



PROBLEMS OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE REFLECTED IN SADANAND DESHMUKH'S 'BAROMASS'

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Abstract:

Literature is one of the fine arts that bestows meaning & interest to human life. As the dictum is 'Literature is the creation of time and time is the creation Literature'. The novel as a form of literature has real expressions of problems & cares of human life. The Marathi literature has the advance tradition of rural novel. It has nurtured agriculture with the hues of social, political, geographical, economical and linguistic of villages. There are plenty of novels that got international acclaim. As a consequence, there are number of translations of Marathi novels. The novel in Marathi has a wide scope to display the agricultural life in Maharashtra. Actually, agriculture is the prime culture of our nation. However, it remains the matter of ignorance. As a result of it, agriculture has occupied the root of many sub problems of Indian life. It is very arbitrary because of monsoon. Already there is much variation in climate & Geomorphology of India. The rapid changes in climate deeply affect upon farmers' life. 'Baromass' truly had reflected & made criticism of Maharashtrian agriculture. Sadanand Deshmukh has treated adroitly agricultural problems, on the national level. Furthermore, the novel has farmers' new generation with disputes and discussions on the international issues such as globalization , GATT & constantly changing governmental policies , conditions of Indian farmers and their problems. The present paper is a sincere endeavour to focus upon the Indian agricultural problems reflected in the novel.

Key words : literature agriculture, dictum, arbitrary, climate.

'Baromass' is the novel that was translated into nearly 13 languages of the world. The novelist has exploited rural life of agriculture in Maharashtra through out his all stories, novels & poems . Even his other novel 'Tahan' has put forth the problem of water during the draught years. In 'Baromass' the protagonist Eknath is the educated young fellow. He attempts to cultivate land traditionally. When he participates in farmers 'Organization of Narubhau, he gets acquaintance with new thoughts & methods of agriculture. It is very significant to consider Dr. Tripathi's analysis, ' India accounts for 16% of world's population it has only a 2.4% share in the land surface of the world. In a relative sense, India's position in this repeat in distinctly unfavorable '(2).So the statistics show the contradictory ratio of land and population in comparison to the world. With the scanty rainfall, the novel has Dagadu Mahakal, the usurper who loans money by mortgaging a piece of land or gold ornaments, on high interest rates. The situation is pathetic, it focuses upon the poverty & domestic conflict due to it. The renowned economist Dr. Tripathi discloses the problems of famine, ' Failure of rains, floods depopulation & loss of cattle caused by famine & pestilence, disturbances caused by war & interference with or change in the natural drainage system have had their deleterious effect on our soil '(25) . Side by side the novel has shed light on the consequences of famine such as un fulfillment of basic needs, educated being superstitious to get more money, corruption & politics. The new generation of educated men in farmers' families has no option to earn money. They follow the wrong ways of deceptions,



blind superstitions to find secret treasure and politics to fraud others. Actually, it is their own deception. The glimpses of golden gang , Banuba ,his ghosts all incidents record the novelists' realistic criticism of rural life. MLA Malpani represents political tendency to oppress farmers. At the end of the novel Subhana commits suicide by taking Endrine, the severe pesticide, however he got saved because of omitting So again he tries to suicide by jumping down into the water basin of Jambhul kath. The novelist very skillfully had projected Subhana's despair in the protagonist's reflections,

“I have the strange feeling that I am alone, without any support.
I feel I have no one I am a son to nobody . . . I feel
I am really an outsider! ...It will destroy me because despair is
my enemy, an inseparable part of me. Despair has coiled
around me like a creeper around a tree, sapping it of
strength and vitality Despair has soaked into me, like water
soaking into soil.” (Deshmukh,145)

The end of the novel is very sorrowful, it expresses hardships, poverty and adverse condition of farmers in India. The novel expresses a life long forever pains with their endurance into the darkness of unfathomable sorrow. Tejrao Khapke one of the representatives of farmers' new generation tries to evaluate their own condition and the future , “If things go on like this, there will be a revolution in this country, and the mentally drainage people will have caused it. The result will be chaos, violence and bloodshed” (Deshmukh Sadananda,64).The remark indicates the fire of anger in new generation of rural India against the non-forgivable ignorance at agriculture.

The novel has setting of Sanjol village from Vidarbha in Maharashtra. Subhanrao Tanpure's family is at the center of the novel. The novel focuses upon various generations & their approach towards farm. His father Subhana & grandfather Nanu approach farm as their mother whereas the protagonist has innovative vision to cultivate farm by modern techniques in agriculture. Eknath has completed his education & tried to get appointed as professor. Even he has good skills of teaching and he has worked at non-grant institute without pay. However, he was asked for donation of one lakh rupees. Due to their poverty, he remains unemployed. Thus the novel has put forth the problem of unemployment as one of the allied problems of agriculture. Further the drift of narration unveils the sub problem of cultural crisis. Eknath's wife is the girl from city culture of Mohadi. It becomes her to suit with rural agriculture: She has no habit of making food on hearth, cleaning the land with dung. Due to unemployment she could not get sugar even to make tea. In addition to it, her mother-in-law Shevanta is traditional, she frequently complaints her daughter-in-law. So she becomes bore of it, she gets usually humiliated from all family members. The novel has taken an account of constant quarrels .In it she expresses her agonies of poor life, moreover her disappointment because of unsuccessful marriage with an educated jobless farmer.

With various tendencies of people, the novel has displayed the present real life on the canvas of Mohadi, Kinkhed etc. It shows corruption of talathi, Bank officers, Gram sevek, Sarpanch & MLA. The novelist presents the deception in democracy. The corruption is shown as one of the sub problems of famine ,that cripples agro-economy of India.The protagonist is the representative of poor farmers' new generation. He focuses on the poor



condition of farmers. According to famous Indian economist , ‘Indian economy is basically a rural economy with land & labour as main productive resources & majority of Indian population lives in rural areas. So, poverty in India is rural poverty & urban poverty is only an overflow of rural poverty’ (Tripathi,252) There is advance from generation to generation even many facilities in agriculture are available but the farmers can’t afford it. Though many reforms are done in taxation but in comparison of business & bureaucracy the farmers’ themselves have disappointment in case of agriculture. They suppose it as the non-curable old disease. The basic question that novel poses is ‘how can the poor farmer face the challenges of open trade policy & globalization? He is doubtful about the intervention of government in the process of open trade policy for the benefit of farmers. Thus Tejrao Khapke ,one of the fellows from farmers’ family comments, “Our policies aren’t in favour of farmers, there is free economy now, and we don’t oppose it. . . . Let the economy be free. But man shouldn’t destroy man. . . Do you wish to bury the farmer alive? (Deshmukh,203-204)The farmers’ cry of deep agony makes us to provoke into the saddest plight of Indian agriculture. The novel highlights the earnest need of discreet & agriculturist leader for farmers. In the circle of social system the beginning & end is family. The novel pictures value discrimination that in responsible for tensions in family & individual level. Hence the novel is a tragedy of Indian agriculture that is presented with creative realism. The poor condition of Indian farmers can be analyzed with the comparative study of irrigation and daily wages statistics from ‘Agricultural Statistics at Glance 2002’ : So according to ‘The Irrigation Commission 1972’, there are 9 districts, 45 tahasils ,6 250 hectares Geographical area population in 1961 ,entitled as draught prone .Further, the poverty can be focused throughout a study of daily rates of minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act 1948 As on 30/09/2001.It was in Maharashtra Rs. 35.00 to 41.00 per day whereas the highest wages were in Delhi 99.70 per day. And the lowest rate of wages were in Jammu & Kashmir 30.00 per day. In brief, the contradictory numbers represent injustice with the prime sector of country. It will not be exaggeration if we say irrigation is the soul of agriculture. In that concern one the research scholars in economics M. Vasu’s inference is noteworthy, ‘The irrigation in India has been a high priority in economic development since 1951 more than 50% of all public expenditures on agriculture have been spent on irrigation alone. The land area under irrigation expanded from 22.6 million hectares in Finance Year 1950.... But the progress in irrigation has not been without problems.’(15-16)So the problem of irrigation is very serious for it is directly concerned with a survival of crops as well as farmers. The scantiest rain has made beggars to farmers.

The protagonist of the novel ponders with such unanswerable questions: Why did I bother with education? Why should the Children of poverty-stricken people get education? (Deshmukh,63) What is the future of our villages? When will it rain? What shall I do on the farm? How many lives did I destroy through this one mistake? Whereas the sub characters try to answer ... a farmer becomes wise only during Diwali, When it is too late for the year’s crops! (Ibid,100) Thus the novel has two folds of thought provocation: Internal, the protagonist’s reflections and External, the present realities with critical discussions. So the novel is aptly compared with the Nobel Prize winning novel ‘The Grapes of Wrath’ by the American novelist John Steinbeck. Like the American regional novel , Baromass, Twelve



Enduring Months has not mass migration due to a famine. However, it has heart touching tragedy of Indian farmers without limits. To conclude, it can be said that the Indian life of farmers is into the prime consideration of the novel. The novelist Sadanand Deshmukh has his roots into the state Maharashtra. So the major problems of Indian agriculture such as famine, lack of irrigation, the new international policies, globalization ,poverty and suicides are reflected into the novel. The novel has intensified minor problems also, unemployment, cultural crisis, fruitlessness of education, value crisis due to the drastic transformation and domestic conflicts. The pondering and decline of good life at the end of the novel blows sharply to think for active contribution to save agriculture of India.

References:

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