



Representation of Brave Woman in Bankimchandra's Novel : Rajmohan's Wife

Abstract

In my present paper, I would like focus of the of social reformation. Women is the central idea of the novel named 'Rajmohan's wife'. He wrote on particular issues like domestic violence, beating of women, dowry and superstition etc. Women has been seen in many forms and expected in various objects. Novelist wanted women's upliftment and freed from the social bondage which suffocates her real freedom. In Rajmohan's Wife, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee has written on them of love and romance. He depicted a woman called Matangini as bold, beautiful, passionate and even braver than men in the novel. In true sense writer advocated the women's place, prestige in the patriarchal society.

Key Words : Domestic Violence, Social Evils, Polygamy, Patriarchy, Politics, Reformation.

From the ancient times to the present the woman has been seen in various forms. From the very beginning of the time she is considered as daughter, sister, wife and mother etc.

A wife is a female partner in a marriage, most cultures recognize this common social status with a specific affiral kinship term. In the most places women have been expected to become wives at somefollowing the commencement of their child bearing years. Most women personally experience become a wife as a stage in their cycle. They become familiar, with the role of groomed for It during their childhood by interacting with and observing their own mothers and other female caretakers. Most of the women live in contemporary western countries enjoy considerable freedom to get married at all and societies where marriages are arranged but women families women have far less choice . A girl may be identified as a wife at the very young stage and begging a longeperoude preparation for all theadult role.

The social role of a wife , plays largely determined by the nature of the larger family system. In polygamous family to or more co-wives shere their tasks . The ideal of the Victorian family with the husband as the bredwinner and the wife in charge of the home was never possible for proper families. So the woman has been created in many objects in the Literature. She was drawn some times as meek, mild, supportive and sometimes bold, beautiful , aggressive , braver than men in the 0,0th novels , ^two types of the women have been presented in two contrast manner.

General Background of the 19th Centuries Novels

By Indian English writing we mean that the body of the literature which is written by Indians in English.They found the language and the literature versatile and some intellectuals took to conveying their social religious thoughts in this language. The people like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekanand, Mahatma Gandhi and others started pouring in and gave rise to a body of literature having great socio

culture relevance. The novel came to existence in India in the second half of the 19th century. Indians started writing fiction in the Indian regional languages as well as in English. Members of Dutt family are credited with writing the earliest Indian English fiction: KulasChunderDutt's 'A journal of Forty-Eight Hours of the year 1945' was published in the Calcutta literary Gazette in 1835, while ShosheeChunderDutt's 'The Republic of Orissa; A page from the Annals of the 20th Century' was published in 1845.

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's first novel Rajmohan's wife (1864) is the first full length Indian novel in English. He then took up writing in his mother tongue and all his other novels are written in Bangla. Bangla were the first state to receive the influence of English education and culture response to it creativity. Bengal was the state where what we call the Indian renaissance took place in literature too, the romanticism of the 19th century came to be blended with nationalism. Rabindranath Tagore continued to remain the energizing soul of period.

In the 19th century the novel comes to India in the context of colonialism and both the novelist are the colonial writers. In this century we can see the shadow of Englishness in our prose style in our literature. Novel emerged as reformation. It is based on politics, corruption, social evils, dowry etc. Indian novel is not copy of European novel but they just responds to the colonialism novel is that it comes from the society and daily life's activity. Novel shows the true image of the ordinary people's mindset, situation, problems of life, social evils, ethics, rituals, superstitions etc. Novel depicts and shows that mental attitude of the last man in the society.

The elite class people they were generally coming from highly educated people who got well education. They were rich and well to do, they got whatever they wanted and most of the people from Brahmin class so they wanted to get their own identity so they wrote, novel, poetry, fiction and drama etc. They were called elitist people. Ex. MahipatramNiikanth, Narmada Shankar, GoverdhanramTripathi, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Ravindranath Tagore etc.

Social Novel

Social novels means the novel which depicts and shows social problems or realist fiction originated in the 18th century but gained a popular following in the 19th century with the rise of the Victorian Era in many ways was a reaction to industrialization, social, political and economic issues and movements. The novel deals with the issue of the society.

Rajmohan's wife

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel Rajmohan's wife. It seems is the first published English novel by an India. It is valuable because after that he never wrote in English again and turned to Bengali. His great works like, DurjeshNandini, Anamdamath etc. which is believed nationalist feelings in the public. Bankim's novel Rajmohan's wife it's known by its bold and brave protagonist called Matangini who didn't become just homemaker. She knows how to speak her mind and respects. She desires to find her inner feelings and sexuality. In the orthodox society it is a path breaking action for a beautiful but woman in eighteen century who loved Madhav, her brother in law.

The bold, beautiful and passionate Matangi married to a villainous man. She represents the power of woman who remains firm in the brutality. She was beaten up even she faced and fight the situation other characters like Mathur, Hemangini, Tara, Sardar, Bhiku etc. It's plots & characters symbolically the modern Indian woman through political, cultural, rural and social contacts. Of course, Bankim Chandra Chaterjee has created a real life characters.

Theme of the Novel

Bankim Chandra's Rajmohan's Wife was first Indian English novel in Indian writing. It is also the first Bengali novel. The novel is first serialized in 1864 but it didn't appear as a book until 1935. Rajmohan's wife has unique theme love romance of the woman protagonist named Matangini Who is bold, beautiful and passionate woman.

In the first chapter she is shown as a typical woman who is with Kanak her neighbour. She is feared of getting late, she covered her face with sari, She was so afraid because of without taking her husband's permission, she went for carrying water. She always afraid of her husband at this time Bankim Chahanna drawn Matangi as a meek, humble and a typical village woman who does all household chores. When she stepped outside she is always in veils herself. That indicates the tradition of the women culture. Matangi follows all social rules, customs and tradition as a woman of Rajmohan's wife. She loves Madhav her brother-in-law. She fully accepted in front of him. She dared to save Madhav from the hand of dacoit. Love can conquer fear. She pined for Madhav because she loved him very much. The whole novel revolved around Matangi's wish for Madhav. She endures her husband's torment for going to meet Madhav at midnight. What a romance through secret journey! It is nothing but love. She did as much as could Madhav's life. At last she became bold and fearless and emerged as brave and independent woman. The novel based on its theme love and romance.

Matangi as a Woman Protagonist

Bankim Chandra has nicely debited his woman protagonist. Matangi Who was bold, beautiful and passionate woman wife of Rajmohan, A very hardcore husband. If I talk about her childhood's dream which every girl sees about her husband... but in this novel it get reversed. She was abused and bitten up several time by his husband, both sisters Matangi and Hemangini loved each other very much. In the beginning of the novel Bankim Chandra vividly gave description of the East-Bengal's rural life's pictures. When Matangini came from well at that time her beauty was described by writer. She such indescribable beauty radiated from every movement of other woman that it charmed the eyes first of Madhav and Mathur. There looks remained fixed on her and they were as fascinated by the site as a deer by the sound of the flute. (Rajmohan's wife Pg~9)

Matangi was fascinated beauty, She is an attractive woman but passionate who loves her brother in-law Madhav. She firmly accepted and proposed to Madhav not only that she went at midnight to save Madhav through dark jungle. She took risk of saving her lover, when she was attacked by Rajmohan, She slipped away and escaped from the hand of ruffian husband. At last she also freed Madhav from Sardar and Bhiku. AH this quality showed Matangini as a true protagonist woman of the 19th century in the novel.

Domestic Violence and Polygamy

Novelist depicted the rural rituals and social customs of East-Bengali's life. When Matangi returned from Hemangini's home a furious husband Rajmohan attacked on her, she was severely bitten up. She feared of unbearable torment of her husband, even she can't get stepped outside of home without taking her husband's permission. She was really in confinement. In the writer's period beating of women was usual in his time. As soon as Matangi saw her husband she was fearing and trembling of that demon called husband.

Mathur married to Tara, she was affable and nice woman, yet Mathur married another woman called Champak at that time many man had two wives. That is not big issue in that time. It caused many problems in their marriage life. So it was in existence in writer side.

Significance of the novel

Rajmohan's wife is a representation of East-Bengal middle class life. Bankim Chandra wrote this novel for showing us the description of the 19th century's scenario of the Bengal's middle class family's story, customs, rituals, superstitions and belief etc. This type of social novel would surely affects on the various kinds of people of his times. The novel depicts various aspects of the life. It shows how to behave, talk, live? Sometimes reader fees themselves in the novel this type of the description, he had depicted in the novel. We find an early about helplessness and claustrophobia of women in compatible a marriage that was going to be re current concern of India fiction for many years to come. Bankim within the family among upper-caste Bengali's in the 19th century.

Novelist has focused on woman of courage, who knows how to resonate, stands, steadily and stern in front of her husband. He showed to reader that types of people were there in that period of time. Beating of woman, domestic violence towards women this types of social evils he would like to free from befitting part of life of the society. Bankim Chandra depicted to show the East-Bengal's life.

Victorian Style & Problems of Language

It is noticeable that Bankim Chandra followed the style & pattern of Victorian age literature. He gave his female characters a unique distinction especially to heroin - A story and firm characteristics that is purely found any Victorian novel. Matangi is braver than the hero himself, Madhav, She confessed her love for her sister's husband; surely women are courageous and determined in Bankim Chandra's novel than men. Most men are corrupt and loose characters and women are sufferer. Whatever reality Bankim shows and sympathizes with woman's fate and miseries, he is not bold to give justice to woman but the character of Matangi stands alone and shines in spite of her disappearance in to cruel fate and even the attitude of other characters like Kanak and Tara can't be forgotten for its beautiful examples of early Indian English novel. (Afterword)

The problems of language were it seems while Rajmohan was speaking in the old English. "Deceive me not, canst thou? "Thou", this type of words was not expected from modern man. In the speech but the novel has substance and it has many more things to remember of Matangini the heroin of the novel.

Englishness in the Novel

In Rajmohan's wife: The first Indian English novel written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee who has written it in the English language rather than Bengali Language. In Rajmohan's wife, Madhav got English education in Calcutta city. Some two or three English books were scattered over the couch and one of them Madhav held in his hand... 'The English books are obviously signifiers of more civilized way of life.' In most of Bankim's Bangla novels the English man is either the abductor or the adversary. In Rajmohan's wife the wife man is described positive and stabilized function. This ambivalence towards English literature and what it stood for continued through 19th century and later. Meanwhile, the word 'education' had to come to be synonymous with English education. The study of English literature comprised a major part.

The mood of the novel changed very fast within the span of its pages. Domestic disharmony, legal intrigue, criminal conspiracy, passionate but forbidden love is shifting scenes. Matangini's solitary journey in the dark night through forest, water, storm and lightning, redolent with literary echoes of Radha's stry with Krishna in vaishnav poetry when she braved the elements to meet Krishna secretly. Same way Matangini ran to meet Madhav secretly for informing him about robbery plan. Where Matangini let's her long hair face to avoid detection in the moon night. In the rootedness in a recognizable literary culture we catch a glimpse of what Bankim would be able to achieve when he would no longer be inhibited by the anxiety of tailoring his sensibility to suit the cloth of English idioms and metaphors.

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee has written this social novel and depicted East-Bengal's upper caste kulin Brahmins story which has the theme of love and romance thrown light on women's situation in this social novel.

References

1. Chatterjee, Bankim Chandra 'Rajmohan's Wife' Pub. By Ravi Dayal Publisher 51E Sujana Singh Park, New Delhi - 110003.
2. Mukherjee, Meenakshi, The Perishable Empire : Essays on Indian Writing in English, First Published 2000, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
3. Naik, M.K., "A History of Indian English Literature", First Published 1982, Reprinted : 2009, Sahitya Akademy, New Delhi – 110028.
4. Sur. A. K. "History and Culture of Bengal" First Edition : 1992, Published – Best Books, IA College Road, Calcutta – 700009.

Jayprakash A. Parmar

Assistance Professor

Department of English

Smt. Y. J. J. Doshi Commerce and H. B. Arts College

Talaja, Dist - Bhavnagar