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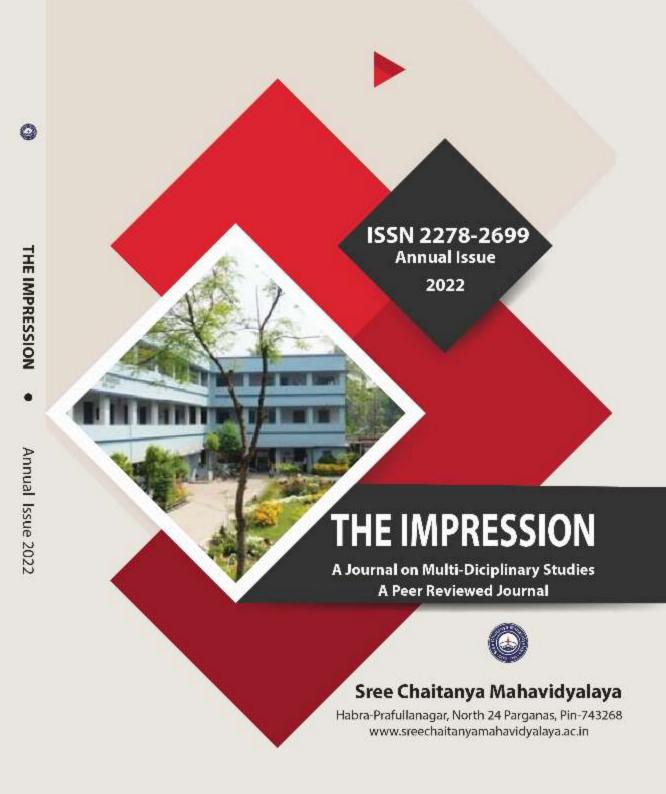
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A Peer Reviewed Journal

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# A JOURNAL ON MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STUDIES A PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ANNUAL ISSUE (2022)

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"Man is unique not because he does science, and he is unique not because he does art, but because science and art equally are expressions of his marvelous plasticity of mind."

- Jacob Bronowski

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#### **Editorial**

I feel euphoric that almost after a hiatus of nearly six years we are going to publish the academic, research based, multi and interdisciplinary journal of the college, **THE IMPRESSION**.

The bygone years were bizarre, comprising of heightened academic and administrative activities, three times handing over the responsibility of the person at the helm of affairs in college and mostly owing to the fiendish outrage of the earth shaking pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 we were not in a position to publish **THE IMPRESSION**, Annual Issue 2021 and Annual Issue 2020.

This Annual Issue contains a handful of research papers of very high standard and is peer reviewed.

We look forward keenly to publish our most cherished journal regularly from now onward and we ardently think that this Peer Reviewed journal would be able to touch the very high benchmark, so that this bouquet of assorted research papers gets included in the UGC Care List.

We enthusiastically believe that the immortal lines by the reputed English poet Lord Tennyson's Ulysses would be the everlasting mantra for the odyssey of this journal:

"To follow knowledge like a sinking star, Beyond the utmost bound of human thought."

> Dr. Subrata Chatterjee Principal & Editor-in -Chief

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# Navigating Rape as a Tool of Dominance in Conflict Zone Literature: A Study of Temsula Ao's "The Last Song"

#### Jayini Bhaumik\*

Abstract: Nagaland, often called the 'Leningrad of the East', is marred by internal uprisings since decades and continues to be a jutting conflict zone. One of the most gruesome evils of the situation is the act of rape and physical assault inflicted upon the Naga women in order for the Army to show power and dominance. Temsula Ao, in her short story "The Last Song" delineates how regular lives of young Naga women are harrowed by the armed forces, subjected to rape and murder only to violate human rights and encroach their private spaces. This paper would explore two of the probable causes of such phenomena, namely the pre-conceived notion of humiliating the displaced sense of 'honour' that revolves around women's bodies, and strategies of ethnic cleansing in a conflict zone.

**Keywords:** human rights, dominance, honour, Naga women, doubly marginalized.

<sup>\*</sup> PhD Research Scholar, Department of English; Central University of South Bihar, Gaya, Bihar Email- bjayini@gmail.com

#### Introduction

The Northeastern part of India, especially Nagaland, has often acted as the blazing site for political turmoil and tensions, coupled with violation of human rights. Being always vocal about the atrocities hurled upon people in the Naga villages by the Indian Army, Temsula Ao, through her short stories and poems, shows that internal uprising not only hinders or slows down economic and political harmony, but also cripples people's lives, exposing them to perpetual contestation and struggle. In "The Last Song", the third story in her short story collection These Hills Called Home: Stories from a Warzone, through the rape of Apenyo and her mother Libeni, by the army officers and their feat of ultimately vandalizing the entire village, she depicts how sexual violence or rape is often used as a tool for inflicting pain upon the dissenters, loosening their confidence and valor altogether. This brings one down to precisely two questions— Why do women belonging to the dissenters or opposition group have to bear the brunt of physical assaults in order for the group in power to show dominance or inflict humiliation? And, if invasion or dominance is a broad concept and gender-neutral, why do the menfolk think only about their conventional "honour" to have gotten stained when women of their clan get raped, rather than pondering upon the pains women actually have to bear, often leaving trauma for the rest of their lives? While exploring the root cause of such phenomena, the idea of displaced sense of honour (resting mostly on the shoulders of the women) and motifs of ethnic cleansing strategies crop up as probable evils of the conflict zone mishmash.

Feminist activist Kamla Bhasin, reacting to the backlash of rape cases had opined, "When I'm raped, people say that I've lost my honour? My honour is not in my vagina. It is a patriarchal idea that my rape will defile the honour of my community. I'd like to tell everyone, why did you place your community's honour in a woman's vagina? We never did that. It is the rapist who loses his honour, we don't." Torn between the two conflicting forces, the Naga women are 'doubly marginalized'; first for being a woman within the four walls of their house pregnant with patriarchy, and secondly for being a tribal in an otherwise feudal society. While dwelling in the conflict zone and bearing the aftermath of sexual assaults, primarily they become the target by the army. To add to the misery, they are overburdened by the society's pressure to bear the blot of such incidents for the rest of their lives. This paper is dealing, on one hand, with the delineation of a slice from the violence, tension and trauma that Naga villagers face on a daily basis because of the government forces' encroaching violence through the lenses of Temsula Ao. On the other hand, it explores the root causes of wartime rape as a prop for dismantling confidence and valor of the opposing group, owing to the patriarchal notion stemming out of what Amrita Punj has called "a misplaced sense of honour" (Punj, 2)

#### Rape as a Tool of Dominance in War: "The Last Song"

Ao meticulously designs the character of Apenyo in "The Last Song" with minute details of innocence, devotion to God, coupled with an inherent flair for singing. The narrative gyrates around her and her mother's brutal rape and murder in the hands of the Army, followed by vanquishing their entire village, bringing it down to ruins,in order to silent their antiestablishment or anti-government activities.

At the very outset, one learns that Apenyo is a simple village damsel who sings hymns in the Church choir. She is known by the name "singing beauty" in her village because of her natural beauty and talent and her mother is proud of her. Her village is set in the blazing site of political conflict, where people find solace in their faith in God. One fine day, the Indian Army gets a cue that the villagers are paying taxes to the 'underground government', which is anti-establishment. They arrive at the village on a Sunday morning when the villagers were preparing for the Church assembly, with the intention to ransack the space in order to show them "what happens when you 'betray' your own government." (These Hills Called Home, pg. 26) As soon as they started a gunfire at a distance, panic spread in the Church where a huge congregation had gathered. When a middleman asked the mass to stay quiet and not move around, to everyone's surprise, Apenyo started singing her solo number, quiet oblivious to the impending danger. To shield Apenyo from getting identified, the choir began singing along with her. This triggered the army as they thought they are showing resistance to the force, and in an uncontrollable fit of rage, "they pushed and shoved the pastor and the gaonburas, prodding them with the butts of their guns towards the waiting jeeps below the steps of the church" (These Hills Called Home, pg. 27). Apenyo kept singing with a childlike innocence, until she was grabbed by an officer, only to be brutally raped later on. Her mother, Libeni, kept looking for her and when she found her out, the very site of her daughter led her to a state of trepidation. She saw "...the young Captain was raping Apenyo while a few other soldiers were watching the act and seemed to be waiting for their turn. The mother, crazed by what she was witnessing, rushed forward with an animal-like growl as if to haul the man off her daughter's body but a soldier grabbed her and pinned her down on the ground." After raping Apenyo, the soldier tortured Libeni while she succumbed to the torture and died. This leads one to what Immanuel Kant had opined about lowering down women's existence to that of a puny object or morsel. Regarding such 'objectification' of human, in Lecture on Ethics, he said "...as soon as the appetite has been stilled, the person is cast aside as one casts aside a lemon which has been sucked dry. As soon as the person becomes an object of appetite for another, a person becomes a thing and can be treated and used by everyone."

Apenyo and her mother were mere civilians and never really had anything to do with the insurgency directly. Owing to the age-old concept of equating the 'other' (to men) with women, and subjugating the status of women as inferior to men, while navigating man-woman relationship. Simone de Beauvoir equates the 'other' with the minority in the group, "for a man represents both the positive and the neutral, as indicated by the common use of man to designate human beings in general; whereas woman represents only the negative, defined by limiting criteria, without reciprocity." (McCann, 33) Such conventional equation gives men the agency to dominate women physically and mentally, and even a slightest upheaval or rebuff in their comforting spaces trigger them beyond limit. Corollary to this, the Army officer could not gallop down the sight of Apenyo signing even after their rummaging through the village and announcements and took it into his nerves before he devoured himself into the act. The villagers tried to shield their bodies but that further aggravated anger in the Army and they open fired, killing many, and the girl's "last song died with her last breath, lived on in the souls of those who survived the darkest days of the village". (*These Hills Called Home, 31*).

#### Rape vis-à-vis Demands of Honour?

Probing deep into the root cause of such atrocities like rape, one must realise that be it in a conflict zone or elsewhere, it stems from the displaced idea of 'honour'. The entire pressure of the clan and society to uphold the so called idea of 'honour' dwells upon the shoulders of the women. To be more specific, sexual fidelity or attributes related to sexuality of a woman is what determines the purity or neatness of a particular race, conventionally since ages. In this regard, Theodore M. Anderson said "...there is a continuity of values from the heathen literature to the sagas and that the demands of honor remain constant". (Anderson, 1) In "The Last Song", the Armed Forces rummaged through the nooks and corners of the village in order to perpetrate dominance, and probably found Apenyo singing unabashedly as a revolting act. Relating wartime rape with violation of human rights, the Baguio Declaration of the 2<sup>nd</sup>Asian Indigenous Women's Conference criticized and condemned violence perpetrated on women and said that such incidents "perpetrated by state forces" are detrimental to the growth of civilization and "rape continues to be used as a weapon of war by the military to humiliate and attack indigenous communities. Girls and even older women and children are not spared." One of the aspects behind such phenomena could be the notion of revenge. When a particular group is offended or have had suffered in the hands of the other group, the former avenges the pain by inflicting methods of torture and violence on the latter. Women being soft targets, fall prey to the notion. To city a real life example, one is reminded of the Oinam incident that took place in Senapati district of Manipur. The Assam Rifle post near the Poumai Naga area was raided and ransacked by the Naga underground folks and they killed nine Army officers. As a form of retaliation, the Assam rifles launched the "Operation Bluebird" in almost thirty villages to recover the lost. Beard noted that,

"...in course if a few weeks the Assam Rifles shot dead 14 people after subjecting them to inhuman torture. The villagers were made to stand at the playground exposed to torrential rains and scorching heat for weeks. The Assam rifles used the churches as concentration camps. Hundreds of villagers were beaten and subjugated to third degree methods of tortures, men were hung upside down, buried alive and given electric shocks. Women and girls where sexually assaulted. Two women were compelled to give birth to their babies in open ground in full view of the jawans" (Beard 23)

Corollary to this incident, "The Last Song" is supposedly derived from a similar course of action that happened in the year 1997 when the Assam rifles and MLI raped groups of women in Mokokchung town and burned buildings as a part of their operation against NSCN(K). In a way, this leads to champion the ethnic-cleansing strategies as well, specially when the conflict exists owing to racial disparities. K B Veio Pou said, "Most of these incidents happen in a situation where the stronger agency, in most cases the authority in power launch its policy these terminating the lesser ethnic minority. The sense of perpetrator with the weapon of destruction acts as a symbolic image to incite a feeling of submission from the once perpetrated upon, by which the perpetrators can demonstrate their victory over the men of the other group." (Veio Pou, 67) Like the Nazis during World War and Myanmar military Junta And caught up in this unending loop of war and vengeance, the women fall prey to the wrath of the patriarchs who feel let down once a woman belonging to their clan gets physically assaulted. From a global viewpoint, thousands of Shan girls and women are merely a morsel of the number of women all over the world who have been dealing with wartime rape and torture during national and international conflicts (Hongthong, 2002). But the moot point in all these is why should the women only be treated as a waste product and thrown away like garbage, ripped off choices and living normal lives? The answer probably harks back to the age-old belief of treating women as commodities owned by men folk. Mishmash of it would be surmounting to increased sense of anger and insecurity. Kavita Punjabi opines,

"...the honour of the community is supposed to be vested in its women, so rape is a symbolic form of dishonoring the community, a woman and her sexuality are the implied property of man, so rape signifies an appropriation of property; or a woman's identity is presumed to be based on her sexuality. So rape denotes the unmaking of her very identity a devastation greater than death itself."

All this is a result of the prolonged and intense shadow that patriarchy has cast on women since ages. To rape woman is surmount to tarnishing the 'property' of the entire clan. The notorious, brutal and ruthless rape and murder of Apenyo and Libeni are so gruesome that it leaves the readers with depressing memories, to the point of being numb. It was never their choice to be ripped off their private spaces. It was never their intention to be treated that way, without any fault of their own. Even after their death, the senior folks of their tribe did not let their bodies be buried inside the graveyard because they felt they died due to unusual causes, thus, they must be kept outside. The worst part of the whole thing is the fact that wars end and things settle down, peace treaties are made and businesses are discussed, yet the physical and mental trauma and torment that rape or physical assaults perpetrated upon the women can never be faded away from the minds and souls of them.

#### Conclusion

Temsula Ao, in the introductory section of the short story collection *These Hills Called Home: Stories from a Warzone* expressed the fact that when memories of pain keep haunting one's conscience, it is pointless and futile to keep calm. She said, "when these people say that 'it does not matter' they mean that there is an inherent callousness in the human mind that tends to ignore injustice and inhumanity as long as it does not touch one directly" (Ao,2). Refusing to take sides, she unabashedly delineates the gruesome attributes of wartime rape through Apenyo's character, lest one ignores that it is more than just violation of human rights and has got to do a lot with the sense of ethnic-cleansing and violation of the displaced sense of honour. However, she does not fail to show how trauma can equally get the better of the torturers, and the gamble of predestination or *karma* spares none. During his last days, the officer who raped Apenyo and the mother Libeni had to meet a fateful end, "...he was traced to a military hospital in a big city where he was being kept in a maximum security cell of an insane asylum." (Ao, 31) Ao believes in eternal justice and probably Apenyo's devotion to God, which made her unabashedly sing her last song, could never get off from the minds of the officer and the melody of her last song dwelled in the minds and senses of the villagers for the rest of their lives.

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## A Study of Authorship Pattern and Collaborative Research in Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences

#### Shibananda Mridha\*

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to investigate the authorship pattern and collaborative research in the Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Science for selected fifteen years from 2000 to 2014. The study also investigated the yearwise distribution of publication, growth of authorship, volume and issue-wise authorship pattern, author's productivity, single and multi-authored papers, and degree of collaboration research in the Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Science. The quantitative data were collected through observation from Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences websites and also available in the online archival repository. It was found that the highest number of contributions, i.e., 34 (11%), were published in 2008, and the lowest number of contributions, i.e., 8 (2.59%), were published in 2012 and 2013. In 2010, the highest number of authors with a productivity of 109 (3.41) was published. The lowest number of authors' productivity (26, or 3.25), was published in the year 2013. The degree of collaboration in this journal is 0.91.

Keywords: Authorship Pattern; Bibliometrics; Scientometric Analysis; Degree of collaboration; Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences.

<sup>\*</sup>Librarian, Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya Email: shiba.mridha09@gmail.com

#### Introduction

**Bibliometrics:** According to Alan Pritchard the term "Bibliometrics" as "The Application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication; Methodology of the information transfer process and its purpose is to analysis and control of the process.

Sengupta defines bibliometrics more explicitly as "Organization, classification and quantitative evaluation of publication patterns of all macro and micro communication along with their authorships by mathematical and statistical calculus"

Scientometrics: Scientometrics is a formed structural part of science including the complex of mathematical and statistical methods, used to analyze the quantitative characteristics of science as an enterprise (Veverience, 1994). Many types of scientometrics data can be presented as transaction matrix. In all cases the matrix consist of a set of items assigned to each row and column with each cell containing the level of transaction between the row and column items (Kretschmer, 1994)

**Scientometric Analysis:** Several quantitative characteristics of scientific change have been treated in scientometric investigation with the help of analysis models as well as empirical techniques citation and text the analysis sets of scientometric indicators (Elkana, 1978).

The objective of scientometrics as: "To evaluate quantitatively recent growth of any basic scientific discipline, and the factors responsible for the steady growth in research activity in that area of knowledge in the post-war period" (Sengupta, 1985).

Scientometrics study is a branch of bibliometrics. It is an important research tools for understanding the subjects. It aims at measuring the utility of documents and relationships between documents and fields (Khaparde, 2013).

#### Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), established in 1962, is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India. It acts as an apex body in India for coordinating, formulating, understanding, promoting, and developing research on scientific lines in the ayurvedic sciences. This council is publishing three journals, namely the Journal of Drug Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JDRAS), the Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JRAS), and the Journal of Indian Medical Heritage (JIMH).

Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JRAS) is a peer-reviewed, open-access, UGC-CARE-listed journal. The journal is published quarterly and is available in both print and online forms. It is a multidisciplinary platform for the publication of research in Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Siddha, and Homoeopathy fields, including interdisciplinary health sciences. JRAS is primarily devoted to research in Ayurveda, the Indian traditional health care system. The journal has been published online and has constantly contributed by publishing evidence-based research on traditional Indian systems of medicine. The thrust area for publication includes safety and efficacy studies, fundamental research, health promotion and preventive medicine, medico-social aspects including medical anthropology, epidemiological studies, health-related demography, the development of methodologies for clinical research, pharmacovigilance and pharmaco-epidemiology, integrative medicine, research protocols, meta-analytical studies, technical reports of projects, book reviews, and insightful literature reviews. The full text of the article is available online at https://journals.lww.com/jras/pages/ default.aspx and articles of JRAS (1980-2014) are available in archived though online from 1980.

#### **Review of Related Literature**

The number of authors contributing to scholarly publications in terms of authorship pattern is an instructing part of any bibliometric study. A count of number of authors contributing to articles offers some indication to degree of collaboration between authors (Khaparde, V. & Pawar, S. (2013).It was found that various studies were conducted on the authorship pattern and collaborative research in different disciplines. Some of the literatures were reviewed and mentioned before the current study.

Pandit, P.J., & Sonawane, S.S. (2019) conducted a study on trends in authorship pattern and author's collaborative research in Knowledge organization with a sample of 908 articles collect from LISA during 1991-2000. It was found that English 796 (87.67 %) is the most important language, the contribution of research articles highest number 153(16.85%) in the year 2000. The study reveals that single authorship research in predominant as compare to number of articles is written by multi authors. The study also reveals that the degree of collaboration (C) during the overall 10 years (1991-2000) is 0.27. 10 years of period the multi authored articles 62 (6.83%) are highest in the year 2000. Yaday, S. K., & et al (2019) conducted a study on evaluation of authorship and collaboration pattern in SRELS Journalof Information Management during 2008-2017. The study counted that the average collaboration index is 1.86, average collaboration coefficient is 0.36, average degree of collaboration is 0.66, average relative growth rate is 0.32 and average doubling time is 3.40 during 2008-2017. Neelamma, G. and Gavisiddappa, A. (2018) highlights the authorship pattern and research collaboration in the area of Crystallography based on 45320 scholarly communications appeared in the Crystallography during 1989-2013. Study illustrates various significant aspects like types and trends of authorship, author productivity, degree of collaboration, collaborative index, Collaboration coefficient, Moderate Collaboration. Thavamani K. and Velmurugan C, (2013) explores the publication trends of scholarly papers in Annals of Library and Information Studies published from New Delhi. The study conducted with 310 contributions published in the journal during the year 2002 – 2012 and revealed that highest number of contributions i.e., 43 (13.87%) were published in the year 2010. Most of the contributions are by two authored i.e., 136 (43.87 %.). The degree of collaboration is determined as 0.65. Amsaveni, N., et al (2013) did the study of the authorship pattern and collaborative research in bioinformatics. The study found that the rate of increased in multiple authorship pattern mottled considerably with subject area. Totally 91655 authors were produced 17318 articles in this subject of bioinformatics. 9.77 percent of articles were single authors' contribution. 90.17 % of articles produced by collaborative authors. **Khaparde**, V. & Pawar, S. (2013) examine the trends in authorship pattern and author's collaborative research in Information Technology with a sample of 17917 articles collect from LISA during 2000-2009. The average number of authors per article is 1.80. In the study the degree of collaboration (C) during the overall 10 years (2000-2009) is 0.71. The study found that the researches in Information Technology are keep toward team research or group research rather than solo research.

The review of the above few studies shows that studies on authorship patterns and collaborative research have been done in different journals. Similar studies in the Ayurvedic Sciences research journal were not conducted. So, it is more meaningful to conduct this type of study to understand the collaborative research work in this field.

#### Objectives of the study

The objectives of the present study are:

- To know the year and volume wise distribution of publication.
- > To study the growth of authors by year.

- To examine the nature of authorship patterns by year and volume wise in JRAS
- To study the author's productivity.
- To know the single and multi authored in journal
- To determine the degree of collaboration in JRAS

#### Methodology

The present study is based on 309 articles collected from 12 numbers of volumes of Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences during the year 2000 to 2014. The quantitative data was collected from Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences websites (http://ccras.nic.in/content/ journal-drug-research-ayurvedic-sciences-0) during 15 years i.e. 2000 -2014. In this study all the information of articles and other related relevant data were collected and noted from the main website of JRAS. For each article, year& volume wise distribution of contribution, year wise growth of author, number of authorships, authorship productivity and single and multi-authored paper were noted down for the study. Then the data were organized, calculated, tabulated, analyzed and presented by using simple arithmetic and statistical method in order to arrive for its result.

#### Limitations

This study is fully restricted to articles available in the online archival repository of the JRAS during the 15 years from 2000 to 2014. Moreover, this research work collects relevant data from the website. Hence, the relevant data is collected from secondary sources of information, and the conclusive result of this study fully depends on these online websites.

#### Analysis & Results

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Sl no	Year	Volume	No. of Articles	% of Records
1	2000	21	22	7.12
2	2001	22	23	7.44
3	2002	23	21	6.80
4	2003	24	22	7.12
5	2004	25	16	5.18

	2005	26	17	T 10
6	2005	26	16	5.18
7	2006	27	16	5.18
8	2007	28	26	8.41
9	2008	29	34	11.00
10	2009	30	32	10.35
11	2010	31	32	10.35
12	2011	32	24	7.77
13	2012	33	8	2.59
14	2013	34	8	2.59
15	2014	35	9	2.91
	Total		309	100

Table 1 shows the year and volume-wise distribution of publications in the Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JRAS) from 2000 to 2014. It indicates that the highest contribution of research articles was 34 (11%) in 2008. The minimum number, i.e., 8 (2.59%) articles, were published from 2012 to 2014.

Table 2: Growth of Authors by Year

Sl no	Year	No. of Authors	% of Records
1	2000	69	7.03
2	2001	67	6.83
3	2002	68	6.93
4	2003	54	5.50
5	2004	51	5.20
6	2005	57	5.81
7	2006	52	5.30
8	2007	69	7.03
9	2008	105	10.70
10	2009	106	10.80
11	2010	109	11.11
12	2011	90	9.17

13	2012	27	2.75
14	2013	26	2.65
15	2014	31	3.16
	Total	981	100

Table 2 represents the year-wise growth of authors. The highest number of authors, i.e., 109 (11.11%), contributed in 2010 and the lowest number of authors, i.e., 26 (2.65%), contributed in 2013 out of a total of 981 contributions.

**Table 3: Authorship Pattern** 

Sl no	No. of Authors	Total No. of Contributions	% of Records
1	Single Author	28	9.06
2	Two Authors	81	26.21
3	Three Authors	87	28.16
4	Four Authors	66	21.36
5	Five Authors	31	10.03
6	Six Authors	7	2.27
7	Seven Authors	4	1.29
8	Eight Authors	4	1.29
9	Nine Authors	1	0.32
	Total	309	100

The detail about the author pattern of the article is representing in the table 3. It shows that among the 309 articles, 28 (9.06%) articles are written by single author, 81 (26.21%) articles are written by two authors, 87 (28.16%) articles are written by three authors, 66 (21.36%) articles are written by four authors, 31 (10.03%) articles are written by five authors, 7 (2.27%) articles are written by six authors, 4 (1.29%) articles are written by seven & eight authors and nine authors written only 1(0.32%) author. It is seen that multi authors are predominant, than single author.

Table 4: Year & Volume wise Authorship Pattern

						Autho	or per Arti	cle				Total	
Sl no	Year	Volume	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	Nine	No. of papers	Total No. of Authors
1	2000	21	2	6	6	4	3	1	-	-	-	22	69
2	2001	22	2	7	9	1	4	-	-	-	-	23	67
3	2002	23	2	6	6	3	3	-	-	-	1	21	68
4	2003	24	2	12	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	22	54
5	2004	25	-	3	8	4	1	-	-	-	-	16	51
6	2005	26	1	4	2	6	2	-	-	1	-	16	57
7	2006	27	1	3	5	6	-	1	-	-	-	16	52
8	2007	28	8	5	7	3	2	-	-	1	-	26	69
9	2008	29	5	8	10	6	3	-	1	1	-	34	105
10	2009	30	3	10	3	12	1	1	1	1	-	32	106
11	2010	31	1	8	8	9	5	-	1	-	-	32	109
12	2011	32	-	2	10	7	3	1	1	-	-	24	90
13	2012	33	-	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	8	27
14	2013	34	1	1	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	8	26
15	2014	35	-	3	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	9	31
Г	Total		28	81	87	66	31	7	4	4	1	309	981
	Percentage	e (%)	9.06	26.21	28.15	21.35	10.03	2.26	1.29	1.29	0.32		

Table 4 represents the details about year and volume wise authorship pattern for the period 2000 to 2014. The table shows that the single author Contribution is 9.06%, two author's share is 26.21%, three author's share is 28.15%, four author's share is 21.35%, five author's contribution is 10.03%, six author's share is 2.26%, seven & eight author's share is 1.29%, and nine author's share is 0.32% of the total articles 309. It shows that multiple authored research articles have made major contribution in the field of Ayurvedic Sciences.

**Table 5: Author's Productivity** 

Sl no	Year	Total no of Papers	No. of Authors	AAPP*	Productivity per Author
1	2000	22	69	3.14	0.32
2	2001	23	67	2.91	0.34
3	2002	21	68	3.24	0.31
4	2003	22	54	2.45	0.41
5	2004	16	51	3.19	0.31
6	2005	16	57	3.56	0.28
7	2006	16	52	3.25	0.31
8	2007	26	69	2.65	0.38
9	2008	34	105	3.09	0.32
10	2009	32	106	3.31	0.30
11	2010	32	109	3.41	0.29
12	2011	24	90	3.75	0.27
13	2012	8	27	3.38	0.30
14	2013	8	26	3.25	0.31
15	2014	9	31	3.44	0.29
To	otal	309	981	3.20	0.32

<sup>\*</sup>Average Author per paper (AAPP) = Number of authors/Number of papers. Productivity per author = Number of papers/ Number of authors.

Table 5 shows the data related to the author's productivity. It shows that the total average number of authors per paper is 3.20 and average productivity per author is 0.32. The highest number of author's productivity 109 (3.41) was published in the year 2010. The lowest number of author's productivity 26 (3.25) was published in the year 2013.

Table 6: Year wise single and Multiple Authored papers

SI		Single Au	ıthored	Multi A	uthored			
no	Year	Papers	%	Papers	%	Total	% of Records	
1	2000	2	7.14	20	7.12	22	7.11	
2	2001	2	7.14	21	7.47	23	7.44	
3	2002	2	7.14	19	6.76	21	6.79	
4	2003	2	7.14	20	7.12	22	7.11	
5	2004	-	-	16	5.70	16	5.17	
6	2005	1	3.57	15	5.34	16	5.17	
7	2006	1	3.57	15	5.34	16	5.17	
8	2007	8	28.57	18	6.41	26	8.41	
9	2008	5	17.86	29	10.32	34	11.00	
10	2009	3	10.71	29	10.32	32	10.35	
11	2010	1	3.57	31	11.03	32	10.35	
12	2011	-	-	24	8.54	24	7.76	
13	2012	-	-	8	2.85	8	2.58	
14	2013	1	3.57	7	2.49	8	2.58	
15	2014	-	-	9	3.20	9	2.91	
Г	otal	28	100	281	100	309	100	

Table 6 shows the details about the single and multiple authored paper published during 2000 to 2014. It shows that lowest number i.e., 1(One) of single author paper in the year 2005, 2006 & 2013 and higher number i.e., (8) of single author paper in the year 2007. There was no single author paper published in the year 2004, 2011, 2012 & 2014. Total 28 (9.06%) paper contributed by single author and 281 (90.93%) paper contributed by multiple authors out of 309 contributions.

Year **Single** Multiple **Total** Degree of Sl no Authored Authored Collaboration  $(N_s + N_m)$ Paper (N<sub>1</sub>) Papers (N\_) 0.90 0.91 0.90 0.90 1.00 0.93 0.93 0.69 0.85 0.90 0.96 1.00 1.00 0.90 1.00

**Table 7: Degree of Collaboration** 

The table 7 shows the details about the degree of collaborations. Degree of collaborationis a prominent area of research in bibliometric studies which indicate tends in single and joint authorship during 2000 to 2014. The degree of collaboration ranges from 0.69 to 1.00 and the average degree of collaboration is 0.91. The degree of collaborationis calculated by using the following formula (K. Subramanyam, 1982):

The formula is where

**Total** 

C= Degree of Collaboration

$$C = \frac{Nm}{Nm+Ns}$$

0.91

 $N_m = Number of multiple authors$ 

 $N_{_{c}}$  = Number of Single authors

$$C = \frac{281}{281 + 28}$$

In the present study, the value of C is

C = 0.91

As a result, the degree of collaboration in the JRAS is 0.91, which clearly manifests the multi author contributions dominance over single contributions.

#### Conclusion

The conclusion of the study of authorship pattern & collaborative research of 309 articles in Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences of fifteen years from 2000 to 2014 in a manner of corresponding to the objective of the study. The number of articles contribution is variable throughout the study period. The highest contribution of research articles was 34 (11%) in 2008 and minimum number, i.e., 8 (2.59%) articles, were published from 2012 to 2014. The highest number of authors contributions in the year 2010, i.e., 109 (11.11%) and the lowest number in the year 2013 i.e., 26 (2.65%). The authorship pattern reveals a remarkable difference between the number of single author and multi authors. Very few numbers (9%) of article are written by single author and most of the article written by multi authors. It is found through this study that the flavor of collaborative research is high in ayurvedic science. The majority of contribution is written by three authors and lowest number contribution is written by nine authors. The total average number of authors per paper is 3.20 and average productivity per author is 0.32. The degree of collaboration of overall 15 years from 2000 to 2014 is 0.91.

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# A Bibliometric Study of Authorship Pattern and Collaborative Research Work in Journal of Indian Medical Heritage (JIMH)

#### Manas Saha\*

Abstract: The present study concentrates on the publication trends of scholarly journal articles in Journal of Indian Medical Heritage (JIMH), quarterly publication journal which is published from New Delhi by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an apex body of Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India. This bibliometric study is an evaluation of authorship and collaboration work written in journal articles during the period 2000-2011. During this study period total 164 articles published and total number of authors are 379. Out of 164 articles, 62 articles are written by single author and the rest 102 articles were written by more than one author. So it is clearly stated that the multiple authorship pattern is prominent in the journal. The highest number of contribution i.e. 17 (10.36%) were published in the year 2010. Most of the contributors are by single author i.e. 62 (37.80%). the degree of collaboration is determined as 0.62, the average productivity per author in JIMH is 5.64 and the highest number of author's productivity i.e. 17 (0.41%) was in 2010 and the minimum number of author's productivity 11(0.52%) was in 2004.

**Keywords**: Authorship pattern, Degree of Collaboration, JIMH, CCRAS, Bibliometric Study

<sup>\*</sup> Librarian, Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya Email. msaha712@gmail.com

#### Introduction

Scientific cooperation is one of the key factors of scientific research and research collaboration in writing articles is one of the indicators that study credit of scientific articles. Any journal article has its own academic value and it may be written either by single author or multi -authorship pattern. The recent trends show that the most of the scholarly journal articles are written by multi -authorship pattern. It obviously directs as one of the prime indicators of reliability of scientific articles and it is rapidly increasing in our modern times. The main advantages of scientific collaborations are accessing the various ideas and sources, exchanges of new information in a more convenient and efficient way, learning the new skills and development in related fields, improve the result and efficiently increasing the quality of the scholarly research journal article.

#### About the Journal of Indian Medical Heritage (JIMH)

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) established in the year 1962, an autonomous body under Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India. It act as an apex body in India for coordinating, formulating, understanding, promoting and developing research on scientific lines in Ayurvedic Sciences. This council has publishing three journals namely Journal of Drug Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JDRAS), Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JRAS), and Journal of Indian Medical Heritage (JIMH) JIMH is a peer- reviewed online scholarly journal in the field of medical sciences covering Ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, Unani, Homeopathy etc. pertaining to various aspects of medical history. Previously the name of the journal was 'Bulletin of the dept. of history of medicine', published bi-annually in the year 1963. The name again changed as bulletin of institute of history of medicine and bulletin of Indian institute of history of medicine in 1971 and 1974 respectively. At last the name of the journal stands as Journal of Indian Medical Heritage in the year 2009. This bi-annually journal turns into quarterly journal from October -December, 2022 (as vol. 1, no.1). This is one among the very few available journal dedicated to history of medicine and publishing literary and medico-historical research in all systems of medicine. It is a Pub-Med indexed journal. It covers editorials, case studies, research articles, book reviews etc. Bibliographies of medical history and abstracts of articles in other languages as well as news and notes on medical historical activities, history of medicine in India and abroad are also included in this journal. Since 1975 all the volume are now available in online (http://ccras.nic.in and http:// niimh.nic.in). Now it is published by National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) for CCRAS, Govt. of India and available in both print and digital format.

#### **Review of Related Literature**

**Saha, M.** (2019) conducted a bibliometric analysis on Authorship Pattern and Collaborative research work in Journal of Drug Research in Ayurvedic Sciences to explore the trends of publications of scholarly articles of JDRAS between the period of 2000-2011. It was found from the study that only 15 articles were written by single author and the rest 141 articles were contributed by more than one author. The highest number of research articles is 24 (15.38%) published in the year 2000. The most of the scholarly article were written by 3 authors 59(37.82%). The degree of collaboration is determined as 0.90.

**Yadav, S. K., & et al (2019)** conducted a study on evaluation of authorship and collaboration pattern in SRELS Journal Information Management during 2008-2017. The study counted that the average collaboration index is 1.86, average collaboration coefficient is 0.36, average degree of collaboration is 0.66, average relative growth rate is 0.32 and average doubling time is 3.40 during 2008-2017.

**Tunga, S.K.** (2014) conducted a citation study on authorship pattern and degree of collaboration in journal articles of 80 doctoral dissertations of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya and Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal during 1991-2010. The study reveals that, out of 8,437 references cited, 1,763 (20.695%) are single authored articles and 6,665 (78.997%) are multi-authored articles. Two authored (37.039%) are the highest in the cited journals followed by three authored (25.116%), single authored (20.896%) and four authored (11.332%) papers. The highest number of cited articles is in the year 2005 with 947 (11.236%).

**Thavamani K. and Velmurugan C, (2013)** explores the publication trends of scholarly papers in Annals of Library and Information Studies published from New Delhi. The Bibliometric analysis has been conducted with 310 contributions published in the journal during the year 2002 – 2012. The highest number of contributions i.e., 43 (13.87%) were published in the year 2010. Most of the contributions are by two authored i.e., 136 (43.87 %.). The degree of collaboration is determined as 0.65.

**Amsaveni, N., et al (2013)** did the study of the authorship pattern and collaborative research in bioinformatics. The study found that the rate of increased in multiple authorship pattern mottled considerably with subject area. Totally 91655 authors were produced 17318 articles in this subject of bioinformatics. 9.77 percent of articles were single authors' contribution. 90.17 percent of articles produced by collaborative authors.

Khaparde, V. & Pawar, S. (2013) examine the trends in authorship pattern and author's collaborative research in Information Technology with a sample of 17917 articles collect from LISA during 2000-2009. The average number of authors per article is 1.80. In the study the degree of collaboration during the overall 10 years (2000-2009) is 0.71. The study found that the researches in Information Technology are keep toward team research or group research rather than solo research.

#### Objective of the study

- To find out the authorship pattern
- To study the period and volume wise authorship pattern
- To examine the year wise growth of articles
- To study the author's productivity
- To know about the single author and multi author articles are written in JIMH.
- To measure the degree of author collaboration

#### Methodology

The data are collected for this study from the website of CCRAS and NIIMH and other websites also. There are 24 issues from 12 volumes from the year 2000 to 2011. (Volume 30 to 41). At first all the articles and other relevant data were noted and then downloaded in my personal computer from the main website of CCRAS and JIMH and NIIMH. Thereafter these collected data are examined and analyzed with the help of MS- Excel software. Thereafter the data were compiled, organized, calculated, tabulated, analyzed and scanned to study various aspects pertaining to authorship pattern, author's productivity, degree of collaborative work etc. and presented with the help of using simple arithmetic and statistical method of respective equations in order to arrive for its result.

#### Limitations

This research work is totally based on the data collected from some particular websites. Hence the conclusive results is totally depends on these websites. The term collaboration has a broader view in relating to a publishing a journal article. Collaboration could relate to consultation in composing article content, articles that deal with joint or co-operative work but written by only one author or articles that promote collaborative technologies, projects, theory as well as the scope of peer-review that represents the scholarly collaboration etc. This paper only considered the joint authorship of the articles and other types of collaboration outside this authorship are not considered in this study. The JIMH (previously known as "Bulletin of Indian Institute of History of Medicine") started its publication since 1975 and all the volume and issues are available in online platform. But in this research study, the period is taken only for 12 years (2000-2011) in order to easing the calculations, analyzing the data, hence the coming result of this study will not throws a light in a comprehensive manner but obviously these results give us a prime indicator regarding the trends of authorship pattern and collaborative research work in scholarly journal articles in future

#### **Result and Discussion**

**Table 1: Year wise Distribution** 

Sl. no	Year	No. of Articles	% of Records
1	2000	14	8.53
2	2001	14	8.53
3	2002	14	8.53
4	2003	12	7.31
5	2004	11	6.70
6	2005	13	7.92
7	2006	13	7.92
8	2007	15	9.14
9	2008	13	7.92
10	2009	13	7.92
11	2010	17	10.36
12	2011	15	9.14
Total		164	100 (99.92)

Table-1 shows the volume and issue number corresponding to year wise number of the journal article publications of JIMH. In total, there are 164 articles published in JIMH from 2000 to 2011. The highest number of contributions is 17 (10.36%) in 2010 followed by 15 (9.14%) articles each in 2007 and 2011 respectively. The least 11 articles (6.70%) published in the year 2004.

**Table 2: Author Pattern** 

Sl. no	No. of Authors	Total No. of Contributions	% of Records
1	Single Author	62	37.80
2	Two Authors	44	26.82
3	Three Authors	31	18.90
4	Four Authors	18	10.97
5	Five Authors	3	1.82
6	Six Authors	1	0.60
7	Seven Authors	-	-
8	Eight Authors	2	1.21
9	Nine Authors	3	1.82
Total		164	100

In Table-2, it is observed that majority of the scholarly articles were written by multi- authorship pattern. Out of 164 articles, 102 articles (i.e.62.20%) were written by more than one author where as only 62 articles (37.80%) were written by individual author which is the highest number of contributions is during this study period. The total numbers of 44 articles (i.e. 26.82%) were written jointly by two authors, followed by 31 articles (18.90%) and 18 articles (i.e.10.97%) contributed by 3 and 4 authors respectively. The least contribution is 1 article (0.60%) which was written jointly by 6 authors.

**Table 3: Period/ Volume wise Authorship Pattern** 

Sl. no	Year	Volume	Single Author	Two Authors	Three Authors	More than Three Authors	Total	% of Records
1	2000	30 (1 & 2)	10	3	-	1	14	8.53
2	2001	31 (1 & 2)	10	1	2	1	14	8.53
3	2002	32 (1 & 2)	7	4	2	1	14	8.53
4	2003	33 (1 & 2)	5	6	1	-	12	7.31

5	2004	34 (1 & 2)	4	4	3	-	11	6.70
6	2005	35 (1 & 2)	5	3	4	1	13	7.92
7	2006	36 (1 & 2)	2	2	2	7	13	7.92
8	2007	37 (1 & 2)	-	3	7	5	15	9.14
9	2008	38 (1 & 2)	2	6	1	4	13	7.92
10	2009	39 (1 & 2)	2	3	6	2	13	7.92
11	2010	40 (1 & 2)	7	4	3	3	17	10.36
12	2011	41 (1 & 2)	8	5	-	2	15	9.14
	Total		62	44	31	27	164	100
Percentage (%)		37.80	26.82	18.90	16.46	100		

Table-3 shows the volume wise authorship pattern of contributions. It depicts that out of 62 contributions, volume no-30 and vol.no.-31 together have the highest number i.e. 10 (16.12%) in the consecutive year 2000 and 2001. It is also noticed that there is no articles written by single author in vol. no.-37 of 2007. The total articles are written by two authorship collaboration in the period in between 2000 to 2011 is 44 and the highest contribution in this segment is 6 (13.63%) in the year of publication 2003 and 2008 corresponding vol. no.-33 and vol. no.-38. Out of 31 articles written by 3 authors, the highest number of articles published is 7 (22.58%) in the year 2007 under the volume number-37 of JIMH. The lowest number is 1 (3.22%) contribution under the volume number 33 and vol. no 38 in the year 2003 and 2008 respectively. There were 27 contributions were done by more than 3 authors vol. No-36 of the year 2006 is the highest i.e., 7 contributions (i.e.25.92%) and the vol. no.-30, 31, 32 and 35 of the respective year 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2005 have the contribution 1 article (i.e.3.70%) shows one of the lowest contributions. It is also revealed from the table no-3, there is no contribution of journal articles by single author in vol. no 37 of the year 2007 followed by no articles is written by 3 authorship collaboration in 2000 and 2011 of corresponding vol. no-30 and 41 as well as no authorship collaboration of journal articles of more than 3 authors is found in the year 2003 and 2004 of vol. no.-33 and 34 respectively.

**Table 4: Author Productivity** 

Sl. no	l. no Year Total no of Articles		No. of Authors	AAPP*	Productivity per Year
1	2000	14	20	1.42	0.70

2	2001	14	22	1.57	0.63
3	2002	14	25	1.78	0.56
4	2003	12	20	1.66	0.60
5	2004	11	21	1.90	0.52
6	2005	13	27	2.07	0.48
7	2006	13	41	3.15	0.31
8	2007	15	48	3.20	0.31
9	2008	13	49	3.76	0.26
10	2009	13	34	2.61	0.38
11	2010	17	41	2.41	0.41
12	2011	15	31	2.06	0.48
Total		164	379	2.29	0.47

<sup>\*</sup>average authors per paper (AAPP) = number of authors/number of papers.

Productivity per author = number of papers/number of authors.

It is noticed from the data related to author productivity, which shows that the total average number of authors per paper is 2.29 and the average productivity per author is 0.47. The highest number of author productivity i.e., 49(3.76) were published in the year 2008.

Table 5: Year wise Single and Multiple Authored papers

Sl. no	Year	Single Authored		Multi Authored		Total	% of
		Papers	%	Papers	%		Records
1	2000	10	16.12	4	3.92	14	8.53
2	2001	10	16.12	4	3.92	14	8.53
3	2002	7	11.29	7	6.86	14	8.53
4	2003	5	8.06	7	6.86	12	7.31
5	2004	4	6.45	7	6.86	11	6.70
6	2005	5	8.06	8	7.84	13	7.92

7	2006	2	3.22	11	10.78	13	7.92
8	2007	-	-	15	14.70	15	9.14
9	2008	2	3.22	11	10.78	13	7.92
10	2009	2	3.22	11	10.78	13	7.92
11	2010	7	11.29	10	9.80	17	10.36
12	2011	8	12.90	7	6.86	15	9.14
T	otal	62	100	102	100	164	100

This table shows the details about the single and multi authored papers. Out of 164 scholarly articles only 62 (37.80%) contributions are written by single author and the rest 102 articles i.e., (62.20%) contributed by multiple authors.

**Table 6: Degree of Collaboration** 

Sl no	Year	Single Authored Paper (N <sub>s</sub> )	Multiple Authored Papers (N <sub>m</sub> )	Total (N <sub>s</sub> + N <sub>m</sub> )	Degree of Collaboration
1	2000	10	4	14	0.28
2	2001	10	4	14	0.28
3	2002	7	7	14	0.50
4	2003	5	7	12	0.58
5	2004	4	7	11	0.63
6	2005	5	8	13	0.61
7	2006	2	11	13	0.84
8	2007	-	15	15	1.00
9	2008	2	11	13	0.84
10	2009	2	11	13	0.84
11	2010	7	10	17	0.58
12	2011	8	7	15	0.46
Total		62	102	164	0.62

Table 6 presents the details the degree of collaboration. It is a very important and essential part of any research area. In this bibliometric study this table shows the trends in single and joint authorship collaborative work during the period from 2000 to 2011. The degree of collaboration

is formulated by using the following formula (k. subramanyam, 1982)

The formula is, where

Nm C =C= degree of collaboration Nm+Ns Nm= number of multiple authors 102

C =Ns= number of single author 102+62

In the present study, the value of c is C =0.62

Here, the table shows that the degree of collaboration ranges from 0.28 to 1.00 and the average degree of collaboration is 0.62 Hence it clearly manifests that the multi authorship contributions in JIMH dominance over the single authorship contributions.

#### Conclusion

In this research work, the collaboration of scholarly journal article's trend in JIMH can be noticed during specified study period of 2000-2011. The total articles are 164 and total authors are 379.in between this the study period. The authorship pattern has changed from the single author in early years to increased multi- author collaboration in recent years. In the first half of the study period i.e. 2000 -2005, it is noticed that there were 41 articles were written by single author as compared to 37 articles were written only by multi- author collaboration. But in the 2nd half of the period i.e. 2006-2011 there is only 21 articles by single author as compared to 65 articles were contributed by joint author's collaboration. On the other hand, out of 164 articles, only 62 articles (i.e., 37.80%) were written by single author where as 102 articles i.e., (62.20%) were contributed by more than one author. The highest number of articles were published in the year 2010. The total average number of author per person is 2.29 and the average productivity per author is 0.47. The degree of collaboration ranges from 0.28 to 1.00 and the average degree of collaboration is 0.62 in this study period. Here collaboration is studies only relates to joint authorship .Outside of authorship such as consultation in composing article content, peerreviewed team for scholarly collaboration etc. are not considered. Here the result has tilted towards the joint authors of about 62% as compared to single author contribution of about 38%. Therefore the main objectives of any scientific collaboration are knowing the new skills, ideas and developments of the related fields and also accessing these more efficiently which obviously improve the quality of the scholarly and research oriented journal articles.

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# বৈদিক জ্যোতিরূপা সরস্বতী ও নদী সরস্বতীর সম্মিলিতরূপ বিচার

## শ্রী বিপ্লব বাগদী\*

সারসংক্ষেপ: সরস্বতী জ্যোতির্ময়ী দেবতা। সরস্+বতী=সরস্বতী, এই হল সরস্বতী শব্দের ব্যতৃপত্তি। ঋথেদে সরস্থান শব্দের অর্থ জ্যোতি। স্বামী নির্মলানন্দের মতে-'সরস' শব্দের প্রকৃতার্থ জ্যোতিঃ। তদুত্তর অস্ত্যর্থে বতুপ এবং স্ত্রীলিঙ্গে ঈপ প্রত্যয় করে নিষ্পন্ন হয়েছে। আবার দেবী ভাগবতে সরস্বতী হলেন জ্যোতিস্বরূপা। উমেশ্চন্দ্র বটব্যালের মতে-'সরস শব্দের আদিম অর্থ হল জ্যোতিঃ। সেই জন্য সরস্বান্ শব্দ সূর্যকেই বোঝায়। ঋথেদে একটি মন্ত্রে সরস্বান্ শব্দ সূর্যকেই নির্দেশ করেছে- "দিব্যং সুপর্ণং বায়সং বৃহত্তমপাং গর্ভং দর্শ তমাষধীনাং অভীপতা বৃষ্টিভিস্তর্পয়ন্তং সরস্বন্থাবস জাহবীমি" ' 'তিনি সুন্দর গতি বিশিষ্ট,গমনশীল, প্রকান্ড জলের গর্ভ সমৃত্পাদক এবং ওষধীসমূহের প্রকাশক। যাস্কাচার্যের মতে সরস্বতী শব্দের অর্থ জল। স্-ধাতু নিষ্পন্ন সর অর্থাত্ জল। তিনি বৃষ্টিধারায় জলাশয়কে পূর্ণ করেন এবং নদীকে পালন করেন।রক্ষার্থে তাকে আহ্বান করি।" <sup>২</sup> শ্রী শংকরনাথ ভট্টাচার্য ও 'সরস্ শব্দের অর্থ জ্যোতি করেছেন।' <sup>°</sup> আবার অপর মন্ত্রে উক্ত হয়েছে— "সরস্বতী সাধয়ম্ভীধিয়ং ন ইলা দেবী ভারতী বিশ্বতৃর্তিঃ।তিস্রা দেবীঃ স্বধয়া বর্হিরদমচ্ছিদং পান্ডশরণং নিষদ্য।"<sup>8</sup> হিন্দু দেবী সরস্বতীকে শতাব্দী ভেদে ভিন্ন ভিন্ন ধরনের বীণা হস্তে চিত্রিত করা হয়েছে। প্রাচীনতম জ্ঞাত সরস্বতী-সদৃশ খোদাই চিত্রগুলি পাওয়া গিয়েছে খ্রিস্টপর্ব ২০০ অব্দের সমসাময়িক বৌদ্ধ প্রত্নক্ষত্রগুলি থেকে। এই চিত্রগুলিতে সরস্বতীর হাতে হার্প-জাতীয় বীণা দেখা যায়। বাংলা ভাষায় সরস্বতীর অপরাপর নামগুলি হল সারদা, বান্দেবী, বাখাদিনী, বাগীশা, বান্দেবতা, বাগীশ্বরী, বাজ্ঞায়ী, বিদ্যাদেবী, বাণী, বীণাপাণি, ভারতী, মহাশ্বেতা, শতরূপা, গীর্দেবী, সনাতনী, পদ্মাসনা, হংসারূঢ়া, হংসবাহনা, হংসবাহিনী, কাদম্বরী, শ্বেতভূজা, শুক্রা ও সর্বশুক্রা ইত্যাদি।

সূচক শব্দ: সরস্বতী, জলেরদেবী, জ্যোতি, ভারতী, নদী সরস্বতী, বাক,বিদ্যা ও জ্ঞানের অধিষ্ঠাত্রী দেবী

<sup>\*</sup> অধ্যাপক, সংস্কৃত বিভাগ, নবদ্বীপ বিদ্যাসগর কলেজ ইমেল: bagdibiplab@gmail.com

ভূমিকা— বেদে সাধারণতঃ পুরুষ দেবতার প্রাধান্য দেখা যায়।পুরুষ দেবতার তুলনায় নারী দেবতার সংখ্যা যেমন অল্প, প্রাধান্যের দিক থেকেও কম।নারী দেবতার মধ্যে অপেক্ষাকৃত প্রাধান্য লাভ করেছিলেন অদিতি, ঊষা এবং সরস্বতী। এতকিছু বাদ দিয়ে যদি শুধুই 'সরস্বতী' শব্দের বিশ্লেষণ করি দেখা যাবে 'সরস্বান্' শব্দের সঙ্গে 'স্বতী' স্ত্রীবাচক যুক্ত হয়ে 'সরস্বতী' শব্দের উৎপত্তি। হরিচরণ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের বঙ্গীয় শব্দকোষ অনুসারে যার অর্থ- প্রচুর জলযুক্ত, সমুদ্র, নদ, নদী বিশেষ। ঋপ্রেদে অধিকাংশ জায়গায় 'সরস্বতী' শব্দ সিদ্ধু নদ অর্থে ব্যবহৃত হয়েছে। 'দেবনদী' হিসেবেও এর উল্লেখ পাওয়া যায়। অর্থাৎ যিনি সরস ভাবে বহুমান তিনিই সরস্বতী। প্রকারান্তরে তিনি হলেন জলের দেবী। এই সরস্বতী হলেন বৈদিক দেবী, যিনি নদী রূপা। তিনি লুকিয়ে থাকেন—তাই তিনি ফল্প। প্রয়াগের ত্রিবেণী সঙ্গমে তাই গঙ্গা-যমুনাকে দেখা গেলেও সেখানে সরস্বতীকে চোখে পড়েনা। ঋগ্বেদস্থ সরস্বতীর সঙ্গে ঈড়া ও ভারতী নাম্নী দেবতার নাম অনেকবার সংশ্লিষ্ট হয়েছে। ঋগ্নেদে বলা হয়েছে— "ভারতীর সরস্বতী যাবঃ সর্বাউপব্রুব। তা নশ্চাদয়ত শ্রিয়ে।" রমেশ্চন্দ্র দত্ত অনুবাদ করেছেন—"আমাদিগের যজ্ঞনিষ্পাদিকা (অগ্নিরূপ) সরস্বতী, ইলা এবং সর্বব্যাপিকা ভারতী দেবী তিনজন যজ্ঞে আশ্রয় করতঃ হব্য লাভের জন্য আমাদিগের যজ্ঞ পালন করুন"। খযজুর্বেদেও এই ত্রয়ী দেবতার একত্র উল্লেখ ও আহ্বান দৃষ্ট হয়— "তিস্র দেবীর্বহিরদং সদয়ন্তিড়া সরস্বতী ভারতী" আচার্য সায়ন, আচার্য মহীধর, আচার্য যাস্ক প্রমুখ বেদের সুপ্রসিদ্ধ ভাষ্যকারগণ এই দেবীত্রয়কে অগ্নি বা আদিত্যরূপে ও গ্রহণ করেছেন। আচার্য মহীধর শুক্ল যজুর্বেদের ২০/৬৩ মন্ত্রের ভাষ্যে বলেছেন— "সরস্বতী মধ্যম স্থানা, ভারতী দ্যুস্থানা, ইড়া পৃথিবী স্থানা।" যাস্কাচার্যকৃত নিরুক্তে উল্লিখিত—"ভরত আদিত্যস্তস্যভা ইলা মনুষ্যবদিহ চেতয়মানা "— অর্থাত্ ভরত শব্দের অর্থ আদিত্য, বা জ্যোতি ভারতী মনুষ্যতুল্য চৈতন্যময়ীরূপে বর্ণিতা। ৬ঃ অমরেশ্বর ঠাকুর এই প্রসংগে বলেছেন— "ভারতী, ইলা ও সরস্বতী-ইহারা ক্রমাপ্বয়ে দ্যুস্থান দেবতা সূর্য জ্যোতি, পুথিবী স্থান দেবতা অগ্নি এবং মধ্যমস্থান দেবতা বিদ্যুত। এই তিন-ই অগ্নি, কাজেই তিস্রাদেবীঃ পৃথিবীস্থানা বলিয়া গঠিত"। ২০ যজ্ঞাগ্নিরূপা তিন দেবী অভিন্না।আচার্য যোগেশ্চন্দ্র রায়ের মতে—তিন দেবী তিন ঋতুর যজ্ঞাগ্নি—"ইড়া বর্ষা ঋতুর, ভারতী শরত ঋতুর এবং সরস্বতী শীত ঋতুর যজ্ঞরূপী তিন দেবী।">>

#### যজ্ঞরূপা সরস্বতী—

সরস্বতী যে যজ্ঞরূপা তা ঋগ্বেদের এই মন্ত্রের দ্বারা ব্যক্ত হয়েছে— "সরস্বতী দেবয়ন্তে হবত্তে সরস্বতীমধ্বরে তায়মানে।

সরস্বতীংসুকৃতো আহ্বায়ন্ত সরস্বতী দাশুষে বার্যদোত।।"

সম্বতীং "মাহার দেকতার উদ্দেশ্যে মাত্র করে তাহার সরস্ক্রী

-অর্থাত্ "যাহারা দেবতার উদ্দেশ্যে যজ্ঞ করে তাহার সরস্বতীকে আরাধনার জন্য আহ্বান করিতেছে, দেবতার যজ্ঞ যখন বিস্তারিতরূপ আরম্ভ হইল, তখন সুকৃতি লোক সরস্বতীকে আহ্বান করিল।সেই সরস্বতী যেন দাতা ব্যক্তির অভিলাষ পূর্ণ করেন।"<sup>১</sup>° আবার কোন কোন ঋকে সরস্বতী দ্যাবাপৃথিবী ব্যপ্ত করে থাকেন।তিনি দীপ্তি দ্বারা স্বর্গ, মর্ত পূর্ণ করেন।"আপপ্রুষী পার্থিবান্যুরুরজা অন্তরীক্ষং সরস্বতী নিদম্পাতু।"<sup>১৪</sup>

অর্থাত্ পৃথিবী ও স্বর্গের বিস্তীর্ণ প্রদেশসকলকে যিনি নিজ দীপ্তি দ্বারা পূর্ণ করেছেন সেই দেবী যেন নিন্দুক হতে আমাদের রক্ষা করেন। সরস্বতী কেবল অগ্নি নন, তিনি সূর্যেরও কিরণ, যিনি দীপ্তি দ্বারা স্বর্গ, মর্ত ও অস্তরীক্ষকে ব্যপ্ত করেন। তাণ্ডমহাব্রাহ্মণে বলা হয়েছে— "সরস্বত্যা বৈ দেবা আদিত্যমস্তভনুবন্ সা নাহযচ্ছত্ সাহভ্যলীয়ত তস্মাত্ সা কুঞ্জিকামতীব তং বৃহত্যাহস্ত ভনুবন" '

সরস্বতীর বক্রতা সূর্যের রশ্মির সর্বত্রগামিতা প্রকাশিত করে।সরস্বতীর সংগে যেমন ইন্দ্রের ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্পর্ক তেমনি

ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্পর্ক মরুত ও অশ্বিদ্বয়ের সংগেও দেখা যায়।একটি ঋকে সরস্বতী মরুতগণের সখা—

"সা নো বাধ্যবিত্রী মরুতসখা চোদ রাধো মঘোনাং।

ভদ্রমিদভদ্রা কৃণবত্ সরস্বত্যাকবারী চেততী বাজিনীবতী। ।">৬

অর্থাত "হে শুদ্রবর্ণা সরস্বতী। তোমার মহিমা দ্বারা মনুষ্যুগণ উভয়বিধ অন্ন প্রাপ্ত হয়। তুমি রক্ষাকারিণী হইয়া তুমি হবিষ্মানদিগের নিকট ধন প্রেরণ কর।"<sup>১৭</sup>

## সরস্বতীর রোগনিরাময় শক্তি—

শুক্ল যজুর্বেদে সরস্বতী স্বয়ং চিকিত্সক এবং দেববৈদ্য অশ্বিদ্বয়ের পত্নী-"সরস্বতী যোন্যাং গর্ভমন্তরশ্মিভ্যাং পত্নী সুকৃতং বিভর্তি।">৮ "সরস্বতী অশ্বিদ্বয়ের পত্নীরূপ গর্ভ, ইন্দ্ররূপ শোভন পুত্র ধারণ করেছিলেন। সরস্বতীর রোগনিরাময় শক্তি পরবর্তী জন্মস্মৃতিতে বিরাজিত ছিল। কথাসরিতসাগর গ্রন্থে সোমদেব জানিয়েছেন যে পাটলীপুত্রের নারীরা রুগ্ন ব্যক্তির চিকিত্সার জন্য সরস্বতীর ঔষধ ব্যবহার করতেন।">১

## দই প্রকার সরস্বতী—

যাস্কাচার্য দুই প্রকার সরস্বতীর কথা বলেছেন—"তত্র সরস্বতীত্যতস্য নদীবদ্দবতাবচ্চ নিগমা ভবন্তী।" সরস্বতী কখনো ত্রিলোকব্যাপিনী সূর্যাগ্নির দ্যুতি আবার দ্যাবাপৃথিবীতে বহুমানা নদীস্বরূপা। দ্যাবাপৃথিবীতে বর্ত্তমানা সরস্বতীর স্তুতি করেছেন ঋশ্বেদের ঋষি- "সরস্বতীমিন্মহয়া সুবরক্তিভিঃ স্মামৈর্ব শিষ্ঠ রোদসী" 'দ্যাবাপৃথিবীতে বর্ত্তমানা সরস্বতীকেই দোষবর্জিত স্তোত্র দ্বারা পূজা কর'।<sup>২০</sup> কিন্তু আচার্য যোগেশ্চন্দ্র রায়ের মতে— "সরস্ বা জল সমণ্ণিত মর্তের নদী সরস্বতীর সাদৃশ্য আকাশের ছায়াপথ কে দিব্য সরস্বতী বা জ্যোতির্ময়ী সরস্বতী কল্পনা করা হয়েছে। এই ছায়াপথই সরস্বতী, স্বর্গ গঙ্গা, আকাশগঙ্গা, মন্দাকিনী।<sup>খং)</sup> নদী সরস্বতী আর্যভূমির অন্যতম প্রধান নদীরূপে বহুবার উল্লিখিত ও স্তুত হয়েছেন। ঋগ্বেদের সুপ্রসিদ্ধ নদীস্তুতিতে বৈদিক আর্যভূমির প্রধান নদীগুলির উল্লেখ আছে—

> "ইমং মে গঙ্গে যমুনে সরস্বতী শুতুদ্রিন্তামং সচতা পরুষ্ণ্যা। অসিক্ল্যা মরুদ্বধে বিতস্তয়ার্জীকীয় শূণ্হ্যাসুষোময়া।।"<sup>২২</sup>

অর্থাত "হে গঙ্গা, যমুনা ও সরস্বতী , শতুদ্রু ও পরুষ্ণু। আমার এই স্তবগুলি তোমরা ভাগ করিয়া লও। হে অসিক্রি সঙ্গ্য মরুদ্বধা নদী। হে বিতস্তা ও সুষমা সঙ্গত আর্জীকীয়া নদী। তোমরা শ্রবণ কর।"<sup>২৩</sup> সরস্বতী নদী শ্রেষ্ঠা, দেবীশ্রেষ্ঠা, সরস্বতী সন্বন্ধে ঋষি বলেছেন— "বৃহদু গায়িষ বচাহসূর্যা নদীনাম" (হে বশিষ্ঠ) তুমি নদীগণের মধ্যে বলবতী সরস্বতীর উদ্দেশ্যে বৃহত স্তোত্রগান করো।"<sup>২৫</sup> সেকালে সরস্বতী ছিল সর্বপ্রধান এবং সর্বাপেক্ষা প্রয়োজনীয় নদী।

সরস্বতীর তীর ছিল প্রসিদ্ধ তীর্থক্ষেত্র। ব্রাহ্মণ গ্রন্থ সমূহ, মহাভারতে সরস্বতীর মহিমা সরস্বতী নদীর তীরে জজ্ঞানুষ্ঠানের উল্লেখ পাওয়া যায়। সরস্বতী নদীর তীরে অনুষ্ঠিত জজ্ঞের নাম সারস্বত জজ্ঞ। "অত্র সারস্বতৈর্য জ্ঞৈরীজানাঃ পরমর্শয়ঃ। সারস্বতৈর্য জ্ঞেরিষ্টবন্তঃ সুরর্ষয়ঃ।।"

## ধনদাত্রী-অন্নদাত্রী—

দেবী সরস্বতীর অন্যতম গুণ , তিনি ধনদাত্রী-অন্নদাত্রী-আন্নময়ী-বাজিনীবতী। ঋপ্লেদে তাই একটি মন্ত্রে বলা হয়েছে—

"পাবকা নঃ সরস্বতী বাজভিঃ বাজিনীবতী। ভদ্রমিদভদ্রা কৃণবত সরস্বত্যকবারী চেততি বাজিনীবতী। <sup>"২৬</sup> সরস্বতী কেবল অন্ন, ধন ও সম্পদদায়িনী নন, তিনি সম্পদের রক্ষাকর্তীও। তিনি বৃত্র ও অন্যান্য মায়াবী দানব বধ করেছেন।

"উতস্যা নঃ সরস্বতী ঘোরা হিরণ্যবর্তনিঃ।

বৃত্রন্নী বষ্টিসুষ্টুতিম।।"

ঋথেদের ষষ্ঠ মণ্ডলের চতুর্থ ঋকে বলা হয়েছে-

"প্রাণোদেবী সরস্বতী বাজভির্বাজিনীবতী।

ধীনামবিত্র্যবত্।।"

— অর্থাত্ দানশালিনী, অন্ন সম্পন্না, স্তোত্রবর্গের রক্ষাকারিণী সরস্বতী যেন অন্ন দ্বারা সম্যকরূপে আমাদের তৃপ্তি সাধন করেন। ঋথেদের ১ম মণ্ডলের তৃতীয় সূক্তে বলা হয়েছে— "পাবকাঃ নঃ সরস্বতী বাজভিঃ বাজিনীবতী" অর্থাত্ তিনি অন্নদাত্রী, পুরাণ ও পুরাণোত্তর আধুনিকালে সরস্বতী বাক্য বা শব্দের অধিষ্ঠাত্রী দেবী রূপে প্রসিদ্ধা। বৈদিক সরস্বতী সম্পর্কে অথর্ববেদে বলা হয়েছে—

"ইয়ং যা পরমেষ্ঠিনী বাগদেবী ব্রহ্মসংশিতা।

যয়েব সংসৃজে ঘারং তয়ৈব শান্তিরস্ত নঃ।।"
বিপরমেষ্ঠিনী (পরমেষ্ঠি ব্রহ্মার পত্নী) ব্রহ্মা (ঋত্বিক) দ্বারা প্রশংসিতা বাগদেবী— যিনি ভীষণতার স্রষ্টী, তিনি আমাদের শান্তি রক্ষা করুন। ব্রাহ্মণসমূহে স্প্র্রুভাবেই সরস্বতীকে বাক বা বাক্যদেবী বলা হয়েছে— "বাশ্বৈ সরস্বতী বাচমেব তত প্রীণাতী" বাক-ই সরস্বতীত, যা বাককে প্রীত করে। 'বাশ্বৈ সরস্বতী, বাগ যজ্ঞঃ'।ত বাক এখানে সরস্বতী এবং যজ্ঞরপা।'বাক বৈ সরস্বতীতাত, রামায়ণ বাণী সরস্বতী ও বান্দেবতা: বাক ও সরস্বতীর অভিন্নতা ব্রাহ্মণগুলিতে পুনঃ পুনঃ ঘোষিত হয়েছে। প্রজাপতি বাককে সৃষ্টি করেছিলেন এবং তিনভাগে ভাগ করেছিলেন— "প্রজাপতির্বাইদমকাক্ষরাং সতীং ত্রেখা ব্যকরাত্তো ইমা লোকা অভবন।"

"বাশ্বৈ সরস্বতী। তম্মাত প্রাণানাং বাগুতুমা,"

"বাক্ব ও বাকপতি। ক্র্যোতিরপা সরস্বতী জ্ঞানের অধিষ্ঠাত্রী। ত্রিলোকে বিচরণশীল জ্যোতিময়ী সরস্বতী প্রবাহমানা জলময়ী নদী সরস্বতী জ্ঞানের উদ্দীপনকারিণী হওয়ায় তিনি হলেন বিদ্যাদেবী। অনেক পণ্ডিতই মনে করেন যে সরস্বতী প্রথম ছিলেন নদী, পরে দেবতায় রূপান্তরিত হন। আচার্য রমেশ্চন্দ্র দত্ত লিখেছেন— "আর্যাবত সরস্বতী নামে যে নদী আছে, তাহাই প্রথম দেবী বলিয়া পূজিত ইইয়াছিলেন। এক্ষণে গঙ্গা যেরূপ হিন্দুদিগের উপাস্যদেবী প্রথম হিন্দুদিগের পক্ষে সরস্বতী নদি মেক্রপতি নদি মেক্রপতি ভিলেন।

উপাস্যদেবী প্রথম হিন্দুদিগের পক্ষে সরস্বতী নদী সেইরূপ ছিলেন।অচিরে সরস্বতী বান্দেবীও ইইলেন।

"তঃ

## সরস্বতীরস্বরূপ—

সরস্বতীর মূর্তি কল্পনায় বিভিন্ন ধ্যানমন্ত্রে তাঁর স্বরূপটি ফুটে ওঠে।যথা-দেবী শুল্রবর্ণা, চতুর্ভূজা, হাতে পদ্ম, বীণা, পুস্তক, অক্ষমালা, সুধাকলস ও ব্যাখ্যানমুদ্রা, দেবী ত্রিনয়না, তাঁর ললাটে শশিকলা, তিনি শ্বেতপদ্মাসীনা, তিনি হংসরূপা, তিনি সৌভাগ্য ও সম্পদদাত্রী। খ্রীষ্টীয় ষোডশ শতাব্দীতে বিখ্যাত স্মৃতিশাস্ত্র প্রণেতা রঘুনন্দন ভট্টাচার্য 'সারদাতিলক তন্ত্র' থেকে সরস্বতীর ধ্যানমন্ত্র উদ্ধৃতি করেছেন, সেটি বহুল প্রচলিত—

"তরুণশকলমিন্দার্বি দ্রতী শুদ্রকান্তিঃ।

কুচভরনমিতাঙ্গী সন্নিসন্না সিতাজ।।

নিজকরকামলাদ্যল্লেখনী পুস্তকশ্রীঃ।

সকলবিভবসিদ্ধ্যৈ পাতৃ বাগদেবতা নঃ।।"

অর্থাত্ যাঁর ললাটে বিরাজিত তরুণ শশিকলা, যিনি শুল্রবর্ণা, কুচভারবনতা, শ্বেতপদ্মাসীনা, যাঁর এক হস্তে উদ্যত লেখনী ও অপর হস্তে পুস্তক শোভা পায়।সেই বান্দেবী সকল বিভব সিদ্ধির নিমিত্ত আমাদের রক্ষা করুন। আবার, নবদ্বীপের সুবিখ্যাত তান্ত্রিক কৃষ্ণানন্দ আগমবাগীশ তন্ত্রসারে সরস্বতীর রূপ বর্ণনায় বলেছেন—

"শুভ্রাং স্বচ্ছবিলেপমাল্যবসনাং শীতাংশুখণ্ডজ্জুলাং।

ব্যাখ্যামক্ষগুণং সুধাড্য্যকলসং বিদ্যাঞ্চ হস্তাম্বুজৈ।।

বিভাণাং কমলাসনাং বান্দেবতাং সম্মতাং।

বন্দে বাশ্বিতপ্রদাং ত্রিনয়নাং সৌভাগ্যসম্পতকরীম।।"

অর্থাত্ "যিনি শ্বেতাঙ্গী, শ্বেত চন্দন, শ্বেতমালা ও শ্বেতবসন পরিধান করিয়া চারিটি হস্তপদ জ্ঞানমুদ্রা, রুদ্রাক্ষমালা, সুধাপূর্ণকলস ও বিদ্যা ধারণ করিতেছেন, যাঁহার ললাটদেশে চন্দ্র কলা শোভা পাইতেছে, কুচভারে অবনতা হইয়া যিনি সহাস্যবদনে শ্বেতকমলে অবস্থিতি করিতেছেন, যিনি ভক্তগণকে বাক, সম্পত্তি ও সর্বপ্রকার সৌভাগ্য সম্পদ প্রদান করিয়া থাকেন, সেই ত্রিনয়না বান্দেবীকে প্রণাম করি।"

সরস্বতীর আরেক নাম সারদা বা শারদা। কলা তাঁর আত্মা, তিনি বর্ণ জননী। সারদাতিলকে বলা হয়েছে— "কলাত্মা বর্ণজননী দেবতা শারদা স্মৃতা"।

## বাংলা সাহিত্যেও বিদ্যাধিষ্ঠাত্রী দেবী—

ভারতবর্ষের অন্যান্য ভাষার সাহিত্যের মত বাংলা সাহিত্যেও বিদ্যাধিষ্ঠাত্রী দেবী সরস্বতী বারংবার বন্দিতা ও আরাধিতা হয়েছেন। রায়গুণাকর ভারতচন্দ্র বলেছেন—

"শ্বেতবর্ণ শ্বেতবাস শ্বেতবীণা শ্বেতহাস

শ্বেত সরসিজ-নিবাসিন।

বেদ বিদ্যা তন্ত্ৰ মন্ত্ৰ বেণুবীণা আদি যন্ত্ৰ

নৃত্যগীত বাদ্যরঈশ্বরী।।"

কবিগুরু রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর লিখেছেন— "বিমল মানস সরস বাসিনী

শুক্ল বসনা শুভ্রহাসিনী

বীণারঞ্জিত মঞ্জুভাষীনী

কমলকুঞ্জাসনা।"

পণ্ডিত অমূল্যচরণ বিদ্যাভূষণ বলেছেন— "সরস্বতী বিদ্যার ও ললিতকলার অধিষ্ঠাত্রী হিসাবে সমগ্র ভারতে পূজিত হয়েছেন এবং হচ্ছেন। এমনকি ভারতের বাইরেও দেশ-দেশান্তরে তাঁর পূজা প্রসারিত হয়েছে। নবদ্বীপে প্রাপ্ত পদ্মাসীনা সপ্ততন্ত্রী বীণাহস্তা সরস্বতী মূর্তি, তিব্বতে বজ্রধারিণী ময়ুরবাহনা বজ্র সরস্বতী ও বীণাপাণি সরস্বতী, জাপানে বেনতেন নামধারিণী সর্পাসনা দ্বিভূজা বীণাপাণি, অষ্টভূজা হঞ্লিবেনতেন সরস্বতীর দেওয়ার অভ্রান্ত সাক্ষ্য বহন করে।"

## পৌরাণিকসরস্বতীরকথা—

কিন্তু তিনি কি শুধুই বিদ্যার দেবী? দেবীভাগবত অনুসারে সরস্বতী হলেন ব্রহ্মারপত্মী। তিনি বাকদান করেন। তাই তিনি বাগদেবী। তাঁর অপর নাম বাণী বা ভারতী। তিনি ভাষা থেকে শুরু করে সব বিদ্যাদান করেন। পঞ্জিকায় চোখ রাখলে দেখা যাবে দিনটি শ্রীপঞ্চমী বলে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে। আমরা জানি 'শ্রী' হল লক্ষ্মীদেবীর অপর নাম। লক্ষ্মী দেবীধন-

সম্পদের দেবতা নন। ধনদেবতা কুবের। লক্ষ্মীদেবী জীবনের লক্ষ্যস্থির করে জীবনকে শ্রীমন্ত করে তোলেন। সরস্বতীর আশীর্বাদে বিদ্যালাভ যাতে জীবনকে শ্রীমন্ডিত করে জীবনের লক্ষ্য স্থির করে দেয় তাই সরস্বতীর হাতে যবের শিস দিয়ে তাতে লক্ষ্মীত্ত্ব অর্পণ করা হয়। তাই দিনটি শ্রীপঞ্চমী।ব্রহ্মবৈবর্ত পুরাণ মতে লক্ষ্মী এবং সরস্বতী দুজনেই বিষ্ণুর পত্নী। দ্বিতীয় মহাবিদ্যা তারাদেবীর অপর নাম হল নীল সরস্বতী। তাই তন্ত্র সাধকদের কাছে নীল সরস্বতী পুজো হল তন্ত্রসাধনার মহোৎসব। দুর্গাপুজোর সময় আমরা যে শ্রীশ্রীচণ্ডী পাঠ করে বা শুনে থাকি সেখানে দুর্গার কোন উল্লেখ নেই। সেখানে যে তিনদেবীর উল্লেখ রয়েছে তাঁরা হলেন মহাকালী, মহালক্ষ্মী এবং মহাসরস্বতী। বাংলা বা ভারতের সর্বত্রই এই মহাসরস্বতীর পূজো হয়। তিনি চতুর্ভুজা এবং ত্রিনেত্র। একমাত্র বাংলাতেই দ্বিভূজা সরস্বতীর রূপটি বহুল প্রচলিত। সরস্বতীর বর্ণনায় আমরা দেখি তাঁর গায়ের রঙ কুন্দফুল, চাঁদ এবং তুষারের মতন শ্বেতশুল। তাঁর পরনে সাদা শাডি। তিনি শ্বেতপদ্মাসনা, শ্বেতপুষ্প শোভিতা, শ্বেতচন্দনচর্চিতা। তিনি যেসব অলঙ্কার পরে রয়েছেন তারও রং সাদা। পুরাণ বিদ শিবশংকর ভারতীর মতে সরস্বতী হলেন শুচিতার প্রতীক। জ্ঞান হল নিরাকার এবং জ্যোতির্ময়। আবার জ্ঞানই হল পরমব্রহ্ম। তাই সব কিছুই রং বিহীন, শুধুই সাদা। তাঁর চারহাতের একটিতে অক্ষমালা, একটিতে বীণা, একটিতে বই এবং আরেকটি হাতে তিনি আশীর্বাদ করছেন। সরস্বতীর বাহন হিসেবে ময়র এবং হাঁসদুটোই বহুল প্রচলিত। ময়ূর হল সৌন্দর্যর প্রতীক আর হাঁস হল সেই পরমহংস যেকিনা দুধ এবং জল মিশিয়ে দিলে তার মধ্যে থেকে দৃধটুকু আলাদা করে পান করতে পারে। অর্থাৎ জ্ঞান থেকে সারতত্ত্বটি আয়ত্ত করতে পারে।আলাপিণী বীণা হস্তে সরস্বতী, খ্রিস্টীয় দশম-দ্বাদশ শতাব্দী, পূর্ব ভারত অথবা বাংলাদেশ। দেবীভাগবত পুরাণ অনুসারে, পরম কুস্মন্দেরে প্রথম অংশে দেবী সরস্বতীর জন্ম। তিনি বিষ্ণুর জিহ্বাগ্র থেকে উৎপন্ন হয়েছেন। সরস্বতী বাক্য, বুদ্ধি, বিদ্যা ও জ্ঞানের অধিষ্ঠাত্রী দেবী; সকল সংশয় ছেদকারিণী ও সর্বসিদ্ধিপ্রদায়িনী এবং বিশ্বের উপজীবিকা স্বরূপিনী। ব্রহ্মা প্রথম তাঁকে পূজা করেন। পরে জগতে তাঁর পূজা প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। সরস্বতী শুক্লবর্ণা, পীতবস্ত্রধারিণী এবং বীণা ও পুস্তকহস্তা। তিনি নারায়ণ এর থেকে সৃষ্ট হন তাই তিনি তাঁকে স্বামী হিসেবে গ্রহণ করেন। পরে তিনি গঙ্গার দ্বারা অভিশাপ পান ও তিনি এক অংশে পুনরায় শিবের চতুর্থ মুখ থেকে সৃষ্ট হন ও ব্রহ্মা কে পতি রূপে গ্রহণ করেন। তারপর কৃষ্ণ জগতে তাঁর পূজা প্রবর্তন করেন মাঘ মাসের শুক্লপক্ষের পঞ্চমী তিথিতে তাঁর পূজা হয়।

## উপসংহার

উপরিউক্ত আলোচনা থেকে দেখা যায় যে, বৈদিক জ্যোতিরূপা সরস্বতী ও নদী সরস্বতী সম্মিলিতভাব জ্ঞানের দেবতা রূপে পুরাণতন্ত্র ও সাহিত্যে বিপুল শ্রদ্ধা ও ভক্তির অধিকারিণী হয়েছেন।সরস্বতীর আরাধনার ক্রমবিস্তার এর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাঁর রূপকল্পনাও বৈচিত্র্য লাভ করেছে।ভাগবতে ও ব্রহ্মবৈবর্তপূরাণে যাজ্ঞবল্ক ঋষি বাগহদেবতা সরস্বতীর স্তব প্রসঙ্গে বলেছেন-

"ব্রহ্মস্বরূপা পরমা জ্যোতিরূপা সনাতনী।

সর্ববিদ্যাধিদেবী যা বাগ্যৈ নমানমঃ।।"

যাজ্ঞবক্ষের স্তবে প্রীতা বাণী জ্যোতিরূপেই আবির্ভূতা হয়ে বর প্রদান করেছিলেন।গঙ্গা, লক্ষ্মী ও আসাবারী (সরস্বতীর পূর্ব জন্মের নাম) ছিলেন নারায়ণের তিন পত্নী। একবার গঙ্গা ও নারায়ণ পরস্পরের দিকে তাকিয়ে হাসলে তিন দেবীর মধ্যে তুমুল বিবাদ উপস্থিত হয়। এই বিবাদের পরিণামে একে অপরকে অভিশাপ দেন। গঙ্গার অভিশাপে আসবারী নদীতে পরিণত হন। পরে নারায়ণ বিধান দেন যে, তিনি এক অংশে নদী, এক অংশে ব্রহ্মার পত্নী ও শিবের কন্যা হবেন এবং কলিযুগের পাঁচ হাজার বছর অতিক্রান্ত হলে সরস্বতী সহ তিন দেবীরই শাপমোচন হবে।গঙ্গার অভিশাপে আসাবারি মর্ত্যে নদী হলেন এবং ব্রহ্মার পত্নী হলেন ও শিবের চতুর্থ মুখ থেকে সৃষ্টি হয়ে তার কন্যা হলেন।শুক্ল যজর্বেদ রামায়ণ রচয়িতা বাল্মীকি যখন ক্রৌঞ্চ হননের শোকে বিহ্বল হয়ে পডেছিলেন, সে সময় জ্যোতির্ময়ী ব্রহ্মাপ্রিয়া সরস্বতী তাঁর ললাটে বিদ্যুৎ রেখার মত প্রকাশিত হয়েছিলেন। সরস+বতী=সরস্বতী অর্থ জ্যোতির্ময়ী। ঋথেদে এবং যজুর্বেদে অনেকবার ইডা, ভারতী, সরস্বতীকে একসঙ্গে দেখা যায়। বেদের মন্ত্রগুলো পর্যালোচনায় ধারণা হয় যে, সরস্বতী মূলত সূর্যাগ্নি।তিনি জ্যোতির্ময়ী, জ্ঞানের অধিষ্ঠাত্রী দেবী। পরমাত্মার মুখ থেকে আবির্ভূতা।তিনি সর্বশুক্লা, বীণাপুস্তকধারিণী, চন্দ্রের শোভাযুক্তা হংসবাহিনী। শ্রুতিশাস্ত্রের মতে তিনি শ্রেষ্ঠা। কারণ তিনি দান করেন বিদ্যা, 'সা বিদ্যা পরমা'। বান্দেবী সরস্বতীকে তাই শতসহস্র কোটী প্রণাম নিবেদন করছি।

## তথ্যসূত্র :

- ১. (ঝ. ১/১৬৪/৫২)
- ২. অনুবাদ-(রমেশ্চন্দ্র দত্ত)
- ৩. (ঝ. ৬/৬/১১)
- 8. (ঝ. ৬/৬/১১)
- ৫. (তাণ্ডমহাব্রাহ্মণ-২৫/১০/১১)
- ৬. (ঝ.-৭/৯৬/২)
- ৭. (অনুবাদ- রমেশ্চন্দ্র দত্ত ঋ.-৭/৯৬/২)
- ৮. (শুক্ল যজুর্বেদ-১৯/৯৪)
- ৯. (কথাসরিতসাগর-১০/১০/৩০-৩৯)
- ১০. (অনুবাদ-রমেশ্চন্দ্র দত্ত,ঋ. ৭/৯৬/১)
- ১১. (বেদের দেবতা ও কৃষ্টিকাল,পু.১১)
- ১২. (ঝ.-১০/৭৫/৫)
- ১৩. (অনুবাদ-রমেশ্চন্দ্র দত্ত,ঋ.-১০/৭৫/৫)
- ১৪. (ঝ.-৭/৯৬/১)
- ১৫. (অনুবাদ-রমেশ্চন্দ্র দত্ত, ঋ.-৭/৯৬/১)
- ১৬. (মহাভারত বনপর্ব-১২৮/১৪)
- ১৭. (ঝ.-৭/৯৬/৩)
- ১৮. (ঝ. ৬/৬১/৭)
- ১৯. (ঝ. ৬/৬১/৭)
- ২০. (তন্ত্রসার, বঙ্গবাসী সংস্করণ, পূ. -১৯৭)
- ২১. (তন্ত্রসার, বঙ্গবাসী সংস্করণ, পৃ. -১৯৮-১৯৯)
- ২২. (অনুবাদ-পঞ্চানন তর্করত্ন)
- ২৩. (সারদাতিলক-৬/৩৩)
- ২৪. (ভারতচন্দ্রের গ্রন্থাবলী, বসুমতী, অন্নদামঙ্গল, পূ.-৪)
- ২৫. (পুরস্কার, সোনারতরী)

- ২৬. (সরস্বতী, অমূল্যচরণ বিদ্যাভূষণ, পূ.-১২৬-১৩১)
- ২৭. (অথর্ববেদ -১৯/১/৯/৩)
- ২৮. (সাংখ্যায়ণ ব্ৰাহ্মণ -৫ম অঙ্ক)
- ২৯. (ঐতরেয় ব্রাহ্মণ-৩/২)
- ৩০. (শতপথ ব্রাহ্মণ-১/১/৪)
- ৩১. (ঐতরেয় ব্রাহ্মণ-৩/১৩)
- ৩২. (তাণ্ড্য মহাব্রাহ্মণ-২০/১৪/৫)
- ৩৩. (কৃষ্ণ যজুর্বেদ-১/১/৭৭)
- ৩৪. (ঋথেদের বঙ্গানুবাদ-১ম. ১/৩/১০, ঋকের টীকা-পূ. ৯-১০)
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- ৩৬. ঠাকুর, অমরেশ্বর. যাস্ক; নিরুক্ত. ১ম-৪র্থ খণ্ড, কোলকাতা: কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ১৯৫৫-৬৩
- ৩৭. রায় বিদ্যানিধি, যোগেশ্চন্দ্র. বেদের দেবতা ও কৃষ্টিকাল. কোলকাতা: এম.সি. সরকার, ১৩৬১
- ৩৮. ভট্টাচার্য, হংসনারায়ণ, "হিন্দুদের দেবদেবী", তৃতীয় পর্ব, কোলকাতা: ফার্মা কে.এল.এম.প্রা. লি., ১৯৮০
- ৩৯. ভারতচন্দ্রের গ্রন্থাবলী, (বসুমতী), অন্নদামঙ্গল-পূ. ৪, কোলকাতা: বঙ্গীয় সাহিত্য পরিষদ, ১৩৪৩
- ৪০. তন্ত্রসার (বঙ্গবাসী সং) , পৃ.-১৯৮-১৯৯
- ৪১. সারদাতিলক, পূ.-৬/৩৩
- ৪২. সংসদ সমার্থশব্দকোষ, অশোক মুখোপাধ্যায়, সংকলন ও সম্পাদনা সহযোগিতা: সোমা মুখোপাধ্যায়, সাহিত্য
- ৪৩. সংসদ, কলকাতা, ১৯৯৬ (সংশোধিত) মুদ্রণ, পৃ. ১৯৮-১৯৯
- 88. সরস্বতীধ্যানম্: স্তবকুসুমাঞ্জলি, স্বামী গম্ভীরানন্দ সম্পাদিত, উদ্বোধন কার্যালয়, কলকাতা, ১৯৬১, পৃষ্ঠা ৩৫৪

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# খুন: পিতৃত্ব বনাম মাতৃত্বের সংঘাত

# ড. সারদা মাহাতো \*

সারাংশঃ আশাপূর্ণা দেবী স্বীকার করেছিলেন কোনদিন রাজনীতি নিয়ে কিছু লেখেননি।তবে সমকালের আইন-শৃঙ্খলার অবস্থা নিয়ে 'খুন' ছোটগল্পটি লিখেছিলেন। সন্তানহারা এক পিতার হৃদয় বিদারক কাহিনি। পরিচিত মাতৃরূপের ভিন্ন পরিচয় এই গল্পে দেখতে পাওয়া যাবে। ছয়- সাতের দশকে কলকাতা শহরে নিত্য ঘটতে থাকা অন্যায় –অত্যাচারকে যেভাবে আশাপূর্ণা দেবী বর্ণনা করেছেন তা বিস্ময়কর। পরীক্ষা-নীরিক্ষা নির্ভর সাহিত্যের যুগে তিনি সরল সাধারণ বিষয়কেকিক রচনা দ্বারা আমাদের মন জয় করেছিলেন। খুন গল্পে পিতৃত্ব বনাম মাতৃত্বের সংঘাত দেখতে পাওয়া যাবে। একজন নারীর নিষ্ঠ্রতার কাহিনি। মেয়েরা মায়ের জাত, কোমল স্বভাব হয়ে থাকে। সমাজের এই ধারনা কতটা অমূলক তা এই গল্পের মধ্যে তুলে ধরলেন আশাপূর্ণা দেবী।

সূচক শব্দঃ খুন; মাতৃত্ব; সংঘাত; উদ্বাস্ত্র; ঘ্যানঘ্যানানি; চৌকিদার; জেবন্ত; চালাঘর; ডুকরে

সহকারী অধ্যাপক, বাংলা বিভাগ রবীন্দ্র ভারতী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

## মূলপ্রবন্ধঃ

আশাপূর্ণা দেবী (১৯০৯ - ১৯৯৫) বাংলা কথাসাহিত্যের একজন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ লেখক। তিনি যখন লেখার জগতে প্রবেশ করেছিলেন তখন সমাজে মেয়েদের অবস্থান অতটা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ মনে করা হতো না। সেই সময়েই তিনি সমাজের নিয়ম অমান্য করে লেখাপড়া শুরু করেছিলেন। এবং নিজের অদম্য শক্তির জোরে স্বশিক্ষিত হয়ে উঠেছিলেন। তাঁর লেখালেখি শুরু হয় কবিতা দিয়ে। ১৩২৯বঙ্গাব্দে 'শিশুসাথী' পত্রিকায় তাঁর প্রথম কবিতা প্রকাশিত হয়। প্রথম সাহিত্য পুরস্কার পেয়েছিলেন একটি কবিতা প্রতিযোগিতায়। তাঁর প্রথম ছোটদের জন্য প্রকাশিত গ্রন্থের নাম 'ছোট ঠাকুর্দার কাশীযাত্রা'। বড়দের জন্য লেখা উপন্যাস 'প্রেম ও প্রয়োজন' প্রকাশিত হয় ১৩৫১ বঙ্গাব্দে। এরপর দীর্ঘ সাহিত্য জীবনে তিনি রচনা করেছেন একশো উননব্বই টি উপন্যাস ও দেড় হাজারেরও বেশি ছোটগল্প।ছোটদের জন্য লিখেছেন সাতাশটি গ্রন্থ।

আশাপূর্ণা দেবী যখন সাহিত্য জগতে প্রবেশ করেছিলেন, তখন ভারতীয় রাজনীতিতে এক উত্তাল সময় চলছিল। স্বাভাবিকভাবেই সেই রাজনৈতিক বিশৃঙ্খলা সাধারণ পরিবারের মধ্যেও প্রবেশ করে। কলকাতায় জাপানিদের বোমাবর্ষণ, ভারত ছাড়ো আন্দোলন, তেতাল্লিশের মন্বন্তর, দাঙ্গা, স্বাধীনতা, স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্পভঙ্গ, উদ্বাস্ত্তসমস্যা, নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যের অভাব, বেকারত্ব প্রভৃতি বিষয় সাধারণ মানুষের জীবনে পরিবর্তন নিয়ে আসে। আশাপূর্ণা দেবী পরিবর্তিত সমাজের চিত্রকে নানাভাবে তাঁর সাহিত্যে তুলে ধরলেন। তাঁর ছোট গল্পগুলি দেশকাল, সমাজ, পরিবেশপ্রধান, কখনো বা নারীমনস্তত্বপ্রধান। রাজনীতি প্রসঙ্গে বলতে গিয়ে তিনি বলেছেন-

' আমি রাজনীতি নিয়ে লিখিনি,সমাজ সেবিকাদের নিয়েও তেমন ন্য। লিখেছি ঘরোয়া মেয়েদের নিয়ে।'১

আশাপূর্ণা দেবীর গল্পে রাজনীতি, সচেতন ভাবে প্রকাশিত হ্যনি। কারণ সমকালীন রাজনৈতিক বিষয় নিয়ে তিনি সাহিত্য সৃষ্টি করেননি। তবে একেবারে রাজনীতির বিষয় তাঁর লেখায় আসেনি তা ন্য়। তাঁর 'খুন 'গল্পটি পড়লে বোঝা যায়, সরাসরি রাজনীতির কথা না বলেও, একটা সময়কে গল্পে তুলে ধরা যায়। গল্পটিতে সন্তরের দশকের নকশাল আন্দোলনের চিত্র স্পষ্ট হয়ে ওঠে। নিরীহ কিশোর-তরুণদের

রাতের অন্ধকারে সন্দেহের বশে তুলে নিয়ে গিয়ে হত্যা করা হয়েছিল। সেই অভিশপ্ত কালো দিনগুলির কথা 'খুন ' গল্পে সহমর্মিতার সঙ্গে আশাপূর্ণা দেবী তুলে ধরেছেন।

'খুন' গল্পটি শুরু হয় গণেশ চৌকিদারের আইন ভাঙার প্রসঙ্গ দিয়ে। পুলিশের কাজ আইন শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষা করা। কিন্তু গল্পের শুরু হয় 'পাঁচ আইন' ভঙ্গ করার প্রসঙ্গ দিয়ে।

হতভাগার নাকি একমাত্র ছেলেকে কোন একরাত্রে পুলিশ ধরে এনেছিল, নিগৃঢ় কোনও সন্দেহ। তারপর মানে জিজ্ঞাসাবাদের পর, নাকি ছেড়েও দিয়েছিল, কিন্তু উনিশ কুড়ি বছরের সেই ছেলেটা সেই রাত থেকেই নিখোঁজ।২ সন্দেহের বশে উনিশ-কুড়ি বয়েসের ছেলেদের পুলিশ যে কোনো সময় তুলে আনতে পারে। নিরাপরাধ ছেলেদের নির্মম প্রহার করে কথা আদায় করা পুলিশের কাজ। তাই সেই রাতে ছেলেটিকে তুলে এনে পেটের কথা আদায় করতে, তারা কী করেছিল তা জানতে কারো বাকি থাকে না। ছেলেটির বাবা প্রতিদিন তার হারিয়ে যাওয়া ছেলের খোঁজে থানায আসে এবং দারোগাবাবু কে বলে-

পুলিশ যখন মাঝ রাত্তিরে ঘর থেকে তুলে এনে আটক করেছিল, তখন নিখোঁজ ছেলে খুঁজে বার করে এনে দেওযা পুলিশেরই কোর্তব্য।৩

আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী পুলিশ যখন, আইনকে নিজের মত ব্যবহার করতে থাকে, তখন আইন-শৃঙ্খলার যে পরিণতি হ্য, তা সত্তরের দশকের ইতিহাসের দিকে তাকালেই বুঝে নিতে পারি। এই একটি ঘটনাকে উল্লেখ করে সত্তরের রাজনীতি, আইন-শৃঙ্খলা, সামাজিক অবস্থান স্পষ্ট করে তুলে ধরলেন আশাপূর্ণা দেবী। সাধারণ ঘরের তরুণদের, শুধুমাত্র ওই বয়সের অপরাধে কি যন্ত্রণা সহ্য করে মৃত্যুবরণ করতে হয়েছিল, তার বিবরণ অসাধারণ দক্ষতায় একটি ঘটনার মাধ্যমে তুলে ধরেছেন লেখিকা। আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী পুলিশ যদি তার কাজ যথাযথভাবে করতো, তাহলে আমাদের দেশের আইন শৃঙ্খলার এমন অবনতি দেখতে হতো না। তাই গণেশ চৌকিদারের মুখ দিয়ে তিনি বলান-

যেন 'কোর্তব্য' করতেই পুলিশের জন্ম। যেন মানব সেবা করতেই তাদের আবির্ভাব। মাটির

মানুষ ছোট দারোগা কি কম বুঝ দেয় লোকটাকে? গণেশের তো দেখে শুনে অবাক লাগে। অন্য কেউ হলে কবেই জন্মের শোধ হতভাগার ঘ্যানঘ্যানানি ঘূচিযে দিতো।৪

ছোট দারোগাবাবুর এই ধরনের আচরণে অবাক হয়ে যায় গণেশ। রঘু দারোগাবাবুর এই পরিবর্তনের কারণ বলেছিল-দারোগার ও দারোগা থাকে রে গনেশ।৫

পুলিশের কাজ দেশের শাস্তি-শৃঙ্খলা বজায় রাখা। কিন্তু এই গল্পে পুলিশের ভূমিকার সমালোচনা করা হয়েছে। তোলা আদায়, রাজনৈতিক নেতাদের কথা মত কাজ এবং

- হাতের সুখই যদি না করতে পেল, তবে আর পুলিশে কাজ করতে আসা কেন?৬

পুলিশের মনোভাব কেমন হয়ে থাকে সাধারণ মানুষের প্রতি, তার একটা উদাহরণ গণেশের এই কথার মধ্যদিয়ে প্রকাশিত হয়। পুলিশকে রাজনৈতিক দলের কথা মতো কাজ করতে হয়। পুলিশ নিরপেক্ষভাবে কাজ করার সুযোগ পায় না। এই গল্পের মধ্যে পুলিশের নিজ্ঞিয়তার ছবি ধরা পড়ে। এই গল্পে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী পুলিশের আসল চেহারা প্রকাশ করেছেন গল্পকার -

গণেশের চোখের সামনে থেকে একটা ঝাপসা পর্দা সরে যায়। ওঃ এই তাহলে সেই দারোগার উপর দারোগা। ঘরের লোকের হাতে মরণবান। তাই দারোগাবাবু এমন নখ-দাঁতহীন। ফাঁস হয়ে যাবার ভয়। অবিশ্যি ফাঁস হয়ে গেলেই যে ফাঁসির দড়ি গলায় উঠবে সে ভয় নেই। সামান্য মানুষ চৌকিদার, তারই ওঠে না, তা ওপরওয়ালাদের।... তবে ফ্যাসাদ তো আছে। ঘরের লোক ফাঁস করে দিল। কী লজ্জা কী লজ্জা।৭

সন্তানহারা পিতা তার ছেলের খবর নিতে ছুটে আসে। প্রতিদিন একরাশ আশা নিয়ে। থানায় এসে তার হারিয়ে যাওয়া ছেলেকে ফিরে পাওয়ার আবেদন করে। দিনের শেষে একরাশ হতাশা নিয়ে বাড়ি ফিরে আবার নতুন একটা দিনের অপেক্ষায়, সকালেই চলে আসে থানায়। সন্তানের ফেরার প্রত্যাশায় জীবিত ছিল যে পিতা দারোগার স্ত্রীর একটা কথাতেই সেই প্রত্যাশার সমাপ্তি ঘটল। বৃদ্ধ পিতা ছেলের বাড়ি ফেরার আশায় বেঁচে ছিলেন সে আশা আজ মিথ্যে হয়ে গেল। দারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রী বৃদ্ধকে বলেন –

এ পৃথিবীতে কোনখানেই খুঁজে পাওয়া যাবে না তাকে। বুঝতে পেরেছং... আর এসো না।... এই ছোটদারোগাবাবু তাকে সে রান্তিরেই- ঘটনাটা কী ঘটেছিল রঘুং তুমি তো ছিলে। শুধু রগের ওপর একটা থাপ্পড়, তাই নাং তাতেই-৮

এমন নিষ্ঠুর হতে পারে কোন মানুষ তা এই স্ত্রী লোকটিকে না দেখলে বিশ্বাস করা যেত না। আশাপূর্ণা দেবীর গল্পে নারীর বিভিন্ন রূপের চিত্র দেখতে পাওয়া যায়। নারী চরিত্র নিয়ে এত রকমের পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষা কম সাহিত্যিক তাঁদের লেখায় দেখাতে পেরেছেন। ছোটদারোগার স্ত্রীর প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করে গণেশের মনে হতে থাকে-

জীবনে অনেক হিংস্র মুখ দেখেছে গণেশ, কিন্তু এরকম কি দেখেছে কখনও?৯

নারী মনস্তত্ব নিয়ে বাংলা সাহিত্যে অসংখ্য লেখা রয়েছে। রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর বাংলা ছোটগল্পে মনস্তত্বকে আলাদা মাত্রা দান করেছিলেন। পরবর্তীকালে কল্লোল পত্রিকা কে ঘিরে একদল গল্পকার মনস্তত্ব্ব বিশ্লেষণে কিছু পরিবর্তন নিয়ে আসলেন। তাঁদের লেখায় যৌন মনস্তাত্ত্বিক বিষয়ের বিশ্লেষণ দেখা গেল। নিম্ন মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণি,জেলে, মাঝি, শ্রমিকদের নিয়ে তাঁরা গল্প লিখতে লাগলেন। তারাশঙ্কর বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের গল্পে মূলত রাঢ় বাংলার চিত্র ফুটে উঠেছে। নাগরিক মধ্যবিত্ত বাঙালির অচেনা চরিত্রগুলি অন্তর্লোকের জগতকে আশ্চর্য কুশলতায় তুলে ধরেছেন 'অগ্রদানী', 'বেদেনী', 'তারিণীমাঝি', 'ডাইনি' গল্পগুলিতে। মানিক বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের গল্পে মনস্তত্বের অন্যতর ভাবনা দেখতে পাওয়া যায়।'অতসী মামী', 'হলুদ পোড়া', 'ভেজাল', 'সরীসূপ' 'প্রাগৈতিহাসিক' গল্পগুলি পড়লেই তা বোঝা যায়। বিভূতিভূষণ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের গল্পের জটিলতা অন্যভাবে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। জীবনের জটিল অন্ধকার দিক গুলি সম্পর্কে তিনি ছিলেন উদাসীন। শান্ত পারিবারিক গল্প বলার দিকে তাঁর ঝোঁক বেশি ছিল। তাঁর মেঘমল্লার মৌরিফুল পুঁইমাচা গল্পপ্যেঠ আমরা তা বুঝে নিতে পারি।মনস্তত্বের জটিল বিশ্লেষণ বিশশতকের ছোটগল্পে অনিবার্থ হয়ে উঠেছিল। এই মনস্তাত্ত্বিক বিষয় বিশ্লেষণ আশাপূর্ণা দেবীর গল্পেও দেখা যায়।

নারী চরিত্র ব্যাখ্যা করা দুরূহ একটি কাজ। এ গল্প থেকে আমরা তা বুঝে নিতে পারি। দারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রী বৃদ্ধকে তার সম্ভানের মৃত্যু সংবাদ কেন দিলেন? এর কারণ ব্যাখ্যা করা নেই। তবে সম্ভানহারা পিতার আর্তচিৎকার অনেক অজানা কথা বলে দেয-

... দারোগাবাবু তো তারে মারেন নাই মা ঠাকরোন, সে তো আমার ছেলো। আমি যে আমার জল জেবস্ত ছেলেডারে বুকের মদ্যি ভরে রেখে দিন গুজরোছেলাম। আপনি আমার সেই আস্তো ছেলেডারে এককোপে খুন করে ফ্যালালে গো।১০ আশাপূর্ণা দেবীর গল্পের সমাপ্তিতে বৈচিত্র্য লক্ষ করা যায়। ছোটগল্প অখণ্ড সংহত এক শিল্পসৃষ্টি হলেও সমাপ্তি পাঠকের মনে স্থায়ী প্রভাব ফেলে। 'খুন' গল্পের সমাপ্তিতে সেই বৈচিত্র্য চোখে পড়ে। সন্তানহারা পিতার একমাত্র ছেলেকে শুধু খুন করা হয়েছিল তা ন্যু, সেই পিতার বেঁচে থাকার অবলম্বন আশাকেও খুন করা হল। এ ঘটনা পুলিশের মনের মধ্যেও প্রতিক্রিয়া তৈরি করে। এই ঘটনার সঙ্গে গণেশ চৌকিদারের কোন সম্পর্ক না থাকলেও গল্পকার লেখেন-

গণেশ চৌকিদারের কী সম্পর্ক এ ঘটনার সঙ্গে? সে কেন হঠাৎ নিজের চালাঘরের কোণে গিয়ে ডুকরে ডুকরে কাঁদতে বসেগ১১

এই কারণে আশাপূর্ণা দেবী অন্যান্য সাহিত্যিকদের থেকে আলাদা। অত্যাচারী নিষ্ঠূর পুলিশের মধ্যেও মায়া মমতা আছে, সেও যে পিতা। সেই বোধ থেকেই গণেশের এই ভাবান্তর । নারী মানেই কোমল স্বভাব মাতৃস্বরূপিণী তা নয়। দারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রীর চরিত্র নির্মাণ করে আশাপূর্ণা দেবী পাঠকের সামনে নারীর অন্য একটি রূপের তুলে ধরলেন।

'খুন' গল্পটি তাই একটি রাজনৈতিক মৃত্যুর ঘটনা না হয়ে, হয়ে উঠেছে মাতৃত্বের খুনের ঘটনা। সত্তর দশকের রাজনৈতিক ঘটনাকে অবলম্বন করে, একটি খুন চিরন্তন মাতৃত্বের চেনা কাহিনি থেকে এক ঝটকায় আমাদের বাস্তবের মাটিতে এনে দাঁড় করিয়ে দেয়। পরিচিত মাতৃত্বের চেনা ছকের বাইরে গিয়ে দারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রীর চরিত্র নির্মাণ করা হয়েছে। প্রতিদিন সকাল হতেই সম্ভানের খোঁজে পিতা থানায় চলে আসতেন, একবৃক আশা নিয়ে, তার ছেলেকে ফিরে পাওয়ার আশায়। নিঃসন্তান ছোটদারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রী, পর্দার আড়াল থেকে সন্তানহারা পিতার আর্তনাদ শুনতে পেতেন। সম্ভান না থাকার কী যন্ত্রণা তা তিনি মর্মে মর্মে অনুভব করেছেন।ছোটদারোগাবাবুর একটি চড়ে যে ছেলেটির মৃত্যু হল তা নিজের চোখে দেখার পর থেকে, দারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রী স্থির থাকতে পারছিলেন না। তাই নিজের স্বামীর অপরাধের কথা সকলের সামনে উচ্চারণ করে তিনি ঐ সম্ভাহারা পিতাকে একটু সাম্বনা দিতে চাইলেন। আপাতদৃষ্টিতে এই ঘটনাকে মনে হতে পারে দারোগার স্ত্রী ঠিক কাজ করেননি। কারণ যে পিতা জীবিত ছিলেন তার সম্ভানের ফিরে আসার প্রত্যাশা নিয়ে তার সেই আশাকে সে ভেঙে দিল। আসলে সে জানতো, মিথ্যা আশা নিয়ে বেঁচে থাকার চেয়ে সত্যিকে মেনে নিয়ে জীবনে নতুন করে বাঁচার অবলম্বনে খোঁজার চেষ্টা করা উচিত। আজ হয়তো এই সত্যির জন্য তিনি কষ্ট পেলেন একদিন এই সত্যি মেনে নিয়ে নিজের জীবনকে অন্য পথে নিয়ে যেতে পারবেন। মিথ্যে নিয়ে বাঁচার থেকে সত্যি কে স্বীকার করে নেওয়া ভালো।এই কারণে ছোটদারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রী বৃদ্ধকে তার সম্ভানের মৃত্যুসংবাদ দিলেন। দারোগার স্ত্রীর এই নিষ্ঠুরতার পেছনে রয়েছে মাতৃত্ব। গণেশের মনে হয়েছিল এমন হিংস্র মুখ সে আগে দেখেনি। দারোগার স্ত্রীর এই হিংস্র রূপের কারণ কিন্তু দারোগার কৃতকর্ম। নিরাপরাধ ছেলেটিকে ধরে এনে এবং তার রগের উপর সজোরে চড় মারাকে মেনে নিতে পারেনি দারোগার স্ত্রী। পর্দার আড়াল থেকে সব দেখেছিলেন। বৃদ্ধলোকটি যখন তার ছেলেকে খুঁজতে থানায় এসে একই কথা বারে বারে বলত, দারোগাবাবু ঐ বৃদ্ধকে তেমন কিছু বলতে পারতেন না। থানার সব চৌকিদার বৃদ্ধের একই প্রশ্নে রেগে যেত ছোটদারোগা, কিন্তু চুপ করে থাকতেন। নিজের অন্যায় কৃতকর্মের জন্য ছোটদারোগার মধ্যে কোন অনুশোচনা হয় না। তাই প্রতিদিন ঐ বৃদ্ধকে নানা কৌশলে বকা দিয়ে জেলে ভরার ভয় দেখিয়ে, ঘরে পাঠিয়ে দিতেন।ছোটদারোগার ভালো মানুষের মুখোশকে সকলের সামনে খুলে দিতেই দারোগাবাবুর স্ত্রী কঠিন কাজটি করে ছিলেন। একজন সন্তানহারা পিতাকে তার ছেলের মৃত্যু সংবাদ দিয়ে তিনি মূলত মুখোশধারী পুলিশের সমালোচনা করলেন। প্রচলিত মতে স্ত্রীর কাজ তার স্বামী সম্ভানের কথা মতো কাজ করা, তাদের সম্মান রক্ষা করা। নারী প্রতি সমাজের এই মনোভাবকে বদলে দিলেন গল্পকার। নারীর মায়া-মমতা, তার মাতৃত্বের, তার ত্যাগের গল্প তো যুগ যুগ ধরে সমাজ বলে আসছে। নারী আসলে নিজে কী চায় সে সম্পর্কে সমাজ উদাসীন থাকলেও আশাপূর্ণা দেবী থাকতে পারেননি। তাই নারীর বিভিন্ন রূপ, বিভিন্ন কর্মপ্রসঙ্গ তার গল্পে দেখতে পাওয়া যায়। 'খুন' গল্পের মধ্যে মাতৃত্বের আলাদা রূপের সন্ধান মেলে।

## তথ্যসূত্র:

- ১.আশাপূর্ণা দেবী: আর এক আশাপূর্ণা, মিত্র ও ঘোষ পাবলিশার্স, কলকাতা, মাঘ ১৪০১, পৃ. ১৮
- ২.আশাপূর্ণা দেবী রচনাবলী দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড, মিত্র ও ঘোষ পাবলিশার্স প্রা. লি., পঞ্চম মুদ্রণ ১৪১৫,পৃ.৬৯৪
- ৩.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৬৯৪
- ৪.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৬৯৫
- ৫.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৬৯৫
- ৬.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৬৯৬
- ৭.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৬৯৯-৭০০
- ৮.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৬৯৯
- ৯.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৬৯৯
- ১০.পূর্বোক্ত পৃ.৭০০
- ১১.পূর্বোক্ত পূ.৭০০

#### সহায়ক গ্রন্থঃ

- ১। বাছাই গল্প আশাপূর্ণা দেবী, মণ্ডল বুক হাউস,পঞ্চদশ মুদ্রণ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪১৭
- ২। আশাপূর্ণা দেবীর রচনা সম্ভার প্রথম খণ্ড, জি ভরদ্বাজ অ্যাণ্ড কোং,প্রথম প্রকাশ ১৩৬৬
- ৩। অরুণ কুমার মুখোপাধ্যায়,'কালের পুত্তলিকা বাংলা ছোট গল্পের একশ বছর'(১৮৯১-১৯৯০) দে'জ পাবলিশিং সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯৯৫
- ৪। আশাপূর্ণা দেবী:আর এক আশাপূর্ণা, মিত্র ও ঘোষ পাবলিশার্স, কলকাতা মাঘ ১৪০১
- ৫। আশাপূর্ণা দেবী,অগ্রজের চোখে অনুজ,কণা বসু মিশ্র (সাক্ষাৎকার),কলেজস্ট্রিট ১৩৮৯

# Chandrabati's Ramayan: A Gendered Re-Telling of the Rama Tale

Dr. Suddha Kalyan Mondal\*

**Abstract:** Ramayana and the tale of Rama, Sita and Ravan remain, till today, one of the most popular and most widely adapted narratives in India, as espoused in its translation/ adaptation in almost all the Indian languages and beyond, even in China and Myanmar. It has been also adapted in popular ballads and folk-oral tales allover India for hundreds of years. In most of these adaptations Rama is the archetype of ideal king and husband and Sita is the ideal wife, virtuous and obedient. Sita becomes the medium through whom patriarchy could exercise its ideologies. This practice is subverted in several popular ballads and oral tales which have adapted and re-textualised the Rama-Sita narrative. Chandrabati is a sixteenth century poet, the first female poet to write in Bengali, who composed a Ramayana which was written from Sita's point of view. Her contemporary Attakuri Molla composed Ramayana in Telegu, but that followed the traditional model. Chandrabati, re-writing the epic from a feminine point of view, incorporated new episodes, changed a few and made it a story of Sita's journey from her birth to death—a Sitayana( journey of Sita). This article is going to explore how Chandrabati opened Rama to be critiqued by gender and how she transformed Sita into marginalized woman, denied by patriarchy. This article is also going to focus upon what role female authorship and female audience have played in reshaping Ramayana in both content and form, and to what extent.

**Keywords:** Ramayana, Chandrabati, Gender, oral narrative, marginalization.

<sup>\*</sup> Assistant Professor of English, Rishi Bankim Chandra College for Women E-mail: suddhakalyan7@gmail.com

Even after millenniums, the narrative of Rama and his exploits remain one of the most identifiable myths of India as testified by its translation and adaptation throughout the South-East Asia. The archetypes of Rama as the ideal king and husband, and of Sita as the ideal wife regulate all these narratives, except in the dynamic and fluid narratives drawn from folk-oral traditions, the regional variations of which open up the possibilities of gendered interpretations. Credited with being the first woman poet of Bengal to have reworked on the *Ramayana* story, Chandrabati who lived in sixteenth century in Mymensingh (Bangladesh), opened the Rama narrative to the perspective of Sita and other women characters who were more identifiable to her rural audience than the courtroom of Ayodhya. To be sung before non-courtly, chiefly female audience, Chandrabati worked on the rohstoff, a familiar narrative, brought in original characters, new situations, elements from local genres and created an "easily identifiable yet highly original rendition of the grand epical vision of Valmiki" (Sen, 2020, viii) in the language of rural Bengal.

Herself a subject of lores, Chandrabati was more famous for her other two ballads, Sundari Molua and Dasyu Kenaram, while her Ramayana, popularly called Chandrabati Ramayana, was marginalized for being a weak rendering of Ram story in Bengali, a failure. The text of Chandrabati Ramayana was first included in Dinesh Chandra Sen's Maimansingha Geetika and later, with some addition, in Khitish Chandra Moulick's Purba Banga Geetika. Dinesh Chandra Sen considered the Ramayana as Chandrabati's worst piece and it was judged as incomplete and of no merit by Sukumar Sen. Brought into critical spotlight by Nabaneeta Dev Sen, it is now considered as the first feminist text in its textualisation of Rama narrative from Sita's viewpoint and rejection of Rama's normative masculinity. In fact, "Its denouncing should be perceived as attempts at silencing the woman's voice and relegating an extremely talented individual to oblivion." (Chatterjee, 169). This paper is going to explore this feminine voice in this text and analyse how Chandrabati succeeds in relating Sita of Valmiki Ramayana to every women oppressed under patriarchy (Mandodari to Sita) and to her rural women listeners ( through the narrative technique of baromasya and regularized domestic motifs). I am going to use Nabaneeta Dev Sen's Chandrabati's Ramayan (2020) as the primary text for the present purpose.

Chandrabati rejects the male poet as narrator, used by Molla in her Telegu *Ramayana*, or the ideological viewpoint used by Ranganayakamma in *Ramayana Vishabriksham*. She looks at the narrative from her feminine viewpoint, and tells the story. One of the foremost mythical heroines, Sita is the epitome of gentle, submissive feminity, though Valmiki originally portrayed Sita as one not afraid to speak up to Rama (Dave, 22). She is the trope through

whom patriarchy could exercise itself. Chandrabati's Sita is a soft and submissive wife; but the criticism of Rama erupts from Chandrabati the narrator. Her criticism of Rama, at times, is candid and unique.

An epic, in its participation in the common literary culture, is a narrative model composed from a set of events extremely essential for the plot, termed by Roland Barthes as 'kernels' which can be rearranged for another narrative. Chandrabati uses the kernels from Valmiki Ramayana, as pointed out by Dr. Ishita Chanda, and textualises her narrative by turning away the focus of her Ramayana from the conflict of Rama and Ravan to the lifespan of Sita. Here the fall of Ravan is ensured through his hubris in the act of insulting and excommunicating Laxmi in her incarnation as Sita. Epic's portrayal of the birth of the protagonist focuses on how Sita was born due to Ravan's debauchery and initiates a pattern of maltreated women from Mandodari to Sita. With detailed narration of Ravan's military prowess over the three worlds Chandrabati adopts Sita to the familiar tropes of Goddess Laxmi and Bishkanya (poisonous daughter). After conquering the three worlds Ravan spent his time with the maidens abducted from heaven in his Nandan Kanan. This debauchery of Ravan leads Mandodari to drink the poisonous blood of ascetics collected by Ravan to destroy gods' immortality. But instead of dying, she produces an egg fated to produce a daughter who will destroy Ravan's kingdom and clan altogether. Impelled by Mandodari's pleadings, the egg is thrown into sea. Chandrabati fits the birth of Sita into the exclusively feminine trope of the Laxmi of the house being mistreated and also into the popular medieval trope of *Bishkanya*, a neglected daughter fated to destroy clans and kingdoms. Sita's journey can be read as one that avenges the injustice done to her mother, Mandodari.

The element of marginality in Sita's birth-story is retained by Chandrabati in the egg being found by a poor fisherman. In *Valmiki Ramayana* Sita was born from tilled land, a daughter of Mother Earth. Here she is appreciated by a fisherman family, incorporating the local element of rural Bengal. This fisherman Madhab and his wife Sata worship the egg and benefit from the boons of Goddess Laxmi as they are saved from dire poverty. A beautiful maiden, "like Kamala (Laxmi) herself" (Sen, 2020, 30) appears in a dream to Sata and guides her to King Janak's wife. In this part Sita is identified with Laxmi, the leaving of whom brings destruction to the family, a popular belief in Bengali households. The name Sita is derived from Sata, linking her to marginal woman, convenient for Chandrabati's female audience to identify with. Chandrabati concludes the janamleela with the birth of Rama. The queens of King Dasharath conceive by eating the charmed mango given by the ascetic. Kaikeyi, by eating the seed of the mango gives birth to a son and a daughter named Kukuya. Bearing phonetic similarity with

Kaikeyi, the name Kukuya is resonant with 'ku' meaning bad/evil in Bengali, intimating the readers about the evil in her nature. While Chandrabati adheres to Valmiki regarding the birth of male characters, she diverts in the case of female characters, both Sita and Rama's sister. In *Valmiki Ramayan*, Rama had an adopted sister—Shanta, who had a very limited presence in that text. Kukuya creates the rift between Rama-Sita and causes her expulsion from Ayodhya. Instead of the Rama-Ravan conflict that moves Valmiki's text, Chandrabati posits the Sita-Kukuya conflict at the core of the final part of her poem. She writes, "In the home of Lakshmi, Alakshmi was born—The bitter result of the bitter seed of the mango fruit." (Sen, 2020, 40). The Sita-Kukuya conflict also subverts the epic narrative to a familiar domestic motif. While the original text dealt with the inheritance of the throne as the catalyst of the plot, Chandrabati brings in this Kukuya as the counterpart of Sita and shifts the focus from stately things to the familiar domestic trope of jealous rivalry between sisters-in-law. Unfamiliar to the events of a royal court, Chandrabati adopts the common issues of feminine domesticity to cater to her rural audience.

From Book II onwards the narration is done by Sita herself, textualising the Valmiki narrative from her point of view. From the epical narration of the exploits of an avatar, Chandrabati makes it exclusively a woman's story. The narration henceforth is done in the format of *baromasya/baromasi*, a narrative poem transmitted orally. These songs were sung by women poets for an exclusively female audience and they usually narrated tales about the emotions of women, their pain and suffering, isolation and loneliness, relating them to the twelve months of Bengali calendar. Narrated in flashback when Sita is back from Lanka and settled in Ayodhya, Sita narrates her tragic tale while the hero of Valmiki, Rama remains in the side-lines, appreciated for his beauty and critiqued for his callous treatment of Sita.

After birth, a normative female narrative of the earlier years next focuses on marriage. From here onwards Sita begins her *baromasya*. Sita tells about her dream of a dark, handsome youth with lotus-eyes who has come to Mithila for her. She tells of her fascination about Rama's physical beauty. The romantic charm between Rama-Sita is farther accentuated in the *Banabas Parva*. The military prowess of Rama or the political game played for ousting Rama from his throne doesn't find detailed expression in Sita's narrative. Rather she is quite happy during their stay in the forest as she is able to spend lots of time with her lord, "Ram Raghumani" (Sen, 2020, 47). In a few oral *Ramayana*'s from the North-East, Sita is described as living alone in the hut, denied conjugal company (Sen, 1998). In *Chandrabati's Ramayan*, Sita and Rama slept within the hut while Lakshman stood guard outside. She writes, "Happily we used to spend the nights in our forest exile...Far more luxurious than a hundred kingdoms were my lord's feet"

(Sen, 2020, 50). A melancholic undertone permeates Sita's narrative, as she intersperses her tale with phrases like "Sita's sorrows", "suffering written in my destiny" (Sen, 2020, 51), typical to the structure of baromasya. Highlighting the romantic traits in Rama and depiction of happy domesticity were probably influenced by the Bhakti traditions in Bengal.

Sita's kidnapping by Ravan and her stay in Lanka is presented in melancholy tunes of her separation from Rama, having echoes of Chandrabati's own denial in love. She "hung on to... life only" (Sen, 2020, 55) to see her lord again. She continues her tales of woe month-wise in the baromasya about her stay in Lanka and there is remarkable silence about the battle between Rama and Ravan. Not being a direct witness to the battle, Sita is not allowed by Chandrabati to describe in detail about the battle. Furthermore, this would have taken the narrative away from the familiar territory of her female audience. Naturally Sita doesn't narrate the epical war; only two things she foresees in dreams and narrates them to her audience. One is about Hanuman's coming to look for her and the second one is about Rama's invoking Devi Ambika in order to destroy Ravan. The silence about Rama's valour farther customises Valmiki's epic hero to that of a romantic hero and the narrative of Rama is never allowed to supersede Sita as the main character. According to Prof. Ishita Chanda, "By de-emphasizing the battle and making Sita the hero of her story, we may say that Chandrabati has recast the Ram matter from the perspective of a woman" (107). According to her, Rama's valour is replaced by Sita's chastity and integrity, which are not inherent qualities but performative. In fact Sita's suffering and endurance make her a hero over time, making her song a relatable experience for future generations of women.

Comparing Chandrabati to her contemporary Attakuri Molla from Andhra Pradesh, who also adopted Ramayana in Telegu, Nabaneeta Dev Sen pointed considered Chandrabati's text as, "... not a devotional text, but a secular one... as a plain human drama and not as divine mystery" (1997, 171). Chandrabati's tale is that of a pregnant wife who is expelled from her husband's home, her hardships, and her pangs of separation from her husband/lover. In the last section of Book III Sita is duped into drawing a rough portrait of Ravan by Kukuya who then convinces Ram to send Sita away. In stark contrast to Valmiki's Rama who is wise, rational and calm in all adversities, Chandrabati's Rama is one without faith in his five-month pregnant wife. He "raged wild, insane...Nostrils breathed fire" (Sen, 2020, 71). In his temper he commits the same hubris as Ravan, that of driving away the Lakshmi of the house. From his exalted position of a God, Rama becomes an average fallible husband. The narrator cuts in, "Chandrabati says, poor Ram, you have totally lost your mind" (Sen, 2020, 71).

Book IV, the final chapter, was not in DC Sen's edition but was added in KC Moulik's later edition. There is a narratorial shift in this section as it becomes 'more male-oriented and warlike' (Sen, 2020, 72), might be a result of later interpolations. Rama, in his anger, terms Sita as the cause of destruction of Lanka, Kishkindhya, and Ayodhya. Though he considers Sita as made of poisons, which ironically is true, and the sole reason of his suffering, the voice of the common men differ. Chandrabati dared not break Sita away from the mould of soft, submissive wife, so familiar to pan-Indian audience. She subverted Rama's superior masculinity through his fallibilities and the reactions of common people. She narrates, "Ayodhya became graceless, deserted by Lakshmi/ People suffer for the sins of the king, commented the wise elders." (Sen, 2020, 85). Even Hanuman considers the expulsion of Sita as "the end of Ramleela" (Sen, 2020, 90). A devoted wife, Sita is willing to enter the pyre for the sake of Rama's problems. In Chandrabati's text Rama himself lights the pyre and loses Sita forever. From a princess and a queen, Chandrabati thus transforms Sita into an everyday woman wronged upon by patriarchy and its gendered prejudices concerning women's purity and integrity. Simultaneously, the lack of erotic appeal made Sita's tale reach out only to women.

Chandrabati's Ramayan was composed for an exclusive female audience as reflected in the address Suno sakhijana (Listen, my girl-friends) instead of the usual address of oral ballads Suno sabhajana/ sarbajana (Listen, members of court/ everyone). To that cause, feminine concerns replace epic events. Pregnancy and childbirth are given elaborate narrative space while battles are sparsely mentioned. As commented upon by Nabaneeta Dev Sen that this was a product of double refinement through feminine sensibility— by the narrator Chandrabati's and by the protagonist Sita's. Dr Sen comments, "It is a woman's text, an atypical retelling of the Rama tale in which Rama is first marginalised and then criticised from a woman's point of view" (1997, 171). While Molla's text depicted the normative Rama-tale in the style of Sanskrit epics narrated by a conventional male narrator, in Chandrabati's Ramayan, the narrator-poet, the protagonist, the audience, all were women. The narrative begins with Sita's birth and ends with her death. Therefore, literally and chronologically, Chandrabati becomes the first poet to transform Ramayana (Rama+ayana—the journey of Ram, ayana meaning journey in Sanskrit) to a Sitayana (Sita+ayana—the journey of Sita).

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Study on Seven Tropicana brand beverages with respect to Calcium and Nitrate ion Concentrations

Monojit Ray\*, Sahali Dey\*\*, Gourab Saha\*\*\*

**ABSTRACT:** In the present work we tried to find out calcium and nitrate ion concentrations of seven tropicana brand fruit juices. All these packed fruit juices are very common, available and widely sold within India. The calcium ions found in very low concentrations in most of the juices. Nitrate ions also present in very low concentrations within all the beverages. The juices are safe to consume in reference to nitrate ions.

**Keywords:** *Tropicana, fruit juices, calcium ion, nitrate ion.* 

Email: monojit1972@gmail.com

<sup>\*</sup> Principal and Professor of Chemistry, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College. Barrackopre, North 24 Parganas, WB.Pin 700120.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Project Assistant, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College. Barrackopre, North 24 Parganas, WB.Pin 700120.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Project Assistant, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College. Barrackopre, North 24 Parganas, WB.Pin 700120.

#### INTRODUCTION

Calcium ion is one of the bulk metal ion which is very important for human body. Calcium is the major component of bone, teeth etc. Calcium is also important for enzyme activation. The natural nitrate concentration in groundwater is a few milligrams (4-9) per literand depends greatly on soil type. In general in drinking water nitrate concentration do not exist 10 mg/L According to WHO permissible limits for nitrate in drinking water is 50 mg/L. According to Bureau of Indian Standards, 2012, the nitrate concentration above 45 mg/L in drinking water may cause serious health hazards (Taneja et al., 2015). Calcium ion concentration is almost constant within human body fluids and blood. The studied fruit juices provide calcium ion to human body. The  $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]_{outside\ cell}/\left[Ca^{2+}\right]_{inside\ cell}=1000$  (approx). The packed beverages containing milk products generally provide more calcium ion than fruit juices. It is reported that fruit drinks are relatively higher TDS values and do not contain caffeine. Literature study shows all are the good source of potassium ion (Chatterjee and Ray, 2014). Within Mogu Mogu product packed food juices calcium concentrations are very high whereas nitrate concentrations are almost zero (Ray et al., 2021)

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

All the samples subjected for study were sealed tetra packs and manufactured within last few months. Nitrate, and calcium ion concentrations are measured using Systronics (India) made ion meter model number SYS-460 at Environmental Chemistry Research Laboratory, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College, Barrackopre, North 24 Parganas, WB. Calcium ion concentration was measured using ISE 40 electrode. Nitrate ion concentration was measured using ISE 62 electrode. Ion free, redistilled water, prepared at laboratory, were used for all the analysis. All the measurements were carried out between 20°-23°C.

## **RESULT Table 1:** Energy value and make of studied Tropicana brand beverages

Sl No.	Name	Make	Batch Number	Energy Value (kcal/100ml)
1	Cranberry Delight	Schreiber Dynamix	7467D24L20	43
	(Tropicana Beverage)	Dairies Ltd.	7107521520	

2.	Apple Delight (Tropicana Beverage)	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Ltd.	7467D26I20	48
3.	Pomegranate Delight (Tropicana Beverage)	Dynamix 7467D15J20		47
4.	Pineapple Delight (Tropicana Beverage)	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Ltd.	7467D19K20	45
5.	Mango Delight (Tropicana Beverage)	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Ltd.	7467D03K20	61
6.	Orange Juice (Tropicana 100%)	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Ltd.	7467D28J20	45
7.	Apple Juice (Tropicana 100%)	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Ltd.	7467D02I20	47

Table 2: Calcium and nitrate ion concentration of studied Tropicana brand beverages

Sl No.	Name	Ca <sup>++</sup> (ppm)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (ppm)
1.	Cranberry Delight(Tropicana Beverage)	1.2	2.6
2.	Apple Delight(Tropicana Beverage)	1.7	9.6
3.	Pomegranate Delight(Tropicana Beverage)	0.082	4.8
4.	Pineapple Delight(Tropicana Beverage)	35	3.1
5.	Mango Delight(Tropicana Beverage)	12	0.246
6.	Orange Juice(Tropicana 100%)	18	1.8
7.	Apple Juice(Tropicana 100%)	3.8	7.2

#### DISCUSSION

Studied fruit juices provide energy value between 43 to 61kcal/100 ml. Calcium concentration varies within 1.2 ppm to 35 ppm except pomegranate delight. The order of fruit juices with reference to calcium concentration is pineapple delight > orange juice > mango delight >apple juice > apple delight > cran berry delight > pomegranate delight. All the fruit juices have low nitrate ion concentration. The order of fruit juices with reference to nitrate concentration is apple delight > apple juice > pomegranate delight > pineapple delight >cranberry delight >orange juice > mango delight.

#### CONCLUSION

Tropicana mango delight provide maximum energy and Tropicana cranberry delight provide minimum energy. Tropicana pomegranate delight contain extremely low calcium ions. Pineapple delight is a rich source of calcium ion. Now a days nitrate ion within drinking water is an issue of great concern for human health. Since all the juices contain less than 10 ppm nitrate ions, it maybe conclude that all the studied beverages are safe with respect to nitrate ions.

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Dr. Ankita Bhattacharjee\*

**Abstract:** The present study has been attempted to adopt the potential of modified SODIS technique for the assessment of (i) the wastewater disinfection efficiency (ii) the optimum time duration required for wastewater disinfection from pathogenic microbial contamination, and (iii) application potential of the disinfected wastewater for the germination of wheat seed. The results revealed that the light intensity and temperature dependent 100% decrement of heterotrophic, E coli, Salmonella sp. and Enterobacteriaceae bacterial population. The seed germination study showed that germination rate varies from 90 to 100% from 1to 4h, whereas vigour index varies from 1158.3 to 1596. Relative root growth and chlorophyll content varies from 116.28 to 133.67 and 0.259 to 0.448mg/ GFW. This study significantly explored the excellent use of modified SODIS method in wastewater disinfection by a box type solar cooker and its significant reuse. Before application, its disinfection and treatment is necessary. Therefore, it can be concluded that modified SODIS method involves low cost, environment friendly method for wastewater disinfection that uses solar energy to kill/destroy the pathogenic microbial load and various toxic pollutants, which make it safe for reuse.

**Keywords:** SODIS, Wastewater, Solar cooker, Vigour index, Pathogenic

<sup>\*</sup> SACT, Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalya Email: ankitaenvs@gmail.com

#### 1. Introduction:

Wastewater is one of the important store houses/sources of various nutrients (carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus, *etc.*). In addition to important source of nutrients and pollutants, wastewater is considered as a habitat for vast array of water borne pathogenic microorganisms including bacteria, viruses and protozoa. Discharge of pathogenic microorganisms containing untreated wastewater into environment may threaten public health (Zhou et al., 2007; Dababneh et al., 2012; Pandey et al., 2014). Therefore, it is advisable to treat the wastewater before discharging into the environment and removal techniques for various kinds of pollutants to protect the environment and adverse impacts. In order to use the wastewater for agriculture, aquaculture or any other purposes, disinfection is necessary to avoid the adverse impacts of pathogenic microorganisms. Various types of disinfection techniques (Dejung et al., 2007) have been introduced in this respect, but most of them are quite expensive and complicated to operate (Altherr et al., 2006). Therefore, development of an effective, eco-friendly disinfection system with a low infrastructural and installation costs, easy to use and handling and little maintenance (Queluz and Sánchez-Román, 2014).

Solar disinfection (SODIS) technique has been widely used in the water treatment purpose. Most literature mainly reported the disinfection of drinking water through SODIS technique (McGuigan et al., 2012; Bitew et al., 2018) and lesser attention has given for application of SODIS in case of wastewater treatment. Consequently, the wide studies concerning the extensive application of SODIS technique in optimizing various parameters required in treating the wastewater have not been performed so far as well as the question, whether the SODIS can disinfect the pathogenic microbial contamination in wastewater has still remain unclear. Therefore, the present study has been aimed to utilize the potential of modified SODIS technique for the assessment of (i) the wastewater disinfection efficiency (ii) the optimum time duration required for wastewater disinfection from pathogenic microbial contamination, and (iii) application potential of the disinfected wastewater for the germination of wheat seed.

#### 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1. Disinfection Experiment

## 2.1.1. Experimental design

The experiment was conducted using solar disinfection system SDS, Geetanjali Solar Enterprise. The solar cooker employed as most effective and SDS is the popular box type appliances chosen for the present disinfection study. Four black circular aluminium pots (2 L) of SDS (solar cooker) were employed as experimental vesicle to carry out the disinfection

experiment. The experiments were carried out at the outdoor of the Laboratory, Department of Ecological Studies, University of Kalyani, Kalyani. The six experiment were performed during six months (one experiment in each month) from January, 2018 to June, 2018 to determine the effect of seasonal variation of solar intensity on the performance efficiency of SDS in wastewater disinfection. The wastewater (5.0 L) sample (pH-6.8, PO<sub>4</sub>-P- 2.011 mg/L, NO<sub>3</sub>-N- 0.788 mg/L, NO<sub>2</sub>-N- 0.416 mg/L, NH<sub>4</sub>-N- 2.107mg/L) was collected from Kalyani sewage treatment plant, Kalyani, India (22.9751° N, 88.4345° E), filtered to remove the large particles and divided into two parts. One part of the sample was used as initial sample to record the initial reading and other part of the sample was used for treatment. The aluminium pots (2 L) were filled by filtered sample at the rate of 1.0 L/pot. The four sets of water filled aluminium pots were placed within the SDS at 10.00 am and each set of pot was removed from the SDS at every 0,1, 2, 3 and 4 h interval and cooled to bring the normal temperature for analysis the samples.

## 2.1.2. Solar disinfection system

The solar cooker used in the experiments was made with aluminum, with a toughened glass, processed for the method of thermal aspersion in a steel matrix, with the objective of increasing its energy efficiency as shown in(Fig.1.1). The solar cooker used as SDS in study consists of the following specifications:

i Body dimension (L $\times$ W $\times$ H) : 23×23×"

: Mirror glass, 4 mm ii Reflector material

: 4 mm iii Plane glass

Insulation materials : Glass wool

04Nos. Aluminium container covered : 4 mm v

with toughened glass

Inbuilt analog vi : Temperature meter

Approx. weight : 4 kg



Fig.1.1. Box type solar cooker(a) Reflector, (b) Double glazing, (c) Aluminium container, (d)

Temperature meter of the different parts in SDS

#### 2.1.3. Culture media and glass wares

Cultured media used in this study was chromocult agar (MERCK)). The following are composition of the chromocult agar media was mentioned in general methodology section.

All glass wares and sample bottles were soaked in diluted HCl solution for 12 h, washed and then rinsed several times with distilled water. Double distilled and milli Q waters were used for the preparation of reagent solutions.

#### 2.1.4. Temperature and light intensity measurement

Temperature (°C) inside the solar cooker and light intensity were measured at regular intervals of 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 h periods using thermometer and LUX meter respectively throughout the experimentation.

#### 2.1.5. Microbial examination

The samples were collected from the experimental pots. All samples were at first sequentially diluted with sterile buffered water using three dilution factors (10<sup>1</sup> – 10<sup>3</sup>) based on previous analyses of similar samples. Then the aliquots were examined for microorganisms using membrane filtration methods (APHA, 2012). This method is the basis of the widely used membrane filtration methods for detecting indicator bacteria, including total and fecal coliforms, enterococci and *Clostridium perfringes* (Eaton et al., 1998). The method used microporous membranes are typically composed of cellulose esters. The sample (mL)

was filtered through the membrane. The cells recovered on a membrane filter were directly cultured on chromo cult agar medium to determine total coliforms and *E. coli*. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24hour. Each analytical batch included blanks and positive controls. After incubation, the plates were manually enumerated. All results were volume normalized to give concentrations in colony forming units (CFU) per 100 ml.

The nutrient parameters (Phosphate-P, Nitrate-N, Nitrite-N and Ammonium-N) were measured at regular intervals during this experimental period using the method APHA (2012).

After the experiment, the treated wastewater was used for the germination of wheat seed (*Triticum aestivum*).

#### 2.1.6. Seed Germination Experiment

Seed germination study was performed using the domestic wastewater collected from modified SODIS disinfection experiment at 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 h periods to assess whether the treated/disinfected water has the seed germination ability without pathogenic infection. Three hundred seeds of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) were surface-sterilized with 2% sodium hypochlorite solution for 1 min and washed 5 times in single distilled water followed by airdrying (Miche and Balandreau, 2001). All dried sterilized seeds were randomly divided into five groups with three replicate ( $20 \times 3 \times 5 = 300$ ). Five groups were treated by 5 mL wastewater collected at 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 h periods of disinfection experiment for 10 min and then air-dried. The triplicate sets of fifteen healthy air-dried seeds of each group were placed on sterilized Petri dishes (9 cm) containing two layers of moistened filter paper. A triplicates sets of fifteen healthy seeds were treated with sterilized distilled water, air dried and placed on sterilized Petri dishes (9 cm) containing two layers of moistened filter paper was maintained as control group. All the Petri dishes were incubated in a light incubator.

The seed germination rate, root length, shoot length, fresh weight, dry weight and chlorophyll content of plants (Arnon, 1949) were measured at seventh and fifteenth day of experimentation (Tian et al., 2014). Samples were dried in an oven at 60°C for 48 h to measure the dry weight. The number of leaves of each plant was counted after harvesting. The germination rate, relative seed germination rate, relative root growth, germination index and vigour index were calculated according to the following equations (Islam et al., 2016):

Germination rate (%)= 
$$\frac{\text{Number of seeds germinated}}{\text{Total number of seeds}} \times 100 \ (1)$$

Relative seed germination rate (%)=
$$\frac{\text{Number of seeds germinated in control}}{\text{Number of seeds germinated in sample}} \times 100$$
 (2)

Relative root growth (%)= 
$$\frac{\text{Average root length in sample}}{\text{Average root length in control}} \times 100$$
 (3)

Germination Index (%) = 
$$\frac{\text{Relative shoot growth}}{\text{Relative root growth}} \times 100 \text{ (4)}$$

Vigour index = % of germination  $\times$  total plant length (5)

#### 2.1.6.1. Chlorophyll content measurement

Chlorophyll content of the leaf samples was analyzed using Arnon's method (1949). The fresh leaves (0.2 g) were ground in mortar and pestle with 10 mL of 80% acetone. The homogenate obtained was centrifuged at 6000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was used for chlorophyll estimation using spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, UV-Vis Spectrophotometer) at 663, 645 and 652 nm wavelengths. Chlorophyll content of leaves was further calculated from the following equations:

Chlorophyll a (mg g <sup>-1</sup> FW): (12.7x O.D 
$$_{663}$$
 – 2.69 x O.D  $_{645}$ ) ×  $\frac{v}{1000}$  × W (6)

Chlorophyll b (mg g 
$$^{-1}$$
 FW): (22.9 x O.D  $_{645}$  – 4.68x O.D  $_{663}$ ) ×  $_{\frac{\nu}{1000}}$  × W (7)

Total chlorophyll (mg g <sup>-1</sup> FW): (O.D 
$$_{652} \times \frac{1000}{34.5} \times \frac{\nu}{1000} \times W$$
) (8)

Here, FW stands for fresh weight; V is the final volume of 80% acetone; W is the weight of leaves

#### 3. Results and Discussions

## 3.1. Disinfection Experiment

## 3.1.1. Light intensity and temperature

The light intensity and temperature were ranged from 0.84 to  $4.58\mu\text{mol/s/m}^2\text{and}$  45 to  $115^{\circ}\text{C}$ , respectively. The light intensities increased from 0.84 to 3.86, 3.61 to 4.51, 3.36 to 4.45, 4.28 to 4.58, 4.19 to 4.58 and 3.13 to 4.58  $58\mu\text{mol/s/m}^2\text{in January, February, March, April, May and June, respectively as well as temperatures were increased from 45 to 100, 45 to 100, 60 to <math>110$ , 65 to 110, 70 to 115 and 45 to  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  in January, February, March, April, May and June, respectively. The average light intensity and temperature were maximum (light intensity 4.28  $\mu\text{mol/s/m}^2$  and temperature  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in April and May month, respectively as well as minimum

(light intensity 0.84μmol/s/m² and temperature 45°C)in January and February month, respectively (Fig.1.2).

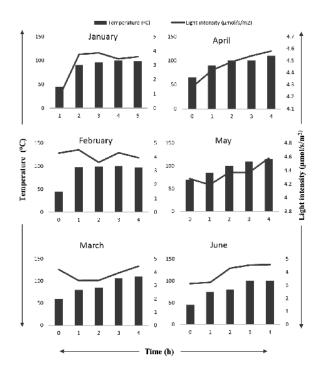


Fig: 1.2 Variation in temperature and light intensity with time progressed in different months

## 3. 1.2. Microbial population

The change of microbial populations with time, temperature and light intensity was varied in different months (from January to June), which was graphically represented in Figures 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6.

#### 3.1.2.1. Heterotrophic bacteria

The heterotrophic bacterial population varied from  $60 - 5.08 \times 10^3$ /mL in all the months (Fig.1.3). The bacterial population was decreased with increasing time and temperature in all the months studied (Fig.1.3). The decreasing rates of heterotrophic bacterial population were 87%, 94%, 99%, 99%, 99% and 99% in January, February, March, April, May and June,

respectively at 4 h- period of experimentation. At 1 h period, the decrease in heterotrophic bacterial population was maximum (99%) in April and minimum in January (87%) months.

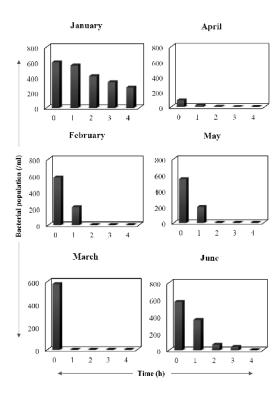


Fig.1.3. Change of heterotrophic bacterial population with time, temperature and light intensity in different months (from month of January to June)

In the month of January, the initial temperature was  $45^{\circ}$ C, which increased to  $100^{\circ}$ C within 3h and decreased to  $98^{\circ}$ C thereafter. Likewise, light intensity increased from  $0.84\mu\text{mol/s/m}^2$ to  $3.86~\mu\text{mol/s/m}^2$  and then decreased thereafter to  $3.59\mu\text{mol/s/m}^2$ . The percentage of reduction in bacterial population was 87% showing direct relationship with time. There was very little variation of temperature between January and February but light intensity was quite high  $4.28\mu\text{mol/s/m}^2$  at the time of initial temperature  $45^{\circ}$ C. As the experiment proceeds little fluctuation in light intensity was observed but temperature increased constantly upto  $100^{\circ}$ C with time and at 4 h, there was sudden drop in temperature ( $97^{\circ}$ C) and 94%bacterial population reduction was achieved in February. In the month of March and April, the temperature at

initiation period of the experiment was 60°C and 65°C, which was quite higher from the previous two months and it increased to 110°C with time and the light intensity during the experiment was also high resulting in 99.9% and 99.7% reduction in bacterial population in the month of March and April, respectively. In the month of May, initial temperature was high 70°C, which reached to 110°C within 3h. Similarly, light intensity increased from 4.28to 4.58µmol/s/m²resulting in 99.7% reduction in bacterial population. In the month of June, the initial temperature of 45°C was reached to 80°C within 2 h as the experiment proceeds and reached to 100°C within 3h from the initiation time and remains stable upto next 4h, whereas, light intensity keeps on increasing with time but the bacterial population achieves 99% reduction at the end of the experiment.

#### 3.1.2.2. Escherichia coli

The number of *E. coli* bacteria ranged from 0.6 – 0.5 x 10<sup>3</sup>/mL in all the months (Fig.1.4). The bacterial number was decreased with increasing time and temperature in all the months studied (Fig.1.4). The decreasing rates of coliform bacteria were 55%, 100%, 100%, 100%, 100% and 100% in January, February, March, April, May and June, respectively at 4 h periods of study. At 1 h period, *E. coli* population decreased in maximum (100%) in March and minimum in January (55%) months. The 100% decrement of *E. coli* population was found in February to June except January.

Figure 1.4 clearly disclosed that E.coli population was decreased with time, temperature as well as with the light intensity. In the month of January, 55% reduction in bacterial population was observed which was related with temperature (r=-0.74695) as well as with time (r=0.801).

Similarly, in the month of February 100% reduction was observed within 4 h period, although very little fluctuation in temperature was observed between January and February. The temperature (60°C) and light intensity (4.2 μmol/s/m²) was quite high at initiation time of experiment in the month of March, which further increased as the time progressed and reached to 110°C and 4.45 μmol/s/m² within 4 h resulting in 100% destruction of coliform (*E. coli*). In the month of April and May, a similar trend was observed in *E.coli* population. The temperature was increased from 65 to 110°C and 70to 115°C within 4h resulting in 100% reduction of *E. coli* in April and May, respectively. Light intensity of April and May increased from 4.28to 4.58μmol/s/m². In the month of June 100% reduction in *E.coli* was observed within 3 h exposure of wastewater to solar radiation when light intensity and temperature reached 3.13 to 4.58 μmol/s/m² and 45 to 100°C within 4 h. Thus, temperature, time and light intensity are the important parameters responsible for destruction of bacterial population. The

bacterial inactivation rate in wastewater sample is proportional to the intensity of sunlight and atmospheric temperature (Acra et al., 1990). In this month temperature ranges between 45 and 100°C which was enough for destroying bacteria as temperature above 45°C completely inactivates the bacteria present in water (Dunlop et al., 2011). The rate of bacterial inactivation for sample temperatures ranging from 12 to 40°C, when the water temperature was increased to 50°C, the same fraction of the initial population of *E. coli* was inactivated (Caslake et al., 2004).

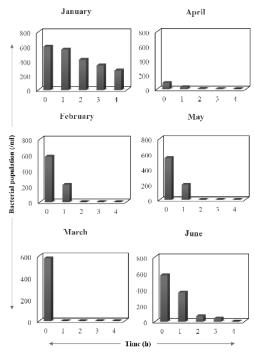


Fig.1.4. Change of *E Coli* population with time, temperature and light intensity in different months (from month of January to June)

#### 3.1.2.2 Salmonella sp.

The population of *Salmonella* sp. varied from  $0.6 - 0.5 \times 10^3$ /mL in all months (Fig.1.5). The bacterial population was decreased with increasing time and temperature in all the months studied (Fig.1.5). The decreasing rates of *Salmonella* sp. population were 66%, 100%, 70%, 100%, 100% and 100% in January, February, March, April, May and June, respectively at 4 h period of study. The *Salmonella* sp. was not found in February, March, April, May and June at 4 h periods of experimentations, respectively.

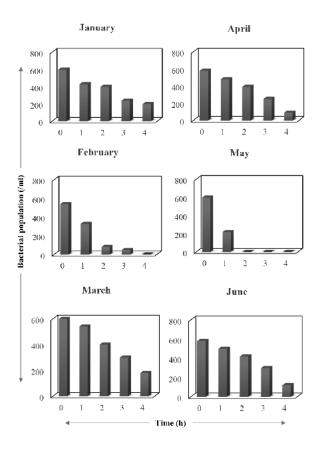


Fig. 1.5. Graphical representation of Salmonella population in various months

In the month of January the initial temperature and light intensity were 45°C and 0.84 µmol/s/m<sup>2</sup> which increased to 100°C and 3.44 µmol/s/m<sup>2</sup> within 3 h period of experiment, respectively that reduced 66.7% Salmonella. A sharp temperature increment in the month of February resulted in 100% killing of bacterial population. In the month of March, April and May, the initial temperature inside the box type solar cooker was increased from 60to 110°C, 65 to 70°C and 110 to 115°C, respectively within 4h which was resulted in 100% destruction of bacteria. Likewise, in the month of June, the initial temperature and light intensity were increased from 45°C and 3.13µmol/s/m² to 80°C and 4.3 µmol/s/m²results, respectively. Due to lower temperature, the reduction of Salmonella population (88%) was lower compared to other months within 4h period

of experimentation. Sunlight destroyed biomolecules and UV-A (wavelength of 320–400 nm) was absorbed by DNA and reactive oxygen species (ROSs) produced by solar radiation in water or wastewater. UV-A and UV-B from sunlight and the reactive molecules kill microorganisms, such as *Pseudomonasaeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella ShigellaFlexneri* (Polo-López et al., 2011; Giannakis et al., 2015; Lawrie et al., 2015).

#### 3.1.2.3. Enterobacteriaceae group

The *Enterobacteriaceae* bacterial population varied from 0.6 – 0.5 x 10<sup>3</sup>/mL in all the months (Fig.1.6). The bacterial population was decreased with increasing time and temperature in all the months studied (Fig.1.6). The decreasing rates of Enterobacteriaceae population were 73%, 62%, 100%, 100%, 100% and 100% in January, February, March, April, May and June, respectively at 4 h period of study. The maximum and minimum reduction in bacterial number was found in March (100%) and June (100%), respectively.

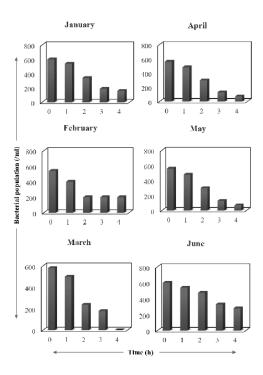


Fig.1.6. Graphical representation of Enterobacteriacae group in various months

In the month of January and February, the initial temperature inside the box type solar cooker was 45°C which increased to 100°C within 3 h, whereas no appreciable decrement of Enterobacteriaceae bacterial population (73%) was found, although the light intensity increased from 0.84 to 3.59 µmol/s/m<sup>2</sup>. In February, light intensity decreased from 4.28µmol/s/ m<sup>2</sup> to 3.94µmol/s/m<sup>2</sup> resulting in lower (63%) destruction in bacterial population. The initial temperature inside the box type solar cooker were higher 60, 65 and 70°C, respectively in the month of March, April and May which increased to 110, 110 and 115°C within 4 h period. The 100% bacterial reduction was found in March, except other five months. Within next 2 h this temperature and light intensity increases to 100°C and 4.58μmol/s/m² resulting in 53% of bacterial population. Bacterial inactivation by solar radiation was completely depends on light intensity, solar exposure time, availability of oxygen and temperature (Reed, 2004; Berney et al., 2006). In the present study temperature reached to 193°C after 4 h which was directly proportional to reduction in bacterial load (99% heterotrophic bacteria and 100% coliform group), similar to the study of Oates et al., (2003). In the present study at the time of initiation temperature inside the solar cooker was 65°C which increases to 110°C after 4 h which is quite sufficient in reducing bacterial load from wastewater samples. From the above figure it was clearly observed that with increase in time temperature increased which caused decrement of bacterial populations present in waste water sample. In the present study temperature lies between 70 and 115°C which was quite high for reduction of microbial load, because temperature varied between 20 and 40°C, the inactivation rate of fecal coliforms remains constant (Wegelinet al., 1994). Above temperatures of 50°C, the microbial inactivation is enhanced through the synergistic effects of UV and temperature (Navantoff et al., 2008; Bitton, 2011; Giannakiset al., 2014). In case of solar disinfection of water the main mechanism involves inactivation of microorganisms by UV radiation is caused by damage to the genetic material (DNA / RNA) (Hijnen et al., 2006). UV-C radiation is responsible for Klebsiella species destruction as it damages their genetic material caused by thymine dimerization which blocks nucleic acid replication thereby inactivates the cell (Bitton, 2011). Mc Cambridge, (1981) described the susceptibility of bacteria to light induced degradation varied among different organisms which was represented as Klebsiella pneumoniae>E. coli>Salmonella typhimurium, Streptococcus faecium, Enterobacter aerogenes, Erwinia herbicola. The 100% decrement of Enterobacteriaceae bacterial population signified that the disinfection of wastewater from *Enterobacteriaceae* bacteria can be done by SODIS techniques.

Correlation between the light intensity and temperature with heterotrophic, E coli, Salmonella sp. and Enterobacteriaceae bacterial population showed the negative relationship

(Table-1.1). The above results clearly revealed that heterotrophic bacterial population is significantly decreased with increasing light intensity and temperature within the 4 h period of experimentation. The light intensity and temperature dependent 100% decrement of heterotrophic, *E Coli*, *Salmonella* sp. and *Enterobacteriaceae* bacterial population indicated that the wastewater can be treated by SODIS techniques.

Table 1.1: Correlation between different month, bacteria, light intensity and temperature

Month	Bacteria	Light intensity (μmol/s/m²)	Temperature (°C)
	Heterotrophic bacteria	- 0.61386	- 0.75487
January	E.coli	- 0.57905	- 0.74695
	Salmonella sp.	- 0.71567	- 0.85866
	Enterobacteriaceae	- 0.58566	- 0.76435
February	Heterotrophic bacteria	0.481719	- 0.79166
	E.coli	0.479471	- 0.93015
	Salmonella sp.	0.540531	- 0.83208
	Enterobacteriaceae	0.579424	- 0.83742
	Heterotrophic bacteria	0.662161	- 0.84009
March	E.coli	0.239787	- 0.77272
	Salmonella sp.	0.443933	- 0.95381
	Enterobacteriaceae	0.550978	- 0.92819
	Heterotrophic bacteria	- 0.95781	- 0.97459
April	E.coli	- 0.86234	- 0.91132
-	Salmonella sp.	- 0.94066	- 0.86702
	Enterobacteriaceae	- 0.93674	- 0.88066
	Heterotrophic bacteria	- 0.6457	- 0.96251
May	E.coli	- 0.30111	- 0.78536
,	Salmonella sp.	- 0.55258	- 0.93021
	Enterobacteriaceae	- 0.40928	- 0.85803

	Heterotrophic bacteria	- 0.89551	- 0.96722
June	E.coli	- 0.95965	- 0.90537
	Salmonella sp.	- 0.86825	- 0.90038
	Enterobacteriaceae	- 0.87895	- 0.99166

The results revealed that average temperature and percentage of bacterial reduction was highest in the May (Fig.1.7) compared to that of the remaining months.

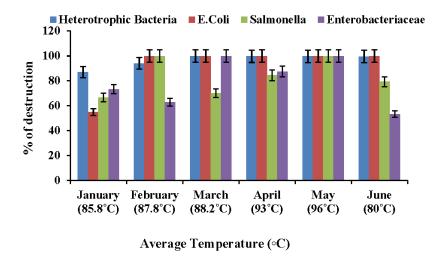


Fig. 1.7. Average percentage of bacterial reduction in average temperature of different months.

#### 4. Nutrient parameters

The concentration of the Phosphate-P, Nitrite-N, Nitrate-N and Ammonium-N were varied from 1.732 to 1.678, 1.178 to 1.164, 0.833 to 0.819 and 10.732 to 10.717 mg/L in the month of January, in February Phosphate varied from 1.933 to 1.919, 1.065 to 1.054, 0.629 to 0.617, 14.222 to 14.209 mg/L, March varied from 2.375 to 2.363, 0.985 to 0.945, 1.016 to 1.076, 13.330 to 12.979 mg/L, April were varied from 2.276 to 2.267 0.945 to 0.936, 1.076 to 1.070, 12.979 to 12.968 mg/L, May were varied from 1.990 to 1.977, 0.900 to 0.882, 1.414 to 1.404, 11.878 to 11.857 mg/L and June were varied from 1.957 to 1.945, 0.799 to 0.786, 1.386 to 1.372, 11.663 to 11.649 respectively (Table 2). In the month of January, the reduction percentage of Phosphate-P, Nitrate-N, Nitrite-N and Ammonium-N were 0.031%, 1.19%, 1.68% and 0.14%,

respectively within 4 h period of experimentation; in February the reduction percentages were 0.72%, 1.03%, 1.90% and 0.009% respectively; in March 0.50%,1.005%, 0.88% and 0.09% respectively; in April were 0.39%,0.95%, 0.55% and 0.08% reduction were found. During the month of May and June, the reduction percentages were 0.65 and 0.61%, respectively reduction in Phosphate-P, 2.4 and 1.62% in Nitrate-N, 0.92 and 1% in Nitrite-N and 0.18 and 0.12% reduction in Ammonium-N were found. The results did not show any drastic changes in nutrient content of wastewater. The differences in percentage of reduction may be attributed to the process of sedimentation as solar radiation does not have any impact on this percentage of reduction.

#### 5. Seed Germination Experiment

To conduct seed germination experiment the wastewater characteristic is essential before its exposure to solar radiation and after disinfection for its subsequent application.

#### 5.1. Wastewater Characteristics

The nutrient parameters of wastewater before and after disinfection were analyzed using standard method (APHA, 2012) before its application for germinating wheat seeds (Table 1.2):

Parameters	Initial	After 1h	After 2h	After 3h	After 4h
Phosphate-P (mg/L)	1.935	1.927	1.924	1.919	1.916
Ammonium-N (mg/L)	11.580	11.575	11.572	11.767	11.763
Nitrite-N (mg/L)	1.409	1.389	1.385	1.380	1.377
Nitrate-N (mg/L)	0.831	0.811	0.807	0.802	0.797

**Table 1.2:** Characteristics of wastewater before and after disinfection

### 5.2. Seed germination

Root length of germinated plants ranged from 4.22cm in 1h, 4.30cm in 2h, 4.5cm in 3h and higher growth of 5cm was found in seed exposed in treated water of 4 h. Similarly, the shoot length of germinated plants ranged from 3.55cm in 1h, 3.68cm in 2h, 3.96 cm in 3h and 4.54cm in 4h (Fig.1.8). The seed germination rate varied from 90 to 100% from 1h to 4h, whereas vigour index varied from 1158.3 to 1596. Relative root growth and chlorophyll content varied from 116.28 to 133.67 and 0.259 to 0.448mg/GFW(Table 1.3).

**Table 1.3:** Variation of Mean  $\pm$  SE values of different plant growth parameters at different time intervals during the seed germination study.

	Ra			Disinfected wastewater							
Parameters	Wastewater (Control)		After 1hour		After 2	After 2hour		After 3 hour		After 4 hour	
	7 days	15 days	7 days	15 days	7 days	15 days	7 days	15 days	7 days	15 days	
Root Length (cm)	1.80 ±0.001	3.86 ±0.001	3.10 ±0.001	4.22 ±0.001	3.36 ±0.001	4.30 ±0.001	3.18 ±0.001	4.5 ±0.001	3.42 ±0.001	5 ±0.001	
Shoot Length (cm)	1.68 ±0.001	3.79 ±0.001	2 ±0.001	3.55 ±0.001	2.28 ±0.001	3.68 ±0.001	2.98 ±0.001	3.96 ±0.001	3 ±0.001	4.54 ±0.001	
Seed Germination Rate (%)		85		90		100		100		100	
Relative Seed Germination Rate		85		90		100		100		100	
Vigour index		945.62		1158.3		1362.5		1411.5		1596	
Relative Root Growth		89.91		116.28		116.92		114.06		133.67	
Germination Index		94.53		77.39		85.53		87.67		90.44	
Chlorophyll (mg/GFW)		0.198		0.259		0.340		0.344		0.448	

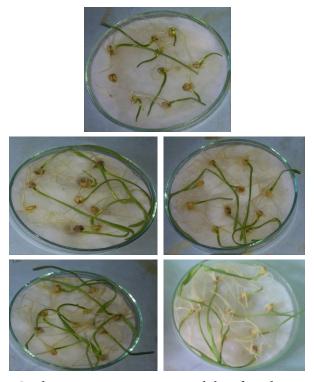


Fig.1.8. Seed germination using raw and disinfected wastewater

From the above result it was observed that germination occurred in all the treatments but the treatment with 4 h disinfected water showed the maximum growth compared to other treatments. The growth of plants was higher in the treated water compared to the plants grown in untreated water (Control). The higher growth in the plants exposed to the treated water was may be due to the lower stress factors (such as, lower microbial load, microbial extracellular products, toxic substances, etc.), where as adverse environmental conditions in control is responsible for lower plant growth. The present study revealed that raw wastewater affects seed germination due to production of various enzymes (Shukla and Pandey, 1991) or the seeds undergo physiological stress due to high salinity (Rao and Nanda Kumar, 1983) or due to excess quantities of micronutrients, heavy metals and toxic chemicals (Dollar et al., 1972; Indra and Sivaji, 2006) present. Moreover raw wastewater contains large amount of microbial and the use of such water for agricultural purpose is quite harmful (Mouhanni et al., 2011) which not only suppress the germination rate but also affects the human beings if it was consumed.

This study significantly explored the excellent use of modified SODIS method in wastewater disinfection by a box type solar cooker and its significant reuse. In many places wastewater is very frequently used for various agricultural purposes because of high nutrient contents that enhances crop productivity. Therefore, it can be concluded that modified SODIS method is low cost, environment friendly method for wastewater disinfection that uses solar energy to kill/destroy the pathogenic microbial load and various toxic pollutants, which make it safe for reuse by maintaining the EPA standards.

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Dr. Sujit Ghosh\*

Abstract: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is regarded as a path-breaking legislation in respect of women empowerment in rural India. The Act provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members willing to do unskilled manual work and also ensures that a minimum of one third of total person days are to be generated with labour contribution of women. The Act also mandates for decent working condition and equal payment of wages for both women and men surely motivate the rural womenfolk to participate in the scheme. The present study empirically analyzes the impact of MGNREGS on the process of women empowerment and shows that a socio-economic change of the status of women is gradually taking place in our patriarchal village society with the participation of women in the scheme. The study also identifies the obstacles on the way of meaningful participation of women in the scheme and finally gives suggestions to address these problems and also to create a better village society based on gender equality and justice.

Key words: MGNREGS, women empowerment, gender equality and justice.

<sup>\*</sup> Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Bajkul Milani Mahavidyalaya, Kismat Bajkul, Purba Medinipur, 721655 Email: sghosh.pol@gmail.com

#### Introduction

Subordination of women is a fundamental feature of the patriarchal society. Patriarchy creates hierarchy in societal relations and interactions, where men stand at the top and women at the bottom. In the equation of power formulation, in every sphere from family to state, women has been offered very marginal role to play, even sometimes they are deprived from enjoying the human rights in a minimal extent. In the Human Development report of UNO (United Nations of Organization), women have been identified as the 'world's largest excluded category'(Datta, April 2002-March 2003). But, gender equality and justice or the equal treatment of women at par men is utmost essential for the success of democracy in any state of the world. A bird cannot fly only with one wing; it needs both the two wings for its smooth and swift flying and also reaches to the destination. Similarly, it is argued that no society can progress much more ignoring the development half of its population i.e.; women. Thus, gender equality and justice has become a key issue in the policy formulation process of any democratic country of the world for its effective running.

## MGNREGA and the scope of women empowerment

Since independence, the policy makers of Indian state have been considering different ways for improving the socio-economic condition of women in our patriarchal society. They initiated different rural welfare programmes to make free the poor women from poverty and vulnerability in life. One such women friendly programme is Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The Parliament of India passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in September, 2005 and the scheme came into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2006. This is regarded as a path-breaking legislation in respect of women empowerment in rural India. One of the key goals of the Act and the scheme (MGNREGS) is to make strengthening the process of empowerment of marginalized sections, especially women. For the purpose of ensuring social protection to these vulnerable people, the scheme provides guaranteed employment opportunity. The Act provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural house hold whose adult members willing to do unskilled manual work. And thus, it recognizes the right to work of the poorest people in rural India. This attempt, in fact, is consistent with the Article 41 of our Indian Constitution that directs the state to ensure to all citizens the right to work. Thus, employment is provided under the scheme to the rural poor including women as their legally mandated right not at the mercy of the local political leaders or elites.

MGNREGS is a right based employment generation programme. It provides certain facilities conducive to enlarge the scope of women participation in a large number into the scheme. First, the Act and the scheme (MGNREGS) give priority to women wage seekers in assigning work under the scheme. It is provided that, at least one-third of the workers should be women (Schedule-II, MGNREGA). The implementing agencies are also advised for taking effort to go beyond the stipulated minimum engagement of women. Secondly, the Act and the scheme ensure that, equal wage to be given both women and men. In fact, earning wages by the female equal to the male members in the family leads to improve their dignity and status in family and also strengthen the process of women empowerment in our patriarchal society. Thirdly, The Act also mandates to ensure certain work site facilities like drinking water, shade, first aid facilities and crèches for children. These work site facilities is very conducive to motivate to the rural womenfolk, especially mothers who are having children, to effectively participate as wage labour in the scheme.

### Women Empowerment through MGNREGS: Field Experiences

We make an empirical study to get a clear picture of the impact of MGNREGS among rural women.

The **objectives** of the study are:

- 1. To understand the awareness level of the rural women regarding the MGNREGS, a right-based programme.
- 2. Nature of participation of women as wage seekers in the scheme.
- 3. To find out, whether socio-economic improvement of women has really been occurred through their participation in the scheme.

# Methodology

The study is mostly empirical and partly descriptive and interpretative in nature. The data and information have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. In the study, much more emphasis has been given on the primary data. The bulk of primary data are collected from field surveys, through the use of questionnaire/interviews. Relevant government records, covering both of Union and State governments, have been accumulated for the purpose. Secondary data have been used in order to supplement the former.

The study is made in *Chistipur-II gram panchayat* in the district of Purba Medinipur of West Bengal. *Chistipur-II gram panchayat* consists of twelve *gram sansads*. Following the

method of simple random sampling, we selected two gram sansads namely Palpara (East) and Baruipur (West), and then by applying the same technique we selected fifteen females from each of the selected sansad area. Thus we selected total thirty women for interview. The field survey is made during the month of June, 2021.

#### Awareness Level of the Rural Women

MGNREGS is the largest demand driven, right-based employment programme in India aims at enhancing livelihood security of vulnerable sections, especially women in rural society. It is expected that the rural women will come out from their houses to a largest extent and take advantages provided in the MGNREGA in order to uplift the living condition of them in society. The study shows that the rural women were not amply conscious of the right-based nature of the programme. All the women respondents were very much aware of the fact that the job card is essential for receiving work under the scheme and the scheme intends to provide 100 days' work to rural households. The study also shows that the respondents were well acknowledged about the fact that equal wages are to be paid them at per men and payment are made through their bank accounts. But, most of the respondents were not conscious of the demand driven nature of the programme. More than two-third, out of the total number of respondents, were not aware of the fact that only written application seeking for work is required for employment under the scheme (table-3.1). Most of the respondents hardly know that if an application is preferred asking for work for a minimum period of 14 days at one goes the gram panchayat is legally bound to provide employment. If the *gram panchayat* fails to provide work on demand the wage seekers is entitled to receive unemployment allowance (Table-3.2). However, such shadow zones in awareness among rural women prevent them to meaningfully participate in MGNREGS. In the process of empowerment, women would definitely realize their own rights and come forward to take the advantages of the legal arrangements in order to improve their vulnerable condition in society. In fact, without the awareness of the rural women that they are being deprived of enjoying their due rights, no empowerment of women would take place in society only through legal arrangements.

Table-3.1 Do you aware of the fact that the written application seeking for work is required for employment in MGNREGS?

No. of Respondents	Yes	No
30	4	26

Source: Field Data

**Table-3.2** Do you know that a wage seeker is entitled to enjoy unemployment allowance if the gram *panchayat* fails to provide work on demand within a stipulated period?

No. of Respondents	Yes	No
30	2	28

Source: Field Data

## Extent of Participation of Women in MGNREGS

It is the matter of fact that, the rural women in India are being deprived of enjoying their due rights in all spheres of their life largely due to their economic backwardness. MGNREGS provides enough job opportunities to the rural women. Through participating in the programme, rural women can fulfill their basic needs and requirements to an extent by their self-efforts. In fact, economic self-sufficiency leads one to get self-control in other spheres of life also. However, women's self-determination and active involvement in the programme is essentially required for improving their living condition in rural India.

At the national level, the participation of women in MGNREGS is encouraging. In the financial year 2020-21, 53.19 per cent participation of women in labour was counted and in the preceding financial year it was calculated 54.72 per cent (http://mnregaweb4.nic.in). The equitable and easy access to work, favorable working conditions (such as the facility of drinking water, shade, crèches for children), and equal payment of wages are the factors that motivated women to participate in MGNREGS. However, in terms of women participation, West Bengal lags behind the national average. In the financial year 2020-21, the person-days of women labour was counted 45.2 per cent and in the subsequent financial year it was counted 46.69 percent(http://mnregaweb4.nic.in). Moreover, there is found broad variation across the districts of the state in this respect. However, in terms of district wise performance, the record of Purba Medinipur district is overall good. In the financial year 2020-21, 47.03 per cent participation of women in labour was counted and in the previous financial year it was recorded 51.33 per cent (http://mnregaweb4.nic.in).

In the financial year 2020-21, the *gram panchayat* under study has generated 98240 person-days of work under the programme which, in fact, is much better compared to the total number of working days of the last two financial years. The share of women in the total number of working days provided under the programme in the financial year 2020-21 is counted 44.96 per cent which, in fact, also lesser than the previous two financial years (Table-3.3). The ratios

of male and female in the total number of working days generated under the programme in different financial years in the selected sansads are almost similar to the gram panchayat records (Table-3.4 & 3.5)

Profile of the year wise working days generated under MGNREGS in Chistipur-II Table-3.3 gram panchayat.

Financial Year	Total no. of Working days generated	Male	Female
2020-2021	98240	54071(55.04%)	44169 (44.96%)
2019-2020	46346	22951(49.52%)	23395 (50.48%)
2018-2019	76237	40634(53.30%)	35603 (46.70%)

<sup>\*</sup>Source: Field Data

**Table-3.4** Profile of the year wise working days generated under MGNREGS in Palpara Sansad (East).

Financial Year	Total no. of Working days generated	Male	Female
2020-2021	8687	4777 (54.99 %)	3910 (45.01 %)
2019-2020	3958	1939 (48.98 %)	2019 (51.02 %)

<sup>\*</sup>Source: Field Data

Profile of the year wise working days generated under MGNREGS in Baruipur Table-3.5 Sansad (West).

Financial Year	Total no. of Working days generated	Male	Female
2020-2021	8068	4452 (55.18 %)	3616 (44.82 %)
2019-2020	3728	1861 (49.92 %)	1867(50.08 %)

\*Source: Field Data

The government of India has expanded the MGNREGS by adding a number of new schemes in the basket. However, the *gram panchayat* under study has virtually achieved success to take up newer activities under the programme in order to generate more and more persondays of labour. As a result, the total number of person-days of labour has markedly increased in the *gram panchayat* compared to the last two financial years (Table-3.3).

MGNREGA permits work in private land. It is found in the study that the *gram panchayat* put importance on the work of land development and excavation of ponds of private owners in its plan of work under MGNREGS. The owners of the private land are found to create pressure on the supervisors of the programme to engage more and more number of male wage-seekers instead of female in their respective lands as the physical strength of male is much more compared to female. In many cases, the owners of the private land try to attain their goal taking the advantage of political well connection of them with the local political leaders. Consequently, many female wage seekers virtually deprive of getting the employment opportunity in spite of having the provision in MGNREGA that the priority should be given to women in the job-seeking house hold. However, to show a good number of participations of women in the total number of person-days of labour generated under the programme, the names of the women wage-seekers have deliberately been enlisted in paper whereas the male members of the respective family actually do the work in the field. In course of interactions, the female respondents confirm this fact and the supervisors of the programme also accept this reality. Thus, the ratio of male and female in the total number of person-days of labour has been shown in the gram panchayat report is not real. In reality, the total number of person-days of women labour is much lesser than the official record.

During interactions, we asked the question to the respondents that, "How many days have you worked in the programme in the financial year 2020-21?" The responses of them are summarized in the table 3.6.

**Table 3.6** How many days have you worked in the programme in the financial year 2020-21?

No. of Respondents	No of Working days	
7	32	
6	33	
8	34	
9	37	
Total-30, No. of average working days- 34.2.		

\*Source: Field Data

It is evident from the table that the average number of working days of women is 34.23 which, in fact, is much lesser than the official records of the gram panchayat.

We also asked the question that "Are you satisfied with the number of working days assigned to you under the programme?" All the respondents expressed their dissatisfaction in this respect and demand more number of working days for them under the programme (Table 3.7). The respondents also reported that there was no facility of shade, first aid facilities and crèches for children at the work sites.

Table 3.7 Are you satisfied with the number of working days assigned to you under the Programm?

No of Respondents	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	Dissatisfied
30	0	0	30

\*Source: Field Data

### Socio-economic Impact

Rural women generally assist their husband or other male members of the family in the time of cultivation along with maintaining the hose keeping activities, although they often receive no pay. Even, when poor women work as wage labour they are often paid less than their male counterparts. This traditional system in rural India has considerably changed after the implementation of MGNREGA. Now it has become possible for the women to earn wages equal to their male counterparts through participating in MGNREGS.

It is a matter of fact that, through participating in MGNREGS, the womenfolk not only financially help their own respective families but also themselves on the road to empowerment. Earning wages by the women wage seekers equal to male members in the family has strengthened their status and role in family. In course of interaction, all the women respondents admitted that they are given due importance in decision making process relating to the important family matters. In fact, economic independence increases women's role and status not only in family but also in society as whole.

Various studies have also been conducted across the country to see the impact of MGNREGS on rural women. In a study it was found that, out of the total number of respondent widows, 82 per cent regarded MGNREGS as a very important source of income and 69 per cent stated that the scheme helped them to avoid hunger. (Dheeraja, & Rao, 2010).

Vinita Arora et al. found in their study that MGNREGS enhances decision-making power in social and economic wellbeing of women (Arora, Kulshreeshtha & Upadhyay, 2013)

MGNREGS provides huge scope of independent earning to the rural women resulting in several advantages at domestic level. The respondents under study felt that there has been financial security to an extent at domestic level after participation in MGNREGS and they also satisfied with the present rate of earning wages. They also informed that their standard of living enhanced after participation in MGNREGS and they spend their earning money in education of children, health care, repaying small loans and other household activities. A few respondents, who also work as wage labour at the time of cultivation as the activities of MGNREGS are stopped basically due to rainy season, informed that they receive wage the same as men from the owners of the private land which previously was unthinkable to them.

#### Conclusion

MGNREGS is a powerful instrument for addressing the issue of gender discrimination in our society. Most remarkable feature of MGNREGA is that it ensures to pay women the same as men which, in fact, was virtually unimaginable in rural India. The study reveals that women are benefited from the programme. Their socio-economic status has improved to a certain extent. A sense of economic independence takes place in their mindset. But, the respondents were not satisfied with the number of working days presently provided them by the gram panchayat authority under the MGNREGS. Women participation to a great extent in the scheme would be possible if there is goodwill on the part of the local administration. There is needed to go beyond the conventional works and also to identify the new works under the scheme in order to generate more and more number of working days. It is evident from the study that the *gram* panchayat authority is trying to work accordingly. However, it is required on the part of the gram panchayat to give priority to the women wage seekers in case of providing work under the scheme. Work should be provided women nearer to their house and also the nature of work should be as such which they can perform easily. Work site facilities as prescribed in the MGNREGA should be ensured by the *gram panchayet* authority so that the women workers, especially mothers can work free from physical and mental stress. Women SHGs may be involved in the implementation as well as monitoring process. They can play significant role in making aware of rural women about the right based nature the programme. It is also necessary to select a significant number of supervisors from among women. In case of implementation the women schemes, the supervisor must be selected from women category. However, we hope that the entire machinery at the grass root level will come forward to implement the above mentioned suggestions in order to enhance the livelihood security as well as status of women in society.

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# জীবনের কথামালাঃ তপন বাগচীর কবিতা

ড. পিয়ালি দে মৈত্ৰ\*

সারসংক্ষেপ: দুই বাংলার কবিতাপ্রিয় মানুষের কাছে তপন বাগচী যথেষ্ট পরিচিত নাম। তাঁর দুটি কাব্যগ্রন্থ এই প্রবন্ধটির আলোচ্য পরিসর। ঢাকার বিভাস প্রকাশনী থেকে ২০১০ সালে প্রকাশিত 'নির্বাচিত ১০০ কবিতা' এবং ২০২০ সালে প্রকাশিত 'নির্বাচিত ২০০ কবিতা' গ্রন্থদুটি বিষয়-বৈচিত্র্যে পরিপূর্ণ। একজন কবির একমাত্র পরিচয় বোধহ্য তাঁর কবিতার পংক্তিমালাতেই অম্বেষণ করে নিতে হ্য। কারণ সেখানেই তাঁর নিভৃত যাপনের ছবিটি আঁকা হয়ে যায়। আলোচ্য কাব্যগ্রন্থ দুটি সেই পরিচ্যকেই বহন করছে।

# সূচকশব্দ :

কবি তপন বাগচী - নব্বই দশক - যাত্রাকাহিনি - নদীকাহিনি - গুচ্ছকবিতা - সময়ের শব্দ -হৃদয়ের চাবি - এই শহরে - শুদ্ধ স্রোত - নিভূত যাপনের ছবি।

<sup>\*</sup>সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, বাংলা বিভাগ, শ্রীচৈতন্য মহাবিদ্যালয় হাবড়া, উত্তর ২৪ পরগনা, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, ভারতবর্ষ

#### মূলপ্রবন্ধ :

"আমি তো সুখেই আছি অনন্ত অসুখে" - যে কবির কলম এমন একটি পংক্তির জন্ম দিতে পারে, তাঁর যাপনের মগ্নতা নিয়ে স্বাভাবিকভাবেই আর সংশয় থাকে না। এমন একজন কবি হলেন গত শতাব্দীর নব্বইয়ের দশকের কবিদের অন্যতম তপন বাগচী। দুই বাংলার কবিতাপ্রিয় মানুষের কাছে তিনি যথেষ্ট পরিচিত নাম। বহুবিচিত্র বিষয় নিয়ে তাঁর গবেষণা। গণসংযোগ ও সাংবাদিকতা তাঁর প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক পাঠের বিষয় হলেও সাহিত্য - সৃষ্টির অক্লান্ত প্রচেষ্টায় তিনি নিরন্তর মগ্ন। তবু একজন কবির একমাত্র পরিচয় বোধহয় তাঁর কবিতার পংক্তিমালাতেই অন্বেষণ করে নিতে হয় -কারণ, যেখানেই তাঁর নিভূত যাপনের ছবিটি আঁকা হয়ে যায়।

আমার আলোচনা সীমাবদ্ধ থাকবে বিভাস প্রকাশনী (ঢাকা) থেকে ২০২০ সালে প্রকাশিত তাঁর 'নির্বাচিত ২০০ কবিতা' গ্রন্থের কবিতাগুলির মধ্যেই। এই প্রসঙ্গে বলে রাখি, এই গ্রন্থটি হাতে আসার আগে বিভাস প্রকাশনী (ঢাকা) থেকেই ২০১০ সালে প্রকাশিত তাঁর 'নির্বাচিত ১০০ কবিতা' গ্রন্থটি আমার পড়ার সুযোগ হয়েছে। পরবর্তীকালে যখন 'নির্বাচিত ২০০ কবিতা' প্রকাশিত হয়, তখন দেখলাম 'নির্বাচিত ১০০ কবিতা' গ্রন্থের প্রায় সব কবিতাই দ্বিতীয় গ্রন্থটিতে রয়েছে। অর্থাৎ, আগের কবিতাগুলির সঙ্গে নতুন কবিতার সংযোজনে দ্বিতীয় গ্রন্থটির প্রকাশ। যাই হোক, তাঁর কবিতা নিয়ে আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে কবি ফরিদ আহম্মদ দুলাল যর্থাথই বলেছেন - "তপন বাগচীর কবিতায় প্রবেশ করলে পাঠক একদিকে পাবেন সারল্যের স্বাদ, অন্যদিকে পাবেন নিষ্ঠা ও আন্তরিকতার সুবাস ; একদিকে পাবেন নির্মানশৈলীর মুন্সিয়ানা, অন্যদিকে পাবেন নাগরিক জীবনের টানা-পোড়েন : তপন বাগচীর কবিতায় আছে দেশজ প্রেক্ষাপট, আছে বৈশ্বিক সমাবর্তন এবং তপন বাগচীর কবিতায় অনিবার্যভাবে আছে প্রেমানুষঙ্গের কথাও।" একজন কবির চোখে অন্য একজন কবির কবিতার এই মূল্যায়ন প্রমাণ করে কবি হিসেবে তপনবাবুর স্বতন্ত্র অবস্থানটি।

# 'যাত্রা শুরু, পদধ্বনি বাজে চারিদিকে'

কবির 'যাত্রাকাহিনি' শীর্ষক কবিতামালার তিন নম্বর কবিতার পংক্তি এটি। 'যাত্রাকাহিনি' নামে আলোচা গ্রন্থে তাঁর মোট তেরোটি কবিতা আছে। 'কাহিনি' শীর্ষক কবিতামালার আর একটি ধারা তাঁর 'নদীকাহিনি' শীর্ষক কবিতামালা - যার সংখ্যা চার। 'জীবনের নৈশগাড়ি' নাম দিয়েও একগুচ্ছ কবিতা রচনা করেন তিনি, যার সংখ্যা ছয়। সূতারাং, দেখা যাচ্ছে বিষয়ভিত্তিক গুচ্ছ কবিতা রচনা করতে কবি পছন্দ করেন। 'যাত্রাকাহিনি' - র কবিতাগুলির একটা ধারাবাাহিকতা আছে। প্রতিটি কবিতায় গভীরভাবে সমাজ - পর্যবেক্ষণের ছাপ স্পষ্ট। বক্তব্যের ঋজুতার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে প্রয়োজনে ক্ষোভ উগরে দেন। শ্রমের বিনিময়ে অর্থ উপার্জনকারী পতিতার বেদনাকে অনায়াসে চিনে নিতে পারেন তিনি। পাশাপাশি তীব্র ঘূণা উঠে আসে শুধুমাত্র বিলাসিতার কারণেই বহুভোগী পুরুষের বিরুদ্ধে। তাই 'যাত্রাকাহিনি' কবিতামালায় বারবার খেটে খাওয়া মানুষের সপক্ষে কথা বলেন তিনি। একইসঙ্গে মিলে-মিশে একাকার হয়ে যায় চিরন্তন জীবন-'যাত্রা'-র কথা-

> "যাত্রা সকলেই করে,কেউ ওঠে খোলামঞ্চে হ্যাজাকের নিচে কেউ খোঁজে কিছুটা আড়াল আর আলোময় আঁধারের জাল কারো হাতে পানপাত্র সুধারসে মজে থাকে রাতের প্রহর -মুখস্থ সংলাপে কেউ রাত ভেঙে গড়ে নেয় কুয়াশা-সকাল।"

যোত্রাকাহিনি : পাঁচা

'যাত্রাকাহিনি: ছয়' পুরোপুরি ভিন্ন স্বাদের কবিতা। গদ্য কবিতার শৈলীতে রচিত। তাই কবিতাটিতে মাইকেল মধুসূদন দত্তের সঙ্গে একালের কবি অমলেন্দু বিশ্বাসকে মিলিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে এক আশ্চর্য সমীকরণে - "অমলেন্দুই আমার জীবনের মাইকেল।" 'যাত্রাকাহিনি: দশ' আমাদের উপহার দেয় অসাধারণ পংক্তিমালা -

> " বুকের ক্রন্দন ঢেকে দুই চোখে মেখে নিই জলরঙধারা হাসির গমক বুঝি ঘাই মারে কারো কারো বন্ধ দরজায় রাতের প্রহর কাঁপে, পেচকের ডাকে নাচে সবুজ পাতারা হ্যাজাকের নিবু আলো কোন দূরে ডেকে নিয়ে যায়!"

'নদীকাহিনি' শীর্ষক কবিতামালার প্রতিটি কবিতাই উৎসর্গীকৃত কবিতা। প্রথমটি কবি অঞ্জনা সাহাকে দ্বিতীয়টি কবি হেনরী স্বপনকে, তৃতীয়টি সাংবাদিক মীর সাহিদুল আলমকে এবং চতুর্থটি সাংবাদিক রফিকুল ইসলাম মন্টুকে। 'নদীকাহিনিঃ দুই' কবিতায় আমরা পাই - "পায়রাকে ভালোবেসে হয়ে যাই উপকূলবাসী - / এমন ইচ্ছের পাখি আলোয় ডানা ঝাপটায় / মরেছি স্বভাবদোষে, বিনার্তকে ছুটি ঘরমুখী / পায়রাকুঞ্জের মায়া মুছে যায় মগ্ন হতাশায়", তখন আমরা পাঠক হিসেবে বঝতে পারি, আত্মমগ্নতার এমন প্রকাশ কতটা প্রশংসার দাবী রাখে।

গুচ্ছকবিতার আর একটি ধারা 'জীবনের নৈশগাড়ি' শীর্ষক কবিতাগুলি। এই পর্বে আছে মোট ছয়টি কবিতা। জীবনের যে 'নৈশগাড়ি কখনো থামে না', তার অনিবার্য চলমানতার ছবি ফুটে উঠেছে প্রতিটি কবিতায়। যেখানে "সময়ের ফুলখড়ি লেখে ইতিহাস"।

কবি ঠিকই জানেন- "একদিন এইসব পুরনো দলিল/ পুড়ে হবে ভস্মসাৎ ব্যর্থ হাহাকারে"। তবুও একমাত্র কবিই পারেন তাঁর নিজস্ব যাপনকে অবিচলিত রাখতে, কারণ "কবি এই সময়ের সাহসী অর্জুন/বিশাল প্রকৃতি তাঁর উপমার তুণ।" তাই এই পর্বের কবিতাগুলির প্রায় প্রত্যেকটির শেষে থেকে যায় প্রত্যেয়ী ঘোষণা। আমরা কয়েকটা কবিতার দিকে চোখ রাখতে পারি -

(ক) জীবনের নৈশগাড়ি কখনো থামে না অচেনা পথের ভুল তার চিরচেনা

[জীবনের নৈশগাড়িঃ এক]

(খ) আমি তো থাকি না বসে অর্থহীন ভেবে জীবনের নৈশগাড়ি সব তুলে নেবে।

[জীবনের নৈশগাড়িঃ দুই]

(গ) বন্দরের বাতিমুখী দীর্ঘ মনোরথ জীবনের নৈশগাড়ি খুঁজে নেয় পথ।

[জীবনের নৈশগাড়িঃ তিন]

(ঘ) কবি নয় মুখাপেক্ষী প্রেমের দয়ার যদিও রয়েছে হাতে প্রথম পয়ার।

[জীবনের নৈশগাড়িঃ চার ]

'যাত্রাকাহিনি' পর্যায়ের কবিতা থেকে পরিক্রমা শুরু করলে 'জীবনের নৈশগাড়ি' শীর্ষক কবিতাগুলির এইসব অন্তিম পংক্তিমালায় একটা যেন বৃত্ত সম্পূর্ণ হয়। কবির কলমের সঙ্গে পথ হাঁটা হয় পাঠকেরও। অনায়াস সাবলীলতায় এইসব কবিতা আমাদের পৌঁছে দেয় এক প্রত্যয়ী অনুভবে।

## 'এই হাতে অস্ত্র ফেলে কলম ধরেছি'

একজন কবির কলমে অনিবার্যভাবেই উঠে আসে সময়ের শব্দ। তপন বাগচীও তার ব্যতিক্রম নন। তাঁর 'জীবিকা' কবিতার পংক্তি দিয়ে এই পর্যায়ের আলোচনার শিরোনাম চিহ্নিত করার একমাত্র কারণ, আলোচ্য কবিতায় একইসঙ্গে কবি উচ্চারণ করেন তাঁর সম–সময়ের কথা এবং নিজের অসহায়তার কথা। অনায়াসে তিনি লিখে ফেলেন – " বাজারে বিকিয়ে মেধা পেট পুরে খাই।" এই আত্মগ্লানির সঙ্গে মিশে থাকে তাঁর দেশপ্রেম, সমাজ–সচেতনতা এবং অবশ্যই প্রতিবাদ। কবি সুমন সরদার তাঁর সম্পর্কে বলেন –

" তপন বাগচী রাজনীতি ও সমাজ থেকে দূরে অবস্থান করেন না, স্বৈরতন্ত্রের বিরুদ্ধে খেটে খাওয়া মানুষের কাতারে দাঁড়িয়ে কাব্যযুদ্ধ করেন সমাজ-ব্যবস্থার তন্তুজালে বন্দি মানুষের পরিত্রাণের এক মায়ামন্ডল সৃজনের জন্যে। খিদে মরা রাতের অসহায় মানুষের জন্যে তিনি সুস্থ সবল রাজনীতি চান, গড়ে তুলতে চান এমন জাল, যে জালের মধ্যে আটকে ফেলবেন ঘুণে ধরা সমাজব্যবস্থা। মূলত বামধারার রাজনীতির সাথে তাঁর একসময়ের সম্পৃক্ততা তাঁকে এ ধরনের কবিতা রচনায় তাড়িত করে। তাই তাঁর কবিতায় সমাজ বদলের প্রচ্ছন্ন লড়াই ও খেটে খাওয়া মানুষের প্রতিবাদী স্বর ফুটে ওঠে।"

তপনবাবুর সমাজ-সচেতনতার স্পষ্ট প্রকাশ ঘটেছে অসংখ্য কবিতায়। বঙ্গ একটি জাতির নাম, শাহবাগ (দুটি কবিতা), ক্ষুধা তেড়ে আসছে, উন্নয়ন-গবেষণা, সাংস্কৃতিক সমীক্ষা, খোলা বাজার, ছুরি, এখানে মানুষ, দধিচীর হাড় চাই, দ্রোহ, এই শহরে, একদিন শান্তি ইত্যাদি। এইসব কবিতায় প্রতিবাদী কলমের রাগ, ঘৃণা, ধিকারের প্রাবল্য কবিতাকে করে তুলেছে কিছুটা স্বতন্ত্র। কাব্যময়তার মগ্নতা সেখানে অনুপস্থিত। ফলে কবিতা হয়ে উঠেছে অনেকাংশেই বিবৃতিধর্মী— স্বাভাবিকভাবেই 'কবিতা' হয়ে ওঠার পক্ষে অন্তরায়। উদাহরণ হিসেবে উল্লেখ করা যায় 'উন্নয়নগবেষণা' বা 'সাংস্কৃতিক সমীক্ষা' কবিতাদুটির কথা। তুলনায় 'দধিচীর হাড় চাই', 'একদিন শান্তি', 'ক্ষুধা তেড়ে আসছে', 'দ্রোহ', 'ছুরি', অথবা 'খোলা বাজার' অনেক বেশি ব্যঞ্জনাময়। তীব্র ক্ষোভ সেখানেও আছে – তবু কবিতা হিসেবে সেগুলি ব্যতিক্রমী। সমাজ–সচেতনতার অন্যতম প্রকাশ 'শাহবাগঃ এক' এবং 'শাহবাগঃ দুই' কবিতাদুটি। কবি বলেন –

"কেউ কি হিসেব রাখে কত পাপ রঙের দেয়ালে কী ছাই লিখেছি আমি সময়ের শুকনো পাতায় আমাকে ডেকেছে পথ, শাহবাগ, রঙিন খেতাব-"

[শাহাবাগঃ এক]

অথবা-

"পথের ধুলোরা ঠিক চিনে নেয় ধুলোমাখা পায়ের পথিক কোনো কোনো পথ ঠিক এনে দেয় পথিকের পথের ঠিকানা।"

[শাহাবাগঃ দুই]

'বর্ষাপাড়ায় সেরমা সেতাং' কবিতাটি এক অন্য মাত্রায় পৌঁছে যায়। উচ্চকিত 'স্লোগান' ধর্মী একটি শব্দও না লিখে কবি সেখানে শুধু ঘোষণা করেন - "আমরা শুধু শত শত মানুষের ভেতর / অজস্র আলোর ঝলকানি দেখতে পেলাম।" বাংলাদেশ এবং ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে 'জলবন্টন নীতি' সংক্রান্ত অভিমানের সুরটি ছায়া ফেলে যায় "জল চাই প্রান্তরের কাছে" কবিতায়। কবির সখ্যতার হাত বাড়ানো থাকে অসংখ্য মানুষের দিকে। সেই সখ্যতার সেতু ধরে তিনি পৌঁছে যান মানুষের কাছাকাছি- রচিত হয় এমন অসংখ্য কবিতা, যার প্রতিটি উৎসর্গীকৃত, তার একটা তালিকা প্রস্তুত করা যায় অনায়াসে-

(ক)	স্বীকৃতি	[প্রকৌশলী সাবিনা হাই উর্বিকে]
(খ)	সাম্প্রতিকী	[কবি রবীন্দ্র গোপকে]
(গ)	তেজী	[কবি গোলাম পিবরিয়া পিনুকে]
(ঘ)	কবিতা	[ছোটন বাগচীকে]
(8)	জন্মদিনে	[কবি শামসুর রহমানকে]
(চ)	শিল্পযাত্রা	[কবি মহাদেব সাহাকে]
(ছ)	সমান্তর	[বাকশিল্পী কামরুল হাসান মন্টুকে]
(জ)	চোখ রোদ্ধুরের দিকে	[কবি আশিস সান্যালকে]
(작)	নেবুতলে জোনাকির আলো	[কবি ঈশিতা ভাদুড়ীকে]
( <b>13</b> )	ভারতবর্ষের কবি	[কবি উত্তম দাশকে]
$(\overline{\mathfrak{d}})$	কবিরা ব্রাক্ষণ হয়	[কবি সুবোধ সরকারকে]
$(\underline{\varphi})$	মগ্নতার ভাঁজ খুলে	[কবি দীপিকা বিশ্বাসকে]
(ড)	বেজায় মোহিত	[নাট্যকার মোহিত চট্টোপাধ্যায়কে]
( <del>u</del> )	জলের ভেতরে ডুব	[কবি অরুণেশ ঘোষকে]
(ণ)	যশের মন্দিরে	[মহাকবি মাইকেল মধুসূদন দত্ত স্মরণে]

তপন বাগচীর কবিতার পরতে পরতে জড়িয়ে থাকে দেশপ্রেমের অনিবার্য সুর। তার অন্যতম প্রমাণ 'বঙ্গ একটি জাতির নাম' এবং 'সকল নদীর নাম গঙ্গা ছিল' কবিতাদৃটি। বিশেষ করে দ্বিতীয় কবিতাটি ভারী মায়াময়-

> "গঙ্গা থেকে গাঙ গাঙ মানে পৃথিবীর যে কোন নদীর জলধারা একদিন সকল নদীর নাম গঙ্গা ছিল শুধু।"

# "খুলে দাও কাঠফাটা হৃদয়ের চাবি"

"হৃদয়ের চাবি" যে কবির হাতে থাকে, অনস্ত ভালোবাসার খোঁজে তিনি তো হন্যে হয়ে ঘুরবেনই। তপন বাগচীর কলমের শ্রেষ্ট সম্পদ বোধহয় তাঁর প্রেমের কবিতাগুলি। 'অনস্ত অসুখে' কবিতাটিতে আছে অভিমানের সুর – "উপহৃত নাম ধরে ডাকব না আর"। 'উপহৃত' শব্দটির অভিনব ব্যবহার পাঠককে চমকিত করে। এই কবিতার আরও একটি অসাধারন পংক্তি মনে গোঁথে যায় – "আমি তো সুখেই আছি অনস্ত অসুখে"। "তৃষিত হৃদয় জুড়ে" কবিতাটিকে অনায়াসে দেশপ্রেমের কবিতা বলা যায়। "তুমি তো" শব্দগুচ্ছের বারংবার ব্যবহার পাঠকের চেতনাকে স্পর্শ করে। প্রতিটি পংক্তিতে একটা শব্দঝংকার তৈরী হচ্ছে। সেইসঙ্গে অনায়াস ছন্দের চলন তো আছেই –

"তুমি তো মায়ের মুখ
সোহাগের নুন মাখা শাসনের টক
তুমি তো মেঘের রঙ
আকাশের গায়ে আঁকা জটিল গমক
তুমি তো ঘরের শোভা
বনগাঁরে বেড়ে ওঠা কচি ঠেসমূল
তুমি তো পাখির ডাক
সারাক্ষণ গুণগুণ উদাসী বাউল ..." ইত্যাদি।

"নষ্টের গান" কবিতাটিতেও আছে অভিমানের ছোঁয়া। এই কবিতার পংক্তিতে পংক্তিতে চুঁইয়ে পড়ে অভিমানী আলো আর আলোকিত হয়ে ওঠে এমন সব অনুভব - "কষ্টগুলো দুহাত তুলে ভৈরবী গায়।" একের পর এক কবিতা সেই 'ভৈরবী' সুরের রেশ বহন করে চলে - মনোভৌগোলিক, পরিচয়, সমর্পণ, নৌকাকান্ড, উপচিন্তা, কে আর জানে, ঋণমঙ্গল, ইচ্ছের জ্রণ, এইসব স্মৃতির সৌরভ, মুখোমুখি, কোথায় আছি কোন দ্রাঘিমায়, একটি গোলাপ আর...., অপেক্ষায় আছি, বৈকালিক, রাতকাহিনি, বোধঘুড়ি, যদি তুমি না-ই আসো, নিজস্ব আহ্বান, সোনালী অসুখ ইত্যাদি অসংখ্য কবিতাই তার প্রমাণ। 'উপচিন্তা' কবিতাটির নামেই চমক রয়েছে। প্রতিটি পংক্তির শুরুতে 'উ'- কার সম্বলিত শব্দের ব্যবহার বেশ অভিনব -

"উড়কি ধানের মুড়কি ভেজে উতল হয়ে যতই তুমি ছাওয়ায় বসো উডুক্কু এই বাউড়ি বাতাস আসবে না আর উডিয়ে নিতে হাতের থালা।..."

"কোথায় আছি কোন দ্রাঘিমায়" কবিতাটির প্রেমের সুরে মিশে যায় প্রতিবাদের রঙ- "রোজ সকালে আগুন গায়ে মিছিলে যাই" পংক্তিটি একটি ছবি তৈরী করে। সেই ছবিটি পূর্ণতা পায় কবিতার শেষ পংক্তিতে এসে - "আমি এখন মিশে আছি ক্ষুব্ধ সবল জলস্রোতে"। 'যদি তুমি না-ই আসো" শব্দগুচ্ছের ব্যবহার কবিতাটিকে আকর্ষণীয় করে তোলে। 'বৈকালিক' কবিতাটিতে আছে এক যন্ত্রণাময় আকুলতা। 'বোধঘুড়ি' কবিতায় আসে কালিদাসের 'মেঘদূতম' কাব্যটির অনুসঙ্গ। কিন্তু কবি যখন লেখেন- "আমার বোধিরা হাঁটে আকাশের খোলাপথে সতর্ক চরণে", তখনই কবিতাটি এক অন্য মাত্রায় পোঁছে যায়। "নামমাহাত্ম্য : এক" এবং "নামমাহাত্ম্য : দুই" কবিতাদুটির মধ্যে ছন্দ নিয়ে খেলার মধ্যেই এক আপাত সারল্য ধরা পড়েছে। কবি নিজেই ঘোষণা করেন -

"ছন্দ প্রকরণে খুঁজি জীবনের মধ্য-অস্ত্যমিল সরল গদেওে আমি বহুমান স্নিঞ্চ সাবলীল।"

"এই শহরে" কবিতাটিতেও ছন্দের ব্যবহার প্রশংসনীয়। কবিতাটির নির্মাণে অনায়াস সারল্যের দক্ষতা মনকে স্পর্শ করে। 'বোধ' কবিতাটিতে ব্যবহাত 'শিল্পের জরা' (আমাকে তাড়িয়ে ফেরে শিল্পের জরা) অথবা 'প্রণয়ের বীমা' (বাকি থাকে অভিমান, প্রণয়ের বীমা) শব্দগুচ্ছের ব্যবহার অভিনব। তাঁর 'কেতকী ও রাধাচূড়া' কবিতাটির মধ্যে প্রেম ও প্রকৃতির অনুসঙ্গ মিলে-মিশে একাকার হয়ে আছে। কবিতাটিকে দুটি পর্যায়ে ভাগ করা হয়েছে - 'ক' এবং 'র'। আমরা অনায়াসে বুঝে নিতে পারি 'কেতকী' প্রসঙ্গ চিহ্নিত হয়েছে 'ক' পর্যায়ে এবং একইভাবে 'রাধাচূড়া' প্রসঙ্গটি চিহ্নিত হয়েছে 'র' পর্যায়ে। 'কেতকী' পর্যায়ে কবি লিখতে পারেন - "গভীর চুলের খাদে শোকের মিনার" অথবা "ধরণীরে ধার দেব অনুনীত অনন্ত শাওন"। 'অনুনীত' শব্দের ব্যবহার প্রশংসার দাবী রাখে। 'রাধাচূড়া' পর্যায়ে আমরা দেখি প্রথম অনুচ্ছেদের নরম প্রাকৃতিক অনুসঙ্গ অনায়াসে দ্বিতীয় এবং তৃতীয় অনুচ্ছেদে এক ভিন্ন মাত্রা প্রয়ে যায়। সেখানে লেখা হয় -

"যেখানে অতন্ত্র জেগে সহযোজা বীর আসলাম বুকের গভীরে জ্বালে সাহসের শিখা চারচোখে কাল হবে প্রানবন্ত দৃষ্টি বিনিময় নির্ভয় কপালে দেব প্রত্যয়ের টিকা।"

আলোচ্য পর্যায়ে শিরোনাম নির্বাচন করা হয়েছে এই কবিতাটিরই 'কেতকী' অংশের শেষ পংক্তিটিকে। সেখানে কবি অনায়াস সাবলীলতায় লিখে ফেলতে পারেন "খুলে দাও কাঠাফাটা হৃদয়ের চাবি।" আসলে, "জীবনের অনিকেত গান" শুরু করতে চান যে কবি, "কাঠাফাটা হৃদয়ের চাবি" তাঁরই মুষ্টিবদ্ধ, প্রতিবাদী হাতেই মানায়। কারণ, কবিই শুধু জানেন – "অঙ্গীকারে মূর্ত হয় প্রাণের স্লোগান"।

## "হৃদয়ের রক্তে ফোটে শিল্পের সুষমা"

পৃথিবীর সকল কালের সকল কবির কবিতাতেই আসলে "হৃদয়ের রক্তে ফোটে শিল্পের সুষমা"। তপন বাগচী তাঁর 'কবিতা' নামক কবিতাটিতে সেই চিরকালীন সত্যকেই স্বীকৃতি দেন। তাঁর কবিতাগুলির মধ্যে মিশে থাকে যাপনের উষ্ণতা - সেখানে প্রেম আছে, প্রতিবাদ আছে, সখ্যতা আছে, সময় এবং সমাজচেতনা আছে, আর সবথেকে বেশি আছে জীবনের উত্তাপ। তাই তার দৃষ্টি এড়িয়ে যায় না "একজন মেহরাব আলী" - র পরিণতি। তিনি প্রশ্ন তোলেন -

"একজন মেহরাব আলী কতকিছু দেখেছেন এবং দেখিয়েছেন জীবনভর আজ তাকে দেখতে পাওয়ার আনন্দ থেকে বঞ্চনার দায় কে নেবে?"

তাঁর কবিতা সম্পর্কে কবি ও সম্পাদক আনোয়ার কামাল যে মন্তব্য করেন, তা যথার্থ-

"তাঁর কবিতার সুর বাঙালির লোকচেতনায় ভাসমান নৌকা। বিদেশি মতবাদ নয়, দেশীয় কাব্যতত্ত্বই তাঁর অধিষ্ট। তাঁর কবিতায় ছন্দ একধরণের অলংকার নিয়ে সমুজ্জ্বল থাকে।"

শুধুমাত্র ছন্দ নয়, আমরা দেখেছি তাঁর বিষয়-নির্বাচন এবং শব্দ ব্যবহারের নিজস্ব ধরণ, দেখেছি অনুভবী মন নিয়ে সময়ের স্রোতে ভেসে চলা সকল বিষয় নিয়ে কথা বলতে। চারপাশের পৃথিবী সম্পর্কে এক গভীর মায়াময় ভালোবাসা আছে বলেই তীব্র প্রতিবাদে বারবার ঝলসে উঠেছে তাঁর কলম। সবথেকে বড়ো কথা, তাঁর কবিতা আমাদের ভাসিয়ে নিতে চায় এক শুদ্ধ স্রোতের অভিমুখে - কবি হিসেবে সেটাই বোধহয় তাঁর দায়বদ্ধতা। কবির একটি অসামান্য কবিতার কয়েকটি পংক্তি দিয়েই আমি আলোচনা শেষ করতে চাই। কারণ, আমার মনে হয়েছে 'শুদ্ধ স্রোত' কবিতার এই পংক্তিগুলিতেই রয়ে গিয়েছে কবির অধিষ্ট -

"ম্রোতের বিরুদ্ধে একা এই আমি নোঙর তুলেছি সঙ্গী আছে ছন্দ-হাল, সমকাল, ভাষার লাগাম আমি তো রুচির হাটে ঘুরে ঘুরে মধুরিমা বেচি পাটাতনে জমা রাখি পূর্ণোপমা, শুদ্ধমনস্কাম।"

# তথ্যসূত্ৰঃ

- ১. পরিশিষ্ট, নির্বাচিত ২০০ কবিতা, তপন বাগচী, বিভাস প্রকাশনী, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ, ২০২০, পু:- ১৪১।
- ২. যাত্রাকাহিনিঃ পাঁচ, নির্বাচিত ২০০ কবিতা, তপন বাগচী, বিভাস প্রকাশনী, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ,২০২০, প্:- ১০৭।
- থ. যাত্রাকাহিনিঃ দশ, নির্বাচিত ২০০ কবিতা, তপন বাগচী, বিভাস প্রকাশনী, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ, ২০২০,
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# Regulatory Mechanism of Audit Profession in India: A Brief Study

Dr. Manabendra Sekhar Bhadra\*

**ABSTRACT:** Quality of audit may be characterized to provide reasonable assurance to the concerned regulatory authorities for better legal and regulatory compliances to improve systems and procedures for the business as a whole including the subject matter of audit, to act as a guide to successors, to a better information presentation and to offer reasonable professional satisfaction to the auditor. A sound quality control system should be maintained for conducting audit in conformity with prevailing law, verification of the positive/negative assertions as required under relevant laws, compliance with ICAI's pronouncements and finally confirming timely completion of audit. There are numerous provisions introduced in Companies Act 2013 effective from 1st April 2014 dealing with internal financial control[section 134(3) & (5) ], business relationship of the auditor(section 141), other services of the auditor (section 144), rotation of auditor and audit committee recommendation (section 139), complying with auditing standards, audit report and fraud reporting (section 143), National Financial Reporting Authority(NFRA) with extended authority for maintaining quality of audit practices (section 132), punishment for contravention (section 147), fraud (section 447) which are directly or indirectly guiding audit functioning towards improvement of audit quality. Regulatory measures as the setting up of Audit Committee, Peer Review, Continuing Professional Education and Financial Reporting review Board, Serious Fraud Investigation Office etc to regulate functioning of audit professionals are discussed. Against this backdrop, the objective of the study is confined to deal with regulatory mechanism of audit functioning in India.

**Key Words:** Audit Quality, Internal Financial Control, Audit Committee, ICAI, NFRA

<sup>\*</sup> Assistant Professor, Dept of Commerce, Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya Email: dr.manabbhadra@gmail.com

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Regulation begins with making and implementing the rules to control the behavior of a person or group of persons being regulated. It is important to address the role of the profession in the evolution of its regulation. In most developed countries, initially, the professional public accountants were given the license to regulate the accounting profession. They set the minimum requirements for the same. 'Historically, leading professional practitioners then established a code of professional conduct and, eventually, accounting, auditing and other practice standards' (Sylph Jim, 2005) that are acknowledged as the self regulatory measures of the profession.

Through the 20th century onwards, the professional accountants have been gaining knowledge of professional practice standards. These standards, needless to say, consist of some techniques, procedures that the public accountants are used to in examining the financial statements so that investors' interests are properly protected. In course of time, professional practitioners founded professional associations to promote their profession and its standards leading to the government regulations that had the legal authority to mandate compliance with the standards, to adopt the standards for reference or as acceptable interpretation. Over the years in many countries including United States this approach of government sanctioned self regulatory mechanism has proved to be an adequate, efficient and investor friendly system (Ward Graham, 2005). In more recent years the total scenario has changed with the impact of globalization. There are numerous new provisions introduced in Companies Act 2013 effective from 1st April 2014 dealing with internal financial control(section 134(3) & (5)), business relationship of the auditor(section 141), other services of the auditor (section 144), rotation of auditor and audit committee recommendation (section 139), complying with auditing standards, audit report and fraud reporting (section 143), National Financial Reporting Authority(NFRA) with extended authority for maintaining quality of audit practices (section 132), punishment for contravention (section 147), fraud (section 447) which are directly or indirectly influencing audit functioning for improvement of audit quality. It is noteworthy that audit failure is practically meant for failure on the part of auditor of the company only. There may be 'fraud perpetrated by managers or employees, and particularly, dominant owner managers' (ICAEW 2006) which will not claim poor audit quality. Regulatory measures as the setting up of Audit Committee, Peer Review, Continuing Professional Education and Financial Reporting review Board, Serious Fraud Investigation Office etc to regulate functioning of audit professionals are discussed. Against this backdrop, the objective of the study is confined to deal with regulatory mechanism of audit functioning in India.

### 2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Businesses have become increasingly more complex and there is more expanded scope of business operation. The scope for professional accounting firms becomes wider and to meet the expanded market demand, the professional accountants and their firms have extended the range and types of business services beyond the traditional attest and assurance and taxation advises. These changes together with 'major public company failures involving inadequate corporate governance and perceived and adequate shortcomings in auditor performance' (Ward Graham, 2005) draw attention of accounting community to the need for re examination of accounting regulation and standard setting structures. As part of overall regulation of accounting profession, the following areas of the auditing profession need to be addressed.

- Education and admission standards
- Audit Standards
- Ethical Standards
- Disciplinary action

There are two primary ways of the regulation of professional accountants. These are Self regulation and External (Direct) regulation.

In the Self regulation of the profession, 'the government has delegated the responsibility to the regulation of the profession and the profession regulates itself within that framework and reports on its activities. There can be a greater or lesser degree of government monitoring and oversight' (Jim Sylph, 2005, p.5).

In the External regulation of the profession government establishes audit oversight body to directly regulate part or, rarely, all the profession. Like self regulation, direct regulation has been processed through kind of roles, responsibilities and reporting arrangements that the government has enforced by legislation. 'A combination of self regulation and external regulation is often used to regulate the profession. Self regulation and external regulation reinforce each other, they should be acting in way that is complementary to each other, not competing' (<a href="https://www.ifac.org">www.ifac.org</a>). There should be a periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the methods and their combination. In a number of ways self regulation and external regulation may create an efficient and effective regulatory mix (Bhadra, M.S, 2011, p. 157). One combination may be self regulation with oversight by an independent agency. Another combination may be such that some aspects are to be regulated by professional body and other aspects being regulated by a government or independent agency.

For example, setting education or admission standards, audit standards, ethical standards, disciplinary actions are those areas where accounting profession may have significant expertise

to regulate them. However, there are a number of factors including financial reporting failures, performance of the professional body, performance of the governments, general political orientation to regulation, development path of the economy, nature and characteristics of market failures etc for an appropriate mix of the regulation for a particular country concerned. It goes no saying that regulation becomes successful if both types of regulations work in tandem over time as market demands for accountancy services change. Of late, the auditing profession has witnessed the need for increasing oversight of the performance of the auditors and/or the performance of the professional accountancy bodies. So, there are now two more additional areas of regulations (Ward Graham, 2005, pp 2-3), namely,

- Monitoring the audit quality, for example, audit inspections.
- Monitoring the Self regulatory activities of the professional accountancy bodies.

In recent years, two clear trends have become apparent in the regulation of the audit profession: a move towards direct regulation and regulatory convergence of the audit profession in the international level (Ward Graham, 2005, pp 2-3).

## 3. AUDIT REGULATORS IN INDIA

In India, so far as accounting and auditing regulation is concerned the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is , perhaps , the most powerful of the regulators including the Companies Act 1956, Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India(ICSI), Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India(ICWAI) etc . The Companies Act 1956 has authorized the ICAI as per Section 227(4A) to the Act to issue Statement on the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order2003. The members of the Institute are required to comply with the requirements of the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order (CARO) 2003 issued by the Central Government in June 2003 and revised and again issued in August 2005. The revised edition (2005) of the Statement on CARO 2003, however, provides detailed clause by clause guidance on all the reporting requirements under the Companies (Auditor's Report-Amendment) Order, 2004.

In India, Companies Act 2013 lays down provision under section 132 to constitute National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) in place of earlier National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS) with more authority for issue and implementation of companies rules, accounting and auditing standards in India. It has power of civil court, investigate professional or other misconduct. ICAI can't initiate/continue any proceedings where NFRA initiates action. A brief study over audit regulators of India is as follows.

## 3(a). National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) was set up on 1st October, 2018 by the Government of India as per section 132(1) of the companies act, 2013. NFRA is authorized to recommend accounting and auditing policies and standards in India under section 132(2) of the companies act, 2013. It has to the power to supervise the audit professional to enforce compliance with accounting and auditing standards and suggest measures for improvement of audit quality. As per Sub Rule (1) of Rule 4 of the NFRA Rules, 2018, provides that the Authority on behalf of the government should establish high quality accounting and auditing standards and exercise effective oversight over financial reporting of the companies and bodies corporate and auditing functions performed by auditors.

As a quasi judicial body NFRA exercises power of civil court to oversee professional misconduct of auditors. It has constituted three committees – Committee on AS, Committee on SA and Committee for Enforcement Power to conduct investigations or quality reviews against audit firms which conducts audit of 200 companies or more in a year or audit of 20 or more listed companies or company or companies (including listed company or companies), having net worth more than 500 crores or paid up capital more than 500 crores or annual turnover less than 1,000 crores as on 31st March of immediately preceding financial year or company or companies having securities listed outside India CNK 70. Auditing Standards are to be followed as formulated by ICAI and notified by NFRA which is empowered with Suo-moto action against firm or member with penalty – for individuals 1 lakh to 10 times fees received, for firms – 10 lakhs to 10 times fees received and debarring member or firm from practice for 6 months to 10 years.

## 3(b).Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

The ICAI Act 1949 clearly mandates that a chartered accountant registered with ICAI must obtain a certificate of practice prior to joining the profession (Indian Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, Section6 (1),). The chartered accountants must also renew their certificate of practice every year by paying an annual fee (Indian Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, Sections 6, 20). In India, ICAI is the apex regulatory body to regulate all the auditors in the country through a good deal of measures incorporating formulation of auditing standards, statements and guidance notes etc in one hand and constitution of Peer Review Board, Continuing Professional Education for the members and Financial Reporting Review Board etc for implementation of the standards, statements and guidance notes on the other. These regulatory measures are said to be Self-Regulatory measures. The ICAI as the self regulatory authority of audit profession

has become overburdened both in formulating and implementing auditing standards by its members. The oversight function of the ICAI has slackened following some corporate collapses due to auditor's failures. There is lack of consolidated control (Vittal N,2007). 'For instance, soon after the Satyam episode came to light, the ICAI which regulates all the auditors in the country and lays down all accounting rules and audit norms –tried deflecting the blame by pointing fingers at certain firms and individuals, instead of introspecting about the quality of accounting and reporting norms that it endorses' (Rajrishi Singhal, 2009, p.6). Most regulators and some professionals have agreed to the need for creating an independent oversight arrangement for the auditing profession in line with the recent development in many developed and emerging market economies.

Regulatory bodies similar to Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) should be set up. As per Sarbanes Oxley (SOX), majority of PCAOB members are non CPA and the chairman of the Board may not be practising public accounting for at least five years prior to the appointment [Sarbanes Oxley Act, section101 (e) (2)].

Members of Indian regulatory bodies are desired to enjoy similar status. Regarding disciplinary action against the auditor, India needs Sarbanes Oxley Act (SOX) type penal provisions as well as adequate enforcement of such provisions. The PCAOB in United States can deregister or suspend a member or impose upon him penalty up to \$15000000 whereas in India, a chartered accountant can be reprimanded or deregistered for a period not exceeding five years. Again, there is also the need of a fully independent audit committee as provided for in the SOX. Many professional and business leaders have shared the view that full adoption of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) and International Standard on Auditing (ISA) with respect to financial reporting by banks and other financial institutions, listed companies and other large size business enterprises would provide incentive to the profession to keep pace with international best practices and the latest worldwide developments in the field of accounting and auditing. Another view that has come on the forefront is the regulatory convergence throughout the world and that would definitely strengthen regulatory oversight over global audit profession. Amongst views of participating stake holders some regulators and corporate accountants and analysts have, however, expected some improvement in the case of monitoring, integrity, objectivity, independence, and standards compliance by auditors. A minority of auditors and corporate accountants have felt that Indian members of the profession were fiercely independent and completely compliant with the standards.

On the other hand, there was widely held views among accountants both in the audit profession and in the corporate sector that the government should not interfere in the regulation

of the profession.

However, it is needless to say that auditing principles are universally applied to all types of clients irrespective of big or small in size, but high quality and stringent principle based engagement standards may, sometimes, pose certain challenges to audit of small clients. Implementation of auditing standards has become a burning issue over the years (Bhadra, M.S, 2011, pp.155, 177, Appendix I).

ICAI has adopted several measures including introduction of Peer Review, Continuing Professional Education of members, the setting up of Financial Reporting Review Board, Audit Committee and even Ethical Standards for the members of the Institute. In the following part these regulatory measures are discussed.

### 3.(b)(i) Peer Review

'Peer Review is a system whereby professional practices, procedures, attestation engagement records and related financial /other data of an auditor are examined by another professional of similar standing (the peer)' (Gupta Kamal, 2005, p.104). The objective of peer review is to review if the auditor complies with technical standards and maintains proper quality control systems and procedures (including documentation) ((Bhadra, M.S,2011, .pp.156,177).

"The system may alert the accounting firm in general and the role of the auditor in particular, not to do such jobs that may appear as lack of transparency in the profession' (Basu, Dr.B.K. 2004, pp.8-18).

In a peer review process, a practice unit, usually a large audit firm is selected to review its attestation engagement records immediately preceding three completed years. The attestation service includes audit services and excludes compilation procedures and tax advisory services etc. The ICAI has constituted the Peer Review Board to regulate the peer review mechanism. The Board consists of a maximum eleven members of whom six would be from the council of ICAI and the remaining individuals from regulatory authorities, industry, public offices or from other walks of life with high repute. The tenure of membership in the Board is generally one year or as decided by the council of the ICAI. However, independence and transparency are two deserving factors in the functioning of the board. The peer review goes through planning, execution and reporting processes. In the planning process, the practice unit is notified about peer review. A questionnaire is sent to the Practice Unit (PU) which is given three suggested names of reviewers out of which it can select one. Within one month of receipt, the questionnaire is completed and returned along with a complete list of attestation services clients.

The reviewers then select an appropriate sample on random basis, representative of PU's client portfolio and settle the review dates by mutual consent so as to complete the review within four months of initial notification.

In the execution process, there is an onsite review which is completed within one to seven working days. The reviewer conducts initial meeting and then reviews audit manuals (in case of large PU). He concentrates on five moot areas of general control, viz, independence, professional skills and standards, outside consultation, staff supervision and development and office administration. He also reviews control procedures and records of selected audit engagements and working papers.

In the reporting stage, the reviewer prepares a preliminary report and asks for a written response from the PU within 21 days. After considering them, if the reviewer is satisfied submits final report to the Board. If the reviewer is not satisfied he makes his interim report to the Peer Review Board.

Regarding compliance with technical standards, if there is any weakness in application of technical standards; Board makes recommendation to PU and issues instruction for further review after six months when the reviewer, if satisfied, will issue final report to the Board. If he will not be satisfied submit final report showing reasons for dissatisfaction. Board shall consider the reviewer's final report and PU's submissions. Board shall issue recommendation to PU and instruct the reviewer to follow-up action. After that, if the reviewer is satisfied, issues Peer Review Certificate and if not, no certificate will be issued. Again, if there is no weakness regarding application of technical standards, Board recommends to PU for improvement of internal quality control and follow-up in done after 12 months to enquire about implementation. If the Board is satisfied, it will issue Peer Review Certificate. If the Board is not, the reviewer proceeds for follow -up review and subsequently submit his report.

If the Board is satisfied, will issue the Certificate, otherwise, shall issue recommendation to PU and instruct the reviewer to follow-up action and if again is dissatisfied, no certificate is issued (Bhargava Sunil, 2003, pp.852-64). Peer review is the most confidential system for the benefit of the PU and the cost of review is to be borne by the PU itself. It is worthy to mention in this context that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to bear the cost of 'peer review' of the accounting statements of all Nifty and Sensex companies to avoid a Satyam like financial scandal and also to dispel a slight conflict of interest in the minds of investors if companies pay the peer review fees (Bhave C B, 2009). The most special feature of peer review in India is a strong, efficient independent Peer Review Board. The Peer Reviewers concentrate on the quality of audit and do not examine the opinion or sit on judgement of opinion. It also

provides comprehensive redressal forum for aggrieved parties. The purpose of review is to enhance the quality of professional work. It has no relationship with any disciplinary or any other regulatory mechanism as clearly enunciated in the preface of Peer Review Manual.

### 3.(b)(ii) Continuing Professional Education

The ICAI issued a Statement on Continuing Professional Education with effect from January 1, 2003. The Statement intends to motivate the members (i.e. practicing chartered accountants) to maintain high standards of professional competence in the wake of increased complexity and specialization in the changing business environment (Nolan Ronan J,2009) and makes it mandatory for them to continue professional education with minimum number of hours on an ongoing basis. Members of the Institute working in Practising firms, either as principals or as employees, are required to devote a minimum average of 20 hours structured Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and 50 hours unstructured CPD in each year.

The annual hours above need not necessarily be achieved every year, but members should ensure that they comply on a rolling three year average basis. Such education can be had through courses/seminars/workshops etc conducted by the Institute and its organs. It is needless to say that there were some prominent efforts by the Institute (ICAI) to upgrade Education and Training curriculum in the year 2000 benchmarked internationally. 'The Council of the Institute has constituted a Committee for Review of Education and Training recently to further benchmark it with the imperatives of globalisation' (Bhupathy R, 2003) .

## 3.(b)(iii) The Financial Reporting Review Board

The ICAI constituted the Financial Reporting Review Board (FRRB) in July, 2002 to review the financial statements of certain major enterprises covering listed companies, banks, financial institutions and other significant enterprises with annual turnover of Rs50crore or more or those which are otherwise significant for the interest of general public. The Board consists of Technical Reviewers. 'The Criteria and Form for Empanelment of Technical Reviewers has been revised to enable the empanelment of members of the Institute working in industry also as Technical Reviewers who are involved in the finalisation of accounts of enterprises that are under the purview of the Board' and of practicing chartered accountants with experience of more than 10 years. The Institute conducts various workshops, seminars, training programmes etc to 'guide the Technical Reviewers on further enhancing their review skills of the General Purpose Financial Statements and to acquaint them with major non-compliances observed by the Board during the review of general-purpose financial statements of various companies'.

This standing committee of the Council of ICAI (Gupta Kamal, 2005, p.107)(i.e.FRRB) examines if the entities comply with Indian GAAP and regulatory disclosure requirements. Its findings can form the basis for disciplinary action against the auditor. The committee can also communicate irregularity, if any, found by it, to the regulatory authority or body concerned (e.g. Registrar of Companies) and to the management of the enterprise.

### 3(b)(iv). Professional Ethics Requirement

Professional ethics and auditing standards (AASs) have different scope of operation but are overlapping in nature. Auditing standards (AASs) are technical procedures auditors apply in the conduct of audit of financial statements whereas professional ethics is broader in sense to incorporate even the technical standards and guide the auditors to stick at basic principles of morality, integrity, credibility, objectivity and independence for the interest of general public and of society at large. Professional ethics may be noted to refer to the DO and DO NOT of the profession.

In India, the chartered accountants are regulated by the code of conduct in accordance with ICAI Act 1949. The First and Second Schedules to the Act prescribe a list of circumstances under which a chartered accountant is deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct. The Council of ICAI is empowered to enquire in to the conducts of chartered accountants in other circumstances also. For application of code of conduct of all chartered accountants is referred to in Part III of First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act 1949. PartI of the First Schedule is applied for professional misconduct in relation to chartered accountants in practice. Part II of the First Schedule applies to chartered accountants in employment. The Second Schedule deals with misconduct which requires action by the High Courts.

### 3(c). Audit Committee

Apart from regulating the auditor through auditing standards where ICAI is the apex regulatory body, the capital market is monitored by two most powerful regulators, namely, Securities and Exchange Board of India( SEBI), Companies Act1956 which are, however, indirectly involved in overseeing auditor's compliance with audit standards( Bhadra .M.S. pp.157-177, Chapter 6,). Audit Committee is the most effective measure of the regulatory bodies in this regard. Section 292A of the Companies Act1956 provides for the setting up of Audit Committee by every public company having paid up capital of Rs5crore or more. Again, SEBI guideline of Clause 49 of listing agreement lays down that all entities listed on stock exchange have to set up audit committee in compliance with Clause 49 of listing agreement. The committee is an

independent body consisting of mostly non-executive directors. It acts as coordinator between the auditor and the management to search for remedial measures to stop company failures (Basu, B.K. P, 4.3).

'With the setting up of audit committee, there has been an improvement in the financial reporting process and audit function; particularly because the auditors now have an opportunity to discuss various audit related issues at a forum where non executive directors or independent directors are in majority'(( Gupta Kamal, 2005, p.497). The responsibility of audit committee is immense in that it owes a fiduciary duty to the shareholders rather than to the management (Sharma Aparna, 2007) for the purpose of presenting true and fair financial position of the business. Further, audit committee may play crucial role to monitor the performance of both the management and the statutory auditor towards the achievement of financial reporting objectives. So, indirectly, the committee insists the auditor to offer best performance in audit service.

## 3(d). Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has been given Statutory Recognition through section 211of companies act 2013. SFIO is vested with requisite legal authority to conduct investigation into the affairs of a company on receipt of a report of the Registrar or inspector under section 208 of the Companies Act, 2013, on intimation of a special resolution passed by a company that its affairs are required to be investigated in the public interest and on request from any department of the Central Government or a State Government.

### 4. CONCLUSION

Regulation of audit profession has become a major issue particularly in consequence of satyam scam in 2010. Corporate regulation attempts to liberalize law to make it more user-friendly. However, Satyam Scam had shifted the orientation to introduce a more stringent regulation in corporate financial reporting practice. Generally in India principle based rather than rule based regulation prevailed over the years in formulation and execution of the standards but Companies Act, 2013 highlights considerably rule-based law that provides the government scope for retaining power to amend by Ministry of Corporate Affairs itself rather than going to the doors of the Parliament. As rules can be made by the Ministry itself and amended as and when required. An oversight mechanism with more power like the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in USA is constituted of NFRA in India to ensure a more effective accounting and auditing regulation. As there are a number of regulatory

measures introduced from time to time in corporate affairs to maintain transparency in accounting and audit regulation but ICAI in India, it is needless to say, played very important role in the regulation of audit profession in India prior to the introduction of Companies Act 2013. Now, NFRA supersedes the authority of ICAI while conducting an independent oversight of accounting and auditing profession if India.

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# A Field Study Report on Assessment of Attitude to The Online Mode of Teaching Learning Among The Students of A Selected College in West Bengal.

Mr. Nimai Chandra Mondal\*

**ABSTRACT:** Sudden outbreak of the Covid19 pandemic has tremendously shaken the traditional educational system in India and consequently all the educational institutions resorted to online mode of teaching learning as a viable alternative to the classroom teaching. On this backdrop a survey was conducted on 237 undergraduate college students to assess attitude towards online mode of learning with the purpose of modifying the new system to make it more learner friendly. Findings revealed favourable attitude among 80% of the respondents. Chi-value showed no significant association between attitude and sex ( $\chi^21.24$ at df=1, at 0.05 level of significance) or between attitude and programmes.

**Keywords:** Attitude, online, teaching, learning, classroom.

<sup>\*</sup> Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya. Email: bumbubaba@gmail.com

**AIMS:** To assess the overall attitude of the students to the online mode of teaching learning so that identifying the problem areas the system can be improved.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1. To assess the attitude of the subjects towards online mode of teaching learning.
- 2. To compare the semester wise attitude score of the subjects.
- 3. To compare the gender wise attitude score of the subjects.

BACKGROUND: Human civilization has been going through the toughest of the crises faced so far. Under this Covid19 pandemic situation, all of a sudden both the teachers and the students find themselves in a completely different mode of teaching learning system. It is a real challenge before them to adapt to this entirely new system as it demands different knowledge and positive attitude. For the last two years or so they are trying to come to terms with these changing aspects of the educational system of our society. To make this online mode of teaching learning more student friendly and more effective, this attitude survey has been undertaken among the undergraduate students of Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya, Habra, North 24 PGS.

**Review of Literature:** To gain a broad background knowledge and understanding of the research problem, the review of literature has been carried out in the present study.

A study conducted by Graff M. in 2003 on cognitive style and attitudes towards using online learning and assessment methods revealed that attitudes toward computer-assisted learning were not related to performance on each of the online methods employed, whereas some relationships were noted between cognitive styles and online learning and assessment. Evaluation feedback from participants indicated that each online task was rated positively. (Graff, 2003)

A survey was carried out by Akimanimpaye F in 2012 to assess the attitude of 213 undergraduate nursing students towards e-learning and to find out if any existing demographical factors impact on the students' use of e-learning. The study findings revealed that males and females differed significantly in terms of satisfaction levels [at 5% level, t(55) = -2.263, p = 0.028]. However, when specific demographic variables with two outcome levels (age group, computer facility at home, computer training experience and prior e-learning experience) are considered, there was no statistically significant difference (from the sample t-test) in learner satisfaction between these age groups. The results indicate that learner satisfaction is positively

correlated with e-learning course flexibility (r = 0.253, p < 0.001), computer technology (r = 0.236, p < 0.001), Diversity in assessment (r = 0.159, p < 0.05), Perceived interaction with others (r = 0.346, p < 0.001). (Akimanimpaye, n.d.)

Chapman MK conducted a cross-case analysis in 2015 on transitional experiences of undergraduate and graduate students new to online learning. The researcher used purposeful sampling that included two first year college students and two first year graduate students who had taken an online course. Findings indicate that regardless of certain background experiences, each participant emerged from the transition as a new self who is more self-aware and prepared to handle challenges encountered in online and face-to-face classroom environments. The findings also indicate that professors teaching online college courses need to be aware of the significance of high level support needed for online students to maintain a successful transition into online learning environment. Higher education administrators should consider the option of having college students take online courses early in their collegiate career to strengthen their self-sufficiency with the hope of increasing overall retention. (Chapman, n.d.)

A study carried out by Livingston-Matherly D in 2016 on learning empathy online versus face to face to find out if learning about empathy online can be as effective as learning about empathy face-to-face by analysing the test results of both groups of students online and face-to-face. The results from the from the pre-test and post-test indicated that the online students were more knowledgeable of empathy with the subject material, empathy, than the face-to-face students, however, the face-to-face students increased their knowledge of the subject material, empathy, at a higher percentage than the online students. The survey showed very similar views between both sets of students in that the majority of the students felt that learning empathy face-to-face would be more conducive. Both online and face-to-face students increased their knowledge in this study. (Livingston-Matherly, n.d.)

Yee RCS conducted a study on perceptions of online learning in an Australian University in 2011 to identify the kinds of challenges encountered by the international students and how they actually cope with online learning. The researcher used a modified Online Learning Environment Survey (OLES) instrument and focus group interviews to collect quantitative and qualitative data. The findings revealed that there were few differences between the international Asian students from Malaysia and Australian students with regard to their perceptions of online learning. Another important finding was that online learning was most effective when included within blended learning environments. It also indicated that the quality of the blended online learning environment could be improved by (1) establishing and maintaining a sense

of learning community, (2) enhancing the self-motivation of students, and (3) professional development of lecturers/tutors, unit coordinators and learning support personnel. (Yee, 2015).

#### Materials and Method

Research Approach: Quantitative approach has been adopted in this study.

**Research Design:** A Descriptive study design is appropriate for the study.

**Population:** The under graduate students of Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya, Habra, North 24 PGS.

**Sample:** 237 under graduate students from the said college who were willing to respond to the questionnaire.

**Sampling Technique:** Non-probability convenient sampling technique has been adopted due to lack of time.

**Sample Size:** 237 under graduate students.

**Data Collection Tool and Technique:** A5 point Likert Scale was developed to measure the attitude of the students, and through a google form this questionnaire comprising 20 items was served to the subjects with the help of a google link.

**Plan for Data Analysis**: The collected data were analysed with the help of descriptive and inferential statistics based on the objective of the study.

## Analysis and Interpretation

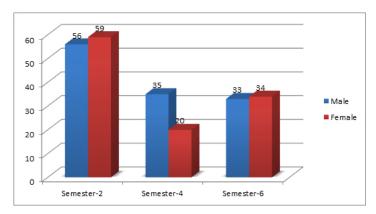
**Section-1: Sample Characteristics** 

Table 1: Distribution of the Subjects - Course wise, Semester wise and Gender wise.

SEM-6	B.A.	B.COM.	B.SC.	TOTAL
M	7	24	2	33
F	24	9	1	34
TOTAL	31	33	3	67
SEM-4	B.A.	B.COM.	B.SC.	TOTAL
M	14	20	1	35
F	12	1	7	20
TOTAL	26	21	8	55
SEM-2	B.A.	B.COM.	B.SC.	TOTAL
M	27	27	2	56
F	45	8	6	59

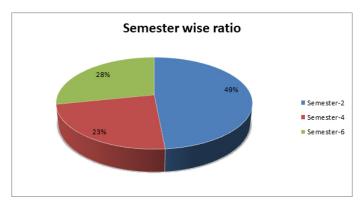
TOTAL 72		35	8	115			
Male = 124, Female = 113, n= 237							

Figure 1: Distribution of the subjects by semester and sex. N = 237



The above table and figure depict that the majority of the respondents belong to Semester-2, i.e., 115 (49%) whereas 55 subjects, i.e., 23% are from Semester-4 and 67 (i.e., 28%) are from Semester-6.

Figure-2:Semester wise distribution of the subjects. n = 237



Out of the 115 respondents of semester-2, 56 are male and 59 female. Likewise respondents from semester-4 (55) comprise of 35 male and 20 female students whereas there are 33 male and 34 female respondents from semester-6.

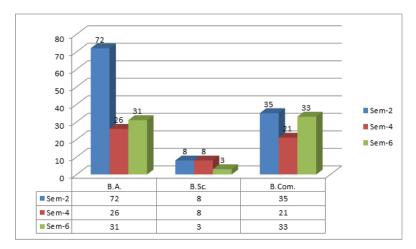


Figure 3: Course wise distribution of the subjects n = 237

When we consider the samples by the courses they are undergoing, it can be seen from the above figure that majority of the respondents are from B.A. course, i.e., 129 (54%), and the minimum number of respondents, i.e., 19 (8%) are from B.Sc. course, whereas a good number of the samples i.e., 89 (38%) are from B.Com. course.

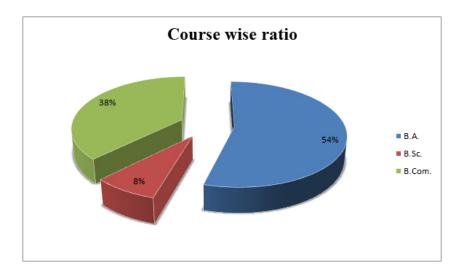


Figure 4: Course wise distribution of the samples. n = 237

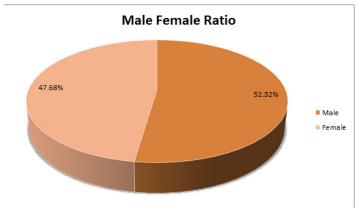


Figure 5: Distribution of the subjects according to gender ratio. n = 237

The above figure shows that out of 237 samples there are 124 (52.32%) male and 113 (47.68%) female respondents.

Section-2: Findings related to attitude of the samples towards online mode of teaching learning.

Table 2: Frequency distribution of the attitude scores:

n = 237

Frequency Distribution of the Attitude Scores							
Class Intervals	Frequency	<b>Cumulative Frequency</b>					
43-49	7	7					
50-56	7	14					
57-63	45	59					
64-70	35	94					
71-77	41	135					
78-84	54	189					
85-91	15	204					
92-98	13	217					
99-105	20	237					
	n= 237						

The above Table No.2 shows the frequency distribution of the attitude score of the 237 respondents.

Table3: Range, Mean, Median & Standard Deviation of the obtained attitude scores of the samples towards online mode of teaching learning. n = 237

Variable	Range of Possible score	Range of Obtained Score	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
Attitude Score	20 - 100	43 - 100	74.67	74.68	13.6

The Table no.3 depicts that in the 5 point Likert scale comprising 20 items, the minimum possible score is 20 and the maximum possible score is 100. Thus the range of the possible score is 20-100. But the actual obtained score ranges from 43 to 100, it means none of the respondents scores below 43. The Mean of the attitude scores is 74.67 whereas the Median is 74.68. As there is negligible difference between the Mean and the Median, it indicates the good symmetry of the distribution. The dispersion of the attitude scores could be understood by its Standard Deviation which is 13.6.

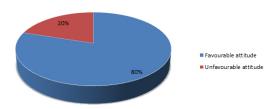
Table 4: Distribution of the attitude scores by frequency, percentage and grading n = 237

Attitude Score	Grading	Frequency	Percentage	
≤60 (≤60%) Unfavourable/ Negative		47	20%	
>60 (>60%) Favourable/ Positive		190	80%	

The Table no. 4 shows that attitude score of majority of the subjects (80%) is well above 60 (as >60% is the Favourable/Positive attitude score)whereas only 20% of the subjects scores less than or equal to 60 (≤60% score indicates the Unfavourable/Negative attitude) on the scale. The Figure no.6 clearly depicts that 80% of the samples holdpositive attitude to online

Figure 6: Distribution of graded attitude score by percentage

Ratio of graded attitude score



mode of teaching learning.

Section-3: Findings regarding association between attitude and selected variables like semesters, sex etc.

Table 5: Chi-value showing association between attitude score and selected variables (Different Programmes/Semesters)

Group	Unfavourable ≤60	Favourable >60	Total	$\chi^2$	Inference
Sem-6	14(15.93)	53(51.07)	67		Not
Sem-4	15(13.07)	40(41.93)	55	0.67	Significant
Total	29	93	122		
Sem-6	14(11.78)	53(55.22)	67		Not
Sem-2	18(20.22)	97(94.78)	115	0.8	Significant
Total	32	150	182		
Sem-4	15(10.68)	40(44.32)	55		Not
Sem-2	18(22.32)	97(92.68)	115	3.21	Significant
Total	33	137	170		

$$\chi^2$$
=(1) 3.841, P> 0.05 level

The Table no.5 shows that Chi-square value computed at df (1) between attitude score and Programmes (i.e., Semester-6 and Semester-4, Semester-6 and Semester-2, Semester-4 and Semester-2) the subjects are undergoing are 0.67, 0.8 and 3.21 respectively which are not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Thus it can be interpreted that there is no significant association between attitude and different programmes or semesters the subjects are pursuing presently.

Table 6: Chi-value showing association between attitude score and selected variables (Sex)

Group	unfavourable≤60	Favourable >60	Total	$\chi^2$	Inference
Male	28(24.59)	96(99.41)	124	1 24	Not
Female	19(22.41)	94(90.59)	113	1.24	Significant
Total	47	190	237		

$$\chi^2$$
=(1) 3.841, P> 0.05 level

Here from Table no.6 it is evident that Chi-value shows no significant association between attitude and sex as obtained chi-value  $\chi^2$  (1.24) is smaller than the table value of  $\chi^2$  at 0.05

level of significance. As the calculated  $\chi^2$  values are less than the tabulated  $\chi^2$  value, the null hypothesis is accepted. Thus it can be said that the obtained attitude score is not influenced by the selected variables like different programmes (Semesters) or sex.

### Discussion

**Section-1:** The major findings regarding the characteristic features of the samples may be discussed in the following way.

Firstly, the majority of the subjects are from Semester-2 (115, i.e., 49%) and the minimum number of subjects comes from Semester-4 (23%).

Secondly, the majority of the respondents come from B.A. course (54%), whereas only 8% of the respondents come from B.Sc. course.

Thirdly, there is no major imbalance in the sex wise composition of the samples as there are 52.32 % male and 47.68% female respondents.

**Section-2:**The significant findings related to attitude of the respondents towards online mode of teaching learning may be summarized in the following manner.

Firstly, the obtained attitude score of 237 respondents ranges from 43 to 100 whereas the possible score ranges from 20 to 100.

Secondly, the Mean and the Median (74.67 and 74.68 respectively) of the distribution of attitude scores indicate the symmetry of it. But the Standard Deviation (SD) has been measured as 13.6 so it can be said that the data are a little dispersed.

Thirdly and most importantly, the result of the survey has revealed that majority of the students (80%) holds positive or favourable attitude towards the online mode teaching learning. This result is supported by a study conducted by RebekkaRistenFransiskaSinaga and Reza Pustika in 2021 where the study result demonstrated positive attitude of the students towards English online learning.(*Sinaga* n.d.)

The findings of the present study and other such studies show that the undergraduate students have favourable attitude towards online mode of teaching learning.

**Section-3:**Findings related to the association between attitude and other selected variables may be summarized in the following way.

Firstly, the findings of this study reveal that there is no significant association between attitude score and the programmes (semesters 2,4 and 6 of B.A., B.Sc, B.Com) the U.G. students are

undergoing at 0.05 level of significance ( $\chi^2$ = 0.67, 0.8, 3.31 at df = 1).

Secondly, unlike the findings of a study conducted by Akimanimpaye F in 2012 where males and females significantly differed in their attitude to e-learning ([at 5% level, t(55) = -2.263, p =0.028], here no association has been found between attitude score and sex of the samples at 0.05 level of significance ( $\chi^2 = 1.24$  at df = 1).

It can be concluded that the positive attitude of the undergraduate students to online mode of teaching learning is not influenced by their gender or the programmes they are pursuing.

**Conclusion:** The present study has important implications in the field of education. The online mode of teaching learning has its wide acceptance among the undergraduate college students and in future the traditional class room teaching may be supplanted by this mode because of its various advantages. It indicates a revolution in the field of education. Irrespective of their courses, programmes and gender status, the majority of the students hold favourable attitude to the online mode.

At the same time, it must be accepted that the study has limited generalizability as non-probability sampling technique was adopted and the sample size was not large enough.

This type of more study with larger sample is recommended by the researcher as this can bring technological revolution in the field of education.

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# Unified Payments Interface System in Indian and Global Perspective

DR. SANJIB TALUKDAR\*

DEBIYOTI ADHIKARY\*\*

**Abstract:** Transaction is one of the best habits of human being which helped humans to survive and modernize. From the very beginning the mode of transaction changed from time to time and in 21<sup>st</sup> century the biggest change that happen in transaction system is the digitalization of it. UPI bring this digitalization of transaction system in India. It is one of the most convenient, advanced and safe transaction systems in the whole world. Due to this UPI witnessed a rapid growth and surpassed similar type of payments facilities within a couple of years. It also enables transactions of small amounts to happen digitally and has successfully created a new consumer behavior.

**Keywords:** Unified Payments Interface, Transaction, Retail, National Payments Corporation of India, Peer to Peer

<sup>\*</sup> Associate Professor in Economics, Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya

<sup>\*\*</sup> Student Scholer, M.Com, Sree Chaitanya Mahavidyalaya Email: scm.comm.st@gmail.com

**INTRODUCTION:** Ever since the humanity started becoming civilized, the process of transaction became its integral part of daily life. In the very early stage of humanity we learnt that we cannot fulfill all of our daily requirements ourselves and all the things that we can produce are not always needed. So we learnt to **EXCHANGE** things and that is how **TRANSACTIONS** began.

In the early stage people used to exchange their produced goods with another's (i.e. crop, art, garments, or other commodities) and fulfilled their needs. For example, Person A has two extra apples and person B has three extra bananas, now they exchange their fruits and enjoy both apples and bananas. This was known as **BARTER** system. The basic principle of barter system was **DOUBLE COINCIDENCE OF WANTS**, which means at least two persons need to agree on exchanging their products. But two parties can engage in this kind of transactions only when they can exchange the things that they require at that moment and satisfy their need. Now there are several problems with barter system like marketability of product, nature of product and quantity of product. Now to understand the problems here is an example.

Let us say that Mr. X is a herdsman and he needs garment, so he went to Mr. Y who is a waiver, now to make exchange of goods, Mr. Y should also need some animals, if he does not need any animals then no barter takes place. Secondly even if Mr. Y needs any animal, the amount of clothing he has to give in exchange of that will be huge and too much for Mr. X. So no barter takes place here. Now again let's say Mr. Z is a milk man, who needs a cow so he went to Mr. X, who is a herdsman. Now being a herdsman, Mr. X would give Mr. Z a cow but the amount of milk he has to take in exchange of that will be huge, and milk being perishable Mr. X will decline the offer.

Overall, it can be said that in **BARTER** system fair and equal exchange of value was not so much possible. Because of so much complications and problems the **BARTER SYSTEM** gradually ended.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, mankind learnt to use metals, because of the complications with BARTER system soon metal became their mode of payments. Primarily gold, silver and copper were the most used metals in this field.

This system was much better than **BARTER** system, and a fair and equal value of exchange was possible. However, it has its own problems. Like mining and exploitation of precious metals was being monopolized, carrying precious metals was subject to limited security, and in case of large transactions carrying so much metal was inconvenient also, then production of precious metals were also limited. But as trading were growing and metals were very limited, government started a new plan, which says people can deposit their precious metals with the

government and in exchange of that the government will give them different coins that would have different kind of seals on different metals of different sizes depicting different value and people will trade with them. It would be easy to carry and handle, and could curb malpractices and if they want metal back, they just need to present the coin worth of the value in front of the government, and the government promised them to give their precious metal back. This special coin is known as **currency**. It was a revolutionary change in the history of transaction. In case of India, **SHER SHAH SURI** first introduced **currency**.

This was the start of modern transaction era. However, as market emerges government needs to print and produce more and more notes and coins; first the government started producing coins with relatively cheaper and easily available metals. But the government realized that they have only a limited amount of stocks of gold but are producing huge numbers of currency which is more than the value of gold, so ultimately government ends the gold standard, and declares that the citizens needs to rely upon the promise of the government. And the currencies we use today are being circulated in the market on the promise of the government.

The currency circulation system that we use today is here on earth for quite a long time now. But in today's world of globalization, the currency system faces some major problems. In cash-based system user needs to physically carry the cash to make payments, which is not convenient in today's standard, Also carrying cash is subject to security concerns. To make this system easy we established banking system, where we can deposit our money with the bank, and if needed we can make payment through a specific legal tender known as check. But even that does not end the total problem as user needs to visit the bank quit often, losing precious time, and checks are also vulnerable.

To eliminate these challenges, during 1950's several banks and financial institutions came up with a new idea. They introduced a plastic card which would have a magnetic strip in it and carry the user data. Now if the user wants to withdraw money, they no longer required to visit the bank, but there will be several small booth facilitated with a machine, which will read the card and pay the user the amount they require, the machine in this booth is known as **AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM)**, and the card is known as **ATM CARD**. This system kept evolving since then. To increase the security the user data became encrypted and password protected, and in place of just a magnetic strip, a microchip was introduced. Later a new **POINT OF SALE (POS)** machine was introduced, which enabled the card system not just to withdraw money from **ATM** but card user can make payment through this with just a swipe and entering the pin.

In the 1990's with the rapid development of internet and information technology system, a new kind of payment system started. Basically it was the era of globalization and international trade was increasing day by day, which resulted in a more international payments. The old payment method took too long to make any payment process completed, and it required a lot of physical movement also. To make it easier and safe financial institutions came up with a technology. In this system every bank account holder can send their money to another person who has a valid bank account by just entering his/her credentials online through internet. In the beginning the user especially who sends money must possess aATM card, and in case of international payments the same method is applied, but it was done under the supervision of SWIFT. In this whole system the user does not need to possess cash. So it was recognized as the beginning of CASHLESS CULTURE.

It is true that up to now society was moving towards cashless transaction, but this convenience comes at a cost, the card services company charge some amount every year, the banks charge service charge, the POS machine is costly and need regular maintenance and electricity and this is what we can call out as the challenges of this system, and also this is why these systems failed to cater the peer to peer transaction, specially people with very low amount of transaction value, in the countries with low per capita income, and small and micro businesses the POS system and online transaction system failed drastically. People here show no interest for going cashless. So it resulted in two parallel transaction system, one is cashless and other is cash based. The problem was even bigger because the number of cash-based transaction was much bigger than cashless transaction. While the cashless transaction was primarily done by business to business (B2B), the regular consumer still preferred the cash-based transaction.

The government around the world was also encouraging cashless transactions, as it is much cost efficient, easy to manage and monitor. It also helps different agencies to track activities in micro level, which were not possible before.

While many countries around the globe were trying to figure out how to solve this problem, it was INDIA, who comes up with a revolutionary solution. With previous experience with RUPAY CARD which became a success story itself, in 2016 the NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA (NPCI) comes up with UNIFIED PAYMENT INTERFACE (UPI). In this system a user just needs to have a valid mobile number, which is linked to their valid bank account, and a mobile phone (primarily it was launched for just smart phone, but from 08/03/2022 UPI for feature phone was also introduced). So, it is convenient and as it is

controlled by the central bank, so it is secure, and the service of UPI is absolutely free as of now.



The UPI system is new but it definitely has a lot of potential. And in this paper, we shall try to analyze whether UPI is really a game changer or not.

**LITERATURE SURVEY:** According to fortune magazine UPI is the biggest revolution in India after independence (source: https://www.fortuneindia.com/enterprise/how-upi-is-making-indias-digital-economy-boom/105433). But this revolution did not happen overnight. In 2008, NPCI was established with an aim to integrate all the existing payment mechanism (https://www.npci.org.in/npci-profile#:~:text=National%20Payments%20Corporation%20of%20 India,and%20settlement%20systems%20in%20India.).

But In march, 2011 government data shows an average Indian makes only 6 digital payments in a year, that was the time when digital payments meant card based payment system where mostly master card and visa were used, but surprisingly data shows that in the same year India had over 1cr.+ merchants who would accept digital payments (mostly card based payments), but card based payments failed to be mainstreamed (source: <a href="https://rbi.org.in/scripts/AnnualReportPublications.aspx?Id=1322">https://rbi.org.in/scripts/AnnualReportPublications.aspx?Id=1322</a>).

There were many reasons behind that, like complexity, if someone wants to make a payment via a card then the retailer must have a POS machine, and it should be connected to an electric source and internet, moreover if someone wants to send money online then the bank account details such as IFSC code, bank name, branch name, account number had to be disclosed, which makes the end consumer less confident. Again, every merchant had to pay a sum of money to the card vendor partners, in this case master card, visa. For the amount of transaction, sometimes this charge was a huge amount for a small shop, and after all this card-based payment system was very vulnerable to frauds. And because of these reasons digital payments did not get a momentum in India. To fulfill this gap RBI released a vision statement in 2012 (source: <a href="https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationVisionDocuments.aspx">https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationVisionDocuments.aspx</a>) for the upcoming

4 years, under which a safe, efficient, accessible, inclusive, interoperable, authorized payment system would be developed. This system also has to be the part of GREEN INITIATIVE (aim to reduce paper in domestic payment market) and this was the start of UPI system. In the year 2016 UPI was released for public use, and as the end product what we get is an amazing product which is free from most of the hassle of card based payment system. Like card based payments system UPI does not have those complexities, UPI works on mobile phones so, no POS machines are required, UPI is already linked to the bank accounts so no bank details need to be given, and it is less exposed to frauds. Moreover UPI is free and interoperable, that means we can make payment between two separate apps. That is why after the launch, UPI had seen exponential growth in India. As per ACI (source: https://go.aciworldwide.com/Global-Payments-Report-india.html) and GLOBAL DATA (source: https://www.globaldata.com/media/ banking/entry-privately-owned-new-umbrella-entities-disrupt-retail-payment-space-india-saysglobaldata/) in 2020 India has conducted 2550cr. UPI based transactions which was more than UNITED STATES and CHINA. The success of UPI was so big that in 2019 GOOGLE itself urged the UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE to follow India's UPI examples and build 'FEDNOW'. According to ECONOMICS INTELIGENCE UNIT REPORT 2021, INDIA has emerged as a global leader in digital payments because of UPI based transaction (source: https://country.eiu.com/India/ArticleList/Analysis/Economy). In October 2021 UPI crosses 100 billion dollar transaction value (source: <a href="https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-bytes/">https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-bytes/</a> value-of-upi-transactions-crosses-100-billion-in-october/articleshow/87461168.cms?from=mdr). In April, 2020 UPI transaction value was 218391cr. And within a year this value jumped to Rs. 493391cr. And in Oct. 2021 it records 7,71,444cr. According to the CEO of ZERODHA, NITIN KAMATH, UPI plays a significant role in IPO and capital market investments also. India is currently the biggest real time payments market in the world.

**How UPI system works:** Before UPI if any user wanted to withdraw his money from the bank account, or make any payment they needed to give direct instructions to the bank. For example, to withdraw money user needed to submit a cheque, or in case of online or digital transaction this debit access had to be given by the user directly to bank's portal.

But in case of UPI this whole work is done by a third party, an existing third-party company which already has user's permission and details would collect this access from user and transfer money from user's account to any other bank account. Now UPI is that platform where third party apps can collect debit instructions from user and submit it to the user's bank on behalf of the user, and all this system is secured by a backend system which facilitates this transaction and it is developed by NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA. Some of the

known third-party apps are GOOGLE PAY, AMAZON PAY, PHONEPE, PAYTM etc.

UPI made payments simple by removing the steps for entering bank account number, IFSC etc. A user just needs to put these details once when creating his/her UPI BASED VIRTUAL PAYMENTS ADDRESS, and after that the user just needs to put his / her virtual address. Now a user can link one single bank account with many third party payments apps, and for each app his / her address will be different but the password will be the same. As the payment shares a common platform, this virtual address is a modern "mobile first system" where physical cards are not used. This simple payment facility is one of the reasons of UPI's immense success, because for a country like India where digital literacy is low only a simpler facility like this can bring financial inclusion.

According to RBI, UPI is going to overtake MasterCard and visa very soon, and UPI transaction has increased by 13 times from the financial year 2018 to the financial year 2020, and the transaction value has increased by 20 times.

On April, 2016 only 21 banks were listed on UPI, compared to 316 banks on April, 2022

**RESEARCH GAP:** There are not much of studies or researches on UPI dedicatedly; a number of studies which happened are mostly related to the technological perspective, which in this case do not contribute much in our study. Although some basic articles in some newspapers have been published but those focus on the then contemporary or current situation or it was largely about some major achievements. There are some expert's opinion posts on the internet which talk about the future perspective of UPI and some are about how can UPI take over other digital fund transfer method which were useful but are not that much elaborative in nature. So, a serious fact based detailed comparative study on UPI has not yet been made and that is a serious research gap. In this paper we would try to fill this gap with a study that is based on numerical facts and figures.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:** A digital transaction system is the first step towards a digital economy. It not only helps to grow a nation economically but also makes people live easier. Government can look after and monitor their resources more easily and a more detailed and factual data representation is possible. Digital transactions are easy to monitor and track and it helps to investigate, control and prevent corruption. But in a developing country like India digital transaction was limited only to the rich and urban people. In 2016, UPI was introduced to overcome these shortcomings of digital payments system faced by the entire world including

India. In this paper we will try to analyze if UPI is really a success or not. If yes then how does it compete with its competitors and which type of change in users' behavior it brings with it, and if it is a success in India can it compete at the world stage, what are its strong benefits that it offers to the consumer etc.

**DATA SOURCE:** UPI is developed and maintained by NPCI which is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India. And as the policy of the union govt. most of the fiscal data are publicly available. In case of UPI all the necessary data is available in the websites of NPCI and RESERVE BANK OF INDIA. So, most of our data is taken from these web links and apart from them we have also used soma data from various websites and some paper articles.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:** In this project most of the data that we have collected are from secondary sources, and apart from that we have talked to some people that we know using UPI payments system to understand their point of view and how much impact UPI really makes in consumers' behavior. However that part is very small and is only done to maintain a rationality in our observation.

First, we collected all the necessary data from different sources and then we shortlisted them, after that we rearranged them in a manner that would help us to interpret and the readers to understand. Then we tried to showcase those data graphically and in tables and interpret those continuously.

**Observation and Analysis of present scenario:** There is no doubt that UPI is one of India's best financial product but is it really a success? To make it clear I will try to analyze the data

UPI MONTHLY PRODUCT STATISTICS TRENDED								
MONTH	NO. OF BANKS LIVE UPI	VOLUME (Mn.)						
APRIL, 21	220	2641.060						
MAY, 21	224	2539.570						
JUNE, 21	229	2807.510						
JULY, 21	235	3247.820						

AUGUST, 21	249	3555.55
SEPTEMBER, 21	259	3654.300
OCTOBER, 21	261	4218.650
NOVEMBER, 21	274	4186.480
DECEMBER, 21	282	4566.300

Table 01 (Source: <a href="https://www.npci.org.in/statistics/monthly-matrix">https://www.npci.org.in/statistics/monthly-matrix</a>)

UPI MONTHLY PRODUCT STATISTICS TRENDED								
MONTH	NO. OF BANKS LIVE UPI	VOLUME (Mn.)						
JAN, 22	297	4617.150						
FEB, 22	304	4527.490						
MAR, 22	314	5405.650						
APR, 22	316	5583.050						

Table 02 (Source: https://www.npci.org.in/statistics/monthly-matrix)

Now if we see table 01 and 02 (these tables are of NPCI's monthly product statistics records) we can see that even after 6 years since its launch, UPI is still witnessing a steady and speedy growth in almost every month, not just that in just a year 96 new bank has joined the platform. The total volume of transaction per month also almost doubled in this same span of time. Note, though this table shows about the growth of UPI But how does UPI stand to other electronic real time payment systems?

	Electronic Payment Systems - Representative Data													
	Volume in million, Value in Rs. billion													
	RT	'GS	NE	FT	С	TS*	IM	IPS*	NA	СН*	UF	PI*	USSD**	
Data for the period	volume	value	volume	value	volume	value	volume	value	volume	value	volume	value	volume (in thousand)	value (in Rs. thousand)
May-20					30.7	2600.1	166.7	1694			1234.4	2183.8	74.8	135483.1
Jun-20					49.6	4014.4	198.9	2069.5			1336.8	2618.2	84.6	145563.9
Jul-20					51.3	4174.3	222.1	2257.8			1497.3	2905.2	91	152898.5
Aug-20					52	4252.5	246.1	2351.4			1618.7	2982.9	92	150867.1
Sep-20					61.3	4851.1	279.6	2486.6			1800.1	3290.1	89.3	142715.4
Oct-20					64.3	5240.9	319	2746.4			2071.5	3860.9	97.1	159980.8
Nov-20					59.6	4943.8	339.1	2764.6			2210.1	3909.8	90.7	152466.2
Dec-20					71.9	6116.7	355.7	2923.2			2234.1	4161.6	87.8	141024
Jan-21					65.7	5506.7	346.6	2885.4			2302.6	4311.7	91.9	145628.5
Feb-21					63.6	5471.1	319	2752.3			2292.8	4250.5	81.5	130329
Mar-21					80.7	7219.6	363.1	3272.3			2731.6	5048.7	94	145639
Apr-21					55.8	5533.6	323	2995.3			2641	4936.5	96.1	147115.5
May-21					36.8	3001.7	279.8	2662.4			2539.5	4906.2	101.2	161368.1

Table 03 (Source: https://www.npci.org.in/statistics)

As we can see in table 03 (this is a comparative table depicting comparison between different digital transaction system in India), data showing from May 2020 to May 2021, we can see that overall digital transaction is increasing, which is a good sign for new age payment system.



But what is more noticeable is UPI's growth among them, if we observe closely, we can see that UPI already has an upper hand in digital fund transfer compared to IMPS (Immediate Payment Service), but it was far less than CTS (Cheque Truncation System). Now what is notable here is that IMPS was the most used peer to peer individual transaction system before UPI. Of overtaking IMPS proves that users are not reluctant if a better system is available. Whereas CTS was mostly used in official purposes and per transaction value of CTS is much more than others. Also, the total value of transaction in case of CTS are also more than UPI, and it was only in may 2021 UPI beat CTS in total value of monthly transaction, though it is not clear if UPI can sustain this upper hand.

From the above data we can clearly see that in terms of individual fund transfer UPI already has an upper hand and it is growing in the fastest way.

(Note: Both RTGS and NEFT are not included in the list because minimum limit of RTGS is 2,00,000 and offline banking support is needed and NEFT is a payment system used for bulk payments)

Till now it is quite clear that the main focus of UPI is retail payments, so how does UPI stands in front of different platforms?

Now, UPI was launched in 2016 for public use and till then IMPS was the most used peer to peer digital fund transfer platform, if we look at table 04, we can see that in financial year 2016-17, we can see that people used to with draw money from ATM most at 3170 million no. of times (value of Rs.10818.39 billion), and this was the time when depositing money through

ATMs were not introduced, whereas IMPS was comparatively much below at 506.84 million (value of Rs. 4116.24 billion). But whereas the no. of transactions were low in IMPS compared to ATM, volume of IMPS was far more than ATM. Now this analysis makes us come to another conclusion that till 2016 people were not using online fund transfer service that much specially on peer to peer basis, people used to withdraw cash from ATMs and then spend them in the market, so the habit of digital payments were not build till then. And digital payments were limited to business firms only

Although it was the same year when UPI was launched but the size of UPI payments were barely minimum of just 17.86 million transactions for the value of just 69.47 billion.

Comparison of growth of different NPCI operated systems

### Comparison of growth of different NPCI operated systems

Sr. No.	NPCI Operated Systems	F.Y-201	16-17	F.Y-2017-18 (Apr	'17 to Mar'18)	F.Y-2018-19		
	Financial Txns:	Volume (in Mn)	Value (in Bn)	Volume (in Mn)	Value (in Bn)	Volume (in Mn)	Value (in Bn)	
1	NFS - National Financial Switch	3,170.18	10,818.39	3,503.44	13,357.49	4,017.42	15,125.64	
1.1	NFS - ATM Cash Withdrawal *	3,170.18	10,818.39	3,503.44	13,357.49	4,017.41	15,125.62	
1.2	NFS - Cash deposit transactions	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	
2	NACH- National Automated Clearing House	1,968.03	7,207.84	2,375.33	9,752.88	2,861.38	13,383.60	
2.1	APBS Credit (Disbursement based on UIDAI No.)	949.28	286.63	1,298.18	559.65	1,494.90	862.26	
2.2	<u>ACH Debit</u>	88.39	1,479.84	211.05	2,789.01	421.03	4,794.58	
2.3	<u>ACH Credit</u>	730.73	3,844.25	703.27	5,210.42	883.43	7,296.73	
2.4	NACH Credit	1.47	27.05	-	-	-	-	
2.5	NACH Debit	198.16	1,570.08	162.84	1,193.80	62.02	430.03	
3	CTS Cheque Clearing (Processed Volume)	1,111.86	74,035.22	1,138.06	79,451.24	1,112.07	81,535.92	
4	IMPS	506.84	4,116.24	1,009.84	8,924.98	1,752.91	15,902.57	
5	RuPay Card usage at (POS)	195.22	289.95	459.55	488.23	695.02	808.23	
6	RuPay Card usage at (eCom)	87.56	59.34	208.11	166.09	432.06	366.90	
7	AEPS (Inter Bank) Txn over Micro ATM (e.g. Cash wi	16.29	22.82	106.27	269.17	254.47	678.31	
8	BBPS (Bill Payment passing through BBPCU)	0.03	0.04	10.60	10.98	73.50	90.99	
9	UPI - Unified Payments Interface	17.86	69.47	915.23	1,098.32	5,353.40	8,769.70	

Table 04

(Source: https://www.npci.org.in/statistics)

Business transactions (where transaction in bulk and in comparatively big volume is being done were still happening under NACH (National Automated Clearing House) and CTS (Cheque Truncation System), where NACH has higher no of transaction, but CTS still leads the ways with much higher volume per transaction. Also compared to all of this CTS has the highest volume by far

### Note:

- 1. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented an electronic payment service termed as "National Automated Clearing House (NACH)" for banks, financial institutions, Corporates and Government Departments. NACH has both Debit and Credit variants. NACH (Debit) & NACH (Credit) aims at facilitating interbank, high volume, debit/credit transactions, which are bulk and repetitive in nature
- 2. Truncation is the process of stopping the flow of the physical cheque issued by a drawer at some point by the presenting bank end-route to the paying bank branch. In its place an electronic image of the cheque is transmitted to the paying branch through the clearing house, along with relevant information like data on the MICR band, date of presentation, presenting bank, etc. Cheque truncation thus obviates the need to move the physical instruments across bank branches, other than in exceptional circumstances for clearing purposes. This effectively eliminates the associated cost of movement of the physical cheques, reduces the time required for their collection and brings elegance to the entire activity of cheque processing.

## Comparison of growth of different NPCI operated systems

Sr. No.	NPCI Operated Systems	F.Y-2019-20	
	Financial Txns:	Volume (in Mn)	Value (in Bn)
1	NFS - National Financial Switch	4,311.62	16,151.40
1.1	NFS - ATM Cash Withdrawal *	4,311.59	16,150.98
1.2	NFS - Cash deposit transactions	0.03	0.42
2	NACH- National Automated Clearing House	3,401.77	17,629.99
2.1	APBS Credit (Disbursement based on UIDAI No.)	1,675.12	990.73
2.2	ACH Debit	610.95	6,253.26
2.3	ACH Credit	1,114.96	10,380.40
2.4	NACH Credit	0.01	0.72
2.5	NACH Debit	0.72	4.87
3	CTS Cheque Clearing (Processed Volume)	1,035.89	79,174.61
4	IMPS	2,579.17	23,375.41
5	RuPay Card usage at (POS)	822.59	1,146.81
6	RuPay Card usage at (eCom)	658.13	610.40
7	AEPS (Inter Bank) Txn over Micro ATM (e.g. Cash wi	437.19	1,188.58
8	BBPS (Bill Payment passing through BBPCU)	145.69	216.62
9	UPI - Unified Payments Interface	12,518.62	21,317.30

Table 05

(Source: https://www.npci.org.in/statistics)

Again in table no 04 we can see within a year (from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018) UPI shows a gigantic improvement with a growth of 5208.1834% in volume of transactions (no of transactions) and 1480.99899% growth in value of transaction (total amount transferred). And more surprisingly UPI almost touched both IMPS and CTS in volume of transaction (only 10.337% less than IMPS and 24.3468% less than CTS) though the total value of total amount of transaction was very less, which proves UPI's popularity in small scale transactions. Again in table no 04 if we look closely at year 2018-2019 we will

Comparison of growth of different NPCI operated systems

Sr. No.	NPCI Operated Systems	F.Y-2020-21	
	Financial Txns:	Volume (in Mn)	Value (in Bn)
1	NFS - National Financial Switch	3,661.67	14,988.02
1.1	NFS - ATM Cash Withdrawal *	3,660.95	14,979.84
1.2	NFS - Cash deposit transactions	0.72	8.18
2	NACH- National Automated Clearing House	3,626.20	19,032.78
2.1	APBS Credit (Disbursement based on UIDAI No.)	1,432.69	1,105.64
2.2	ACH Debit	589.19	5,929.86
2.3	ACH Credit	1,604.20	11,991.37
2.4	NACH Credit	0.12	5.92
2.5	NACH Debit	-	-
3	CTS Cheque Clearing (Processed Volume)	668.28	56,026.11
4	IMPS	3,278.34	29,414.96
5	RuPay Card usage at (POS)	701.99	1,169.38
6	RuPay Card usage at (eCom)	679.68	926.72
7	AEPS (Inter Bank) Txn over Micro ATM (e.g. Cash wi	963.27	2,286.29
8	BBPS (Bill Payment passing through BBPCU)	276.08	429.74
9	UPI - Unified Payments Interface	22,330.65	41,036.54

Table 06

(Source: <a href="https://www.npci.org.in/statistics">https://www.npci.org.in/statistics</a>)

See that UPI witnessed a straight growth of 484.924% in the second year (from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019) in terms of volume of transactions (no of transaction) and a growth of 698.4649% in terms of value of transactions (total amount transferred). And surprisingly UPI surpassed

the volume of transaction of both IMPS and CTS by a huge margin (205.4% more than IMPS and 381.39% more than CTS). And UPI touched the halfway mark of IMPS in terms of value of transaction (55.1464% to be precise) but was way after than CTS (only 10.7556% of CTS). This undisputed growth of UPI continued in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year also (see table no.05). Where UPI witnessed a growth of 133.844% in volume of transactions and a growth of 143.0755% growth in value of transaction. And UPI managed to increase the gap between itself and IMPS and CTS in case of value of transaction to its favor. (385.3499% of IMPS and 1108.489% of CTS in case of volume of transaction). And it almost touched IMPS in value of transaction but was still ways after than CTS in terms of value of transaction. (91.195% of IMPS and 26.9244% of CTS in terms of value of transaction). This growing trend of UPI shows its acceptance and dominance in the small-scale payment market.

## Comparison of growth of different NPCI operated systems

Sr. No.	NPCI Operated Systems	F.Y-2021-22		Apr'22		F.Y-2022-23	
	Financial Txns:	Volume (in Mn)	Value (in Bn)	olume (in Mn	Value (in Bn)	Volume (in Mn)	Value (in Bn)
1	NFS - National Financial Switch	3,793.51	15,771.55	335.96	1,432.11	335.96	1,432.11
1.1	NFS - ATM Cash Withdrawal *	3,791.86	15,753.94	335.78	1,430.24	335.78	1,430.24
1.2	NFS - Cash deposit transactions	1.65	17.61	0.18	1.87	0.18	1.87
2	NACH- National Automated Clearing House	3,821.96	21,724.55	344.61	2,154.73	344.61	2,154.73
2.1	APBS Credit (Disbursement based on UIDAI No.)	1,246.93	1,318.89	111.95	111.18	111.95	111.18
2.2	ACH Debit	732.95	7,713.39	99.67	929.02	99.67	929.02
2.3	ACH Credit	1,841.97	12,687.52	132.98	1,114.53	132.98	1,114.53
2.4	NACH Credit	0.11	4.74	-	-	-	-
2.5	NACH Debit	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	CTS Cheque Clearing (Processed Volume)	698.24	64,210.34	61.10	6,676.85	61.10	6,676.85
4	IMPS	4,659.70	41,686.46	471.62	4,446.70	471.62	4,446.70
5	RuPay Card usage at (POS)	843.90	1,487.12	80.52	148.20	80.52	148.20
6	RuPay Card usage at (eCom)	672.46	965.92	43.80	62.70	43.80	62.70
7	AEPS (Inter Bank) Txn over Micro ATM (e.g. Cash wi	1,136.45	3,065.01	100.20	284.50	100.20	284.50
8	BBPS (Bill Payment passing through BBPCU)	668.13	1,139.70	74.12	113.24	74.12	113.24
9	UPI - Unified Payments Interface	45,967.52	84,175.72	5,583.05	9,833.04	5,583.05	9,833.04

Table 07

(Source: <a href="https://www.npci.org.in/statistics">https://www.npci.org.in/statistics</a>)

Now in table No.06 we can see CTS witnessed a fall in its payment platform and on the other hand we can see that IMPS and UPI continues to grow. UPI still shows a progress of 78.37% in volume of transactions and 92.5124% in value of transactions (\*all this in the pandemic situation) and this was the first time UPI overtakes IMPS payments system in terms of value of transactions for the first time that that too by 39.5090% and by 581.1572% in terms of volume of transactions. In the same year (2020-2021) UPI almost touched 3/4th of CTS

in terms of value of the transaction (73.2453%) and maintains a big difference in volume of transactions (3241.511%). Now if we look at table no 06 and 07 we can notice that CTS system is losing significantly compared to table no. 05 (32.56% in volume of transaction and 18.9% in value of transaction compared between table no 05 and table no 07) whereas UPI (105% in volume of transaction and same 105% in value of transaction compared to the previous year) and IMPS (42.135% in volume of transaction and 41.719% in value of transaction compared to the previous year) has been growing. But now if we compare between UPI and IMPS in table no 06 and table no 07 we can see UPI has grown at a higher rate than IMPS and this time UPI has recorded 886.49% more no. of transaction in its platform (volume of transaction) and has recorded 101.925% more total value of transaction. And for the first time UPI has beaten CTS in both volume of transaction (UPI has recorded 6483.34% more volume of transaction than CTS) and value of transaction (UPI has recorded 31.09% more in volume of transaction than CTS). Now by the growth rate of UPI and its share of digital transaction in India it is quite safe to say that UPI has become a leading platform in digital payments in India by the year 2021-2022.

\*as the financial year 2022-2023 is going on, only the data up to April,2022 is present, and this part of the data is kept for future representation and analysis.

Why UPI is so successful: The whole world was trying to change the payment system from physical cash system to digital transaction, and numerous attempts were made but there was no success story like UPI so far. Even from countries like Europe and America where the per capita income is higher than the rest of the world and technologically far more advanced than the rest of the world could not succeed. So how a third world country like India with a low per capita income achieved this? To understand this we need to see the transaction pattern on UPI. To elaborate this, we have used the data for the month of April, 2022 (value and volume can be seen in table no 07.)

Now if we look at table no 08 and 09 we can see that 59% of all the transactions happened between peer to peer that means two individuals had made payments digitally, and this is one sector that can never be possible with POS machines, because neither everyone need a POS machine nor everyone would carry a POS machine. And this peer to peer transaction is responsible of 82% of total value of the transaction, which is not only disruptive and insane but changes the whole purpose and perspective of digital transactions.

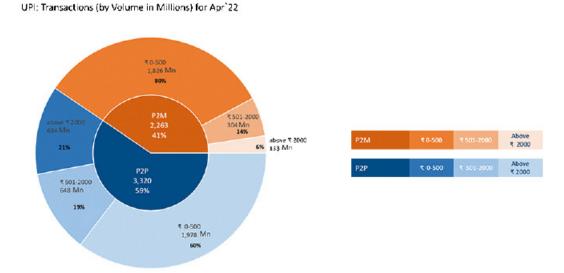


Table 08 (Source: https://www.npci.org.in/statistics/monthly-matrix)

Earlier it was taken for granted that digital transaction can mainly happen in business places like shopping malls, cinema halls, restaurants, hotels etc. but general public would always consider paying in cash than paying digitally. But data proves that UPI changes the whole perspective and people can choose digital transaction over physical currency if a better alternative is given. Not only that if we look closely, we can see in case of volume of transactions between Rs. 0-500 it is responsible for 60% (1978 million times) in P2P and 80% (1826 million times) in P2M, which means small local vendors are accepting payments in digital mode as well as individual people are accepting digital payments for loose cash more often than other big amount of payments. Now this Rs. 0-500 bracket in P2P in only responsible for 3% (28,775 Cr.) of total value of payments, and in case of P2M it is again only responsible for 3% (24,467 Cr.) of total value of transactions, combining a total effect of only 6% in total value of transactions, which is very insignificant. Again, this proves though most of UPI users made small scale payments but in terms of value their portion is very small.

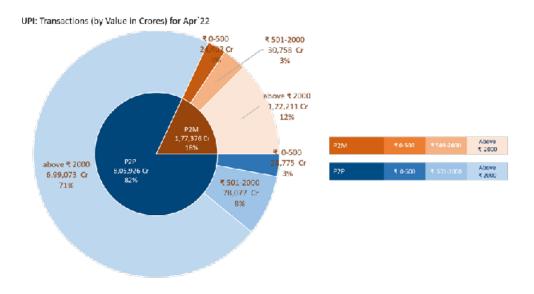


Table 09 (Source: https://www.npci.org.in/statistics/monthly-matrix)

Again, in case of volume of transaction between Rs. 501-2000, it is responsible for 19% (648 million times) in P2P transactions and 14% (304 million times) in P2M transactions. Out of which P2P transactions are responsible for 8% (78,077 Cr.) of total value of transactions, and P2M transactions are responsible for 3% (30,758 Cr.) of total value of transactions only, which combines a total of 11% market share in value of transactions against 33% market share in volume of transaction. This proportion is comparatively better than the other two value bracket.

Now again, if we look at volume of transaction of above Rs.2000, it covers 21% (694 millions) of total P2P transactions and 6% (133 millions) of total P2M transaction, and P2P transactions are responsible for 71% (6,99,073 Cr.) of total value of transaction and P2M is responsible for 12% (1,22,211 Cr.) of total value of transaction. Combining both represent a huge market share of 83% of value of transaction. From which we can understand that retail and personal payments have also made on UPI platform in a big scale.

Now from these tables we can clearly say that people from low payment scale (0-500), mid payment scale (501-2000) and upper payment scale (<2000) all have used UPI and people

who use UPI payment platform for payments use it for all scale of payments. Now data proves that UPI has successfully developed a new consumer habit/ behavior of using digital payments rather than using physical currency.

**Conclusion:** In this whole study we tried to be impartial, and we have been honest with our observations. In this study, data shows that upi successfully created a new consumer behavior of using digital payments system rather than physical cash and within a very short period of time UPI has beaten its competitors. This tendency is a result of continuous effort and understanding of users' need. UPI has created this phenomena because of some of its unique features.

- UPI is way more secure than its competitors
- User does not need to share his or her personal details (such as bank account details, personal information etc) to anyone
- A virtual address is all to pay or receive money
- This virtual address is like a phone number which is easy to remember
- User can use his or her actual mobile number (which is linked with the bank account)
- To protect the user from online fraud, users need to remember one thing that they should not share their password with anyone
- Password is only needed to send money, receiving money does not need any password
- The money is directly deposited in their bank account. This gives the users a sence of security, which creates a tendency of users to use it more often.
- Using UPI is totally free which again helps small scale businesses and retail users to
  use it.

All these small factors and continuous improvement from the central bank helped UPI to grow and become No. 01 digital payment system (in volume of transaction).

Other than all of this UPI has also created a separate ecosystem by connecting users, banks, PSPs, APPs, UDIRs together which makes UPI even better trusted

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## মানবতাবাদের পরিধি

# তুষাররঞ্জন ভৌমিক\*

মারসংক্ষেপ: আলোচ্য গবেষণা সন্দর্ভে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়ের একাত্ম মানবতাবাদ নিয়ে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে। এই গবেষণা পত্রটিতে মানবতাবাদের সংজ্ঞা, বৈশিষ্ট্য, পরিধি সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে। একই সাথে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়ের একাত্ম মানবতাবাদ এবং তার সামাজিক উপযোগিতা বিষয়ে আলোকপাত করা হয়েছে। মানব জাতি সম্পর্কে দীনদয়ালের চিন্তাভাবনা ও রাষ্ট্রের চরিত্র সম্পর্কে তাঁর অভিমতও জানা যাবে এই সন্দর্ভের মধ্য দিয়ে। এছাড়া স্বাধীনতার এত বছর পরেও ভারতবর্ষের জনজীবনে কেন এত দুর্দশাণ বর্তমানে আমরা নিজের দেশ নিজেরাই শাসন করি তবু প্রতি মুহূর্তে আমরা বিভিন্ন সামাজিক অস্থিরতার সম্মুখীন হয়ে চলেছি। এই সামাজিক আস্থিরতা কেনণ দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় এই প্রশ্ন গুলিকে উত্থাপন করেছেন এবং এ বিষয়ে তাঁর ধারণা ব্যাক্ত করেছেন। এই প্রবন্ধে তাঁর সেই ধারণা তুলে ধরা হয়েছে। এছাড়া একটি রাষ্ট্রে শাসকের ভূমিকা কি কি সেই বিষয়েও তিনি একাধিক আলোচনা করেছেন। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়ের রাষ্ট্র সম্পর্কিত এইসব ধারণাগুলির দিকেও দৃষ্টিপাত করা হয়েছে।

**সূচক শব্দ:** আত্মর্ম্যাদাহীন, আধ্যাত্মিক, একাত্ম মানবতাবাদ, দর্শন, পূর্ণ, পাশ্চাত্য।

<sup>\*</sup> সহকারী অধ্যাপক, ব্যারাকপুর রাষ্ট্রগুরু সুরেন্দ্রনাথ কলেজ, ইমেল: tusharranjanbhowmick@gmail.com

দর্শনে নৈতিকতার চর্চা প্রাচীন কাল থেকেই হয়ে আসছে। ক্রমাগত নৈতিকতার বিভিন্ন ধারণা ও বৈশিষ্ট্য নতুন জ্ঞানের দ্বারা সমৃদ্ধ হয়ে চলেছে। দর্শনে নৈতিকতার অন্তর্গত মানবতাবাদের চর্চা এর আগেও হয়েছে। কিন্তু বর্তমান সময়ে দাঁড়িয়ে আমাদের সমাজে একাধিক সামাজিক অস্থিরতা তৈরি হয়ে চলেছে। এই সামাজিক অস্থিরতার কারণ কী? এই প্রশ্নের উত্তর খুঁজতে গিয়েই নৈতিকতা সম্পর্কে মানুষকে নৃতন করে ভাবতে বাধ্য করেছে। বর্তমান প্রবন্ধটি সেই নতুন করে ভাবনার একটি সংক্ষিপ্ত প্রয়াস।

আমার এই গবেষণা মূলক সন্দর্ভের মূল লক্ষ্য হল দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়ের (জন্ম ২৫শে সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯১৬ সাল ও মৃত্যু ১১ ফেবরুয়ারি ১৯৬৮) একাত্ম মানবতাবাদের বর্তমান সামাজিক উপযোগিতা। এই ক্ষয়িষ্ণু সমাজ ব্যবস্থায় একাত্মমানবতাবাদে যে ধরণের কথা বলা হয়েছে তার বাস্তবায়ন যে একান্ত প্রয়োজন সেকথা বলার অপেক্ষা রাখে না। কারণ মানুষ এবং সমাজের সামগ্রিক উন্নতি যদি করতে হয় তাহলে অবশই ব্যক্তিকেন্দ্রিক যে স্বাধীনতা তার পূর্ণ বিকাশ ঘটাতে হবে ব্যক্তির অন্তর্নিহিত সুকুমার বৃত্তিগুলিকে, বস্তুত তার অনন্ত সম্ভাবনাকে বিকশিত করার মধ্যে দিয়েই মনুষ্য জীবনের সার্থকতা প্রকাশ পায়। ব্যক্তির বিকাশের সঙ্গে সমাজের উন্নতির ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্বন্ধ রয়েছে। ব্যষ্টি ও সমষ্টি উভয়ের মঙ্গলের জন্যই প্রাচীন ভারতীয় সমাজে ধর্ম, অর্থ, কাম ও মোক্ষ এই পুরুষার্থ চতুষ্টয়ের কল্পনা করা হয়েছিল। এরা একে অপরের পরিপূরক। মানুষের প্রেরণার ধারা ও তার কার্যাবলীকে যদি ধার্মিকতার আধারে যাচাই করা হয় এবং অর্থ ও কামনার সিদ্ধিকে মোক্ষের সাধনায় উত্তীর্ণ করা যায় তবেই সমাজে শান্তি ও সমৃদ্ধি প্রতিষ্ঠিত হবে। বলা যেতে পারে, সৃস্থিত সমাজের প্রাণকেন্দ্র হল ধার্মিকতা।

আমরা আমাদের সমাজে যতই বস্তুগত দিক থেকে নৈতিকতাকে উন্নত করিনা কেন তাতে সামাজিক সমস্যা নির্মূল না হয়ে বরং বেড়েই চলবে। বস্তুগত উন্নতি মানুষের মধ্যে লোভ, ক্রোধ ও হিংসা বাড়িয়ে তোলে। তাই বস্তুগত উন্নতিকে কখনোই সভ্য জীবনে সংস্কৃতির অঙ্গ হিসাবে গ্রহণ করা যায় না। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় রাষ্ট্র সম্পর্কে বলতে গিয়ে বলেন, যে রাষ্ট্র ব্যবস্থা ধর্মের ভিত্তিতে গড়ে ওঠে, সেই রাষ্ট্র হবে ধর্মরাজ্য। তবে এই ধর্মরাজ্যের অর্থ সাম্প্রদায়িক রাষ্ট্র নয়। একাত্ম মানবতাবাদে মানুষের মনুষ্যত্ব বোধের ক্ষেত্রটি যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে গুরুত্ব দিয়ে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে। ব্যক্তির বিকাশের জন্য যে তিনটি বিষয় একান্ত প্রয়োজন আত্মিক, সামাজিক ও আর্থিক মর্যাদা, এগুলিকে কীভাবে বাস্তবে রূপায়ন করা সম্ভব সেই বিষয়গুলি তিনি যথাযথ গুরুত্ব দিয়ে আলোচনা করেছেন। ভারতবর্ষের মত কৃষিভিত্তিক দেশে কি ধরনের অর্থব্যবস্থার প্রচলন করা দরকার সেই দিকগুলিও বিশদে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে একাত্ম মানবতাবাদে। প্রতিটি ব্যক্তির সামাজিক আচরণ ও তার মানসিকতা কিরকম হওয়া উচিৎ তার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ পন্ডিতজী তাঁর একাত্ম মানবতাবাদে দিয়েছেন। আমাদের দেশের সমস্যাগুলিকে তিনি ভাল করে লক্ষ্য করেছে এবং সমস্যা গুলির সমাধানের জন্য সম্যকপথের নির্দেশ করেছেন। আমরা আমাদের নিজেদের জাতির প্রতি উদাসীন। আমাদের পূর্ব নির্ধারিত কোন লক্ষ্য নেই। এই সকল সমস্যাগুলিকে তিনি ভাল করে পর্যবেক্ষণ করে তার স্থায়ী সমাধানের পথ বলেছেন। তার এই নব নির্দেশিত তত্ত্বকে বলা হয় একাত্ম মানবতাবাদ বা Integral Humanism.

এখন প্রশ্ন হল মানবতাবাদের জন্ম কিভাবে কোন প্রেক্ষিতে হয়েছিল? খ্রীষ্টপূর্ব ষষ্ঠ শতকে থেলিস এবং ক্রেনোথানিক প্রথম পুরাণ ও প্রথার সাহায্য ছাড়া কেবল যুক্তি দিয়ে জগতের ব্যাখ্যা করার প্রয়াস নেন। এই কারণে তাদেরকে প্রথম গ্রীক মানবতাবাদী বলা যায়। Oxford English dictionary অনুযায়ী ১৮১২ খ্রীষ্টাব্দে একজন ইংরেজ ধর্মযাজক প্রথম মানবতাবাদ শব্দটিকে সেই সব ব্যক্তিদের নির্দেশ করার জন্য ব্যবহার করেন যাঁরা যীশুর

মানবিকতায় বিশ্বাস করতেন তাঁর অলৌকিকতায় বিশ্বাস করতেন না। অলৌকিকতাবিরোধী মানবকেন্দ্রিক চিন্তাভাবনা ভারতীয় সমাজেও দেখা যায়। প্রায় দুই সহস্র খ্রীষ্টপূর্ব বছর আগে গৌতম বুদ্ধ পালি সাহিত্যের অলৌকিকতা নিয়ে সংশয় প্রকাশ করেন। ভারতেও এই মুক্তিবাদ ও মুক্ত চিন্তার আন্দোলন বিভিন্নভাবে বিভিন্ন সময়ে হয়ে এসেছে। আধুনিক কালে এই সব আন্দোলনের স্বপক্ষে যাঁরা কলম ধরছেন তাঁদের মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য হলেন—রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর, ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র বিদ্যাসাগর, স্বামী বিবেকানন্দ, শ্রী অরবিন্দ, নব্য মানবতাবাদী মানবেন্দ্রনাথ রায় ও অখন্ড মানবতাবাদী দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়।

### দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়ের মানবতাবাদ

লেনিন বলেছিলেন কোন বিষয় জানতে গেলে সেই বিষয়ের চারিদিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে পর্যালোচনা করতে হবে. দেখতে হবে এর সমস্ত রকম যোগসূত্র ও মধ্যবর্তী অবস্থা। আমরা পুরোপুরি ভাবে কখনোই এই পর্যালোচনা করে উঠতে পারি না, কিন্তু এই বিষয়ে সচেতন থাকলে কোন সিদ্ধান্তের অনমনীয়তা ও ভ্রান্তির ক্ষেত্রে তা প্রহরীর মতো কাজ করে। এই উক্তি থেকে যেটা প্রমাণিত হয় তা হল কোন ঘটনার প্রাণবস্তু হল বাস্তব অবস্থার বস্তুনিষ্ঠ বিশ্লেষণ। কোন বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত নিতে গেলে সেই বিষয়টিকে ভালো করে বিশ্লেষণ করা উচিৎ। এই ধরণের পদ্ধতি বর্তমান বিজ্ঞানেও অনুসরণ করা হয়। ঠিক এইরকম কথাই পণ্ডিত দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় তাঁর একাত্ম মানবতাবাদে বলেছেন। এখানেই এম.এন. রায়-এর সঙ্গে পণ্ডিতজীর পার্থক্য। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় বলেন যে, আমরা বৃটিশ শাসন থেকে মুক্তি তো পেয়ে গেছি কিন্তু আমরা যে স্বাধীনতা লাভ করেছি সে স্বাধীনতা সম্পূর্ণরূপে সফল নয়। কেননা আত্মদর্শন ছাড়া কোন জাতির স্বাধীনতা সার্থক হতে পারে না। যার ফলে ঐ জাতির মধ্যে কর্মচেতনা তথা কর্মোদ্যোগের জাগরণ সম্ভব নয়। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় বলেন যে, ভারত বহু সংস্কৃতির দেশ। আর এখানেই ভারতের দুর্দশা, সর্বনাশ ও অনৈক্যের বীজ লুকিয়ে আছে। অন্যদিকে দুর্বল চিত্ত আত্মমর্যাদাহীন গৌরব বোধশূন্য নেতৃবৃন্দ বিদেশী ও বিজাতীয় চিন্তাধারা আমাদের উপর চাপিয়ে দিচ্ছে। যার ফলশ্রুতি হিসাবে দেশবাসী রাষ্ট্রদেহের আত্মদর্শন যথাযথভাবে করতে পারছে না। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় আর একটি বিষয় লক্ষ্য করেছিলেন যে, আমরা নিজেদের উপর আস্থা হারিয়ে ফেলেছি। যে জাতি তার কৃষ্টি সভ্যতার উপর বিস্মৃত হয়ে আস্থা হারিয়ে ফেলে আত্মশক্তিতে তার মতো হতভাগ্য জাতি আর হয় না। আমরা ক্রমাগত সেদিকেই এগিয়ে চলেছি। এই কারণে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় ভারতীয় সভ্যতার সমস্যা বলতে গিয়ে একটি দিক বারবারই উল্লেখ করেছেন, সেটি হল আত্মার উদাসীনতা। এই বিষয়ে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়ের উক্তি হল— "It is essential that we think about 'Our National Identity' without which there is no meaning of 'Independence"

দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় তার একাত্ম মানবতাবাদে যে মূল বৈশিষ্ট্যের উল্লেখ করেছেন, সেটি হল ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতির প্রথম ও প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য মানব জীবনকে এক পূর্ণসভারূপে মনে করা। পাশ্চাত্যের বিশ্রান্তির প্রধান কারণ হল, জীবনকে পূর্ণভাবে না দেখে আংশিকভাবে দেখে বিচার করা এবং পরবর্তী সময়ে জোড়াতালি দিয়ে জীবনকে পরিপূর্ণ মানবের রূপ দেওয়ার চেষ্টা করা। পাশ্চাত্যে কেবল জগতের বস্তুগত দিকটিকে প্রাধান্য দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং জগতের আত্মিক দিকটিকে উপেক্ষা করে যাওয়া হয়েছে। ফলে পাশ্চাত্যের কোন তত্ত্বই কখনও পূর্ণতা লাভ করে নি। আমরা বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতায়ও দেখি যে জীব জগতে বিভিন্নতা আছে। কিন্তু আমরা সর্বদা তার পিছনে যে সামঞ্জস্য বা ঐক্যবোধ বিরাজ করছে তাকে আবিষ্কার করার চেষ্টা করি। এই প্রচেষ্টা বিজ্ঞানসম্মতও বটে। কারণ বর্তমানে আমরা দেখি যে, বিজ্ঞান সর্বদা বিশ্বের যে বিশৃদ্খলা আপাত দৃষ্টিতে দেখা যায়, তার পেছনে যে ঐক্য বিরাজ করছে তাকে আবিষ্কার করার করার চেষ্টা

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করে চলেছে। বিষয়টি একটি উদাহরণের মধ্য দিয়ে বোঝানো যাক। এক বীজ থেকে মূল, কাণ্ড, শাখা-প্রশাখা, পাতা, ফুল ও ফল উৎপন্ন হয়। এদের প্রত্যেকটির রূপ কার্যক্ষমতা ও ব্যবহার ভিন্ন ভিন্ন। এমনকি এদের মধ্যে গুণগত পার্থক্যও আছে। কিন্তু এদের মধ্যে একটা ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্পর্ক আছে, যেটা আপাত দৃষ্টিতে দেখা যায় না। এছাড়া এদেশের অদৈত দার্শনিকরা বলে থাকেন যে সত্তাগতভাবে সব কিছুই এক এবং অদ্বিতীয় ব্রহ্মস্বরূপ। তাই তিনি বলেছেন—"Western Science and the Western Ways of life are two different things. Whereas Western Science is Universal and must be absorbed by us if we wish to go forward, the same is not true about the Western Ways of life and values" ।

দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় আরো বলেন যে মানুষ শরীর, মন, বুদ্ধি ও আত্মা –এই চারটি বস্তু দিয়েই তৈরী। এগুলি একাত্মীভূত। আমরা এর কোন একটিকে আলাদা করে চিন্তা করতে পারি না। পশ্চিমে যে সমস্যা তৈরী হয়েছে তার মূল কারণ হল, পশ্চিমে শরীর, মন, বুদ্ধি ও আত্মা এই বিষয়কে পৃথক ভাবে চিন্তা করেছেন। এবং প্রতেকটির ভিন্ন ভিন্ন বস্তুগত ব্যাখ্যা প্রদানের চেষ্টা করেছে। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় বলেন যে আমাদের দেশের সমস্যা গুলির কথা কিছুক্ষণের জন্য সরিয়ে রেখে যদি একটু পশ্চিমের উন্নত দেশ গুলির দিকে তাকাই। তাহলে দেখতে পাব যে সেই সমস্ত দেশে মানুষ সামাজিক ও আর্থিক দিক থেকে স্বনির্ভর হওয়া সত্ত্বেও জীবনে সকল উৎকৃষ্ট বস্তু লাভ করেও যেন একটা অসন্তোষের মধ্য দিয়ে জীবন কাটাচ্ছে। এখানে প্রশ্ন উঠে যে পাশ্চাত্যের এই অসন্তোষের কারণ কি? এর উত্তরে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় বলেন পাশ্চাত্যের যে অসন্তোষ তার মূলে আছে মানুষের আত্মিক দিকটিকে উপাক্ষা করা। প্রতিটি মানুষকে যদি আত্মিক, সামাজিক ও অর্থনৈতিক এই তিনটি দিক থেকে পরিপূর্ণ করা যায়, তবে সামাজিক ও ব্যক্তিগত সমস্যার সমাধান সম্ভব।

দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় তাঁর একাত্ম মানবতাবাদে বলেন যে, ভারতবর্ষ আজীবন কাল মানুষকে পূর্ণ সত্তা রূপে চিন্তা করে এসছে। এই কারণে আমরা দৃঢ় কণ্ঠে বলতে পেরেছি যে, মানুষের প্রগতির অর্থ তার শরীর, মন, বুদ্ধি, ও আত্মার পরিতৃপ্তি। প্রায়শই আমরা দেখতে পাই যে, এই স্থলগুলিতে আপত্তি করে বলা হয়েছে যে, ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতি কেবল আধ্যাত্মিক, কেবল আত্মচিন্তাকেই গুরুত্ব ও প্রাধান্য দেওয়া হয়েছে। আত্মা ভিন্ন অন্য বিষয়গুলিকে উপেক্ষা করা হয়েছে। এবিষয়টিকে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় অতি সতর্কতার সঙ্গে লক্ষ্য রেখেছেন। এবিষয়ে তার মত হল- আমরা শরীর, মন বৃদ্ধির উপর কোন গুরুত্ব আরোপ করিনা, একথা সত্য নয়। এবিষয়ে তার যুক্তি হল যে আধ্যাত্মিকতা বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ করা হলেও জীবনের বস্তুগত দিকটিকে অস্বীকার করা হয় নি। কারণ, ভারতীয় শাস্ত্রে যে পুরুষার্থের কথা বলা হয়েছে তার দিকে লক্ষ্য করলেই বিষয়টি পরিষ্কার হয়ে যাবে। ভারতীয় শাস্ত্রে মানুষের জীবন যথাযথভাবে নির্বাহের জন্য চতুর্বর্গ পুরুষার্থের কথা বলা হয়। যথা -ধর্ম, অর্থ, কাম ও মোক্ষ। এখন দেখা যাক পুরুষার্থ শব্দের অর্থ কি? পুরুষার্থ শব্দটিকে বিশ্লেষণ করলে দৃটি শব্দ পাওয়া যায়- পুরুষ ও অর্থ। পুরুষ বলতে এখানে মানুষকে বোঝানো হয়েছে এবং অর্থ বলতে বিষয়কে বোঝানো হয়েছে। অর্থাৎ পুরুষের যা কাম্য বা পার্থিব তাই পুরুষার্থ। মানুষের যা অভীষ্ট, যা লক্ষ্য সে যা চায়, যার জন্য মানুষ সচেষ্ট এবং যা লাভে মানুষের পরমার্থ লাভ হয় তাই পরম পুরুষার্থ। এই চতুর্বর্গ পুরুষার্থ গুলি উল্লেখ করার মধ্য দিয়ে দেখতে পেলাম যে ভারতীয় শাস্ত্রে কেবল আধ্যাত্মিকতার কথাই বলা হয় নি। উপরন্ত আধাত্মিকতাকে কেন্দ্র করে মানুষের বাহ্যিক ও সামাজিক আচরণগুলি কিরকম হবে সেটাও পরিষ্কার করে বলা হয়েছে। আগেই বলা হয়েছে যে ভারতীয় শাস্ত্রে কখনই দেহ, মন ও আত্মাকে আলাদা করে চিন্তা করা হয় নি। মানুষকে দেখা হয়েছে তার পূর্ণসত্তা রূপে। আমরা জানি যে, কেবল দৈহিক আরামপ্রিয়তা মানুষের যে যথার্থ স্বরূপ সেই স্বরূপকে উপলদ্ধি করাতে সমর্থ নয়। আবার শরীর সুস্থ না থাকলে আত্মিক চিম্ভাও সম্ভব নয়।

ফলে যে পরম পুরুষার্থ মোক্ষের কথা বলা হয়েছে সেই মোক্ষ লাভ করতে গেলে অবশ্যই বাহ্যিক আচার আচরণের প্রতি দৃষ্টি দেওয়া দরকার। ভারতীয় শাস্ত্রে একথা একাধিক বার বলা হয়েছে। ভারতীয় শাস্ত্রে আর যে বিষয়টির উপর জার দেওয়া হয়েছে সেটি হল অহিংসা। এসবই বলা হয়েছে মানুষের বাহ্যিক আচরণকে সংযত করতে ও তাকে যথাযথ পথে চালিত করার জন্য। ভারতীয় শাস্ত্র জীবনের জন্য কোনটা শ্রেয়ঃ আর কোনটি প্রেয়ঃ তার বিভাগ করে আলোচনা করেছে। শ্রেয়ঃ বলতে বোঝানো হয়েছে যা নিঃশ্রেয়স বা আত্যন্তিক দুঃখের থেকে মুক্তি। প্রেয়ঃ বলতে মানুষের কাছে যা প্রিয়তর অর্থাৎ বাহ্যিক বা ইন্দ্রিয় সুখভোগের কথা বলা হয়েছে। সুতরাং, আমরা দেখতে পেলাম যে, ভারতীয় শাস্ত্রে বস্তুজগৎকে উপেক্ষা করা হয় নি। বরং খুব যত্ন সহকারে তার বিচার বিশ্লেষণ করা হয়েছে। জীবনের জন্য যেটুকু প্রয়োজন ঠিক সেই পরিমাণ বস্তুসুখকে গ্রহণ করার কথা বলা হয়েছে। সর্বোপরি বলা যায় যে, বস্তুজগৎ ও আত্মিক জগতের মধ্যে একটা পার্থক্য থাকলেও এরা কেউ বিচ্ছিন্ন নয়, পরম্পরের সঙ্গে ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্পর্কে যুক্ত। এ কথা প্রমানের উদ্দেশেই তিনি বলেন যে ধর্মের ইংরেজি শব্দ কখন রিলিজিয়ান হতে পারেনা। এ বিষয়ে তাঁর উক্তি হল—"Religion means a creed or a sect and it does not mean Dharm" ।

দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় বলেন যে, ভারতবর্ষ বৈচিত্র্যপূর্ণ এবং এই বৈচিত্র্যর কারণে ভারতে বিভিন্ন জটিলতা সৃষ্টি হয়। অনেক ক্ষেত্রে সাম্প্রদায়িক বিবাদও দেখা দেয়। কিন্তু এই বৈচিত্র্যকে বাচিয়ে রেখে যদি পারষ্পরিক সহযোগিতা ও বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পর্ক গড়ে তোলা যায় তবেই দেশের উন্নয়ন সম্ভব হবে। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় বলেন যে আমাদের আশে পাশে বসবাসকারী মানুষ ও প্রকিতিগত মৌলিক নীতি গুলিকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখা দরকার মানব সভ্যতাকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখার জন্য। প্রকৃতিগত মৌলিক নীতিগুলিকে আরো সজীব রাখার জন্য যে বিভিন্ন প্রকার প্রাণের সহযোগিতা দরকার, তার সম্যুক ব্যবস্থা করা মানব সমাজের একটি অবশ্য কর্তব্য হওয়া উচিৎ। প্রকৃতিকে সামাজিক উদ্দেশ্যে রূপান্তরিত করার নামই সংস্কৃতি। কিন্তু যখনই এই প্রকৃতিগত নিয়মকে অবহেলা করা হয় তখনই সামাজিক সংঘর্ষের সৃষ্টি হয়। প্রকৃতিকে অবহেলা বা অস্বীকার করে নয়, বরং প্রকৃতির যে সকল উপাদান এই বিশ্বের সামঞ্জস্য বিধানে সক্ষম তার বিকাশের মাধ্যমে পূর্ণ মানুষের জীবন গঠনের প্রয়াস করতে হবে। দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় যে বিষয়টির উপর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেছেন সেটি হল, আমাদের প্রাচীন শাস্ত্রীয় নীতিগুলি আমরা আর অনুসরণ করিনা। আমরা আধুনিকতাকে স্বীকার করতে গিয়ে আমাদের যে প্রকৃত সত্মা তারই গলা টিপে ধরেছি। এখানেই তিনি আমাদেরকে সতর্ক হতে বলেছেন। আমরা অবশ্যই আধুনিকতাকে মেনে নেব। কিন্তু সেই আধুনিকতাকেই মেনে নেব যে আধুনিকতা আগে থেকে অস্তিত্বশীল থাকা কোন হিতবাদী নীতিকে ধ্বংস করে দেবে না। তিনি আমাদের বর্তমান সমাজকে লক্ষ্য করে বলেন, আমরা কেবলই ঘোড়া দৌড়ের মতো ছুটে চলেছি। ঘোড়াগুলি যেমন নির্দিষ্ট উদ্দেশ্যে ছোটে না. মানুষ তার ইচ্ছানুসারে ঘোড়াগুলিকে ছোটায় ঠিক একইরকম ভাবে আমরাও ছুটে চলেছি। কিন্তু সেই ছুটে চলায় আদৌ কোন স্বাধীনতা আছে কি নেই সেদিকে আমাদের কোন লক্ষ্য নেই। আপাতদৃষ্টিতে আমাদের মনে হচ্ছে যে, আমরা প্রত্যেকে নিজের চাহিদা মেটানোর জন্য কর্ম করে চলেছি। কিন্তু যে কাজটি আমরা আমাদের চাহিদা মেটানোর জন্য করে চলেছি সেই একই কর্ম আর একটি বিশ্বজনীন ফল প্রদান করছে, সেটি হল অন্যের প্রতি উদাসীনতা। এই উদাসীনতা মানুষকে ধ্বংসের পথে নিয়ে চলেছে। আবার এই তথাকথিত আধুনিকতা যে পথ হয়ে আসছে সেই পথে অন্যান্য যে সমস্ত মানব কল্যাণকর নীতি ছিল সেগুলিকে নিঃশেষ করে দিচ্ছে। বর্তমানে আমাদের বুদ্ধিতে এমন কিছু সিদ্ধান্ত এমনভাবে প্রবেশ করিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে যার ফলে আমরা মনে করছি যে, এই তথাকথিত আধুনিকতার হাত ধরে না চললেই পিছিয়ে পড়ব। কিন্তু এই ভাবনা যথাযথ নয়। এই ভাবনাকে আমাদের মন থেকে সরিয়ে ফেলতে হবে। তবেই মানুষের উত্তরণ হবে। এখন প্রশ্ন হল আমরা যে উন্নয়ন বর্তমানে দেখছি আদৌ কি তাকে আমরা উন্নয়ন বলতে মানবতাবাদের পরিধি | 155

পারব? আসলে যে উন্নয়ন করার জন্য আজ সমগ্র বিশ্ব উঠে পড়ে লেগেছে, সেটাকে কি দীর্ঘস্থায়ী উন্নয়ন বলা যাবে? না আপাত উন্নয়ন হচ্ছে ? সেই প্রশ্ন থেকেই যায়।

দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়-এর বক্তব্য থেকে যে বিষয়গুলি উঠে আসে সেগুলি হল সার্বিক উন্নয়নের মাপকাঠি কি হবে? সমগ্র বিশ্বে এবং ধনাতান্ত্রিক সমাজব্যবস্থায় যেটা অনুসরণ করে আসা হয় সেটা হল Survival of the Fittest। এই নীতি কখনই সার্বিক উন্নয়নের মাপকাঠি হতে পারে না। আমাদের মনে রাখা উচিৎ উচ্চ মার্গের সভ্যতা গড়ে তুলতে হলে এই নীতি কখনোই অনুসরণীয় নয়। কারণ পারস্পরিক সহযোগিতার মধ্য দিয়েই গড়ে ওঠে সংস্কৃতি। আর এই জঙ্গলের নীতি, যা পাশ্চাত্যের তথাকথিত সুসভ্য সমাজ আবিষ্কার করেছ, তা যত কম প্রযুক্ত হবে জীবনে ততই মানুষ মনুযোত্র প্রানী থেকে নিজেকে আলাদা করতে সক্ষম হবে। এছাড়াও আমরা যদি প্রগতি বা উন্নতি চাই তবে আমাদের সমাজ বিবর্তনের ইতিহাস অবশ্যই স্মরণ রাখতে হবে।

এই আলোচনা থেকে যে প্রশ্নটি আমাদের মনে দেখা দেয় সেটি হল যথার্থ উন্নয়ন কাকে বলে? এর উত্তরে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় বলেন য, উন্নয়ন বিভিন্ন দিক দিয়ে হতে পারে। যেমন জীবন কে উপভোগ করার জন্য মানুষের যা চাহিদা তার উত্তরোত্তর উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি। আবার মানুষের চারিত্রিক ও আত্মিক উন্নয়নও হতে পারে। কিন্তু উন্নয়ন বলতে দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় একটি সামগ্রিক উন্নয়নকেই বুঝিয়েছেন। সেক্ষেত্রে কেবল বস্তুগত যান্ত্রিক উন্নয়ন বা আত্মিক উন্নয়নের কথা তিনি বলেন নি। তিনি চেয়েছিলেন যে আমাদের দেশের যে সম্পদ তার যথাযোগ্য ব্যবহার হোক। আমাদের দেশের প্রান্তিক অঞ্চলের যে সমস্ত শীল্পসমূহ যেমন- বস্ত্র শিল্প, মুৎশিল্প প্রভৃতি যেন হারিয়ে না যায়। তিনি চেয়েছিলেন আমরা যেন আমাদের দেশের নিজস্ব সত্ত্বাকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখি অতি আধুনিকতার আলোকেও। আবার তিনি এমন কথাও বলেন নি যে কেবলই পুরাতন বস্তু সামগ্রীকে আগলে আমরা পড়ে থাকি। তিনি চেয়েছিলেন সময়ের সঙ্গে তাল মিলিয়ে আমরা আমাদের উৎকর্ষতা, ঐতিহ্য ও দেশীয় ভাবধারাকে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যাব। প্রয়োজন অনুসারে বৈদেশিক নীতি ও বৈদেশিক সামগ্রী আমাদের ব্যবহার উপযোগী করে তারপর সেটি ব্যবহার করব। এখন প্রশ্ন উঠে যে, কেন আমরা দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় এর মত গ্রহণ করব १ এই প্রশ্নের উত্তরে বলা যা, আমরা এই উত্তর-আধুনিক যুগে বাস করেও নিজেদের সংশোধন করতে পারে নি। এখনও আমরা জঙ্গলের নিয়ম অনুসরণ করে চলি। আসলে প্রত্যেকের অজ্ঞাতেই আমরা আমাদের প্রত্যেকের বিরুদ্ধে ঠাণ্ডা লড়াই চালিয়ে যাচ্ছি। এবং প্রতিটি মানুষ এক গভীর সামাজিক অস্থিরতায় ভুগছি। নিজেদেরকে অনেক সংকীর্ণ করে ফেলছি। আরো বড় যে বিষয়টি আমাদের মধ্যে ঘটে চলেছে আমরা প্রকৃতির একটা অংশ হয়ে প্রকৃতির বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধ ঘোষণা করে চলেছি। যার ফলশ্রুতি অত্যন্ত ভয়ংকর। এই সকল সমস্যার দীর্ঘস্থায়ী সমাধানের জন্য দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায়এর নির্দেশিত পথ অনেক বেশী গ্রহণযোগ্য।

## মূল্যায়ন

সর্বোপরি বলা যায় যে, ভারতের উন্নয়ন কোন বৈদেশিক মতাদর্শ দ্বারা করা সম্ভব না। বর্তমানে ভারতে যে ধরনের শাসনব্যবস্থা প্রচলিত আছে তার দ্বারা কৃষিভিত্তিক ভারতবর্ষের উন্নয়ন সম্ভব নয়। আবার ভারতে যে ধরনের অর্থনৈতিক ব্যবস্থা অনুসরণ করা হয় তার দ্বারাও ভারতের সকল সম্প্রদায়ের মানুষের আর্থিক উন্নয়ন সম্ভব না। এই কারণগুলি থাকার জন্য দীনদয়াল উপাধ্যায় তার একাত্ম মানবতাবাদে এক নৃতন বিকেন্দ্রিক অর্থব্যবস্থা প্রচলনের কথা বলেন।

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