭੇਜੀ ਫੌਜ ਨੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੱਕੇ ਹਰਿੰਮਦਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਉੱਪਰ ਹਮਲਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਸਿੱਖ ਦਾ ਦੁਬਾਰਾ ਹਥਿਆਰਬੰਧ ਵਿਦਰੋਹ ਕਰਨਾ ਕੋਈ ਨਿਵੇਕਲੀ ਗੱਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਜਾਪਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਤਹਿਤ ਧਰਮ ਦੀ ਰਾਖੀ ਲਈ, ਕੌਮ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਲਈ, ਅਸਤਿਤਵ ਨੂੰ ਬਚਾਉਣ, ਕੌਮੀ ਪਛਾਣ ਨੂੰ ਬਰਕਰਾਰ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਆਗਮਨ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਗਵਾਹੀ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਗੀਤ ਭਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

— ਪੌਣੇ ਤਿੰਨ ਮੈਂ ਕੰਧ ਟੱਪ ਗਿਆ ਰੱਖ ਕੇ ਮੋਢੇ ਬਾਲਾ
ਖੱਬਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਖੜ੍ਹ ਕੇ ਬੰਨ੍ਹਿਆਂ ਸ਼ੀਸ਼ੇ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਦੁਮਾਲਾ
ਨਹਿਰੋ-ਨਹਿਰੀ ਨਰਕ ਨੂੰ ਤੁਰ ਪਿਆ, ਪੁੱਤ ਬੇਬੇ ਦਾ ਪਾਲਾ
ਸਾਲ 'ਠਾਰਵਾਂ ਚੱਕੀ ਸੰਤਾਲੀ ਕਹਿ ਕੇ ਮੌਤ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਸੀ
ਚਾਕੂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਰਾਤ ਨੂੰ ਛਾਤੀ ਉੱਤੇ ਚਰਾਸੀ (ਹਿੰਮਤ ਸੰਧੂ)

— ਪੁੱਤ ਨਾ ਸੀ ਜੰਮੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਮਾਂ ਨੇ ਖਾੜਕੂ
ਨੀ ਤੂੰ ਦਿੱਲੀਏ ਬਣਾ ਤੇ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਰ ਕਰਕੇ (ਅਮਨਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਾਣਕ, ਗਿਆਨੀ ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਲਾਂਡਰਾਂ)

— ਬਚ ਬੁਰੇ ਹਾਲਾਤਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਪੱਤਾ ਪੱਤਾ ਸਿੰਘਾਂ ਦਾ ਵੈਰੀ (ਹੰਸ ਰਾਜ ਹੰਸ)

ਭਾਵ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੌਮ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਦੇ ਖਤਰੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਲੜਾਈ ਲੜ੍ਹਨਾ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਜੈਵਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਚੀੜੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਆਲ੍ਹਣੇ ਨੂੰ ਤੋੜਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਵੀ ਚੀਂ-ਚੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਨਾਰਾਜ਼ਗੀ ਤੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਸੱਪ ਦੀ ਖੁੱਡ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੱਥ ਪਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਸੱਪ ਖਤਰਾ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਡੰਗ ਮਾਰੇਗਾ। ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੁੱਤੀ ਕੋਲ ਜਿਸਨੇ ਕਤੂਰਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਨਮ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤੁਸੀ ਜਾਣ ਦਾ ਯਤਨ ਕਰੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਵੀ ਸਵੈ-ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਹਮਲਾ ਕਰੇਗੀ। ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਮਝਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦੇ ਅਸਤਿਤਵ, ਹੋਂਦ, ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ, ਪਛਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਰਾਸਤ ਨੂੰ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੁਚਲਣ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਹੀ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਹਥਿਆਰਬੰਦ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।

'ਵਾਂਗ ਲਲੈਰਾਂ ਨਹਿਰ 'ਚ ਤਰੀਆਂ ਖੇਤ ਗਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਲਾਸ਼ਾਂ', 'ਗੁਲਾਮ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਚੰਗੀ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਲਾ ਕੇ ਮੋਰਚਾ ਬਹਿ ਗਏ' ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਬੋਲਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਜ਼ਾਹਿਰ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਨੂੰ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਤੱਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਧਰਮ, ਕੌਮ ਤੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਕੀਤਾ ਜ਼ੁਲਮ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਲਾਮ ਜੀਵਨ ਤੋਂ ਨਿਜ਼ਾਤ ਪਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਇੱਛਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਜਾਂ ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਦੇ ਦੇਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਘੱਟ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਤੇ ਦੂਜੈਲੇ ਦਰਜੇ ਭਾਵ ਗੁਲਾਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਜੀਵਨ ਬਤੀਤ ਕਰੇਗਾ। ਇਸੇ ਗੁਲਾਮੀ ਦੀ ਜੰਜੀਰਾਂ ਤੋੜਨ ਲਈ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਉੱਠਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਤ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਬਾਗ਼ੀ ਸੀ ਬਾਬਾ ਨਾਨਕ, ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੀ ਬਾਗ਼ੀ
ਬਾਗ਼ੀ ਹੋ ਬੰਦਾ ਬਣਿਆ ਜੋ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸੀ ਸਾਧ ਵੈਰਾਗੀ
ਲੰਮੀ ਹੈ ਲਿਸਟ ਨੀ ਦਿੱਲੀਏ ਜੰਮਿਆ ਹਰ ਦੌਰ 'ਚ ਬਾਗ਼ੀ
47 ਵਿੱਚ ਬਾਗ਼ੀ ਫਿਰ 84 'ਚ ਬਾਗ਼ੀ
ਸਾਡੀਆਂ ਰਗਾਂ 'ਚ ਵੀ ਤਾਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਲਹੂ
ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਕਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੋਈ ਜੇ ਕੋਈ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਕਹੂ
ਅਸੀਂ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ ਪਰਾਊਡ ਜੇ ਕੋਈ ਖਾੜਕ ਕਹੂ

ਭਾਵ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿਚਲਾ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਮੀਡੀਆ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਲਕੁਲ ਉਲਟ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀਕੋਣ ਨੂੰ ਸਿਰਜਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਮੀਡੀਆ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਗਾਰਡਾਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇੰਧਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦੇ ਕਤਲ ਕਰਨ ਨੂੰ ਗੱਦਾਰੀ ਕਹਿ ਕੇ ਉਭਾਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਘੱਟ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਤੇ ਹੀਣ-ਭਾਵਨਾ ਦੀ ਬੀਜ ਬੀਜਦੀ ਹੈ ਉੱਥੇ ਹੀ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਗੀਤ ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਇੰਤਕਾਮ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਕੌਮੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਸਮਝਦੀ ਹੈ। ਖਾੜਕੂ ਕਹਾਉਣ ਉੱਪਰ ਹੱਤਕ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਮਾਣ ਕਰਦੀ ਦਿਖਾਈ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ 1984 ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਜਾਂ ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਦੀਆਂ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਾ ਕੇ ਵੀ ਗੀਤ ਲਿਖੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ। ਜਿਵੇਂ ਲੌਂਗੋਵਾਲ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇੰਧਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨੂੰ ਲੈਟਰ ਲਿਖਣਾ, ਅਕਾਲੀ ਲੀਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਾਰ ਵਾਰ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਮੁਲਤਵੀ ਕਰਨ ਨਾਲ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸੰਗਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਆਰ ਘਟਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਤ ਭਿੰਡਰਾਵਾਲਾ ਦਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਭਾਵ ਟਰੈਂਡ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਉਣਾ ਆਦਿ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੀਤ ਵਸਤੂ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ। ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਗੀਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਸੁਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਰਨਾਲਾ ਤੇ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਬੇਅੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੁਰਸੀ ਦੀ ਭੁੱਖ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਕੋਲ ਫਰਿਆਦ ਕਰਦਾ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਬਣਨ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਰਤ ਉੱਤੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਖਤਮ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਭਰੋਸਾ ਦਵਾਉਂਦਾ ਜਾਪਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਪੱਲੇ ਚੁੱਕ ਦਿੱਲੀ ਝੋਲੀ ਕਰਾਂ ਤਰਲੇ ਮਿੰਨਤ ਗੁਜ਼ਾਰੇ

ਖਾੜਕੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁੱਕੇ ਨੀ ਹਾਲੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਲਾ ਹਾਰੇ
ਇੱਕ ਵਾਰ ਦਿਉ ਮੌਕਾ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਸੱਚੀ ਆਖ ਸੁਣਾਵਾਂ
ਚੀਫ਼ ਮਨੀਸਟਰ ਬਣ ਕੇ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁਕਾਵਾਂ (ਖਾੜਕੂ ਸਿੰਘ)

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੀਤ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੀਆਂ ਤੰਗੀਆਂ ਤੁਰਸ਼ੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਰੂਪੋਸ਼ ਜੀਵਨ ਦਾ ਵੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ ਚਿੱਤਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਖਾੜਕੂ ਜੀਵਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਰ ਸਮੇਂ ਫੜੇ ਜਾਣ ਜਾਂ ਮੌਤ ਹੋਣ ਖਤਰਾ ਬਣਿਆ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪਰਿਵਾਰਕ ਮੈਂਬਰਾ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ ਰਹਿਣਾ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਹਰ ਵਕਤ ਹਥਿਆਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਪਰਛਾਵੇਂ ਵਾਂਗ ਕੋਲ ਰੱਖਣਾ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਖਾੜਕੂ ਨੂੰ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਜਾਲਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੋਧਣਾ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ, ਉੱਥੇ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਚੁਕੰਨਾ ਵੀ ਰਹਿਣਾ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪੁਲੀਸ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦਾ ਮੁਕਾਬਲਾ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਜਾਂ ਐਨਕਾਊਂਟਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਿੰਦਾਂ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂੰ ਸੀਲ ਕਰਕੇ ਐਕਸ਼ਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਆਦਿ ਹਾਲਾਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਬਿਆਨਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

— ਇਹ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਹੈ ਲਾਇਫ਼ ਏ.ਕੇ. ਬਣ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਵਾਇਫ਼
ਜਿਉਣ ਅਣਖ ਨਾ' ਮਰਨਾ ਧਰਮ ਵਾਸਤੇ (ਚੰਨੀ ਨੱਤਾਂ)

— ਖਾੜਕੂ ਨੂੰ ਫੜਨ ਲਈ ਪੁਲੀਸ ਚੜ੍ਹ ਪਈ
ਆਣ ਪਿੰਡ ਘੇਰਿਆ (ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਸਭਰਾ)

ਸਮਕਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗਾਇਕੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਵਿਰਸੇ ਤੋਂ ਟੁੱਟ ਕੇ ਪੱਛਮੀ ਨਾਇਕਾਂ ਤੇ ਖਲਨਾਇਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਦਰਸ਼ਕ ਨਾਇਕਾਂ ਵਜੋਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਰੁਝਾਨ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੁੰਦਾ। ਜੇਕਰ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਪਾਤਰਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਰਤਿਆ ਵੀ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਗੀਤਕਾਰ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੀ ਰੁਮਾਂਟਿਕ ਜਾਂ ਹਿੰਸਕ ਤੇ ਵੈਲੀਆਂ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਘਾੜਤ ਘੜ ਲਈ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਕਿਵੇਂ ਤੋੜਦੂ ਕੋਈ ਤੇਰਾ ਮੇਰਾ ਪਿਆਰ ਨੀ ਮੂਹਰੇ ਜੱਟ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਖੜ੍ਹਾ
ਹੱਥ ਵਿੱਚ ਫੜ੍ਹੀ ਤਲਵਾਰ ਨੀ ਗੁੱਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੋਹਣੀਏ ਕੜਾ (ਦਲਜੀਤ ਦੁਸਾਂਝ)

ਇਸ ਗੀਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਰਤਿਆ ਗਿਆ 'ਖਾੜਕੂ' ਚਿਹਨ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ 90 ਦੇ ਦਹਾਕੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਤ ਜਰਨੈਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਭਿੰਡਰਾਂਵਾਲੇ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਈ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਤੇ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਗ਼ੀ ਹੋਏ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਚਲਾਈ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਲਹਿਰ ਸੀ, ਜੋ ਹਥਿਆਰਬੰਦ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਅੰਜਾਮ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਸੀ। ਪਰੰਤੂ ਸਮਕਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਆ ਕੇ ਇਹ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਜਦੋਂ ਗੀਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਰਤਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਅਰਥਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਲਕੁਲ ਉਲਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਗੀਤ ਵਿਚਲਾ ਨਾਇਕ ਜੋ ਖੁਦ ਨੂੰ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਦੱਸਦਾ ਹੈ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਬਣਨ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਮਹਿਬੂਬਾ ਨਾਲ ਵਿਰੋਧੀਆਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਛੇੜਛਾੜ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਹੱਥ ਵਿੱਚ ਫੜੀ ਤਲਵਾਰ ਤੇ ਗੁੱਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਾਇਆ ਕੜਾ ਭਾਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਚਿਹਨ ਹਨ ਜੋ ਹਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਧਾਰਨ ਕੀਤੇ ਪੰਜ ਕਕਾਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਅਹਿਮ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਹਨ। ਪਰ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਇਸ ਗੀਤ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਚਿੰਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਤੇ ਮਹੱਤਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਢਾਹ ਮਾਰ ਗਈ ਹੈ ਉੱਥੇ ਹੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਪਾਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਫੁਕਰਾ ਆਸ਼ਕ ਤੇ ਬਦਮਾਸ਼ ਦੇ ਪੱਧਰ ਤੱਕ ਘਟਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਿਸੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਲਹਿਰ ਲਈ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਮਹਿਬੂਬਾ ਦੀ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਉੱਚਾ ਦਿਸਣ ਲਈ ਲੜਾਈ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਖੁਦ ਨੂੰ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡੇ ਵੈਲੀ ਤੇ ਬਦਮਾਸ਼ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਜਿਹੜਾ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਵਾਨੀ ਉੱਤੇ ਛਾਹ ਰਿਹਾ
ਮੁੰਡੇ ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਦੇ ਗਲ਼ ਨਾਲ ਲਾ ਰਿਹਾ
ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੱਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਭੜਕਾ ਰਿਹਾ
ਉਹਦੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਨਾ ਦੀ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਐਂਡ ਰਾਣੀਏ
ਛਾਇਆ ਤੀਰ ਵਾਲੇ ਬਾਬੇ ਦਾ ਟਰੈਂਡ ਰਾਣੀਏ (ਜੱਗੀ ਸੰਧੂ, ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੋਹੀ)

ਇਸ ਗੀਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦੇ ਲੀਡਰ ਸੰਤ ਭਿੰਡਰਾ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਲਾਘਾ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਦੇ ਮੁੰਡਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਮਝ ਕੇ ਗਲ ਨਾਲ ਲਾਉਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਸੀ। ਇਹ ਗੱਲ ਗੀਤਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਸੰਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ ਅਤੇ ਆਸਥਾ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਨਿਕਲੀ ਲਗਦੀ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਸੰਪੂਰਨ ਨਾਇਕ ਵਜੋਂ ਉਭਾਰਨ ਦਾ ਯਤਨ ਹੈ। ਦਰਅਸਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਲਹਿਰ ਕੁੱਝ ਸਮੇਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਹੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨੇ ਤੋਂ ਭਟਕ ਗਈ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਫਿਰੌਤੀਆਂ ਲੈਣ, ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੱਸਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਕੱਢ-ਕੱਢ ਕੇ ਕਤਲ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਪੁਲੀਸ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੇਣ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਮੌਤ ਦੇ ਘਾਟ ਉਤਾਰਨ ਦੀਆਂ ਘਟਨਾਵਾਂ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਰ ਕੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਭਜਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਹਰਲੇ ਰਾਜਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਆਏ ਪੀੜਤ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਰਣ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਨਿਰੋਲ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦਾ ਰਾਜ ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਸੌੜੀ ਮਨਸ਼ਾ ਨੇ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੈਨਾ ਜਾਂ ਰਾਜ ਨਾਲ ਟੱਕਰ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਆਮ ਜਨਤਾ ਉੱਪਰ ਅਤਿਆਚਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਰਾਹ ਤੋਰਿਆ। ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਕਾਰਵਾਈਆਂ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੀ ਆਮ ਲੋਕ ਇਸ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਸਨ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੁਲੀਸ ਤੇ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਦੂਹਰਾ ਦੁਖਾਂਤ ਭੋਗਣਾ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਸੀ।

ਸਰਬਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ, "ਲੋਕ ਹੁਣ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦਾ ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹ ਕੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਕਰਨ ਲੱਗੇ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੁਣ ਅਪਰਾਧੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਹੋਰ ਕੁੱਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ ਮੰਨਿਆ ਜਾਣ ਲੱਗਾ। ਇਕ ਪਾਸੇ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਉਹਨਾਂ (ਪੇਂਡੂਆਂ) ਨਾਲ ਹਮਦਰਦੀ ਨਾਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਣ

ਲੱਗੀ ਸੀ, ਉਥੇ ਦੂਜੇ ਪਾਸੇ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਹੱਤਿਆ-ਚੱਕਰ ਵਧ ਜਾਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਲੋਕ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਹੱਤਿਆਰਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਖ਼ਿਲਾਫ਼ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਸਨ।"[6] ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤਹੀਣ ਹੋਣ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਦਸਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਦਲਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ, "ਸੰਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੁੰਦਿਆਂ ਸਿਧਾਂਤਕ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤੀ ਵਾਲਾ ਥੋੜ੍ਹਾ ਕੇਡਰ ਹੀ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਥੇਬੰਦੀ ਵਿਚ ਕੇਵਲ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ, ਦੁਖੀ ਹਿਰਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਗੁੱਸੇ ਦੀ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਭਾਰੂ ਸੀ। ਪੜ੍ਹੇ ਲਿਖੇ ਵਰਗ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਰਾਹ ਦਿਖਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਅਸਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਹੁਤੇ ਕੁਰਸੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਚਾਹਵਾਨ ਸਨ ਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨਾ ਵੀ ਸਮੇਂ-ਸਮੇਂ ਬਦਲਵੇਂ ਅੱਖਰ ਵਰਤਣ ਤੋਂ ਅਗਾਂਹ ਕੁਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ। ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਜੋ ਉਭਾਰ ਉੱਠਿਆ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਧੜੇਬੰਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਚੌਧਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਹਵਸ ਖਾ ਗਈ। ਅਸਲ ਵਿਚ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਬੁਨਿਆਦੀ ਕਾਰਨ ਕਿਸੇ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਚਨ ਬੱਧਤਾ ਦਾ ਨਾ ਹੋਣਾ ਸੀ।"[7] ਦੁਨੀਆ ਉੱਪਰ ਤਿੰਨਾਂ ਕੌਮਾਂ ਯਹੂਦੀ, ਜਪਾਨੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੇ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਜੁਲਮ ਸਹਿਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਯਹੂਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਜਪਾਨੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਘੱਲੂਘਾਰਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਲੰਘ ਕੇ ਮੁੜ ਤੋਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਜੜ੍ਹਾਂ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਮਯਾਬੀ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਯਹੂਦੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਬੌਧਿਕ ਤਾਕਤ ਕਾਰਨ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਨੋਬਲ ਪੁਰਸਕਾਰ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਨ। ਅੱਜ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਦਾ ਹਰ ਵੱਡਾ ਇਲੈਕਟ੍ਰੌਨਿਕ ਸੰਚਾਰ ਸਾਧਨ ਵਟਸਐਪ, ਫੇਸਬੁੱਕ, ਗੂਗਲ, ਗੂਗਲ ਮੈਪ, ਵਿੰਡੋ, ਐਂਡਰਾਇਡ, ਪਲੇਅ ਸਟੋਰ, ਇੰਸਟਾਗ੍ਰਾਮ, ਯੂ-ਟਿਊਬ, ਗੂਗਲ ਐਡ ਅਤੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡੇ ਬੈਂਕਾ ਉੱਪਰ ਵੀ ਯਹੂਦੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਹੀ ਬੋਲਬਾਲਾ ਹੈ। 90 ਲੱਖ ਦੀ ਛੋਟੀ ਜਿਹੀ ਆਬਾਦੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਦੇਸ਼ ਨਾਲ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਦੀ ਵੱਡੀ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਤਾਕਵ ਪੰਗਾ ਲੈਣ ਤੋਂ ਡਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਹਰ ਯਹੂਦੀ ਨੂੰ ਸੈਨਿਕ ਟਰੇਨਿੰਗ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਹਰ ਯਹੂਦੀ ਇੱਕ ਸੈਨਿਕ ਵੀ ਹੈ। ਯਹੂਦੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਦੇਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹੇ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਇਜ਼ਰਾਇਲ ਦੀ ਨਾਗਰਿਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਜਪਾਨ ਨੇ ਨਾਗਾਸਾਕੀ ਤੇ ਹੀਰੋਸੀਮਾ ਉੱਪਰ ਡਿੱਗੇ ਪਰਮਾਣੂ ਬੰਬਾਂ ਦੀ ਬਦੌਲਤ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਲੈਕਟ੍ਰੌਨਿਕ ਡਿਵਾਇਸ ਤੇ ਤਕਨੀਕ ਦੇ ਪੱਖ ਤੋਂ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁੱਢਲਾ ਸਥਾਨ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਪਰੰਤੂ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡਾ ਦੁਖਾਂਤ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਦੁੱਖ, ਗੁੱਸੇ ਤੇ ਜਜ਼ਬਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਚਿੰਗਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਿਰਜਣਾਤਮਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਤਿਭਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਦਲਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸਫ਼ਲ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਬੌਧਿਕਤਾ, ਰਣਨੀਤੀ, ਦੂਰਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਚੱਜੀ ਵਿਉਂਤ ਨਾ ਹੋਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਆਪਣੇ ਹਕੂਕ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸਫਲ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਨਿਰੋਲ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਜਜ਼ਬੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਲੜਾਈ ਲੜੀ ਪਰ ਜਦੋਂ ਭਾਵੁਕਤਾ ਮੱਠੀ ਪੈਣ ਲੱਗੀ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਯੋਗ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਨਾ ਮਿਲਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਜੇਲਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਮੌਤ ਹੀ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਹੋਈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਇਸ ਲਹਿਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਜਜ਼ਬੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਸਰਗਰਮ ਲੋਕ ਇਸ ਗਲਤੀ ਉੱਪਰ ਪਛਤਾਵਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਵੱਡੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਜੇਲ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਡੱਕੇ ਗਏ ਪਰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ 'ਚੋਂ ਅੱਜ ਤਾਈਂ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਅਜੇਹਾ ਵੀਰ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਇਆ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਮਾਨਵੀ ਗਿਆਨ, ਵਿਗਿਆਨ ਅਤੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਦਾ ਡੂੰਘਾ ਅਧਿਐਨ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਭਾਈਚਾਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਰਾਹ ਦਿਖਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਯਤਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ। ਭਾਈ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੁੱਕੀ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਗੱਲ ਬਿਲਕੁੱਲ ਠੀਕ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਦੀਵਾ (ਧਰਮਯੁੱਧ ਮੋਰਚੇ ਦੀ ਹਾਰ) ਹਵਾ ਨਾਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਬੁਝਿਆ ਉਸ ਵਿਚ ਤੇਲ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ।[8]

ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ, ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਰਮ ਲਹਿਰ ਭਾਵੇਂ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਣਿਕ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਅਤੇ ਪਰਿਪੇਖ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਹੂਣੀ ਸੀ, ਇਸ ਵਿਚ ਬਹੁਤ ਗਲਤੀਆ ਹੋਈਆਂ, ਪਰ ਇਹ ਕੌਮੀ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸੁਚੇਤ ਸੀ। ਜੂਨ 1984 ਦਾ ਘੱਲੂਘਾਰਾ, ਇੱਕਵਾਦੀ, ਇਕਾਂਗੀ ਪਰਿਪੇਖ ਦਾ ਅਭਿਆਸ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਸ਼ਾਸਕਾਂ ਦਾ 'ਉਪਰੇਸ਼ਨ' ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਅਤੇ ਕੌਮੀ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸਥਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਉੱਠੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਨੂੰ ਹਿੰਸਾਤਮਿਕ ਢੰਗ ਨਾਲ ਦਬਾਇਆ। ਇਸ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਲੋਕਤੰਤਰੀ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਉਲਟ ਸੀ।9 ਭਾਵ ਇਹ ਲਹਿਰ ਕੌਮੀ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ਤਾ ਉੱਪਰ ਹੋਏ ਹਮਲੇ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਨਿੱਕਲਿਆ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਵਹਿਣ ਸੀ। ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਪੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਉਭਾਰਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸੈਂਟਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਸ਼ਲਕੁਸ਼ੀ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ, ਸਿੰਘਾਂ ਦੀ ਬਹਾਦਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਲੜਾਈ, ਬਦਲੇ ਦੀ ਭਾਵਨਾ, ਮਾਸੂਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਤਲ ਆਦਿ ਵਿਸ਼ਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਹੁਲਾਰਾ ਦਿੰਦਿਆਂ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਚਰਚਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜੂਕ ਦੇ ਬਿੰਬ ਦੀ ਨਿਰਮਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਾਡੀਆਂ ਧਾਰਨਾਵਾਂ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆਈਆਂ ਹਨ;

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਪੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਖਦਿਆਂ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਹਮਦਰਦੀ ਪੈਦਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਗੀਤ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਭਾਵੁਕ ਜਾਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਜਜ਼ਬੇ, ਸਿਦਕ, ਨਿਡਰਤਾ ਤੇ ਬਹਾਦਰੀ ਦੇ ਸੋਹਲੇ ਤਾਂ ਗਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ ਪਰੰਤੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਅਸਫਲਤਾ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਆਲੋਚਨਾਤਮਿਕ ਟਿੱਪਣੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੇ।ਲਹਿਰ ਵਿੱਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਮੀਆਂ ਬੇਕਸੂਰ ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਤੇ ਕਤਲਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਕੋਈ ਰਾਇ ਨਹੀਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੇ।

ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਸੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਭਿੰਡਰਾਂ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਪੂਰਨ ਹਸਤੀ ਮੰਨਦਿਆਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਔਗੁਣ ਰਹਿਤ ਤੇ ਪੂਜਣਯੋਗ ਹਸਤੀ ਦੇ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਉਭਾਰਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਧੱਕੇ ਨਾਲ ਫਿਰੌਤੀਆਂ ਮੰਗਣਾ, ਬੇਕਸੂਰ ਹਿੰਦੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੱਸਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਉਤਾਰ ਕੇ ਮਾਰਨ ਆਦਿ ਕਾਰਵਾਈਆਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਕੋਈ ਨਿਰਪੱਖ ਟਿੱਪਣੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਮਿਲਦੀ।

ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿਕਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਸਗੋਂ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨਾਲ ਟੱਕਰ ਲੈਂਣ ਦੀ ਜੁੱਰਤ, ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਡੱਟ ਕੇ ਮੁਕਾਬਲਾ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਰਭੈ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਵਡਿਆਇਆ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੁੱਝ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਵਾਰ ਵਾਰ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਉਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਇਕ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਕਆਤਮਿਕ ਦਰਜਾ ਪਾ ਗਏ ਹਨ ਜਿਵੇਂ, ਏ.ਕੇ ਸੰਤਾਲੀ,

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ਤੀਰ, ਬੂਲਟ, ਲੋਈ, ਰਾਣੀ ਆਦਿ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਖਾੜਕੂ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਸੰਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੀ ਸਮਝਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਕ ਇਸ ਲਹਿਰ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਜੁੜ ਗਏ ਹਨ ਜੋ ਇਸ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਸਾਹਿਤਕ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਕਆਤਮਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਹੈ

ਗੀਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦਾ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਲੀਡਰਾਂ, ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਸਰਾਕਾਰ, ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ, ਪੁਲੀਸ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਚਰਿੱਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਗੀਤਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਉਭਾਰਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਹਰ ਗੀਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਕਰਾਤਮਿਕ ਨਜ਼ਰੀਏ ਤੋਂ ਹੀ ਚਿੱਤਰਿਆ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਹੈ।

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ਲਖਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ
ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਦੇਸ਼ ਭਗਤ ਕਾਲਜ, ਬਰੜਵਾਲ (ਧੂਰੀ)। ਮੋਬਾ. 94630-53462

ਐਬਸਟ੍ਰੈਕਟ

ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਢਲੇ ਦੌਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਵੀ ਦੂਸਰੇ ਜੀਵ ਜੰਤੂਆਂ ਵਾਂਗ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਤੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਵਿਚਰਦਾ ਸੀ। ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਦੇ ਅੰਤਰਗਤ ਬੌਧਿਕ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਰਾਹੇ ਤੁਰਦਿਆਂ ਹੌਲੀ-ਹੌਲੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਲੇ-ਦੁਆਲੇ ਦੇ ਵਰਤਾਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣਾ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀਤਾ। ਜਿਉਂ ਜਿਉਂ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਲੇ-ਦੁਆਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਦਾ ਗਿਆ ਤਿਉਂ ਤਿਉਂ ਉਸਦੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਦਾ ਘੇਰਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਗਿਆ। ਉਸਦੀ ਦਿਸਦੇ ਜਗਤ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਨੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਨਮ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਇਹ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਲੇ-ਦੁਆਲੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਅਨੁਭਵਾਂ, ਕਰਮਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਕਰਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਾਵਨਾਤਮਕ ਅਤੇ ਬੌਧਿਆਤਮਕ ਅਭਿਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟਮਾਨ ਜਗਤ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਸੋਚ ਅਤੇ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਦਾ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਬਣਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਦੋ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਂ ਵਿਚਾਰ+ਧਾਰਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਣਿਆ ਹੈ ਭਾਵ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦਾ ਆਮ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਰਥ 'ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ' ਤੋਂ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਾਂ ਇਸਨੂੰ 'ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਸੰਗਠਨ' ਵੀ ਕਹਿ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਲਈ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਵਿੱਚ 'Ideology' ਅਤੇ ਫਰਾਂਸੀਸੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ 'Ideologues' ਵਰਤਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਵਾਰ ਅਠਾਰਵੀਂ ਸਦੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਫਰਾਂਸੀਸੀ ਦਾਰਸ਼ਨਿਕ ਡੈਸਟਟ-ਦੇ-ਟਰੇਸੀ ਨੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ। "ਟਰੇਸੀ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਿਤਾਬ 'Elements 'd Ideology' ਜੋ 1801 ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਿਤ ਹੋਈ, ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਇੱਕ ਵਿਗਿਆਨ ਵਜੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਸ਼ਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ।" ਟਰੇਸੀ ਦਾ ਦਾਰਸ਼ਨਿਕ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਖ਼ਾਸ ਕਿਸਮ ਦੀ ਸਮਝ ਤੇ ਆਧਾਰਿਤ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਫਰਾਂਸੀਸੀ ਵਿਦਵਾਨ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ "ਇਹ ਜੀਵ ਵਿਗਿਆਨ ਦਾ ਅਹਿਮ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀਆਂ ਬੌਧਿਕ ਧਾਰਨਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਇੱਕ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਵਜੋਂ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਯੋਗ ਖੋਜੀ ਡੂੰਘੇ ਵਿਸਥਾਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਈ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ।" ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਰ ਇਹ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਇੱਕ ਸੁਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਵਿਗਿਆਨ ਦੇ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਵਜੋਂ ਹੋਂਦ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਇਆ ਹੈ। ਟਰੇਸੀ ਦੇ ਦਾਰਸ਼ਨਿਕ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਦਾ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਵਹਿਮਾਂ-ਭਰਮਾਂ, ਪਰੰਪਰਾਵਾਂ, ਪੂਰਵ ਕਾਲਪਨਿਕ ਧਾਰਨਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕਲਪਿਤ ਭਾਵਾਤਮਕ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਕਤ ਕਰਵਾ ਕੇ ਤਰਕ, ਵਿਵੇਕ ਅਤੇ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸੋਚਣ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਣ ਦੇ ਰਾਹੇ ਤੋਰਨਾ ਸੀ।

ਹਰ ਸਾਹਿਤਕ ਰਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਜਾਂ ਮਨੋਰਥ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਮਨੋਰਥ ਜਾਂ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਕੋਈ ਨਾ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਰਵੱਈਆਂ ਜਾਂ ਨਜ਼ਰੀਆ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਰਚਨਾ ਦੇ ਮਾਧਿਅਮ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਸੋਚ ਨੂੰ ਜਨਸਧਾਰਨ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। "ਜਦੋਂ ਕੋਈ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟਮਾਨ ਪਾਸਾਰ ਜਗਤ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੱਖੀਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਯਥਾਰਥ ਦਾ ਮਹਾਂਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ ਅਜਨਬੀਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਰਚਨਾ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਕੋਈ ਨਾ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਪਿਛੋਕੜ ਅਵੱਸ਼ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦੂਜੇ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿਰਜਣ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਦੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਸਾਧਾਰਣ ਪੱਖ ਤੋਂ ਰੂਪਾਂਤਰਿਤ ਪ੍ਰਤੱਖ ਦੀ ਯਾਤਰਾ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਬਿੰਦੂ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਮਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਪਾਠਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਸੇਧ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।" ਹਰ ਸਾਹਿਤਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਰਚਨਾ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਕੋਈ ਨਾ ਕੋਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਣਾਸ੍ਰੋਤ ਜਾਂ ਆਦਰਸ਼ਮੂਲਕ ਤੱਤ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸਨੂੰ ਉਹ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਵਰਤਾਰੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਲਿਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਦਾ ਆਧਾਰ ਕੋਈ ਨਾ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਿਕ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਹੀ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਭਿੰਨ ਹਾਲਾਤਾਂ 'ਚੋਂ ਰੂਪਾਂਤਰਿਤ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਰਹਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਿਕ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਅੰਤਰਗਤ ਤਤਕਾਲੀਨ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਕਾਲੀਨ ਪ੍ਰਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਗਤੀਵਿਧੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਲਖਾਇਕ ਹੋਣ ਦੇ ਬਾਵਜੂਦ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਅਪ੍ਰਤੱਖ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। "ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦਾ ਜਨਮ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੈਵੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਮੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਫਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਬਲਕਿ ਇਹ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਿਕ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਹੀ ਆਪਣਾ ਵਜੂਦ ਗ੍ਰਹਿਣ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸਦੀ ਤਹਿ ਵਿਚ ਤਤਕਾਲੀਨ, ਸਮਾਜਿਕ, ਆਰਥਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਿਕ ਬਣਤਰਾਂ ਕਾਰਜਸ਼ੀਲ ਹੁੰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।" ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਰ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਦੇ ਲੰਮੇ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਤੇ ਚੇਤਨ ਵਿਕਾਸਕ੍ਰਮ ਦਾ ਸਿੱਟਾ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਦੇ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਪੜਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਗੁਜਰਦੀ ਤੇ ਵਿਕਸਦੀ ਹੋਈ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸੋਚ ਅਤੇ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਪੱਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਸਮੇਂ ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਅਤੇ ਚਿੰਤਨ, ਸਾਹਿਤਕ ਹਲਕਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਚਿੰਤਕਾਂ/ਵਿਦਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਚਰਚਾ ਦੇ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਕਿ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦੀਆਂ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਵਿਧਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਚਿਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਨੂੰ ਕਵਿਤਾ, ਕਹਾਣੀ, ਨਾਵਲ, ਨਾਟਕ, ਸਵੈਜੀਵਨੀ, ਅਤੇ ਜੀਵਨੀ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਖੇਤਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਈ ਵੱਖਰਤਾ ਅਧੀਨ ਸ਼ੋਸ਼ਣ ਅਤੇ ਦਮਨ ਦੇ ਵੱਖਰੇ-ਵੱਖਰੇ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ, ਆਰਥਿਕ, ਸਮਾਜਿਕ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਵਿਧੀ ਦਾ ਯਥਾਰਥਕ ਲਿਖਤ ਰੂਪ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਸਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਚਲੀ ਤ੍ਰਾਸਦਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਲਾਮ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੀ ਵੇਦਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤਧਾਰਾ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਸਦੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਉਤਪੀੜਤ, ਸ਼ੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਅਤੇ ਦਬਾਈ ਗਈ ਧਿਰ ਦੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਗਾਥਾ ਨੂੰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉੱਥੇ ਇਹ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਰਕ ਵਰਗੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਅਨਿਆ ਪੂਰਨ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਇੱਕ ਵਿਦਰੋਹੀ ਸੁਰ ਵੀ ਉਭਾਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦਾ ਆਧਾਰ ਮਾਨਵਤਾ ਪੱਖੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਹੈ। ਮਾਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ "ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਮਵਾਦ, ਪੁਨਰਜਨਮ, ਅੰਧਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ, ਅਵਤਾਰਵਾਦ, ਕਰਮਕਾਂਡ, ਮੂਰਤੀ-ਪੂਜਾ ਅਤੇ ਅੰਧ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਮੁੱਲਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਕ ਹੈ। ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਾ, ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ, ਲੋਕਤੰਤਰ, ਬਰਾਬਰਤਾ, ਨਿਆਂ, ਸੈਕੂਲਰਇਜ਼ਮ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਨਤਾ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਰੰਗ, ਵਰਗ, ਜਾਤੀ, ਲਿੰਗ, ਖੇਤਰਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ

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ਪੂੰਜੀਵਾਦ ਦਾ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸਦਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਬਿੰਦੂ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਹੈ।" ਇਹ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਸਦੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਹਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਉੱਤੇ ਧੱਕੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ, ਸਮਾਜ, ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਪੂਰੀ ਮਾਨਵ ਜਾਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਛਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਰੂਪਮਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਦੀ ਪੁਨਰ ਵਿਆਖਿਆ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਵਿੱਚਲੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ, ਧਾਰਮਿਕ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਅਨਿਆਂ ਪੂਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਦਬਾਓ ਤੇ ਲੋਟੂ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਸਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਲਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਲਾ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਦਲਿਤ ਸਮਾਜ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਗ਼ੁਲਾਮੀ ਕਾਰਨ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਈ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਣੂ ਕਰਾਉਣ, ਚੇਤਨਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਉਸਦੇ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਲਈ ਜੂਝਣ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਿਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦਾ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਮੁੱਖ ਧਾਰਾ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦੇ ਸਮਵਿੱਥ ਇੱਕ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਸਾਹਿਤਕ ਧਾਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਖੜ੍ਹਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਅਛੂਤ, ਦਮਿਤ, ਉਤਪੀੜਤ, ਦੱਬੇ ਅਤੇ ਹਾਸ਼ੀਆਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਮੂਹ ਦੀ ਪਛਾਣ, ਹੋਂਦ, ਵੇਦਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਤੇ ਵਿਦਰੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਪਲੇਟਫਾਰਮ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕਰਵਾ ਸਕੇ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਉਸਦੀ ਸਦੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਚੱਲੀ ਆ ਰਹੀ ਚੁੱਪ ਨੂੰ ਤੋੜਨ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਹਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਤੋਂ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਆਉਣ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੱਧਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ।

ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਨੀਂਹ ਮਹਾਤਮਾ ਬੁੱਧ, ਭਗਤ ਕਬੀਰ, ਭਗਤ ਰਵੀਦਾਸ, ਭਗਤ ਨਾਮਦੇਵ, ਜੋਤਿਬਾ ਫੂਲੇ, ਪੇਰੀਆਰ ਅਤੇ ਡਾ. ਅੰਬੇਡਕਰ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਰੱਖੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਮਹਾਂਪੁਰਸ਼ਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਚਿੰਤਕਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਨਾ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਅਤੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੇ ਜੀਵਨ, ਸੰਘਰਸ਼, ਵਿਦਰੋਹ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਰਚਨਾ ਵਿਧੀ ਦਾ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਵਿਸ਼ਾ ਬਣਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਲੇਖਕਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਚਿੰਤਕਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਟਕਰਾਅ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਪਰੰਪਰਕ ਨੀਤੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਚਾਲਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਇੱਕ ਪਾਸੜ ਗਿਆਨ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਨਾਲ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਸਦੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਜਿਉਣ ਦੇ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੇ ਸੰਸਾਧਨਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਰਵੇ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਦਲਿਤ ਸਾਹਿਤ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਤਰਕਮਈ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਵਾਲੀ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਮਾਨਵੀ ਕਦਰਾਂ-ਕੀਮਤਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਪਹਿਰਾ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਦਾ ਗੁਰਦਾਸ ਰਾਮ ਆਲਮ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਉਭਰਦਾ ਹੈ। "ਗੁਰਦਾਸ ਰਾਮ ਆਲਮ ਸਟੇਜੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਰੋਤਾਮੁੱਖ ਸ਼ਾਇਰੀ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਸੀ ਜਿਸਨੇ ਸਤਹ ਤੇ ਵਿਚਰਦੀ ਵਾਸਤਵਿਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਛੰਦ-ਬੱਧ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਢਾਲਿਆ। ਉਸਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ-ਚੇਤਨਾ ਦੇ ਮਹਿਦੂਦ ਹੋਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਨਿਖੇੜ ਉਤਪੰਨ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਅਸਮਰੱਥ ਰਹੀ ਜਿੱਥੋਂ ਜਾਤੀ-ਵਰਤਾਰੇ ਦੇ ਧੁਰ ਡੂੰਘ 'ਚ ਕਾਰਜਸ਼ੀਲ ਨੇਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਵਿਕ ਰੂਪਾਂਤਰਣ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ। ਪਰੰਤੂ ਇਹ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਪਾਤਰ, ਉਸਦੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਅਤੇ ਪਛਾਣ ਇੱਕ ਵੱਖਰੇ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਸੂਝ-ਚੇਤਨਾ ਦਾ ਆਰੰਭ ਬਿੰਦੂ ਹੈ। ਗੁਰਦਾਸ ਰਾਮ ਆਲਮ ਸਰਲ ਚਿੱਤ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਲਈ ਫ਼ਿਰਕਾਪ੍ਰਸਤੀ, ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਵਿਤਕਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਜਾਤੀ-ਵਿਤਕਰਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਅੰਤ ਲਾਜ਼ਮੀ ਹੈ" ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਰਨ ਦਾਸ ਨਿੱਧੜਕ, ਚਾਨਣ ਲਾਲ ਮਾਣਕ, ਪ੍ਰੀਤਮ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਮੰਗੂ ਰਾਮ ਮੁੱਗੋਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਚਾਰਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। "ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਕਾਵਿ-ਪਾਠ ਦਲਿਤ, ਦਮਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੱਸਿਆਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਕਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇੱਥੋਂ ਤੱਕ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਦੌਰ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਗਦਰ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਵੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਾਂਝ ਕਾਇਮ ਰੱਖਦੀ ਹੈ।" ਮੁੱਢਲੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦੇ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਕਵਿਤਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਹੁਤ ਨਿਸੰਗ ਤੇ ਦਲੇਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਜੀਵਨ ਦਾ ਚਿਤਰਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ।

ਅਗਲੇਰੇ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਦੌਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਗਤੀਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਜੁਝਾਰਵਾਦ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਜਿਹੜੇ ਕਵੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਏ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ, ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਸੰਤ ਰਾਮ ਉਦਾਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਗੌਲਣਯੋਗ ਹਨ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੋਹਾਂ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਲਿਤ ਜੀਵਨ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਓਵਾਦੀ/ਆਦਰਸ਼ਵਾਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੇ ਨੁਕਤੇ ਤੋਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਪਰ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੋਨਾਂ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਕਾਵਿ-ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਮੂਲੋਂ ਭਿੰਨ ਹੈ। ਸੰਤ ਰਾਮ ਉਦਾਸੀ ਦੀ ਕਾਵਿਤਾ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਪਰਿਪੇਖ ਮੁੱਖ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਮਿਹਨਤਕਸ਼ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਖ਼ਾਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਖੇਤ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰਾਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ, ਦਲਿਤਾਂ, ਸ਼ਹਿਰੀ/ਸਨਅਤੀ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰਾਂ, ਦਸਤਕਾਰਾਂ, ਛੋਟੇ ਨੌਕਰ ਕਰਮਚਾਰੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਹੱਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਤੇ ਮਿਹਨਤਕਸ਼ ਵਰਗ ਦਾ ਸ਼ੋਸ਼ਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਵਰਗ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗੀਰਦਾਰ, ਸਰਮਾਏਦਾਰ, ਅਫ਼ਸਰਸ਼ਾਹੀ, ਰਾਜ-ਨੇਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਖੰਡੀ ਅਧਿਆਤਮਿਕ ਆਗੂ ਆਦਿ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਹੈ। "ਸੰਤ ਰਾਮ ਉਦਾਸੀ ਲੋਕ-ਕਾਵਿ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਕਾਵਿ-ਪੈਟਰਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਢਾਲ ਕੇ ਪ੍ਰਗੀਤਕ ਕਾਵਿ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰਗੀਤਾਤਮਕਤਾ ਕੰਮੀਆਂ, ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰਾਂ, ਵਿਹੜਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਤ੍ਰਾਸਦਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਤਰਸਯੋਗ ਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਸੰਘਣੀ ਬਿੰਬਕਾਰੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਰੁਦਨ ਸਿਰਜਦੀ ਹੈ। ਰੁਦਨਮਈ ਸੁਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਦਾਸੀ ਦੇ ਕ੍ਰਾਂਤੀਕਾਰੀ ਗੀਤ ਜੁਝਾਰੂ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦੀ ਵੱਡੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਕਹੇ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।" ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਸੰਤ ਰਾਮ ਉਦਾਸੀ ਦਲਿਤਾਂ ਤੇ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਚੇਤਨਤਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪਰੰਪਰਾ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ਸ਼ੀਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਕ ਵਿਰਸੇ ਅਤੇ ਲੋਕ ਕਾਵਿ ਨੂੰ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਵਜੋਂ ਵਰਤਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਦਾਸੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾਈ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ ਨੂੰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਾਰਕਸਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਨਕਸਲਬਾੜੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਕਾਰਨ ਹਥਿਆਰਬੰਦ ਇਨਕਲਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਡਲ ਵਜੋਂ ਗ੍ਰਹਿਣ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਦਾਸੀ ਕਾਵਿ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਲਿਤ ਔਰਤ ਦੀ ਤ੍ਰਾਸਦਿਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਬਿਆਨਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। 'ਚੂੜੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਹੋਕਾ', 'ਮਰਦਾਨੇ ਨੂੰ ਮਰਦਾਨਣ ਦਾ ਖ਼ਤ', 'ਕਾਲੀ ਕੁੜੀ ਦਾ ਗੀਤ', 'ਡੋਲੀ' ਆਦਿ ਗੀਤ ਔਰਤ ਦੀ ਦੁਰਦਸ਼ਾ ਨੂੰ ਔਰਤ ਦੇ ਮੂੰਹੋਂ ਹੀ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਯਤਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸ਼ੋਸ਼ਕ ਧਿਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਵੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਔਰਤ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਸ਼ੋਸ਼ਣ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਔਰਤ ਦੀ ਅਨਪੜ੍ਹਤਾ, ਆਰਥਿਕ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਸਮਰੱਥ ਨਾ ਹੋਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਭੂਮੀ ਹੀਣਤਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਹਨ ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਵਸਤੂ ਦੇ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਹੀ ਸਮਝਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਔਰਤ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਧਰਾਂ ਰਾਣਾਂ ਦੇ ਘਰ ਝਾੜੂ ਪੋਚਾ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ, ਸੜਕਾਂ ਤੇ ਰੋੜੀ ਕੁੱਟਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਧਨਾਢਾਂ ਦੀ ਕਾਮੁਕ ਅੱਖ ਤੇ ਅਸ਼ਲੀਲ ਟਿਚਕਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਹੀ ਤਿਣਕਾ ਤਿਣਕਾ

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ਕਰਕੇ ਟੁੱਟ ਜਾਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਸੰਤ ਰਾਮ ਉਦਾਸੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਔਰਤ ਦੀਆਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਖ਼ਾਹਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੇ ਟੁੱਟਣ ਦੀ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਇਉਂ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਚਾਵਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਚੜ੍ਹਾਈਆਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ, ਦਿਲ ਵਿਚ ਕਈ ਉਮੰਗਾਂ
ਨਾ ਛਣਕਾਈਆਂ, ਨਾ ਚਾਅ ਲੱਥੇ, ਨਾ ਹੀ ਲੱਥੀਆਂ ਸੰਗਾਂ
ਸਿਖਰ ਦੁਪਿਹਰੇ ਸੜਕ ਕਿਨਾਰੇ, ਤਿੜ ਤਿੜ ਕਰਕੇ ਟੁੱਟੀਆਂ
ਰੋੜੀ ਕੁੱਟਦੀ ਹੋਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰ ਕੁੜੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਵੰਗਾਂ

ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਵਿਸ਼ਲੇਸ਼ਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਕਵੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਚਿੰਤਨੀ ਸੂਝ ਨਾਲ ਪ੍ਰਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਵਰਣਨ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਰਤਾਂਤ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। "ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਪ੍ਰਤਿਭਾਸ਼ੀਲ ਕਵੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀ ਸੰਰਚਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਤੀ-ਜਮਾਤੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਉਸਾਰ ਕੇ ਧੁਰ ਡੂੰਘ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਦਾ ਹੈ। ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਦਲਿਤ ਅਤੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਔਰਤ ਦੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਇੱਕੋ ਜਿੰਨੇ ਅਰਥ-ਬੋਧ ਨਾਲ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀਗੋਚਰ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਵਿਚ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਅਤੇ ਔਰਤ ਦੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਦਾ ਇਕਸੁਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਭਾਵ-ਬੋਧ ਹੈ" ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਦੀਆਂ ਕੁਝ ਸਤਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਾਚਣਾ ਜਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ।

ਸ਼ਾਮ ਦਾ ਰੰਗ ਫਿਰ ਪੁਰਾਣਾ ਹੈ
ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਨੇ ਬਸਤੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਫੁਟਪਾਥ
ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਝੀਲ ਕੋਈ ਦਫ਼ਤਰੋਂ
ਨੌਕਰੀ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਜਵਾਬ
ਪੀ ਰਹੀ ਏ ਝੀਲ ਕੋਈ ਜਲ ਦੀ ਪਿਆਸ
ਤੁਰ ਪਿਆ ਏ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਕੁਝ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਰਾਹ
ਛੱਡ ਤੁਰੇ ਹਨ
ਇਕ ਹੋਰ ਗੈਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ
ਛੱਜਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ
ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਏ ਲੰਮਾ ਲਾਰਾ
ਝਿੜਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਭੰਡਾਰ ਲੱਦੀਂ
ਲੰਮੇ ਸਾਇਆਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ-ਨਾਲ
ਗਧਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਬੈਠੇ ਨੇ ਜੁਆਕ
ਪਿਓਆਂ ਦੇ ਹੱਥਾਂ 'ਚ ਕੁੱਤੇ ਹਨ
ਮਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਿੱਠ ਪਿੱਛੇ
ਬੱਧੇ ਪਤੀਲੇ ਹਨ
ਪਤੀਲਿਆਂ 'ਚ ਮਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਪੁੱਤ ਸੁੱਤੇ ਹਨ
ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਏ ਲੰਮਾ ਲਾਰਾ
ਮੋਢਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਚੁੱਕੀਂ ਕੁੱਲੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਬਾਂਸ
ਇਹ ਭੁੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਰੇ ਕੌਣ ਆਰੀਆ ਹਨ?
ਇਹ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਨੇ ਰੋਕਣ
ਕਿਸ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ

ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਦਲਿਤ ਪਛਾਣ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਕਿਸਮ ਦੀ ਨਫ਼ਰਤੀ, ਬਦਲਾ ਲਊ ਅਤੇ ਦਵੈਸ਼ੀ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਕਤ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਮਾਰਕਸੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਅਤੇ ਨਕਸਲੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਹੋਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਕ੍ਰਾਂਤੀਕਾਰੀ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਹੈ ਪਰੰਤੂ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀ ਸੰਰਚਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਤੇ ਉਸ ਅੰਦਰ ਵਿਚਰਦੇ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੇ ਕੌੜੇ, ਕਠੋਰ ਤੇ ਭਿਆਨਕ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਕਰਕੇ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਣਿਕ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਅਰਧ ਜਗੀਰੂ ਕਦਰਾਂ-ਕੀਮਤਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਪਾਤਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਦਰੋਹ ਪੂਰਵਕ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਜ਼ਿੱਲਤ ਭਰਿਆ ਜੀਵਨ ਬਤੀਤ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। "ਉਹ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਤੀ-ਪਾਤੀ ਪ੍ਰਥਾ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਦਰਸਾਉਣ ਵਿਚ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਨਹੀਂ ਰੱਖਦਾ। ਉਹ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੱਧਤਾ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਬੁਨਿਆਦੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਤਬਦੀਲੀ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦਾ ਜਮਾਤ ਰਹਿਤ ਸਮਾਜ ਦਾ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀਕੋਣ ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਤਪਾਤ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਜਮਾਤੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ" ਦਿਲ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ 'ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣਵਾਦੀ' ਜਲਵੇ ਵਾਲੀ ਉਸ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਦਾ ਜ਼ਿਕਰ ਵੀ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ ਤੋਂ ਵੰਚਿਤ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। "ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਭਾਰਤ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਕਵੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ ਪਰਾਏ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਹਰੋਂ ਆਏ ਆਰੀਆ ਧਾੜਵੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਇੰਨੇ ਸਿਤਮ ਢਾਏ ਕਿ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅਸਲੇ ਦੀ ਪਹਿਚਾਣ ਹੀ ਗੁਆ ਕੇ ਰੱਖ ਦਿੱਤੀ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ, ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਲੋਕ-ਨਾਇਕ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਸਭ ਸੱਭਿਆਚਾਰਿਕ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ-ਚਿੰਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਮਲੀਆਮੇਟ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ।" ਦਿਲ ਦੇ ਵੇਲੇ ਅਤੇ ਅੱਜ ਕੱਲ ਵੀ ਗਧੇ ਲਈ ਫਿਰਦੇ, ਝਿੜਕਾਂ ਖਾਂਦੇ, ਪਿੰਡੋਂ ਪਿੰਡ ਤੇ ਜੰਗਲ-ਜੰਗਲੀ ਖੱਜਲ-ਖਵਾਰ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਲਾਰੇ ਬਣਾ-ਬਣਾ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ, ਭੁੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਰੇ ਇਹ ਉਹੀ ਨਾਗ ਲੋਕ ਹਨ ਜੋ ਆਰੀਆ ਦੇ ਆਉਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਇਸ ਧਰਤੀ ਦੇ ਕਦੇ ਰਾਜੇ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਣੀਆਂ ਹੋਇਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਸਨ। ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਰੀਆ ਸਮਾਜ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚ ਆਤਮਸਾਤ ਕਰਨ 'ਚ

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ਅਸਫਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ, ਤੇ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣਵਾਦ ਦੀ ਅਧੀਨਗੀ ਕਦੇ ਵੀ ਕਬੂਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ। ਇਹੀ ਲੋਕ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਸਿਆਸਤ ਅਤੇ ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣਵਾਦੀ ਵਿਧਾਨ ਨੇ ਮਨੁੱਖਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਅਛੂਤ, ਪੰਚਮ, ਢੇਡ, ਪੇਰੀਆ, ਚੰਡਾਲ, ਹਰੀਜਨ ਅਤੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਆਦਿ ਬਣਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ, ਲਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਿੰਗਾਰ ਬਣਦੇ ਹਨ।"

ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਲਿਤ ਮੁਕਤੀ, ਪਛਾਣ, ਸ਼ਕਤੀਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਣਾਤਮਕ ਪੱਖੋਂ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਹੈ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਲਬੀਰ ਮਾਧੋਪੁਰੀ, ਮਦਨ ਵੀਰਾ, ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਕੱਲਰਮਾਜਰੀ, ਮੋਹਨ ਤਿਆਗੀ, ਸੰਤੋਖ ਸੁੱਖੀ, ਸਤਪਾਲ ਭੀਖੀ, ਬੂਟਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਸ਼ਾਂਤ, ਸਿਰੀ ਰਾਮ ਅਰਸ਼, ਗੁਰਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ, ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸੰਧੂ, ਰਾਮਪਾਲ ਸ਼ਾਹਪੁਰੀ, ਡਾ. ਮਨਮੋਹਨ, ਸੁਲੱਖਣ ਮੀਤ, ਮਲਕੀਤ ਜੌੜਾ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਹਨ। ਇਹ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਸੁਚੇਤ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੱਧ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਲਿਖ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਅਧੀਨ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਦੀ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਅਣਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਨੂੰ ਉਸਦੇ ਵਿਭਿੰਨ ਪਾਸਾਰਾਂ, ਆਯਾਮਾਂ ਤੇ ਸੰਭਾਵੀ ਦਿਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਸਮੇਤ ਚਿਤਰਨ ਸਮੇਂ ਭਵਿੱਖਮੁਖੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਅਪਣਾਈ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਦੀ ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਸੰਕਟ-ਗ੍ਰਸਤ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਧਿਰਾਂ, ਸਮਾਜਕ, ਧਾਰਮਿਕ, ਰਾਜਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਸੰਸਥਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਲੁਕਵੇਂ ਉਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨਦੇਹੀ ਵੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਦੇ ਬਦਲਵੇਂ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਜਾਂ ਨਵੇਂ ਮੁੱਲ-ਵਿਧਾਨ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਵੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਨਾਇਕ ਕਰੁਣਾਮਈ ਨਹੀਂ, ਚਿੰਤਨਸ਼ੀਲ ਹੈ, ਬੇਵੱਸ ਰੋਂਦੂ ਨਹੀਂ, ਅਮਾਨਵੀਂ ਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੂਝਣ ਲਈ ਤਤਪਰ ਹੈ। ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਦੀ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਅਮਾਨਵੀਂ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਲਈ ਪੰਜ ਧਿਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਠਹਿਰਾਇਆ ਹੈ। "(ੳ) ਮਨੂਵਾਦੀ ਵਰਣ-ਵਿਵਸਥਾ, (ਅ) ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣੀ ਕਰਮ-ਕਾਂਡ ਆਧਾਰਿਤ ਸਨਾਤਨੀ ਧਰਮ ਚੇਤਨਾ, (ੲ) ਮੌਕਾਪ੍ਰਸਤ ਬੁਰਜੂਆ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ, (ਸ) ਸਾਮੰਤੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਤੇ ਸੰਸਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਰਹਿੰਦ-ਖੂੰਹਦ ਵਾਲਾ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਮੁੱਲ-ਵਿਧਾਨ, (ਹ) ਆਪਣੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਦੇ ਮਸਲਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਵਰਗ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਸਾਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਖ਼ਬਰ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਦੀ ਭਰਮ-ਚੇਤਨਾ" ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਾਵਿ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਧਿਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਲਖ-ਤੇਜ਼ਾਬੀ ਰੌਂਦਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੰਗਾਰਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜਾਂ ਕਟਾਖਸ਼ੀ ਅੰਦਾਜ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਵੈਧਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਚੁਣੌਤੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਉਦਾਹਰਣ ਵਜੋਂ

ਹੁਣ ਤਾਂ
ਸੁੰਘੜ ਕੇ ਰਹਿ ਗਿਆ
ਦੂਰੀਆਂ ਦਿਖਾਉਂਦਾ ਖਲਾਅ ਵੀ
ਧੁੱਪਾਂ ਦੇ ਰੰਗ ਵਾਂਗ
ਇਕਮਿਕ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਨੇ
ਸੱਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਸੱਤ ਮਹਾਂਦੀਪ ਵੀ
ਕੱਚ ਵਾਂਗ ਟੁੱਟ ਗਈ
ਰੇਤ ਵਾਂਗ ਢਹਿ ਗਈ ਹੈ
ਬਰਲਿਨ ਦੀ ਦੀਵਾਰ ਵੀ
ਮੇਰੀ ਸੰਸਕ੍ਰਿਤੀ ਦੇ ਬੱਜਰ-ਕਪਾਟ
ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਲੱਗੇ ਨਾ ਚਾਬੀ
ਕੋਈ ਤਰਕ ਕਰੇ ਨਾ ਕਾਟ

ਮੈਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ ਚਾਹੀਦੇ ਵੇਦ ਮੰਤਰ
ਨਾ ਹੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਹਵਨ ਸਮੱਗਰੀ
ਕਿਸੇ ਪੁਜਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਮੈਨੂੰ
ਨਾ ਹੀ ਸੰਖ ਖੜਤਾਲਾਂ ਨੇ ਮਿਟਾਉਣੀ ਹੈ
ਮੇਰੀ ਪਿਆਸ...
ਮੈਂ ਤਾਂ/ਆਪਣੀ ਵਰ੍ਹਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਬੇਵਸੀ ਚੋਂ
ਅੱਖਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਨਿਕਲੇ ਹੰਝੂਆਂ ਦੀ ਲੱਪ ਭਰ ਕੇ
ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਦੀ ਬਲੀ ਵੇਦੀ ਤੇ/ਪਾਉਣੀ ਹੈ ਇਕ ਅਹੂਤੀ
ਤੇ ਮਾਨਣਾ ਹੈ/ਜੀਵਨ

"ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਦਮਨਕਾਰੀ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ, ਬੁਰਜ਼ੂਆ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਮਨੂਵਾਦੀ ਵਰਣ-ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਟੇ ਹੇਠ ਰੱਖਦੇ ਹਨ, ਉੱਥੇ ਉਹ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਦੀ ਭਰਮ-ਚੇਤਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਨਕਾਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਹ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਖ਼ੁਦ ਆਪਣੀ ਅਣਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਤੇ ਤ੍ਰਾਸਦਿਕ ਹੋਣੀ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਮੰਨਦੇ ਹਨ। ਸਨਾਤਨੀ ਧਰਮ-ਚੇਤਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਕੁਲੀਨਵਾਦੀ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਮੁੱਲਾਂ ਦਾ ਪਿੱਛਲੱਗ ਅਤੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਖ਼ੁਦ ਉਸ ਭਰਮ-ਚੇਤਨਾ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਉਸਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਉਪਰਲੇ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਦਾ ਫਲਸਫ਼ਾ ਹੈ। ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵੀ ਇਹ ਸਮਝਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਸਨਾਤਨੀ ਧਰਮ-ਚੇਤਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਾਪਤੀ ਦੇ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਮੁੱਲ-ਵਿਧਾਨ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਛੱਟ ਲਾਹੇ ਬਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਿਮਨ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੀ" ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਦਨ ਵੀਰਾ ਕੋਲ ਦਲਿਤ ਜੀਵਨ ਦਾ ਡੂੰਘਾ ਅਨੁਭਵ, ਮੰਡੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਖੁਰ ਰਹੇ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ

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ਅਸਤਿੱਤਵ ਦਾ ਸੰਵੇਦਨਸ਼ੀਲ ਬੋਧ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ, ਸਿਆਸੀ, ਆਰਥਿਕ, ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਲਿਤਾੜੇ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਹੈ ਬਲਕਿ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਵੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਕਰੂਪ, ਕਰੂੜ ਤੇ ਕੋਹਜੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਵਾਦ ਰਚਾ ਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਬਦਲਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। "ਗਰੀਬੀ, ਭੁੱਖਮਰੀ, ਜਾਤਪਾਤ, ਧਰਮ, ਮੰਡੀ, ਔਰਤ, ਸਿਆਸਤ ਆਦਿ ਨੂੰ ਉਹ ਸੂਖਮ ਭਾਵਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪਕੜਦਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਵਿਅੰਗਾਤਮਕ ਤੇ ਕਟਾਖਸੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਕਵਿਤਾਵਾਂ ਕੇਵਲ ਵਰਣ-ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਰੱਦ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਪਾਰਟੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਖਾਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ" ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਮਦਨ ਵੀਰਾ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਸੋਝੀ ਕਿਰਤੀ, ਦਲਿਤ, ਗਰੀਬ, ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰ ਆਦਿ ਦੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਉਤਪਨ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਮਦਨ ਵੀਰਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਸ਼ੀਲਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਗਾਤਾਰ ਰੁਝਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਦੁਸ਼ਵਾਰੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਲਝਿਆ ਦਾਨਸ਼ਮੰਦ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਹੈ। "ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਬੁਰਜੂਆ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਹਿੱਤਾਂ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਫਿਰਕਾਪ੍ਰਸਤੀ ਜਾਂ ਜਾਤ-ਪਾਤ ਫੈਲਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਦੇ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਪਰਵਰਤਿਤ ਕਰ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ, ਵਰਗੇ ਸਵਾਲ ਦਲਿਤ ਚਿੰਤਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਵੱਡੀਆਂ ਵੰਗਾਰਾਂ ਹਨ ਜਿਸ ਵੱਲ ਮਦਨਵੀਰਾ ਸੰਕੇਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਕਿਹੋ ਜਿਹੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਜਿਹੜੀ ਘਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਬਨੇਰੇ ਪੱਕੇ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਜਾਂ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੀ ਸਾਂਝੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ 'ਚੋਂ ਬੇਜ਼ਮੀਨਿਆਂ ਲਈ ਕੁਝ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਦਾ ਰਾਹ ਅਖਤਿਆਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਬਜਾਏ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰੇ ਉਸਾਰਨ ਨੂੰ ਤਰਜੀਹ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ"

ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਲਬੀਰ ਮਾਧੋਪੁਰੀ ਦੀ ਕਾਵਿ-ਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਆਧਾਰ ਉਸਦਾ ਸਵੈ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਹੈ। ਉਸਦੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਤ ਉਤਪੀੜਨ ਵੱਡੇ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਪਸਰਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਵੀ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਵਿਹੂਣੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਵੱਖਰੇ ਸਹਿਜ-ਸੁਹਜ ਨੇ ਨੇੜੇ ਵਿਚਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਮਾਧੋਪੁਰੀ ਦੀ ਕਾਵਿਕ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਜਾਤੀ ਉਤਪੀੜਨ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਇਜ਼ ਠਹਿਰਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਮਹਾਨ ਸੰਸਕ੍ਰਿਤੀ ਦੇ ਅਪਵਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਭਾਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇੱਕੀਵੀਂ ਸਦੀ ਤੱਕ ਵੀ ਅਜੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਬਰਾਬਰੀ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਲਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਆਤਮਸਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸਮਰਥ ਹੈ। ਜਾਤ ਇੱਕ ਅਮੂਰਤ ਵਰਤਾਰਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਈ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਮਾਨਸਿਕਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਿਰਿਆ ਕਰਦਾ ਆ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣਵਾਦ ਅਮੂਰਤ-ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਖਾਸੇ ਦਾ ਚਿੱਤਰ ਖਿੱਚਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ, ਉਸ ਮਹਾਨ ਸੰਸਕ੍ਰਿਤੀ ਦਾ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਨਕਰ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਗਟ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਉਸ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀ ਪੀੜਾ ਵੀ ਸਹਿ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਜਾਤਪਾਤ, ਆਰਥਿਕ ਵੰਡ, ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ ਵੰਡ ਅਤੇ ਪੂੰਜੀਵਾਦ ਸਿਸਟਮ ਦੇ ਵਿਰੋਧਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਗ੍ਰਸਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਪੀੜਾ ਨੂੰ ਸਹਿੰਦਾ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਦੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਨਾਲ ਵੀ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਹੈ। ਮਾਧੋਪੁਰੀ ਆਦਰਸ਼ਵਾਦੀ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਧਰਮਾਂ/ਜਾਤਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਖਹਿੰਦੇ ਯਥਾਰਥ ਦੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਡੂੰਘਿਆ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਸ ਪੀੜਾ ਦਾ ਅਹਿਸਾਸ ਜਗਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਕਈ ਵਾਰ
ਪਾਲੀਓ-ਪਤਲਾ
ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਮਿੱਟੀ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਪੁਤਲਾ
ਸ਼ਬਦ-
ਜ਼ੁਬਾਨ ਦਾ ਛੱਡ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਸਾਥ
ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪਤਝੜ ਵਿਚ
ਰੁੱਖਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਪੱਤੇ
ਸਿਰੋਂ ਲੰਘ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਪਾਣੀ
ਧਰਤੀ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਵਿਹਲ
ਜਦੋਂ ਅਚਾਨਕ ਹੀ ਕੋਈ
ਪੁੱਛ ਬਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ
ਮੇਰੀ ਜਾਤ

ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਕੱਲਰਮਾਜਰੀ ਵੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਾਵਿ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੇ ਅੰਤਰਗਤ ਕੇਵਲ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਵਰਤਾਰਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੇ ਦਮਿਤ ਤੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਪ੍ਰਵਰਗਾਂ ਦੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਦੇਖਦਾ, ਸਗੋਂ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ, ਸਮਾਜ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ, ਧਰਮ ਤੇ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਤੇ ਬਦਲਣ ਦੀ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ ਵੀ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਅੰਦਰਲੇ ਜਾਤੀ ਪੀੜਤ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੇ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼, ਦਸ਼ਾ ਤੇ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਹੈ। ਕੱਲਰਮਾਜਰੀ ਦੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਮਸ਼ਲਿਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਸੰਵੇਦਨਸ਼ੀਲ ਹੈ ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਿਮਨ ਜਾਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਪੱਛੜਾਪਣ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੈ। 'ਤਿੜਕੇ ਸੁਪਨੇ' ਕਾਵਿ ਸੰਗ੍ਰਿਹ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਹ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਰਤੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਸੁਪਨਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਮਰਨ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ, ਸਗੋਂ ਤਿੜਕਾਏ ਗਏ ਸੁਪਨਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਵੀ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਦਾ ਫੋਕਸ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ ਤੇ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕੇਵਲ ਸ਼ਰਮਾਏਦਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਹੀ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੇ ਸੁਪਨੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਾਰਦਾ, ਸਗੋਂ ਭਾਰੂ ਧਿਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਸਰਦਾਰੀ ਵੀ ਨਿਮਨ ਜਾਤੀ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਸੁਪਨਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਤਿੜਕਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਲਈ ਉਹ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਪਹਿਲੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਕੇਵਲ ਆਰਥਿਕਤਾ ਤੋਂ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ, ਸਗੋਂ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਿਕ, ਸਮਾਜਿਕ, ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਮਨੋਵਿਗਿਆਨਿਕ ਪਹਿਲੂਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਚਾਰਨ ਦੀ ਤਾਕੀਦ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਦੇ ਜੀਣ ਲਈ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼, ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਹੁੰਦੀਆਂ ਬੇਹੁਰਮਤੀਆਂ, ਅਣਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਵਿਵਹਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਪੁਰਖਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਹੋਂਦ ਨਾਲ ਦਰਸਾਕੇ ਬਿੰਬ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਵਰਗ ਦੇ ਜਾਤੀ ਉਤਪੀੜਨ, ਅਨਿਆ, ਕਰੂਪ ਅਤੇ ਕਠੋਰ ਜੀਵਨ ਨੂੰ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਿਕ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਦਾ ਆਧਾਰ ਬਣਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਵਾਰ ਵਾਰ ਘੁੰਮ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਤੀਤ ਦੀ ਇੱਕ
ਧੁੰਦਲੀ ਤਸਵੀਰ
ਲੁੱਟ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੀ ਇੱਜ਼ਤ
ਢਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੇ
ਕੰਨਾਂ 'ਚ ਸਿੱਕਾ
ਇਹ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਕਿਉਂ
ਵਾਰ-ਵਾਰ
ਕੁਰੇਦ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ

ਮੋਹਨ ਤਿਆਗੀ ਦੀ ਕਾਵਿਕ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਚੌਗਿਰਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਸਰੀ ਬੇਤਰਤੀਬੀ ਨੂੰ ਉਸਦੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਂ ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਪਕੜਦੀ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਇਸ ਗਧਲੇਪਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਸਬੂਤੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਦਰਪੇਸ਼ ਸੰਕਟਾਂ ਦਾ ਹੱਲ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼, ਵਿਦਰੋਹ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਗੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਤਲਾਸਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਲਾਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਵੀ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾਈ ਆਧਾਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤਕ ਚੌਖਟੇ ਤੋਂ ਸੇਧ-ਸੂਝ ਲੈਣ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਪੁਰਖਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਲਹੂ ਬੀਟਵੇਂ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਜੜ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਨਾਖ਼ਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਆਪਣੇ ਪੁਰਖਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਵੀ ਖ਼ੁਦ ਲਿਖਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ "ਮੇਰੇ ਪੁਰਖਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਜੀਵਨ-ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਮੇਰੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਆਧਾਰ ਹੈ। ਮੇਰੀ ਸਾਰੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਇਸੇ ਹੀ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਉੱਸਰੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਇਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਜੜ੍ਹਾਂ ਵੀ ਇਸੇ ਹੀ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਵਿਚ ਨਿਹਿਤ ਹਨ। ਮੇਰੇ ਪੁਰਖਿਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਪੈੜਾਂ ਦੇ ਇਹ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਮੇਰੀ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦੇ ਆਰ-ਪਾਰ ਫੈਲੇ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ" ਤਿਆਗੀ ਦਾ ਕਾਵਿ ਨਾਇਕ ਜਾਤੀ/ਜਮਾਤੀ ਖਾਨਾਬੰਦੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੈਦ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਟੁੱਟ-ਭੱਜ ਸੰਕੀਰਣਤਾ ਤੇ ਨਿੱਜਮੁੱਖਤਾ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਦਰਪੇਸ਼ ਚੁਣੌਤੀਆਂ ਵਿਰੁੱਧ ਸੰਗਰਾਮੀ-ਲਾਮਬੰਦੀ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਿਹਨਤਕਸ਼ ਸਮੂਹ ਨੂੰ ਤਿੱਖੀ ਸੁਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਬੋਧਿਤ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਸੰਤੋਖ ਸੁੱਖੀ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਪ੍ਰਵਚਨ ਸਮੁੱਚੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ, ਆਰਥਿਕ, ਧਾਰਮਿਕ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਵਾਦ ਰਚਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਦੇ ਖੇਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੀ ਭਾਗੀਦਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਸਨਾਖ਼ਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਸੰਰਚਨਾ ਜਾਤ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਜਮਾਤ ਤੇ ਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਵਰਗ ਦੀ ਸਨਾਖ਼ਤ ਨੂੰ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਵੀ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਇਤਿਹਾਸਿਕ ਦੌਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜੀਵੇ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਵਿਧੀ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਵਾਦ ਰਚਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਉਹ ਭਾਵਪੂਰਨ ਲਹਿਜੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਲੀਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਅਸੀਂ ਉਹ ਲੋਕ ਹਾਂ
ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੜ੍ਹਨਾਂ ਪੈਂਦੇ, ਬੇਗਾਨੀਆਂ ਵੱਟਾਂ ਤੇ
ਖਾਣੀਆਂ ਪੈਂਦੀਆਂ ਨੇ, ਮਾਵਾਂ ਭੈਣਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਗਾਲਾਂ,
ਸਾਡੀਆਂ ਮਾਵਾਂ ਤੇ ਭੈਣਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੇਜ ਬਣ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ
ਕੋਈ ਵੱਟ
ਤੇ ਹਮਲ ਗਿਰਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਲੱਗਣਾ ਪੈਂਦਾ
ਕਿਸੇ ਤਜ਼ਰਬੇਕਾਰ ਦਾਈ ਦੇ ਚਰਨੀ

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਚਰਚਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ 'ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ : ਇੱਕ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾਈ ਅਧਿਐਨ' ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਜੋ ਮੁੱਖ ਧਾਰਨਾ ਜਾਂ ਸਿੱਟੇ ਉੱਤੇ ਪਹੁੰਚੇ ਹਾਂ, ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਮਨਲਿਖਤ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਦਰਜ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ।

ਦਲਿਤ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਵਿ-ਪਾਤਰ ਸਤਾਇਆ ਹੋਇਆ, ਝਿੰਬਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ, ਪੀੜਤ, ਪਤਿਤ, ਮੰਨੂਵਾਦੀ ਜਾਤੀ ਜਿੱਲਣ ਦਾ ਭੰਨਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ, ਦਹਿਸ਼ਤਿਆ ਤੇ ਨਕਾਰਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ, ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਿਕ ਹੀਣਤਾ ਹੰਢਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਇੱਕ ਸਵੈ-ਸਨਮਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਗੌਰਵ ਨੂੰ ਜਗਾਉਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਤੋਂ ਖੋਹੀ ਖਿੰਝੀ ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਬਹਾਲ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਕਰਨੀ ਲੋਚਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸਨੂੰ ਜਾਤੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਹੀਣਤਾ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕੇ। ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦਾ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ, ਸਮਾਜ, ਜੀਵਨ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼, ਨਕਾਰ, ਵਿਦਰੋਹ, ਪ੍ਰੇਰਨਾ ਸ੍ਰੋਤ, ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਅਤੇ ਦਲਿਤ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਦੇ ਪਿਛੋਕੜੀ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਮੁੱਖ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਾਰਜਸ਼ੀਲ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਸਕ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਿੱਛੜੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਦਾ ਸੱਚਾ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਣਿਕ ਰੂਪ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਜਾਂ ਦਲਿਤ ਸਮਾਜ ਨੂੰ ਨਰਕ ਭਰਿਆ ਜੋ ਜੀਵਨ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਇੱਕ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਦਾ ਅਪਰਾਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਪੂਰੀ ਦੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੈ।

ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਨੇ ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਸਥਿਤੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਲੇਸ਼ਣ ਸਮੇਂ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਵਰਣ/ਜਾਤੀ ਪ੍ਰਥਾ ਤੇ ਜਮਾਤੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਸੰਰਚਨਾ ਦੋਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕੋ ਸਮੇਂ ਧਿਆਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਨਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਬਾਬਾ ਸਹਿਬ ਭੀਮਰਾਓ ਅੰਬੇਡਕਰ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਨਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਰਕਸਵਾਦੀ ਵਰਗ-ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਬਣਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਹਾਸ਼ੀਆਕ੍ਰਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਨਵੀਂ ਪਛਾਣ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ-ਨਾਲ ਅਸਵੀਕ੍ਰਿਤੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਮਾਜ-ਸ਼ਾਸਤਰ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਵੱਲ ਵੀ ਰੁਚਿਤ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਦਮਨਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਾਪਤੀ ਦੇ ਹਰ ਜੁੱਜ ਨੂੰ ਵੰਗਾਰਦੀ ਤੇ ਵਿਸਥਾਪਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਕਾਵਿਕ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੇ ਅੰਤਰਗਤ ਵਰਣ/ਜਾਤੀ ਪ੍ਰਥਾ, ਸਾਮੰਤੀ ਸੰਸਕਾਰਾਂ, ਬੁਰਜੁਆ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ, ਅਖੌਤੀ ਲੋਕਤੰਤਰ, ਸਾਮੰਤੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤਾ-ਨਾਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ, ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣਵਾਦੀ ਕਰਮਕਾਂਡ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਤਕਰੇ ਮੂਲਕ ਅਰਥ ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਦਾ ਤਿੱਖਾ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ। ਸਮਕਾਲੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵੀ ਜਿੰਨੇ ਜਾਤੀ ਸੰਸਕ੍ਰਿਤੀ ਦੇ ਅਵਚੇਤਨੀ ਸੰਕਟਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸੁਚੇਤ ਹਨ, ਉੰਨ੍ਹੇ ਹੀ ਜਮਾਤੀ-ਵਿਰੋਧਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸਜੱਗ ਹਨ। ਜਾਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਰਗ-ਵਿਰੋਧਾਂ ਦੀ ਚੇਤਨਾ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਚਿੰਤਨ ਦਾ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਸੁਰ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਚੇਤਨਤਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੀ ਇਹ ਕਵੀ ਅਸਹਿਮਤੀ

ਵਾਲੇ ਸਮਾਜ-ਸ਼ਾਸਤਰ, ਸੁਹਜ ਸ਼ਾਸਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਕਾਵਿ ਸ਼ਾਸਤਰ ਦੀ ਸਿਰਜਣਾ ਵੱਲ ਰੁਚਿਤ ਹਨ।

ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਇੱਕ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਦਾ, ਉਸ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇੱਕ ਪੂਰੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਦਾ, ਉਸਦੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਲੀ ਦਾ, ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਦਾ, ਉਸਦੀ ਪੀੜਤ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਦਾ, ਵਿਵਸਥਾ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਿਤੀ ਦਾ, ਮਾਨਸਿਕ ਤਰਾਸ ਅਤੇ ਵੇਦਨਾ ਦਾ, ਹਾਰ ਜਾਣ ਤੇ ਗਿਰ ਜਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਉੱਠ ਖੜੇ ਹੋਣ ਦਾ ਅਤੇ ਮਰਨ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਜਿਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਦਿਸ਼ਾਹੀਣ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਭਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਅਰਥਬੋਧ ਕਰਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਅੰਗ ਹੈ ਲੇਕਿਨ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਅਨਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਦਮਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇੱਕ ਨਰਕ ਭਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਲਾਲਤ ਭਰੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਜਿਊਣ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਮਾਜ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਨਕਾਰੀ ਪਛਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਉਭਾਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਉੱਥੇ ਦਲਿਤਾਂ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਨਾਦਾਇਕ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਘਰਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਅੱਗੇ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਰ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਸਿਰਫ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੀ ਕਥਾ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰਕ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਿਆਂ ਮੰਗਦੀ ਹੋਈ ਮਾਨਵਵਾਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਦੀ ਪੈਰਵੀ ਕਰਦੀ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਆਧਾਰ ਮਹਾਤਮਾ ਬੁੱਧ, ਭਗਤ ਰਵੀਦਾਸ, ਭਗਤ ਕਬੀਰ, ਜੋਤਿਬਾ ਫੂਲੇ, ਰਾਮਾਸਵਾਮੀ ਪੇਰੀਆਰ ਅਤੇ ਡਾ. ਅੰਬੇਡਕਰ ਦੇ ਜਾਤ-ਪਾਤ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਅੰਦੋਲਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ਼ ਜਾ ਜੁੜਦਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵੀ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਜੀਵਨ ਕਥਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਮਹਾਂਪੁਰਸ਼ਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਦਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਦੇ ਮਾਧਿਅਮ ਅਪਣਾ ਕੇ ਪਰੰਪਰਕ ਦਲਿਤ ਵਿਰੋਧੀ ਜੜ੍ਹਵਾਦੀ ਨੀਤੀਆਂ, ਪ੍ਰਥਾਵਾਂ ਰੀਤੀ-ਰਿਵਾਜਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਕੱਟੜ ਤੇ ਭਰਮਮਈ ਤੱਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਕਾਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਮੇਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਦਰੋਹ ਕਰਦੇ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਦਲਿਤ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਨਵਵਾਦੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਮਾਨਤਾ, ਭਾਈਚਾਰਕ ਸਾਂਝ, ਮਨੁੱਖਤਾ, ਏਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਦਲਿਤ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਅਸਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੂਰੀ ਮਾਨਵਤਾ ਦੀ ਮੁਕਤੀ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਭਾਵ ਇਹ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਗਤ ਨਾ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਦੀ ਸ਼ੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਈ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ।

ਦਲਿਤ ਕਾਵਿ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਾ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਟਿਕੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜੇ ਲੋਕ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਆਰਥਿਕ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਅਤੀ ਨਿਗੂਣੇ ਮੰਨੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਹ ਨਿਗੂਣਾਪਣ ਕੋਈ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਵਰਤਾਰਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੇ ਜ਼ੋਰਾਵਰ ਤਬਕਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਆਰਥਿਕ ਲੁੱਟ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਉਤਪੀੜਨ ਦੇ ਜੋੜਫਲ ਤੋਂ ਉਪਜਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਾਵਿ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਟੇਕ ਇਸ ਨਿਗੂਣੇ ਜਾਂ ਅਣਹੋਏ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਚੇਤਨ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ, ਜਿਹੜਾ ਸਦੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣਵਾਦੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਮੁੱਲਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਪੀੜਤ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਰਜਵਾੜੀ ਦਾਬਾ ਝੱਲਦਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਾਵਿ ਦੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਧਾਰਕ ਆਸਥਾ ਉਸ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਨਾਲ ਵੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਸਨੂੰ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਸੱਤਾ ਨੇ ਕਾਬਿਲ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਵੀ ਅਪੰਗ ਮੰਨਿਆ ਜਾਂ ਅਪੰਗ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ।

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BARDWAL – DHURI

Ph. : 01675-265248, 98880-72096

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