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IMPORTANCE OF ECO-LITERATURE IN ODIA SHORT STORIES

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ABSTRACT

At present the people of whole world are in a mood to save the earth which is going to be spoiled soon. Scientists, philosophers, thinkers, Earth scientists are searching into the matter how to save the environment. They feel the tragedy of the earth which is somehow going to be submerged in the waters. To make the common people conscious about this, they feel the literature is the way through which the people of the world can be come to know about it and realized present state of acute situation of the environment. So it is need of the hour to convey the mankind about the devastating picture of the earth that is going to be happened soon. So worldwide consciousness in this context is badly necessary at present for literature and electronic media are mostly helpful. So there is the need of the eco-literature which can be sponsored around the earth for the survival of the mankind.

KEYWORDS: Ecoliterature, afforestation, nature, ecology, forest etc.

INTRODUCTION

Since the start of the human life on the earth man has been closely related with the nature around him. So all of his activities and actions linked with life processes are also linked to the nature. He gets all sorts of his requirements from nature for his development, living and civilization. That is why nature supplies all kinds of nutrients for growth and progress of human life on the earth. That is why at present discussion about ecology is the most essential aspect in literature with a view to make the people conscious about the contribution of Eco-science to the human society.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To understand what the eco-literature is
2. To bring awareness among people about ecology and its need for our existence
3. To know the reasons for imbalance in ecology and the remedial measures taken by different agencies
4. To know the extent of role played through Odia literature in general and short stories in particular
5. To assess the impact of eco-literature in set righting the problem

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The short stories and criticisms in Odia literature have been studied for this purpose. For this study secondary data has been collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In pre-historic age people were leading healthy lives in the lap of the nature by following there each and every requirement. Gradually the life style of the people flourished on with the wisdom and knowledge they gain from the environment. So at first nature were the teacher, guide and philosopher of the mankind. Due to rapid population growth all kinds of requirements of life have been increased with the touch of science and technology. So we have been deforming the nature around us to utilize the natural resources for our growth, living and fulfilling our desires and requirements of life. So we see a great change in natural environment. To fulfill our basic needs like food, clothing and shelter we have been cutting down forests, excavating mines and using forest products abundantly. So the problems of global warming, lack of medicinal plants, deformity of landscape, drowning of habitations under seas and ocean, want of forest products, want of oxygen etc are there. These problems at present threaten the survival of the mankind on the earth. These problems are not confined in some states but the problems of the mankind as a whole. These problems are the factors for the philosophers, writers, poets, and earth scientists, thinkers to think over the problems and to bring solution thereof. So Eco-literature has the vital role in this regard to make the people conscious to save our beloved earth at this crucial period. To save our earth which is about to be spoiled, the attempts of the above stated groups are badly necessary and their creations and researches are precious at the time. Basing upon their opinions the government of almost all the countries put much emphasis on *Afforestation Programme* to bring greenery on the earth. All these attempts to save this earth combindly focused in *Eco-literature*. It inspires the mankind how to save earth and what to do for the survival of the mankind from the ongoing destruction. Different

programmes are being performed and exhibited on behalf of the Govt of different countries of the world to save the earth. In this context literature helps for the worldwide consciousness.

The life style of Adibasi community comes to mind while we discuss on *Eco-literature*. This community has been living their lives in the lap of the nature on natural way since their race starts. Forest trees, streams, hills & mountains are their friends, God & goddesses to sustain their lives. When modern civilization entered into their land for establishing factories, habitations, excavating minerals, there was extreme harm and damage made their traditional culture, life style and livelihood. So they started revolution against the plans and programmes of the Govt in their land. It turns to bloodshed and death. Yet there is no end of this revolution. Burning examples of these incidents are Kalinganagar, Bedanta, Posco revolutions in Odisha. All these things have been reflected in Odia literature especially in stories to make the people conscious for their survival so far the natural environment is concerned.

In the name of the flourish of the civilization the Government of different countries allowed the capitalists and the industrialists into their land for allocation of capital and establishment of the factories. When the plan was executed, the people in large number were evicted from their native land and the greenish environment turn to desert. So there was deformity of the natural beauty and landscape. Especially the Adibasi people lost their culture, livelihood and beautiful sight of the nature which were their basic elements of life. So they are deprived of their basic needs and that they collected in the nature. Besides, social practices and beliefs are their source of life. When they had to leave their native land, they thought it was a great punishment for them. So they started revolution against the plans, programmes of the Government to approve their rights lawfully on land, forest, water and the nature. This revolution still continues for survival of their traditional life style. On the contrary it is seen that almost all the Govt organizations and projects are being privatized and they frame their rules of their own for the employment and welfare. That is why the reservations made for the people of Adibasi community bears no value at all. So their progress and upliftment of life were closed. All these things are obstacles on their part to come to the mainstream of the current generation. In the name of putting down the naxalites and Maoists, the military operations are being made in Adibasi regions on behalf of the Government. But at present it happens that the Adibasi women are being exploited, oppressed and sexually harassed by the Govt employees and military forces. Sometimes the young ladies and girls of the regions are being murdered or they make suicide being ashamed of. All these things have spoiled their simple and smooth life style. Besides the Adibasi people see with their own eyes that Govt plunders the underground resources, provides water to the companies for running their factories but not to the farmers. Naturally there is the spark of revolution in their mind. Since 2005 this revolutionary attitude of the Adibasi populated regions is being seen and sometimes it turns to fight and bloodshed between Govt and people, sometimes industrialists and Adibasi people etc.

The helplessness of the people in this context has come to light in a revolutionary form. So the social workers, volunteers, media and different NGOs have come to front line of the revolution to help the backward people to get justice and for their proper existence in life as human beings. There problems seem as if no ending. The people in Adibasi populated area in Odisha are coming to the capital city of Bhubaneswar to put forth their claims and rights before the Govt for the approval.

Now it is the time to all about programmes of the environment to light through the literature to make the people conscious to save the world and it is natural. Likewise we see its gigantic focus in Odia literature. Story *Chhanchana* by Hrusikesh Panda shows how the foreign companies entered into the Adibasi habitations to cultivate petroleum and destroyed the basic culture and scenery of the region and evicted the people from their native place. The inhabitants of the region stated revolution to protect their motherland and traditional culture relate to place and environment. Likewise the story *Brukshya Jatak* by Praksh Parida states through *Pradosh* character that there is strong mentality for the environmental protection. *Pradosh* marked that the people destroyed the branches of the trees for their self profits and requirements. And he saw again the leafless trees turned lush and greenish with leaves and branches. In this way the writer states that though nature is always in our favour still we destroy it for our silly mistakes. The story *Sunyaku Prasna* by Gayatri Saraf states that how exploitation, destruction are made to the environment by the officers who are in charge of saving the nature for their self scented and self centered attitude. According to the story the character *Bhola* who was in charge of an orphan centre, he protested the people who were cutting the trees at public places and also reported to the authorities but they kept silent. This made him surprised. So the writer is of her opinion that the posters, meetings encouragement to protect the environment slogans, speech in this regard are valueless so long they are not practically executed. The story *Mukshya Charitra* by Susmita Bagchi states that how nature loving people are praised and encouraged by the main character *Santanu*. He loved that characters and wanted to make a film with these characters to inculcate the idea of *saving nature* in the mind of the people.

Destruction of the sound and healthy natural environment is destruction to mankind. So now it is the hour to take care of the natural environment for survival of the mankind. In this regard the story *Barakanya* by Achyutanand Pati may be taken into consideration. *Padmanava* the main character of the story is a lover of trees and plantation. He himself was unmarried but performed marriage between two trees *Bara and Osta*. He spends most of the time under the trees. People make joke with him but he made a stage under the tree and spent time happily forgetting the sorrows and sufferings of his life. The story *Sabuja Sanglap* by Das Benahur states about a tree loving man. The chief character *Nibarana Babu* planted different fruit trees and took care of them. He did not spare his house on rent with a presumption that they would destroy the trees. In this way there is the mentality of people to save trees for the sake of healthy atmosphere. An another story of the writer is *Dala*. In this story the writer shows that a family consisted of parents and their son & daughter live in the village Kedarapur. Once a dreadful flood came and washed away the whole village. The mother and the father saved their lives at any cost on a big mango tree. In this way the writers wrote different stories regarding the trees how they help the mankind indifferent ways. That is why trees have the versatile characteristics to sustain the life of the human beings as well as all the living beings on the earth providing shelter, medicine, clothing, food etc which are mostly needed for the human life. That is why the literature encourages the people to realize the value of a healthy atmosphere and usefulness of trees. So everybody should look into the matter in a favourable way.

CONCLUSION

Lots of steps are being taken by the Govt, NGOs and voluntary organizations like *Paryabaran*, *Bana Mahotsaba*, *afforestation programme* but they are not being executed properly for which the problems and destruction are found in connection to solve the environment so far the natural strategies and geographical entity are preferred. Now the vital source of encouraging the people to save the nature, environment showing its merits and demerits is the literature of Ecology to influence the people of this great earth for smooth living of the mankind as well as all the living beings on the earth created by the Almighty.

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