



THE CURRICULUM OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH REFERENCE TO LITERATURE PARTICULARLY FICTION OF QURRATULAIN HYDER

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ABSTRACT

Art reflects the changes of the age and the problems created by it. The conflicts in human lives, the ups and down of the period, the erosion and fall of cultural and social values. The force of fate, the human helplessness and the defeat of individual are the natural subjects of literature.

We know that literature not only mirrors society but also a mirror to society. It reflects not only the voice of the writer but also voices rising in the society. Literature from the ages have been voicing the agonies of the people and fighting against the evils of caste, color, creed, gender, language, culture, nationality etc.

There would be no doubt that present society suffers from many social evils and for combating these evils it is necessary to make all round efforts especially in the field of education. It is very important to equip the students with ethical values besides imparting skills and knowledge. There is a greater need to inculcate, nurture, and develop values particularly among the youth of the country. The literature has the power to enrich the students with moral values and ethics.

I INTRODUCTION

When our country became independent, it was facing serious problems firstly there was the question of rehabilitation of mass refugees coming from the other side of border (west Pakistan) secondly there was the shortage of food for the Indian population which resulted in the rationing of basic commodities of life and ban on interstate or inter district movement of food. The industry was also in bad shape because of the Second World War and also there was mass illiteracy. The five years plans initiated by our statesmen were aimed at overcoming these problems.

For eradicating illiteracy all efforts were made to spread primary and secondary education and also spreading the higher education, with this aim and view schools and colleges were started.

The higher education system of India has grown up at a fast pace, particularly after independence as the government realizes the urgent need to focus on the education system of the country. The higher education also enables a person to shoulder the responsibilities of the society in different fields of government particularly in



executive and judiciary branch. It also recognizes that education plays an indispensable role in the empowerment of people, social or economic.

As we understand that, “basic level education makes person literate, higher education makes him stand out, makes him realizes his true potential. It acts like a mirror that introduces man to himself and the world refines his personality.”

But the higher education of our country today are facing many challenges like quality, competitiveness, financing, ethics and values. I am writing this paper to highlights the ethical values which are missing in today’s generation which can be attained with the help of literature.

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“The need of the hour is to inculcate human values in the university students, like quest for peace, adherence to truth and right conduct, non violence, compassion, tolerance, love for all living beings, respect for the Motherland and the glory of its culture and traditions, in order to promote societal concern and responsible citizenship so that such an effort is in the interest of the students, society and the nation.”

II DISCUSSION

Education plays a pivotal role in the empowerment and development of the human resource in a nation. Education is essential in imparting values, knowledge and developing skills so as to increase the growth and productivity of the nation. Literature is one of the important grounds where the mind of the student class can be refined and cultured and help in forming the positive personality. As we know that the ancient tales always ends up with the victory of truth and virtue.

Novel is one of the essential forms of literature, in which the story of life is mirrored and exhibited reality. Any story presented in the novel unconsciously affects the minds, mould and shape the thinking of the reader.

In this context I am giving the examples of novels of QurratulainHyder which was the topic of my research. The fiction of QurratualainHyder is so educational and multi coloured that its introduction in graduation and post graduation level will abundantly mould and improve the personalities of students both girls and boys.

QurratualainHyder occupies an important place in modern Indian literature. She consciously began to abandon all the existing forms and styles of story writing and marked a strong departure from them. She made her own



way different from progressive and modernist's trends. Leaving superficial issues aside, she is continuously in search of basic cultural values.

Her novelettes and short stories dealt with major social problems and evils of her time. She was also deeply concerned with the growing consumerism and increasing cult of violence in different forms in sub continent of India and Pakistan. The large scale communal riots of the country, bride killing and burning simply because she had not brought enough dowry. Hyder also expressed her anger against the mass killing of men and women in Iran after religious revolution when the victims were compelled to dig their own graves were made to stand in queue with eyes covered and eventually shot by the soldiers. She also refers to the cruelty of gas chambers killing of Jews by Hitler during Second World War. In brief Hyder wanted to abolish the violence in every form. Her novels unfolds the political and social problems of her time and how the characters disillusioned and shattered. Hyder's major novel '*AagKa Darya*' (1998) is the most ambitious novel both from thematic as well as stylistic point of view. It retells the vast history of India covering at least two thousand and five hundred years. It is quite natural; therefore, that it gives a foretaste of Indian art, culture, religion and history.

The action of River of Fire is depicted through the experiences of the four chief protagonists. The same characters live through different periods of history in an archetypal manner. For the convenience of the narrative structure, the novelist has divided different period of history in a chronological order-the early Buddhist era, the medieval India, the early nineteen century of the British India and the modern times. Hyder also shows that the time is the determining force of all actions. She uses it both as a narrative device and as a character. M.Asaduddin remarks that in Hyder, "Time is linear as well as spiral and it has one face of hope and other of loss." Time is described both as destroyer and preserver.

A Season of Betrayal (1999) contains a short story and two novellas which underline the same theme of betrayal as narrative pattern. All three comment upon the upheavals and cataclysmic times of the partition and its aftermath by describing the wounds and betrayals of female characters in the context of historical forces.

"Housing Society" is another of QurratulainHyder's novelette which is a powerful satire on the existing socio-political system. The readers can find curiosity, revelation and calamity one after another. "The ambience is full of predicament of history, conspiracy of state machinery, political enmity and complexity of state. In such ambience, some ideal characters emerge and then disappear struggling with time .For example there is SalamanMirza and his beloved artist SurayyaHussain. Meanwhile some characters come into light furnishing their worldly lives by intriguing with time, like selfish Jamshed and his associates."

Housing Society also deals with the tragedy of partition and its aftermath. As ShaguftaShaheen points out, "The socio-cultural differences of the mohajirs with existing population of Pakistan, the downfall of the zamindari class which suffered most due to the holdings, the new order emerging out of the opportunities offered by a newly created state and search for an identity by the younger generation eager to break away from the past but constrained by lingering bonds of languages, culture and traditions, have been condensed into this remarkable narration." The novelette focused on the newly prosperous among the elite of the budding state of Pakistan, which provide a platform for those who are ambitious and wanted to gain upper hand in establishing themselves



as the icons of the emerging social order. Personal qualifications, hard work and in certain cases coarse character are assets. It also shattered the lives who are not ready to compromise.

III CONCLUSION

Literature can indeed, make ethics concrete and therefore more interesting and more relevant. The novel has the capacity to convey a sense of the complexity of the problems that confront people in everyday life. "It is often more in tune with real life because it appeals to the imagination and emotions of readers and evokes a deeper response in students. It encourages students to think about moral issues. It also helps, increases sensitivity and understanding of viewpoints expressed from different cultures, countries and backgrounds. Finally it enables them to aware and to sympathize with the suffering of others." In short the introduction of literature at all levels of education will refine the student culture.

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