

THE ROLE OF INDIAN LITERATURE REFLECTIONS IN INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

¹Bakka Hanumantha Rao, ²T. Ashok

¹Research Scholar, Department of English, Adikavi Nannaya University, MSN Campus, Kakinada District, Andhra Pradesh, India

²Registrar & Professor, Department of English, Adikavi Nannaya University, MSN Campus, Kakinada District, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT: Literature and revolutionaries from that era contain seeds of the major movements and revolutions that occurred in the around the world. Literature has played a vital role in instigating, inspiring and guiding the movements around the world. Examples of movements with a significant literature component include the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, the Peasants' Revolt in Middle Age England, the Indian Freedom Movement, etc. Newspaper writings and political pamphlets are significant sources of such literature which influenced the movements around the world. The newspaper articles and pamphlets by Jonathan Mayhew, John Dickinson, Tom Paine, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Milton, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, etc. have played the judgmental role in the mass movements. This paper explains Indian literature reflections at the time of the Indian freedom struggle. In between 1857 and 1947, Indian literature became an active force in the nation's fight and also shows freedom struggle. It also shows a cultural movement, where novels, poetry, essay and plays worked as powerful tools of resistance. Some writers, like Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Mahatma Gandhi, Subramania Bharati, and others use words like patriotism, unite communities, and challenge colonial authority to inspire people. Therefore, this study explains the mode of struggle during a time of freedom and motivates people through their literature.

KEYWORDS: Revolutions, Indian Freedom Movement, Indian Literature, Freedom Struggle, Writers, Nation

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian War of Independence, sometimes referred to as the First War of Independence or the Indian Rebellion of 1857, was a significant moment in Indian history. In addition to having a significant

impact on politics and society, this armed uprising against British colonial rule had a lasting impact on the country's literature and culture. The struggle generated a rich academic tradition that represented resistance and the need for change. It also became a major factor in the recovery of culture and the development of an unified national identity. Studying the literary and cultural aspects of this significant historical event can help one better understand its significance and lasting legacy. All things considered, the Indian War of Independence significantly changed Indian literature and culture. In addition to inspiring folk traditions, affecting language usage, and shaping the cultural symbols and icons connected to the conflict for independence, it gave rise to an increase of nationalistic literature.

During the Indian people's struggle against British colonialism, these cultural manifestations were crucial in generating public support and impacting their collective consciousness. Evoking feelings: By evoked emotions around oppression or injustice that people had endured for a long time, art helped nationalists in their struggle. By showing their poor living conditions and atrocities, it helped in making the bourgeoisie and elite increasingly receptive to the suffering of the average person.

What had previously been largely dominated by songs and bhajans based solely on gods and goddesses was replaced by a sense of nationalism. It impacted people by showing brutalities and battle scenes between Indian and British soldiers,

as well as by inspiring people to write and sing patriotic plays, stories, and poetry. Poetry and fiction were utilized to foster a nationalist discourse and for patriotic purposes. Indian art's ability to overcome linguistic barriers aided in the visual and performing arts' ability to break through linguistic disparities throughout the country. Additionally, many common people were able to participate in India's freedom struggle due to nationalist literature written in their native language. In order to increase awareness of the British atrocities against Indians and to inspire people to fight for their country, writers and poets like Rabindranath Tagore, Josh Malihabadi, Muhammad Iqbal, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Mohammad Ali Jouhar, and Kazi Nazrul Islam used speech, poetry, and literature.

The emancipation of Indian women and their engagement in national politics was made easier by the involvement of female leaders such as Sarojini Naidu and Begum Rokeya. *Devi Chaudharani* by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay proved to be an inspiration for women to take up the cause of independence. He made a woman the struggle's leader and protagonist in this book. In both books, women do take up arms, but they do so while exhibiting the values of love. *Anandamath* also had a strong female character.

Indian artists attempted to revive their cultural identities, which the British had suppressed, as the Swadeshi movement's revival of cultural identities began to gain popularity. As a result, the Bengal School of Art was established, inspired by Abanindranath Tagore's redefined Indian styles with an emphasis on nationalism. Abanindranath Tagore's painting "The Passing of Shah Jahan," which evoked the recent past of Indian history, which was viewed as glorious, is an example of this. Folk traditions proved to be a source of inspiration for numerous other artists, including Jamini Roy and SH Raza. A

literary propaganda tool was utilized and played a significant role in propaganda. In addition to increasing social and political awareness among Indians, newspapers like *Bande Mataram*, *Jungantar Patrika*, and *Harijan* also aimed to bring people together for a common cause. Critical information and anti-British propaganda were presented in pamphlets that were written and disseminated throughout India. Create a message of patriotism: Literature and art were used to expose British atrocities and promote a spread of patriotism.

Chattopadhyay emphasized a number of patriotic acts and sacrifices made by his characters in *Anandamath*, which is set during the Bengal famine. These individuals were common people who left their homes and families to fight against rule and in service of the Mother. First published as a poem in this book, the national song *Bande Mataram* serves as the characters' rallying cry, inspiring them to fight against the British and giving them courage. Thus, literature and the arts were crucial to India's fight for independence. It gave the development of a large number of nationalist artists who attempted to use their art to change the public's perception. It provided an inspiration for mass resistance to colonial forces in addition to bringing about a silent criticism of colonial atrocities.

The most of the Indian freedom struggle fought with a pen due to Gandhi's determination to keep the freedom movement nonviolence way. It was the pen that alerted the public consciously to fight for their fundamental rights therefore it was known as the saga of pride which inspires us to determine to uphold the value of own rights. The factual life protagonists in the freedom struggle were poets and authors who joined with literature and gave a noteworthy benefaction towards the society. The well-known authors, including Munshi

Premchanda, Bankim, Muhammad Iqbal, Chandra Chattopadhyaya, and Rabindranath Tagore etc. handed-down the literature poetry, prose, novels as a means of communication and to spread awareness against the British colonial rule in India. They demonstrated the love for nation and motivated the people on of to fight for their own fundamental right of freedom. They ought freedom precisely because to defend, nurture and to build a progressive country. They exceptionally well know about that if people are not free from the British rule afterward nobody will regard the country. The present research study is based critical analysis with reference to the eminent contribution literature in Indian Freedom Struggle. The Indian freedom struggle is a movement was mainly formulated on the subject of Indian nationalism because the British East India Company which was rooted its colonialism in the country for the sake of trade. It was the imposition of trade rule on Indian people and that's why the dominance of the British Empire was established in the Indian Subcontinent. The necessitous conditions state affairs regarding jobs and its pensions, lack of payment, and apprehensive about culture and racial dispassion. Thus, literature played an indispensable bite part in such kind of situation and it gave congenital to multitudinous poets and authors who tried to manifest the love, respect, fundamental duties toward the nation through their literature.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

"Kanthapura" (1938), written by Raja Rao, is a classic work of Indo-Anglican literature that examines the early 20th-century Indian independence movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. Through the protagonist Moorthy, the book embodies the core of Gandhi's teachings, highlighting in particular the significance of truth and non-violence in achieving freedom. In the novel, Moorthy promotes

integrity and non-violence among his fellow villagers, establishing comparisons between the teachings of the Bhagavadgita and the freedom movement. The novel includes aspects such as group prayers, the recitation of Harikatha, and the wearing of Khadi clothes while maintaining the community's deeply held Gandhian ideals. This study examines how Raja Rao's representation of the character Moorthy in his book [1] was affected by Gandhi's ideas.

In India, the Nationalist Movement led by the Congress marked a turning point for women's participation, especially after the 1920s. Satyagraha, nationwide strikes, and boycotts of legislative assemblies were all part of the movement. Even though women's involvement in these agitations was limited, it gave them a chance to come out and take part. There is no disputing the improvement it provided to women, despite regional variances and intensities. According to Wittgenstein, "the overlapping of many fibers, rather than the fact that one fiber runs through its entire length, is what gives the fiber its strength". Some of the realities and experiences of women's lives and worlds in India over the past 250 years are revealed and restored in this rich tapestry made of many fibers. By doing this, it broadens our understanding of history and, possibly, modifies our perception of Indian history in part [2].

Myths become embedded in almost every aspect of Indian culture. Mythology dominates everything from children's bedtime stories to language, from the performing arts to the arts, from religion to politics. Indian mythology is the source of all political expressions, including Ram Rajya and the nation's name, Bharata. Drama from mythology Takes the lead: In addition to spreading nationalist sentiments, mythological drama had the unintentional benefit of encouraging more women to attend the theater. Playwrights looked for ways to minimize nationalist

themes in a way that would avoid being restricted. That magic clock was supposed to be mythology. Another benefit of this genre was its widespread appeal. Nationalist theater began in West Bengal and quickly expanded throughout the country, performing for a packed audience that included both literary and political figures as well as common people. The Indian National Movement was significantly impacted by the effect of mythology on the country's freedom struggle [3].

Nationalistic ideas first appeared in literature at the start of the 19th century, and many authors started writing for patriotic and nationalistic reasons. People were inspired to join the freedom struggle and the movement was confirmed by literature. People were motivated by literature to give up everything for the sake of freedom. Literature was used to express the need for freedom. India believes that everyone ought to struggle for freedom as it is a natural state [4].

During the colonial era, authors of nearly all Indian languages and Indian literature in English in particular were major contributors to the development of nationalistic and anticolonial sentiments. The Indian people's souls were stimulated by the fiction produced in response to the colonial manipulative regime. They made the general people longed for freedom. They were essential in breaking free from the bonds of slavery. Many authors, including journalists, poets, lyricists, novelists, essayists, and orators, have written openly and fearlessly against the British government. To put it briefly, the nationalistic movement indicated the process by which India was to move away from colonial occupation and toward modern nationhood [5].

According to recent interventions, it may be profitable to reconstruct the history of India's nationalist movement using visual

culture in order to challenge colonial prejudices ingrained in official records as well as prevalent Congress teleologies. By closely examining Desh Chintan, a rich nationalist image from the 1930s, this article advances this theory. A significantly different picture of how the anti-colonial movement was conceptualized in the 1930s can be obtained by grounding Desh Chintan against a matrix of archival sources, banned literature, oral history interviews, and other posters from the time. According to this analysis, there was a time during the freedom struggle when there was real support for Gandhi's nonviolent program and unproblematic support for acts of retributive revolutionary violence [6].

Without acknowledging the role of women, the history of the Indian freedom movement would be lacking. The sacrifice made by India's newline women will take center stage. The tales of women's bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice abound in the history of the freedom struggle. The fact that hundreds of women fought alongside men is something that many of us forget. They fought with undismayed courage and true spirit. Indian women released themselves from a number of constraints and traditional domestic roles and responsibilities. Therefore, it is simply amazing and inspiring that women participated in the freedom struggle and national awakening. However, in a society where men predominate, it is difficult for women to fight as warriors. Even so, women made an effort to change the viewpoint of those traditionalists who believed that women should only handle household tasks. Furthermore, women fight against these problems in addition to giving their lives for them [7].

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw numerous changes in India. Social, economic, and political changes, religious discord, race clashes and conflicts, and the development of nationalism to overthrow

colonialism have all been observed during its amalgamation and transformation. *Gora* was written in 1907 by renowned novelist Rabindranath Tagore during a period of significant disruption in India. In *Gora*, Tagore presents *Gora* as the main focus of a growing nationalist movement who expresses the need to see India freed from British rule, a revolutionary working to change India, and ultimately a man of self-discovery. The book does an excellent task of capturing Tagore's concern for India [8].

In terms of literature and culture, the Indian War of Independence is extremely important. It generated an extensive amount of literary creations that preserved the spirit of resistance and provided an inspiration to succeeding generations. In addition, the revolution promoted a national identity that extended across geographical and religious boundaries. Furthermore, the war was crucial in forming India's independence movement and laying the groundwork for later demonstrations that ultimately resulted in the nation's freedom from British domination. The Indian War of Independence was greatly impacted by literature and cultural elements. Through the use of words in a number of literary forms, the struggle was remembered by future generations, a spirit of resistance was ingrained, and the masses were awakened. At the same time, cultural elements were used as unifying factors, giving the Indian populace a feeling of pride, identity, and inspiration that fueled their movement toward independence from British colonial control. A greater comprehension of the complex nature of the conflict and its persistent effects on Indian society is made possible by understanding the importance of literature and cultural elements in the Indian War of Independence [9].

In Indian history, the Freedom Movement holds a significant position. It is significant in history, politics, and society because it

led to the achievement of freedom on August 15, 1947. The Indians had a major awakening against British imperialism. Numerous revolts, rebellions, riots, and disturbances against British imperialism took place throughout India prior to the Great Mutiny of 1857, but the British government effectively put an end to them. Consequently, nationalism emerged as a response to the threat of foreign dominance. Additionally, Indian English literature generated a sense of patriotism and national consciousness. The great National Movement had a significant impact on Indian English novels during and after that time.(1915–1947) . The main focus in modern Indian English novelist Chaman Nahal's *The Gandhi Quartet* is the portrayal of the Indian freedom movement and Gandhiji's contribution to it. He faithfully portrays the conflicts fought between the Indians and the British Empire [10].

III. INDIAN LITERATURE REFLECTIONS IN INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Numerous works of patriotic poetry, dramas, novels, and short stories were produced that served as effective tools against British rule in India by illustrating the violence and oppression imposed upon Indians by the British. Many poets wrote revolutionary poetry during the fight for Indian independence from British rule, which encouraged young Indians to join the cause. During the Indian freedom struggle, the revolutionary poet Makhan Lal Chaturvedi's poem *Pushp ki Abhilasha* (A Flower's Desire) was used as an inspiration to the fighters. Furthermore, it is impossible to overlook the well-known pair of phrases offered by the legendary Indian freedom fighter Ram Prasad Bismal: "We will see how much strength is in the oppressor's arms, and the desire for martyrdom is in our heart". During the struggle for independence, this couplet motivated the Indian youth, and the

outcome is evident. Our nation is an independent one. In addition to this, Indian patriots published a number of news articles to awaken the Indian populace to the violence and oppression of British rule. "Sambd Kaumodi," edited by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, "Bande Mataram," written by Bipin Chndra Pal, and "Harijan," written by Mahatma Gandhi, were the major news publications of the era. Newspaper production and distribution were crucial to India's struggle for independence. These newspapers stoked nationalist feelings in the populace by educating them about the current state of their nation's decline at the hands of the English.

The history, society, and cultural elements of the era in which it was created are all reflected in literature. In basic terms, it illustrates the activities of people in that specific society. Societal realities are revealed through literature. The majority of literary works address social issues in great detail, portray actual societal events, and function as a mirror of society for people to view and make improvements where needed. It is also true that literature contains the seeds of the world's major movements and revolutions. Examples of revolutions with a significant literary component include the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, the Peasants' Revolt in England, and others. An attempt has been made to examine how the Indian Freedom Struggle is reflected in a few chosen literary works by notable Indian figures. Novels written by a select few literary figures are taken into consideration due to word and time constraints. Indeed, a great deal of research has already been done on the wide-ranging topic from a number of perspectives. An attempt has been made to understand the role that literature played in that movement and in maintaining the history of that significant movement in the Indian subcontinent through this study.

Secondary data sources functioned as the foundation for the information gathered for the study. To gather the information that was required, close observation was also conducted. Numerous published and unpublished sources, including relevant books, news articles, journals, websites, social media, and more, were used to gather secondary data. The current research is exploratory and descriptive in character. It is expected that these types of studies will validate the efforts made by novelists as literary personalities to both protect the glorious history of that era for future generations and to inspire the general populace for the revolution.

People became more patriotic as a result of literature. It made them feel something for their country. Literature was used to express the need for freedom. Through themes of nationalism and patriotism, literature inspired Indians to fight for their nation's independence. It acted as a catalyst for public awakening. The intellectual classes used literature to mobilize people. Indians were divided along caste and belief systems, but literature brought them together against the British. People were inspired to give their all for the cause of national freedom by literature, which taught them the value of freedom. A powerful weapon against British rule, patriotic poetry, novels, dramas, and short stories instilled an understanding of patriotism in the populace.

The goal of the study is to find out how the Indian Freedom Struggle is reflected in a few chosen literary works by notable Indian figures. Indeed, a great deal of research has already been done on the wide-ranging topic from a number of perspectives. The purpose of this study is to try to understand how literature contributed to that movement and the way it also helped to preserve the history of that significant Indian movement. Without a doubt, the Indian freedom movement had

an impact on every aspect of Indians' lives. It was also the same for the literary figures. Various themes within the framework of nationalistic movements for independence were the main themes that the writers of that era adopted.

A Situation in New Delhi in 1977, "This Time of Morning" in 1965, "Strom in Chandigarh" in 1969, "The Day in Shadow" in 1971, "Rich like Us" in 1985, "Plans for Departure" in 1987, and "Mistaken Identity" in 1988 are a few of the novels. From the final stages of the freedom struggle to the breakdown of democracy in the middle of the 1970s, the first six novels provide chronological accounts of Indian politics. Her first book, which celebrates the idea of freedom, is set in post-independence India. In addition to the literary works in the genre listed above, there are numerous other works that represent the Indian freedom struggle in a convincing and artistic manner. These novels are widely available in various Indian languages, and many of them have been translated into English. Assamese novelists' works have also been crucial in maintaining India's memory of its independence struggle. Acclaimed novelist Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, who won the Jnanpith Award, captures the reflects of the freedom struggle in the novel *Mrityunjay*. It is based on a single incident that happened during the last phase of the Indian independence movement in 1942. It is a unique novel written within the framework of the Indian freedom struggle. It tells the story of a train derailing in the Mayong area near Nagaon, Assam.

Near the end of the Indian independence movement, two different views caused it to split. The first was Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent approach, which was founded on passive resistance; the second was Subhash Chandra Bose's violence-based approach. Extremists believed that guerilla warfare was the only way to ensure freedom for the country. The novel is

based on the invaluable sacrifices made by a group of people who believed that guerrilla tactics would help their country become independent. Another novel that comes to mind is "Swargadapi," authored by Dhrubajyoti Bora, a celebrated Assamese novelist and Sahitya Akademi Award winner. It presents the story of a tea garden community freedom fighter. The author of this book has effectively captured the effects of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings on the tea garden community and the colonial rulers' policy of preventing them from participating in the fight for freedom. Another significant element of this book is its portrayal of women's involvement in the Indian independence movement. In this novel, Dhrubajyoti Bora's narrative aptly captures the socio political aspects of the time. The dominant themes of these literary works are the fight for independence from their civilization, culture, and historical roots.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Indian freedom movement holds enormous significance in human history and has an enormous impact on literature. Numerous novelists were affected by the struggle and its aftermath to produce their celebrated literary works that captured the main points of the conflict. Aspects of the freedom struggle are covered in the literature written before independence. Despite their lack of understanding and intelligence, the heroes of pre-independence literature were ordinary men and women who helped fight for freedom. They utilize different regional languages and are from different regions, castes, and social classes. However, their life's work was to free India from British rule. During the freedom struggle, Indian literature required us to give up neat classifications. The way that conflicting forces constantly interact to determine modern Indian society as a whole is similar to what we have discussed about the freedom movement. In other words, it is not the

case that one individual or group is reactionary and communal while another is secular, progressive, and nationalist. Texts that are still essential are those that discuss the cultural aspects of India's journey to independence.

V. REFERENCES

- [1] Rajendra Prasad Roy (2021). An Exploration of Gandhian Thought and Philosophy in Raja Rao's Kanthapura. Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR), Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2021.
- [2] Ray, B. (2005). Women of India: Part 3. New Delhi: SAGE.
- [3] Dr. Sanmathi Kumar (2020) "Impression Of Mythology On India's Freedom Struggle", International journal Of Multidisciplinary educational research, Issn:2277-7881, Volume:9, Issue:12(8)
- [3] Dr. Sanmathi Kumar (2020) "Impression Of Mythology On India's Freedom Struggle", International journal Of Multidisciplinary educational research, Issn:2277-7881, Volume:9, Issue:12(8)
- [4] Dr. Sheela Narwade (2022) "Role of Indian Literature in Freedom Struggle", Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research, issn no:2349-5162, Volume-9, issue-5
- [5] Hiral Soni (2019) "Nationalism in Indian English Literature", Sahityasetu peer reviewed journal, Issn:2249-2372, Volume-9, Issue-5
- [6] Kama Maclean (2013) "Imagining the Indian nationalist movement: Revolutionary metaphors in imagery of the freedom struggle", Journal of material culture, Volume-19, issue1, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359183513502408>
- [7] Shally Rani (2020) "Role Of Women In Indian Freedom Movement", IJCRT, Issn: 2320-2882, Volume8, Issue-4.
- [8] Singh (2021). A Portrayal of Nationalism in Rabindranath Tagore's Gora. Journal of Ravishankar University

(Part-A: SOCIAL-SCIENCE), 27(1), pp. 70-72.

- [9] Chiranjeevi, M. "Literature and Cultural Aspects in the Indian war of Independence", Anveshana's International Journal Of Research In Education, Literature, Psychology And Library Sciences Vol8, Issue – 3, 2023