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NAIPUNNYA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NIMIT)

(Affiliated to the University of Calicut, Accredited by NAAC with A++, ISO 9001-2015 Certified)

Pongam, Koratty East, Thrissur District, Kerala State, India, Pincode - 680 308

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From Chief Editor's Desk...

NAIVIGYAN is a multidisciplinary ISBN proceedings, covering research papers from Commerce, Computer science, Management, Languages and other related fields. The book provides a forum for compiling theory and comprehensive technical review articles of interdisciplinary and original research with significant research results and analyses in related areas and their applications. It is designed to provide a platform for academicians, researchers and practitioners to explore new arenas of knowledge. The aim of NAIVIGYAN is to give a highly readable and valuable addition to the literature which will serve as an indispensable reference tool for years to come.

We are pleased to publish the Sixth Edition of NAIVIGYAN, which includes an authoritative source of information in multidisciplinary areas. As the Chief Editor of NAIVIGYAN, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to authors who have contributed their research findings to NAIVIGYAN. Further, I would like to thank the Editors, and other supporting staff at Naipunnya Institute of Management and Information Technology, Pongam for the success of this proceedings.

NAIVIGYAN has been focusing on addressing the developing areas and to document this intellectual vibrancy will always be the key aspect of this book. We focus to promote knowledge and make the various academic developments in the world accessible to every section of society. The proceedings is a hub of diverse ideas and arguments and the articles in NAIVIGYAN are peer-reviewed to achieve this goal.

We are happy to receive contributions for our next issue from Academicians, Scholars and Practitioners and Industrialists to ensure the consistency and the success of NAIVIGYAN. We welcome comments and suggestions that would advance the objectives of the Journal.

Dr. Joy Joseph Puthussery
Chief Editor

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POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION OF SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Political socialization is a pivotal process where individuals develop their political values, beliefs, and behaviours, shaping their identity as citizens within a society. This paper examines the critical role schools play in political socialization, particularly among students. Schools serve as structured environments where young minds are introduced to civic responsibilities, governance systems, and democratic values through formal curricula, peer interactions, and extracurricular activities.

The study highlights that schools contribute to political socialization through multiple channels. Formal civic education provides foundational knowledge of political systems and processes, fostering critical thinking and global awareness. Extracurricular activities like student councils, debates, and political simulations offer practical experiences in democratic participation, reinforcing students' understanding of civic engagement. The school environment, including policies on civic education and the attitudes of teachers and administrators, further shapes students' political outlooks.

Research studies underline variations in political socialization due to factors such as family background, socioeconomic status, and cultural context. Findings indicate that schools with inclusive and democratic practices promote greater political efficacy among students, preparing them for active participation in governance.

Using comparative analysis, this paper evaluates the curriculum, classroom practices, and extracurricular engagement in diverse schools. The expected findings suggest significant differences in political awareness and engagement based on school type, regional context, and socioeconomic factors. This underscores the importance of tailored civic education to nurture informed and responsible future citizens.

Key words:

Political socialization, Civic education, Democratic values, Extracurricular activities, Socio- economic factors, Political efficacy

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. What is “Political Socialization”?

Political socialization is the process through which individuals acquire and internalize the values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours that are conducive to their participation in political life. This learning process encompasses the development of an individual's political identity, opinions on political systems, understanding of governance, and their role within society as political actors. Comparative studies have examined how various factors, including family, education systems, and cultural contexts, shape the political socialization of students.

Political socialization begins early in life and continues throughout one's lifetime. It involves the transmission of political culture from one generation to the next, ensuring the continuity of social and political norms. People are socialized through various agents, including families, peers, media, religious institutions, and schools, each contributing to shaping an individual's political outlook.

Political socialization not only informs individuals about political structures and systems but also shapes their attitudes toward political participation. It includes learning about authority, power dynamics, civic duties such as voting, and broader concepts like democracy, justice, and equality. It also helps people internalize norms of political behavior, such as respect for political pluralism and the rule of law.

Through this process, individuals come to adopt particular political ideologies—sets of beliefs about how society should be organized politically. These ideologies may range from liberalism, conservatism, socialism, to other political spectra, depending on the environment in which the individual is socialized.

1.2. Research studies on the topic

There are many studies and research done on this topic. A study focusing on adolescents in Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad, “analysed the role of schools in political socialization. It highlighted that educational institutions in these countries play a pivotal role in shaping students' political attitudes, with variations attributed to differing colonial histories and educational policies”.

In the United States, research has explored the impact of civic education on high school

students' political attitudes. Findings suggest that, “over the past few decades, there has been a decline in political engagement among students, with those in the year 2000 being less likely to participate in political activities compared to students in 1975”.

Another study examined the political socialization of high school students, emphasizing the influence of family structure. It found that students from different family backgrounds exhibited varying political orientations, indicating that familial factors intertwine with educational experiences to shape political attitudes.

Additionally, research on the role of schools in political socialization has been revisited, with studies indicating that the socioeconomic status (SES) of students can influence their political learning experiences. An increase in the mean SES of students over time has been observed, reflecting broader societal changes and impacting the political socialization process within educational settings.

These studies underscore the multifaceted nature of political socialization among school students, highlighting the interplay between educational environments, family backgrounds, and broader societal factors. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing effective civic education programs that foster informed and engaged future citizens.

1.3. Relevance of Political Socialization in Schools

Schools play an indispensable role in the political socialization of young people. As a structured environment where children spend a significant portion of their formative years, schools are uniquely positioned to impart knowledge about civic duties, rights, and political processes. While families lay the foundation of political values in early childhood, schools formalize and expand this learning through academic and social engagement.

Institutional Role of Schools: Schools serve as institutional environments that systematically expose students to the political system, national history, and civic responsibilities. The classroom provides a neutral space for the discussion of political matters, and students are encouraged to engage with complex ideas about governance, policy, and social justice. This structured approach helps students understand the practicalities of politics, including how governments are formed, how laws are made, and how societies are governed.

Fostering Civic Identity: Schools also contribute to fostering a sense of civic identity. They promote the development of a student's identity as a member of a political community, whether at the local, national, or global level. Through education in history, social studies, and civics, students learn about the importance of active citizenship, including the rights and responsibilities that come with being part of a democratic society.

Development of Political Efficacy: Political socialization in schools often aims to develop students' political efficacy—the belief that they can influence political processes and that their actions have an impact on governance. Schools that encourage open discussions and student involvement in governance (e.g., through student councils or mock elections) often produce students who are more confident in their ability to participate in the political system later in life.

Balanced and Neutral Exposure: Unlike other agents of socialization such as family or media, schools are expected to provide a balanced and neutral approach to political education. The formal education system is often designed to present multiple political viewpoints, allowing students to form their own opinions through critical thinking and analysis. This neutrality is crucial in fostering independent political thought and discouraging political bias.

1.4. Objective of the Paper

This paper explores how schools contribute to the political socialization of students through curriculum, peer interaction, and extracurricular activities. This paper aims to explore and analyse how schools contribute to the political socialization of students, focusing on the following key mechanisms:

Curriculum Design and Content: The paper will examine how the formal curriculum, especially subjects like social studies, history, and civic education, introduces students to political concepts, systems, and the workings of government. It will discuss how different educational systems approach the teaching of political knowledge and how this shapes students' political development.

Peer Interaction and Social Learning: The paper will also consider the role of peer groups and social interactions within the school environment. Peers can have a profound influence on political socialization, as students engage in discussions, debates, and social activities that expose them to different political opinions. This section will investigate how peer dynamics

contribute to shaping political attitudes and behaviours.

Extracurricular Activities and Civic Engagement: Extracurricular activities, such as student councils, debate clubs, and political simulations (e.g., model United Nations, model Parliaments/ Legislative assemblies), offer practical experiences that go beyond classroom learning. This paper will analyze how these activities help students gain hands-on experience with democratic processes and decision-making, thereby reinforcing their political socialization.

The overall objective is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the critical role that schools play in shaping the political outlook of future citizens, the methods they employ, and the outcomes of these processes. By doing so, the paper aims to highlight the importance of schools as key institutions in the development of informed, responsible, and active citizens.

This expanded introduction lays a detailed foundation for the rest of the paper, clarifying the importance of political socialization in schools, the processes involved, and what the paper aims to accomplish in analysing these mechanisms.

2. Role of Schools in Political Socialization

Schools are one of the primary agents of political socialization, playing a critical role in shaping young citizens' understanding of politics, democracy, and civic responsibility. Political socialization in schools occurs through both formal mechanisms—like curricula—and informal ones, such as peer interactions and the overall political culture of the school. This section explores the various ways in which schools contribute to the political socialization of students.

2.1. Civic Education

One of the most direct ways schools contribute to political socialization is through formal civic education. Civic education includes subjects like history, government, social studies, and ethics, all of which introduce students to key political concepts, structures, and ideologies.

Curriculum Design: The structure and content of the curriculum play a significant role in how students learn about their political systems. In most countries, topics such as democracy, voting rights, government institutions, and political history are included in the standard curriculum. This provides students with foundational knowledge about how

political systems work and what their roles as citizens should be.

Critical Thinking and Political Knowledge: Schools also foster critical thinking by encouraging students to debate political ideas, discuss current events, and engage with diverse political viewpoints. This ability to critically analyze political information is crucial for developing informed citizens who can participate meaningfully in democratic processes.

Global Awareness: In an increasingly interconnected world, many schools are incorporating global citizenship into their civic education curricula. This helps students understand their place not only within their nation but also in the global political landscape, contributing to a broader political consciousness.

2.2. School Environment

The school environment itself can act as a subtle yet powerful influence on students' political socialization. Schools can create political climates that shape students' attitudes towards authority, democracy, and civic engagement.

Authoritarian vs. Democratic School Environments: Schools that operate under strict, authoritarian principles—where student voices are minimized—may socialize students to accept hierarchical power structures without question. In contrast, schools that encourage student participation in decision-making and allow for more open communication create an environment that reflects democratic values. Such environments can foster political engagement and help students understand the importance of participation in democratic processes.

School Policies on Civic Engagement: Some schools have policies that encourage civic engagement, such as involving students in community service projects, organizing school-wide debates on political issues, or holding mock elections. These activities provide students with practical experiences in citizenship and civic responsibility.

2.3. Teachers and Administrators as Political Agents

Teachers and school administrators often act as key agents in the political socialization process, whether consciously or unconsciously. Their political attitudes, biases, and teaching styles can significantly influence students' political views.

Teachers' Role in Political Socialization: Teachers often serve as role models for students.

Whether they express their political beliefs explicitly or implicitly, they influence how students think about political issues. For example, teachers who encourage open discussions on controversial political topics can help students develop critical thinking skills and a balanced perspective. On the other hand, teachers who avoid political discussions or who present biased views can limit students' political understanding.

Bias in Political Education: One of the challenges schools face is ensuring that civic education is free from political bias. Some teachers may unintentionally (or intentionally) present a skewed view of political ideologies or parties, influencing students' political leanings. Ensuring that teachers present multiple viewpoints is crucial for fostering critical, independent thinking among students.

Professional Development for Teachers: To help teachers navigate political education without bias, many educational systems provide professional development in teaching civic education. These programs often focus on teaching methods that encourage debate and critical thinking while maintaining neutrality on political issues.

2.4. Extracurricular Activities as Tools for Political Learning

Beyond the formal curriculum, extracurricular activities also play an important role in political socialization. These activities allow students to actively engage with politics in ways that go beyond theoretical learning, fostering real-world political experiences.

Student Councils and School Governance: Many schools have student councils or other forms of student governance, which provide a microcosm of democratic processes. By participating in student elections, holding leadership positions, or engaging in debates about school policies, students learn about political participation, representation, and leadership. These experiences often shape their understanding of political systems and their role within them.

Debate Clubs and Political Awareness: Debate clubs offer a platform for students to engage with political issues in a structured manner. Through researching and arguing different sides of political topics, students develop a deeper understanding of political ideologies, public policy, and civic discourse. This also helps them hone their argumentation skills, an essential tool for future political participation.

Service Learning and Community Engagement: Some schools emphasize service learning, where students participate in community service projects as part of their

education. This experience can foster a sense of civic duty and social responsibility, helping students see the impact of their actions on their community and broader society.

2.5. Political Culture in Schools

The overall political culture of a school can deeply impact how students perceive politics. This culture is influenced by the leadership style of the administration, the school's policies on student involvement, and the broader community's political orientation.

Political Discussions in School: Schools that encourage open dialogue on political issues help students develop their political voice. By promoting a space where political discussions are welcomed, schools enable students to engage with different perspectives and develop a more nuanced understanding of political matters.

Modelling of Democratic Values: Schools that model democratic values, such as fairness, transparency, and respect for diverse viewpoints, can positively influence students' political socialization. These values often translate into students' understanding of how democratic systems should function in society.

This expanded section provides a more comprehensive look at the role of schools in political socialization. It emphasizes both formal and informal mechanisms, from the structured civic curriculum to the implicit lessons students learn from their school's political culture and their interactions with teachers and peers.

3. Methodology

3.1. Study Design: Comparative study of curriculum Content: Political education through subjects like civics, history, or social studies.

- **Classroom Practices:** Teaching methods, open discussions, and debates.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Participation in student councils, debates, Model UN, etc.
- **Cultural and Regional Contexts:** Differences in political norms and values across cultures or regions.

3.2. Sampling: I have selected few schools from different backgrounds, ensuring diversity (e.g., public/private, rural/urban).

3.3 Data Collection:

- Surveys/questionnaires were prepared for students to assess political knowledge, attitudes, and civic participation.
- Interviews with teachers and administrators about their approach to political education.

A. Survey for Students

Objective: Assess political awareness, attitudes, and civic engagement.

Sample Questions:

1. Political Knowledge:

- What is the role of a Member of Parliament/MLA in your country or State?
- Can you name the current head of government in your country/ state?
- What does the term "democracy" mean to you?

2. Political Attitudes:

- How important is voting in a democracy? (Likert Scale) (Not important / Very important)
- Do you think students should participate in political discussions in school? Why/Why not?

3. Civic Engagement:

- Have you ever participated in a school debate or discussion about political issues? (Yes/No)
- Are you a member of any student councils or clubs that discuss civic or political matters? (Yes/No)

4. Open-ended Questions:

- What do you think is the role of youth in shaping the future of your country?
- What political issue do you think affects your community the most, and why?

B. Survey/Interview for Teachers and Administrators

Objective: Understand the institutional approach to political education.

Sample Questions:

1. How does the school integrate political education into the curriculum?
2. Do you encourage students to express their political views in class? Why or why not?
3. What extracurricular programs does the school offer to foster civic engagement?
4. How do you handle politically sensitive topics in the classroom?

Data Analysis: The data was analysed to identify patterns and quantitative and qualitative differences in Political Socialization of School Students.

Survey Responses

A. Student Survey Responses

1. Political Knowledge (Closed-ended Questions):

- Example Question: *What is the role of a Member of Parliament/Congress in your country?*
- Response Options:
 - A. To represent citizens and pass laws (Correct Answer)
 - B. To enforce laws
 - C. To administer justice
 - D. I don't know
- Expected Outcome: Higher proportions of correct responses may indicate better knowledge dissemination in schools.

2. Political Attitudes (Likert Scale)

- Example Statement: *How important is voting in a democracy?*
- Response Scale:
 - 1 = Not important
 - 2 = Somewhat unimportant
 - 3 = Neutral

- 4 = Somewhat important
- 5 = Very important
- Expected Outcome: Aggregated scores can reveal the overall emphasis students place on democratic practices.
- 3. **Civic Engagement (Yes/No and Open-ended Questions):**
 - Example Question: *Have you ever participated in a school debate about political issues?*
 - Response Options: Yes/No
 - Open-ended Follow-up: *If yes, what topic did you discuss?*
 - Expected Outcome: Analyze how frequently and on what issues students engage in civic discussions.

B. Teacher/Administrator Survey Responses

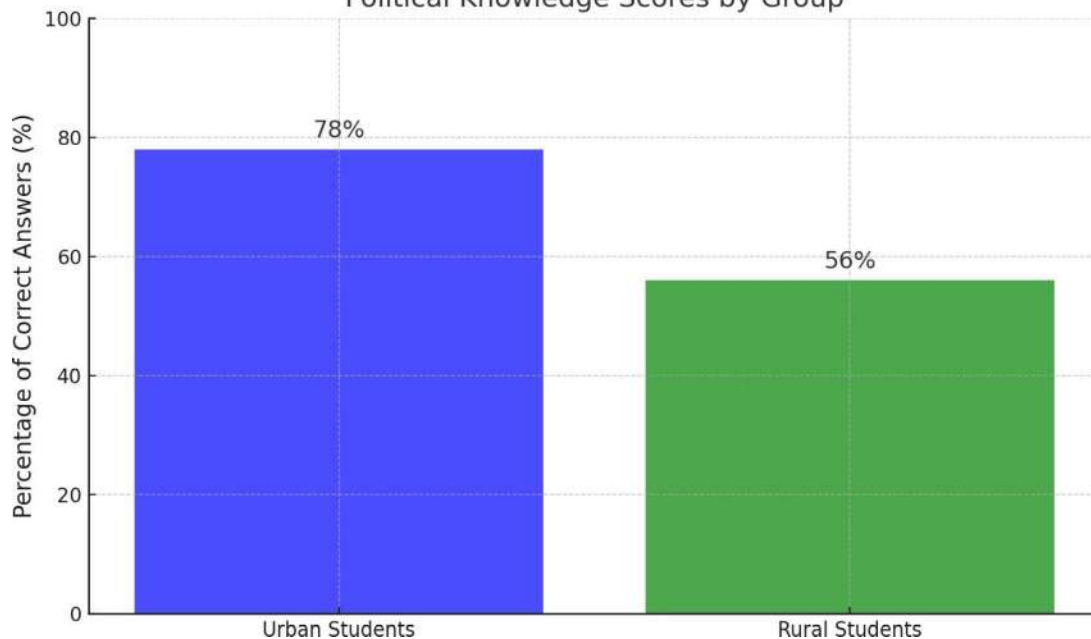
1. **Approach to Political Education (Multiple Choice and Open-ended Questions):**
 - Example Question: *How does your school incorporate political education into the curriculum?*
 - Response Options:
 - A. Through a dedicated subject (e.g., Civics, Social Studies)
 - B. Through integration into other subjects (e.g., History, Literature)
 - C. Through extracurricular activities
 - D. Not explicitly addressed
 - Open-ended Follow-up: *Provide an example of a political topic recently covered in class.*
2. **Challenges in Political Education (Open-ended Questions):**
 - Example Question: *What challenges do you face when discussing political topics in the classroom?*
 - Expected Responses: Examples might include reluctance to discuss controversial issues, lack of time, or curriculum restrictions.

Results Interpretation

A. Quantitative Data

1. **Political Knowledge Scores:**
 - Use percentages to show the proportion of correct answers per group (e.g., urban vs. rural students).
 - **Example:**
 - Urban students: 78% correct answers

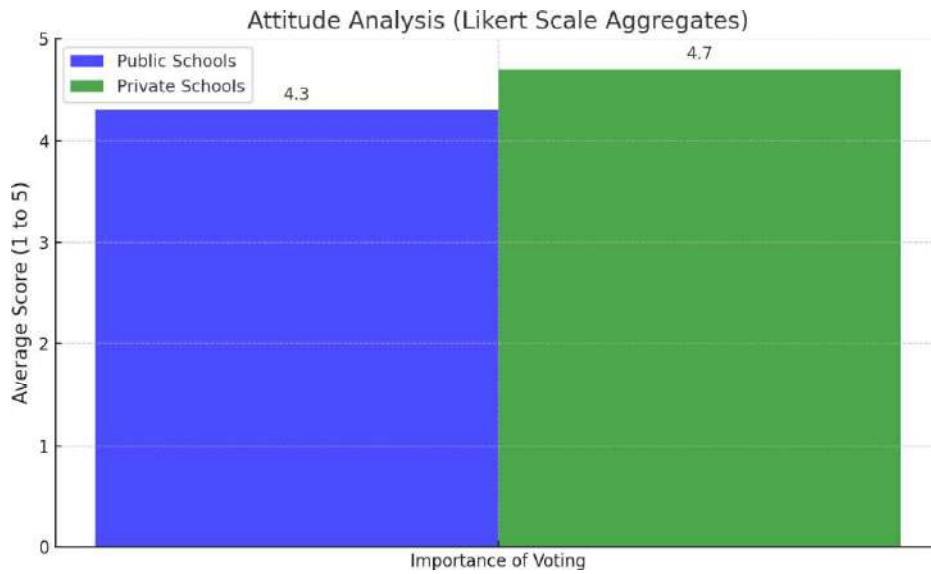
- Rural students: 56% correct answers
- Interpretation: Students in urban schools might have better access to political knowledge, possibly due to resources or curriculum differences.



- **Urban vs. Rural Schools:** Urban students demonstrated a higher level of political knowledge compared to rural students. For example:
 - **Correct Response Rate:** Urban schools (78%) vs. Rural schools (56%).
 - Possible reasons include better access to resources like newspapers, the internet, and a more comprehensive curriculum in urban settings.

Attitude Analysis (Likert Scale Aggregates):

- Calculate average scores for each question.
- **Example:**
 - "How important is voting?":
 - Public schools: Avg. score = 4.3
 - Private schools: Avg. score = 4.7
 - Interpretation: Both groups value voting highly, with private schools showing slightly stronger emphasis.



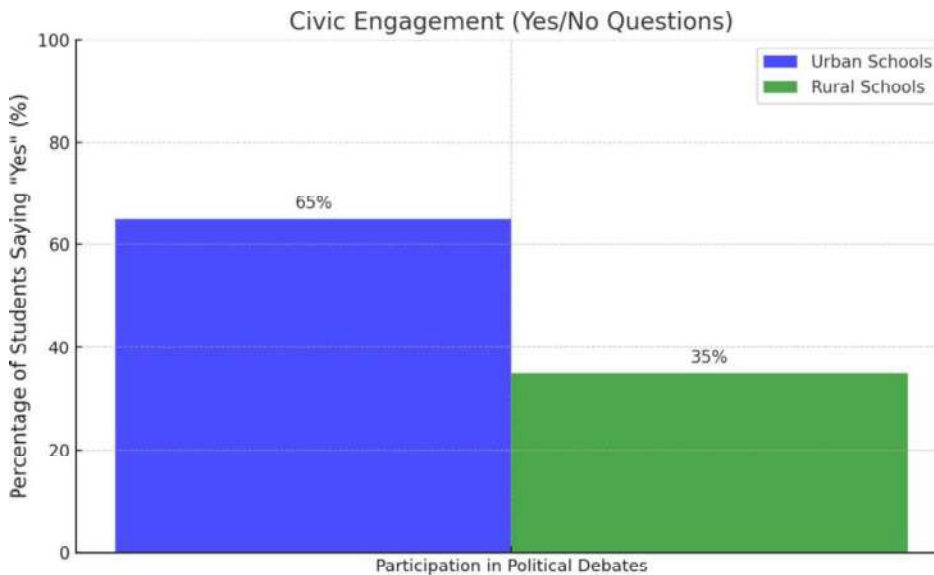
2. **Civic Engagement (Yes/No Questions):**

- Percentages of students who answered "Yes."

- **Example:**

- Students participating in political debates:
- Urban schools: 65%
- Rural schools: 35%

- Interpretation: Urban schools may provide more opportunities for civic engagement.



B. Qualitative Data

1. Open-ended Responses:

- Thematic analysis to identify recurring themes in responses.
- **Example:**
 - Common topics discussed in debates: Climate change, corruption, and voting rights.
- Interpretation: Schools are engaging students in current and relevant political topics.

2. Content Analysis of Teacher Responses:

- Identify patterns in challenges mentioned.
- **Example:**
 - Recurring challenges: Lack of training for teachers, sensitivity of political topics, and curriculum rigidity.
- Interpretation: These insights can inform recommendations for policy and teacher training programs.

Sample Result Summary

Key Findings:

- Political knowledge is higher in private and urban schools compared to public and rural schools.
- Most students believe voting is important, but rural schools lag slightly in fostering civic participation.
- Teachers face challenges in discussing politically sensitive issues, highlighting the need for professional development.

Recommendations: Based on the findings, here are practical recommendations to enhance political socialisation among school students:

1. Integrate experiential learning (e.g., mock elections, debates) to bridge gaps in civic engagement.
2. Provide teacher training to handle political discussions effectively.
3. Adapt curricula to ensure balanced and inclusive political education.

4. Curriculum Enhancement: Introduce a dedicated civics or political education module in all schools, focusing on:
 - Basic political structures and democratic values.
 - Contemporary global and local political challenges.
 - Case studies to foster critical thinking.
5. Teacher Training and Resources: Organize workshops for teachers to:
 - Develop skills to facilitate political discussions objectively.
 - Handle sensitive topics without bias.
 - Create interactive activities like mock elections or debates.
 - Provide access to teaching resources like multimedia tools, articles, and case studies.
6. Encourage Civic Participation: Establish or strengthen extracurricular programs like student councils, debate clubs, and Model UN. Partner with local governments and NGOs to involve students in real-world initiatives like environmental drives, voter registration campaigns, and community service

Conclusion

This comparative study underscores the role of schools in political socialisation while highlighting gaps that need attention. By addressing these challenges through targeted interventions, policymakers and educators can ensure that students become informed, active, and responsible citizens capable of contributing to democratic society.

The disparities in political socialisation between urban and rural schools, as well as private and public schools, reflect broader systemic inequities. While urban and private schools often provide richer, more comprehensive civic education experiences, rural and public schools face significant barriers in fostering political awareness and engagement. Addressing these disparities is essential to ensure that all students, regardless of their background, are equally prepared to participate in and contribute to a democratic society.

Schools are instrumental in shaping students' political attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Through formal civic education, peer interactions, and extracurricular activities, students

acquire political knowledge, develop civic identities, and learn the norms of political participation.

Civic Education as a Tool for Developing Political Awareness. The formal curriculum, particularly in subjects like history, social studies, and civics, is central to imparting political knowledge. Schools expose students to political systems, ideologies, and concepts such as democracy, justice, and citizenship, helping them understand their role within the broader political framework.

The political culture of a school and the attitudes of teachers and administrators can significantly influence the political socialization process. Schools that foster open discussion, student participation, and democratic values are more likely to produce politically engaged citizens.

Role of Extracurricular Activities: Student councils, debate clubs, and service-learning projects are crucial for providing practical political experiences. These activities allow students to actively engage in democratic processes, develop leadership skills, and understand the impact of civic participation.

To ensure the development of informed and responsible citizens, schools must strive to provide balanced, unbiased political education. Schools should ensure that the curriculum and teaching materials reflect a variety of political viewpoints. This encourages critical thinking and allows students to form their own political opinions based on a well-rounded understanding of political ideologies and systems.

Teachers should be trained to facilitate political discussions in a neutral, nonpartisan manner. Professional development programs can help educators navigate political education without imposing their own biases, thus promoting a more open and inclusive classroom environment.

Schools must also address the issue of political disengagement by making politics more relevant and accessible to students. Connecting political education to real-world issues that students care about and offering participatory opportunities can help combat apathy and foster a sense of political efficacy.

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A STUDY ON THE ACCESSIBILITY AND APPLICATION OF E-LEARNING AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

E-learning has revolutionized the education sector, offering flexibility, accessibility, and an interactive learning experience for students at various levels. This study explores the accessibility and application of e-learning among higher secondary and college students, focusing on factors such as availability of digital resources, technological literacy, internet connectivity, and student engagement. The research examines the effectiveness of e-learning platforms, challenges faced by students, and their impact on academic performance. The study also highlights disparities in access due to socioeconomic conditions and suggests strategies to enhance digital learning inclusivity. This study aims to explore the accessibility and application of e-learning among higher secondary and college students in the Uzhavoor Block Panchayath, with a specific focus on Emmanuel's Higher Secondary School (HSS) Kothanalloor, St. Ann's HSS Kurianad, and Deva Matha College Kuravilangadu. The research population consists of students from the seven higher secondary schools and two aided arts and science colleges within the block. The study investigates the level of access students have to e-learning resources, the effectiveness of e-learning platforms, and the challenges faced by students in utilizing these resources. The findings are expected to provide valuable insights into the current state of e-learning in this region, identify gaps in accessibility, and offer recommendations for enhancing the integration of digital learning tools in the educational process for both secondary and college students. This research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of e-learning in rural educational settings and its potential to improve academic outcomes.

Keywords: E-learning, Accessibility, Application, Technological literacy, Socioeconomic disparities

Introduction

E-learning is defined as learning that utilizes electronic technologies to access educational content outside of a traditional classroom setting. It typically refers to courses, programs,

or degrees delivered entirely online. Various terms, such as distance education, online learning, and internet learning, are used to describe this mode of education. According to research, e-learning involves the delivery of courses through the internet to students outside of a physical classroom, allowing for interaction between students and instructors (Smith, 2020). This interaction can be in real time, where students can engage through live virtual classes, or through pre-recorded lectures that can be accessed at any time. Regardless of the format, a teacher or professor is always involved in grading assignments, evaluating participation, and administering tests (Jones & Miller, 2018).

Significance of the Study

Technological development and the internet have changed people's lives on different scales, especially on teaching and learning. The web has become one of the channels of learning that opens the door for people around the world to access education for free, or for fewer costs. Booming of the internet have opened the door of unlimited knowledge, high quality education and training. This easy access using information systems and the web can improve people's skills for fewer costs. Knowledge delivering to some people would have never been possible without the opportunities offered by technology and the web. As we know that internet now a days became a basic amenity for living the concept of e-learning emerges from an innovative concept that the wider network of internet can be used for accessing knowledge. The barriers of learning contributed to the growth of e-learning and it emerged as one of the most profitable online venture to entrepreneurs. So the study on E-Learning nowadays have greater significance.

Statement of the problem

The study was to analyze the application and accessibility of e-learning among students. This study also aims at the level of adoption and frequency of usage of e-learning platforms among students. As we know that the scope of e-learning is widening day to day but many of the students are less aware about the benefits derived from different e-learning platforms. Now a day most of the students have internet accessibility in their respective educational institutions or at homes. Recent trend shows that the internet consumption among students are increasing in a larger scale but the problem is that the students are not utilizing or extracting the benefits of internet in an academic or educational level. Therefore this study was conducted to analyze that up to what level students are utilizing the scope of internet to get access to e-learning and also the quality of e-learning

infrastructure in their respective educational institutions and was titled as “A study on the accessibility and application of e-

learning among higher secondary and college students with reference to uzhavoor Block Panchayath

Objectives

1. To highlight the significance of e-learning in enhancing knowledge.
2. To know how the benefits of e-learning can be optimally extracted and applied in our academics.
3. To make a comparative analysis between college and higher secondary students on the basis of the e-learning infrastructure provided by their respective institutions.
4. To make valid suggestions for improving the accessibility of e-learning portals.

Materials and methods

The study employs a combination of descriptive and analytical research methods to assess students' awareness of e-learning and the frequency of its application in their regular academic activities. Data for the study were gathered from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected using a questionnaire administered to students, while secondary data were obtained from journals, books, magazines, websites, and additional discussions. This dual approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of students' engagement with e-learning.

The research focuses on students from educational institutions within the Uzhavoor Block Panchayath, specifically targeting higher secondary schools and aided arts and science colleges. The study includes students from Emmanuel's HSS Kothanalloor, St. Ann's HSS Kurianad, and Deva Matha College Kuravilangadu. A total of 60 students participated in the study, comprising 30 higher secondary and 30 college students, selected using the convenience sampling method. The collected data were analyzed using statistical tools such as percentages and the weighted average method, with the findings presented through tables and graphs for better interpretation.

Analysis

Statement	Number of respondents					T
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Unlimited repository of knowledge	27	26	7	0	0	60
Gives need based information	20	39	1	0	0	60
Knowledge across time constraints	27	23	10	0	0	60
Highly reliable information	12	19	21	7	1	60
TOTAL	86(35.8%)	107(44.58)	39(16.25)	7(2.9%)	1(0.77)	240

Classification of respondents on the basis of their preference of e-learning websites

Applications	No.of respondents	percentage
Wikipedia	40	66.66%
Nptel	12	20%
edex	4	6.66%
coursera	2	3.33%
Others	2	3.33%
total	60	100%

Classification on the basis of the level of optimum utilisation of benefits of e-learning in your academics:

1.Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Netrual 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree

Statements.	No.of respondents					T
	1	2	3	4	5	
Access to Descriptive teaching	4	7	16	26	7	60
Download study materials	5	9	21	14	11	60
Adoption of innovative study methods	8	4	20	11	17	60
Access to online courses	7	12	18	14	16	60
TOTAL	24(10%)	32(13%)	75(31.25%)	65(27.08%)	51(21%)	240

(Source: primary data)

Classification on the basis of the opinion on the argument of ways to extract the benefits of e-learning.

statements	No.of respondents	percentage
Making e-learning as a part of syllabus	34	56.66%
Making students aware about the benefits of e-learning	11	18.33%
Converting traditional classrooms to smart classrooms	15	25%
total	60	100%

(Source: primary data)

Comparative study on the e-learning infrastructures of schools and college within the samples selected

Response of higher secondary students

	Statements	1 (5)	2 (4)	3 (3)	4 (2)	5 (1)	Total weight	Weighte Avg.
a	Quality of your e-learning class room	10	19	1	0	0	94	3.13
b	Accessibility to internet and computer	4	16	9	1	0	113	3.76
c	Teachers motivation to use e-learning	5	12	10	0	1	104	3.46
d	e-learning awareness programmes	10	9	8	3	0	116	3.86

(Source: primary data)

Table no: 4.12
Response of college students

	Statements	1 (5)	2 (4)	3 (3)	4 (2)	5 (1)	Total weight	Weight. Avg.
a	Quality of your e-learning class room	9	16	4	1	0	123	4.1
b	Accessibility to internet and computer	10	12	6	2	0	120	4
c	Teachers motivation to use e-learning	12	5	11	1	1	116	3.86
d	e-learning awareness programmes	1	20	8	0	1	110	3.66

(Source: primary data)

Comparison between hss and college

statements	higher secondary	college	Statement favorable for:
Quality of your e-learning class room	3.13	4.1	College
Accessibility to internet and computer	3.76	4	College
Teachers motivation to use e- learning	3.46	3.86	College
E-learning awareness programmes	3.86	3.66	Higher secondary
Total	14.21	15.62	College

(Source: primary data)

Methods to improve the accessibility of e-learning.

statements	No.of respondents	percentage
Conducting e-learning awareness classes within school level	35	58.33%
Building e-learning infrastructure in classrooms.	11	18.33%
Making e-learning as a part of academics and syllabus	14	23.33%
total	60	100%

(Source: primary data)

Results and Discussions

The study analyzed the awareness, adoption, and impact of e-learning among 60 students, including 30 higher secondary and 30 college students. The findings reveal that a significant proportion of respondents (44.58%) agree that e-learning plays a crucial role in enhancing knowledge, while 35.8% strongly agree with this statement. Additionally, 56.66% of students believe that integrating e-learning into the syllabus is the best way to maximize its benefits. However, when assessing the extent of utilization, 30.36% of respondents maintained a neutral stance on whether they are fully optimizing the benefits of e-learning, while 26.31% agreed and 20.64% strongly agreed that they were making the most of the available resources. These findings indicate that while students recognize the value of e-learning, there are gaps in its effective utilization, necessitating targeted interventions to increase engagement and adoption.

The adoption patterns suggest that mobile applications are the most frequently used e-learning platforms, with 75% of respondents relying on them for online learning. Among these, Byju's emerged as the most preferred app (43.33%), Wikipedia as the most commonly used website (66.66%), and YouTube as the most favored social media platform (35%) for educational content. A comparative analysis of e-learning infrastructure between higher secondary and college students revealed that college students have better access to smart classrooms (weightage 4.1), computers, and internet facilities (weightage 4). Teachers in colleges are also more motivated to incorporate e-learning into their teaching methodologies (weightage 3.86). However, higher secondary students reported a slightly higher participation in awareness programs regarding e-learning (weightage 3.86), highlighting the need for improving infrastructural support in schools to bridge the digital divide.

To further enhance e-learning accessibility, 58.33% of students suggested that organizing awareness programs at the school level would be beneficial. This recommendation aligns

with the need to strengthen digital literacy and ensure equal access to technological resources. While e-learning has gained traction among students, infrastructural disparities between higher secondary and college institutions, along with varying levels of engagement, indicate a need for structured policies to integrate e-learning more effectively into the academic framework. The findings of this study emphasize the importance of improving technological access, providing training for educators, and fostering a supportive digital learning environment to maximize the benefits of e-learning in educational institutions.

CONCLUSION

The study was conducted to understand the application and accessibility of e-learning among students. Today in this technology driven atmosphere electronic gadgets plays a vital role in connecting people. E-learning in that respect can be considered as one of the significant contribution of technology i.e. it connects teachers with potential students in which knowledge is transmitted via internet computers and other electronic devices. The study points out that e- learning is an unlimited repository of knowledge which can be accessed anytime without time constraints. Bijou's app, Wikipedia and YouTube are the most common platforms that respondents prefer which gives a hint that popularity plays a significant role in their preference. Majority of the respondents have a neutral opinion about their level of optimum utilization of benefits of e-learning. According to the opinion of the respondents the best way to extract the benefits of e-learning is by making e-learning as a part of the syllabus. The study also made a comparative analysis between the e-learning infrastructure of their educational institution. The study shows that the quality of e-learning class rooms, motivation of teachers to use e-learning and awareness programmers are better in college that higher secondary schools. Access to internet and computer are high in higher secondary schools. so to conclude e-learning plays a very significant role in the new era the scope and accessibility wanted to be widened then it can be transformed into a most vital element in human resource development.

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A STUDY ON CUSTOMERS SATISFACTION TOWARDS CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS APPS

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Abstract

Digital India becomes a new program by the Government of India, which also promote cashless economy. In growing information technology is great help and catalyst to the people to make cashless transactions. The present study tried to analyse the awareness level of the customers' towards cashless transaction apps, identify the problems faced by the customers while using cash less transaction apps and also understand the customers' level of satisfaction towards cashless transaction apps. Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. Customers' are facing certain problems such as security concerns and lack of technical skills etc. The respondents are highly satisfied among the speed, accuracy, reliability and security features of cashless transaction apps.

Keywords: Cashless Transaction Apps, Awareness, Problems, Preferences,

Satisfaction Introduction

In India, where cash transactions dominate daily life—accounting for approximately 95% of transactions—only 15% are conducted electronically. According to the World Bank Development Report (2013), shifting to electronic payments could save over 1% of India's GDP. The report emphasizes that while cash may still be widely used, electronic payments are far more efficient, helping to reduce costs related to cash handling, transportation, and risks of theft or counterfeiting. In light of this, there is a concerted push to encourage people to adopt cashless transactions, leveraging technological advancements. With the rise of the internet, smartphones, and mobile banking, digital payment methods such as credit cards, debit cards, and mobile apps are becoming more accessible, simplifying consumer payments. The Government of India has implemented several initiatives to promote cashless transactions, including digital payment incentives like the Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Vyapar Yojana, along with concessions such as the cancellation of service charges, cash discounts, and reward points. These efforts are aimed at increasing digital adoption among

citizens and encouraging businesses to embrace electronic payments. Additionally, both direct and indirect measures, such as restrictions on cash transactions, have been introduced to discourage the use of cash. As a result, the growing adoption of cashless payments is gradually transforming India's economic landscape, making transactions more efficient and secure.

Statement of Problem

A cashless economy involves transactions between individuals through digital payment gateways or plastic money, reducing reliance on physical cash. The government and RBI are promoting digital payment methods like prepaid cards to achieve a 'less cash' society, offering incentives such as discounts and freebies. Digital transactions bring transparency, scalability, and accountability, while reducing business risks like theft and counterfeit money. The study focuses on analyzing customer awareness, issues faced with cashless transaction apps, and their satisfaction levels with these apps. Given the growing importance of a cashless economy, the study holds significant relevance.

Objectives

1. To know the consumer awareness about Cashless Transactions apps.
2. To identify the problems faced by the customers while using Cashless Transactions apps.
3. To analyse customers level of satisfaction towards cash less transactions Apps.

Hypothesis

H1: There is a significant association between educational qualification of the respondents and their level of awareness towards cashless transactions apps.

H2: There is a significant association between reasons for choosing the cashless transaction apps and the respondents' level of satisfaction.

Research Methodology

The present study is both descriptive and analytical in nature. Both primary data secondary data were used for the study.

Sources of Data

The primary data collected from 100 respondents residing in Chalakudy using

convenience sampling method. A well-structured questionnaire is prepared for the study. First part of the questionnaire includes the socio- economic profile of the respondents and the second part includes the questions related to the objectives formulated for the study. The secondary data is collected through journals, books and websites

Sample Design

- Sampling Size

The sample size of the study is 100 cashless transaction apps users in Chalakudy.

- Sampling Method

The sampling method used for the study is convenience sampling method.

Tools Used For Data Analysis

Simple percentage is used for analyzing the collected data. Chi – square is used for testing the hypothesis with the help of SPSS 21.0

Limitations of Study

The awareness and satisfaction of customers' towards cashless transaction apps is limited to only four popular cash less transactions apps such as paytm, phone pay, googlepay and mobiwik.

Review of Literature

Parvathi Subrahmani (2021) explored the impact of the pandemic on digital payments in India, highlighting the advantages of digital transactions, such as ease, security, and transparency, and the role of the banking sector in promoting these methods. She noted that the pandemic accelerated the shift to digital payments, although transaction volumes initially declined due to lockdowns. Sharif Mohd (2020) examined consumer perceptions of digital transactions, finding challenges such as poor network connectivity, security concerns, and low digital awareness, which hindered widespread adoption. Suliman A. Salem Ben Ghrbeia (2020) investigated issues affecting digital payment adoption and suggested improvements to enhance customer service and loyalty, finding strong correlations between ease of use and benefits, but weak correlations with security and customer trust. Dr. M. Somasundaram (2020) studied the impact of demographic factors on consumer perceptions of digital payments in Tamil Nadu, concluding that security and

user-friendliness need to be improved

for greater adoption. Dr. C. Mallesha (2020) focused on urban and rural consumers' perceptions of e-payment systems, emphasizing the role of digitalization in India's future economy and the growing awareness of digital payment systems. Kavin Krishna (2019) studied Generation Z's preferences for digital payments, finding that youth satisfaction and user interface improvements are key for payment app providers. Dr. S. Yuvaraj and Sheila Eveline N (2018) investigated consumers' perceptions of cashless transactions, revealing that factors such as privacy, security, and convenience influence preferences, with many consumers aware of information security issues. The research collectively indicates that while digital payments offer significant advantages, challenges such as security concerns, digital literacy, and infrastructure need to be addressed to ensure widespread adoption.

Result and Discussions

Table 1 Awareness level of the Respondents Towards cashless transactions Apps

Facilities	Highly aware (%)	Aware (%)	Somewhat aware (%)	Not much aware (%)	Not at all aware (%)
Fund transfer facility	68	20	10	2	0
Security threats	40	22	18	15	5
Cash bank facilities	35	26	24	10	5
Bill payments	55	32	13	10	0
Transaction cost	23	35	7	15	20

(Source: primary data)

The Table 1 shows that the respondents level of awareness towards cashless transactions apps. The survey result shows that majority of respondents are highly aware about fund transfer facilities, security threats, cash back facilities, bill payments and transaction cost. Some respondents are aware and somewhat aware about the facilities.

Table 2 Reasons for Choosing Cashless Transaction Apps

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
Privacy	9	9
24*7 Business Hours	36	36
Convenience	16	16
Small Gains	13	13
Easy To Use	11	11
Savings Time And Speed	12	12
Lower Risk	3	3

(Source: Primary Data)

The Table 2 shows that most of the respondents felts that the “24*7 business hours” provided by the cash less banking is the highest motivating factor for an individual to use cash less transaction apps and rest prefer “privacy”, “convenience”, “small gains” etc.

Table 3 Problems faced by customers while using cashless transaction apps

Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Security Concerns	35	35
Quality of service	5	5
Lack of technical skill	30	30
Lack of specialise equipment	15	15
Extra Charges	10	10
No grievance body	5	5
Total	100	100

(Source: Primary data)

Table 3 shows the problems faced by the respondents towards cashless transaction apps. From the analysis it is clear that 35% percentage of the respondents are facing problem due to security concerns. 30% of the respondents are having problems relating to lack of technical skills. Lack of specialised equipment (15%), Extra charges (10%), Quality of services (5%) and no grievance body are also the major problems. So majority of the respondents are have problems related to security concerns (35%) and lack of technical skills (30%)

Table 4 Customers Level of satisfaction towards cashless transaction apps

Purpose	Highly satisfied (%)	Satisfied (%)	Neutral (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Highly dissatisfied (%)
Speed of transaction	38	32	25	5	0
Accuracy	43	27	18	3	0
Security features	36	28	22	10	4
Reliability	32	29	21	18	0

(Source: Primary Data)

The table 4 shows that the level of satisfaction of respondents regarding cashless transaction apps. By analysing the result it is clear that most of the respondents are highly satisfied among the speed, accuracy, reliability and security features of cashless transaction apps.

Chi - Square Test

Aim: To test the significant association between the Educational Qualification and Level of Awareness among the Customers towards the Cash less Transaction Apps.

Chi square test result

	value	df	Asymp.Sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chi - Square	65.605	15	0.000

The Chi- Square result shows the association between educational qualification of the respondents and level of awareness towards cashless transaction apps. From the result it is seen that the Pearson Chi – Square value is 65.605, p value = 0.000 i.e the chi square test result is less than the alpha level of significance of 0.05. This tells that there is a statistically association between educational qualification of the respondents and level of awareness towards cashless transaction apps.

Aim: To test the significant association between reasons for choosing cashless transaction apps and their level of satisfaction among the Customers towards the Cash less Transaction Apps.

Chi square test result

	value	df	Asymp.Sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chi - Square	78.605	18	0.000

The Chi- Square result shows the association between reasons for choosing cashless transaction apps and their level of satisfaction among the Customers towards the Cash less Transaction Apps. From the result it is seen that the Pearson Chi – Square value is 78.605, p value = 0.000 i.e the chi square test result is less than the alpha level of significance of 0.05. This tells that there is a statistically association between reasons for choosing cashless transaction apps and their level of satisfaction among the Customers towards the Cash less Transaction Apps.

Findings

- Most of the respondents are graduate in this study.
- Majority of respondents are highly aware about fund transfer facilities, security threats, cash back facilities, bill payments and transaction cost.
- From the analysis it is clear that 35% percentage of the respondents are facing problem due to security concerns. 30% of the respondents are having problems relating to lack of technical skills.
- Most of the respondents are highly satisfied among the speed, accuracy, reliability and security features of cashless transaction apps.
- The chi – square (chi- square value = 65.605, p value = 0.000) result shows that there is a significant association between the educational qualification of the customers and their awareness level.
- The chi – square (chi- square value = 78.605, p value = 0.000) result shows that there is a significant association between reasons for choosing cashless transaction apps and their level of satisfaction among the Customers towards the Cash less Transaction Apps.

Conclusion

Information technology has paved the way to the development of many industries. Banking industry is also making use of information technology in their day to day activities. Cash less services is one of the recent trends in electronic banking. The cashless transactions create a paperless environment in the field of banking. Many customers' especially salaried employees, business man, professionals and college students are making use of this facility. Factors like 24 hours availability, convenience are the most important factors induce the customers towards cash less transactions. Customers' are facing certain problems such as security concerns and lack of technical skills etc. The study reveals that respondents are highly satisfied among the speed, accuracy, reliability and security features of cashless transaction apps. But all the customers are not sure about the security of transactions and unaware about all the online transactions. Therefore they cannot enjoy the benefit of new services which are offered through online transactions. So the banks should adopt various innovative programs for creating awareness for improving the usage of cash less transactions among the public.

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A STUDY ON BORROWERS' SATISFACTION TOWARDS HOUSING FINANCE

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Abstract

Housing is a key asset and plays a vital role in economic development, particularly in developing countries like India. The demand for housing in India is driven by factors such as population growth, urbanization, demographic changes, and increased participation of women in the workforce. However, a significant portion of the population, especially those in the middle and lower-income groups, faces challenges in securing funds to meet housing expenses. This has led to the growing importance of housing finance institutions, a relatively new concept in India. The rapid development of the housing sector has led to increased competition among housing finance institutions. Customer satisfaction, influenced by both soft and hard service systems, plays a crucial role in the survival and success of these institutions. This study addresses critical questions related to the factors influencing borrowers' financial decisions, their criteria for selecting loan providers, their expectations from these institutions, and how these factors contribute to overall satisfaction. The findings aim to provide insights that can help housing finance institutions enhance their service delivery and meet the evolving needs of borrowers.

Keywords: Housing finance, Borrowers Financial Decision, Borrowers Choice Criteria, Borrowers Expectation, customer satisfaction.

Introduction

Housing is a significant asset and plays a crucial role in economic development, especially in developing countries like India. In India, the demand for housing is driven by factors such as population growth, urbanization, the rise of nuclear families, increasing participation of working women, and improved access to bank financing. However, a large portion of the population, particularly in the middle and lower-income groups, faces financial constraints in meeting housing expenses, leading to the importance of housing finance institutions. Housing finance is a relatively new concept in India compared to other long-established financial services, but the rapid growth of the housing sector has fueled the expansion of the housing finance market. As competition intensifies among financial

institutions, customer satisfaction, influenced by both service quality and delivery systems, becomes vital for success. This study aims to examine the factors influencing borrowers' financial decisions, their criteria for selecting loan providers, and the impact of these factors on overall satisfaction with housing finance institutions.

Statement of the Problem

India has experienced a significant rise in housing demand, particularly in urban areas, driven by factors such as increased income levels, urbanization, a younger earning age group, and the nuclearization of families (Singh, Kumar, & Prasad, 2013). The need for borrowed funds is often prompted by a lack of personal savings, lower interest rates, and tax benefits, with easy access to affordable institutional finance being crucial for accelerating housing activity. The housing finance sector faces intense competition and technological advancements, making it essential for loan providers to meet customer expectations through high-quality services. Borrowers typically compare various housing finance schemes offered by institutions based on interest rates, repayment terms, and flexibility to find the most suitable option. Financial literacy, knowledge, and borrowing capacity play a significant role in their decision-making process. This study aims to explore the factors influencing borrowers' financial decisions, their selection criteria for loan providers, their expectations, and the impact of these factors on customer satisfaction, highlighting the importance of understanding borrower needs in the competitive housing finance market.

Review of Literature

Swadish S. and Surulivel S.T. (2016) studied customer expectations and satisfaction towards Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. They found that customers, particularly in the 30-40 age group, were satisfied with DHFL's services, preferring lower interest rates, timely loans, and minimal paperwork. Devasya T.T. (2014) analyzed housing finance services in Kerala, focusing on HDFC and LICHTFI. He concluded that LICHTFI, a public sector institution, offered more customer-centered services, while HDFC focused on quick loan disbursements but had lower post-loan customer satisfaction. Stephanie Moulton et al. (2013) examined first-time homebuyers' borrowing capacity and financial decisions, suggesting that financial coaching helped those with inaccurate perceptions of their debt levels. Ravneet Kaur (2013) compared customer

satisfaction between HDFC and GIC Housing Finance, noting that while no significant differences were found in the difficulties

faced, income groups had varying opinions on the service provided. Vijayakumar M. and Subburaj B. (2012) explored factors influencing housing loan purchase decisions and found that flexibility, processing fees, interest rates, and processing time were significant factors. Rashmi Chaudhary and Yasmin Janjhua (2011) analyzed customer perceptions and satisfaction towards Baghat Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, revealing high satisfaction with services such as transparency and employee cooperation, though procedural delays were a concern.

Objectives

1. The present study is undertaken with a view to analyse the level of influence of borrowers' financial decision, their choice criteria and their expectation on their level of satisfaction.

Hypothesis

- There exists a positive relationship between borrowers' financial decision and borrowers' satisfaction.
- There exists a positive relationship between borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' satisfaction.
- There exists a positive relationship between borrowers' expectation and borrowers' satisfaction

The Conceptual Model

On the basis of variables identified, a conceptual model developed for the study is shown in the figure 1.1.

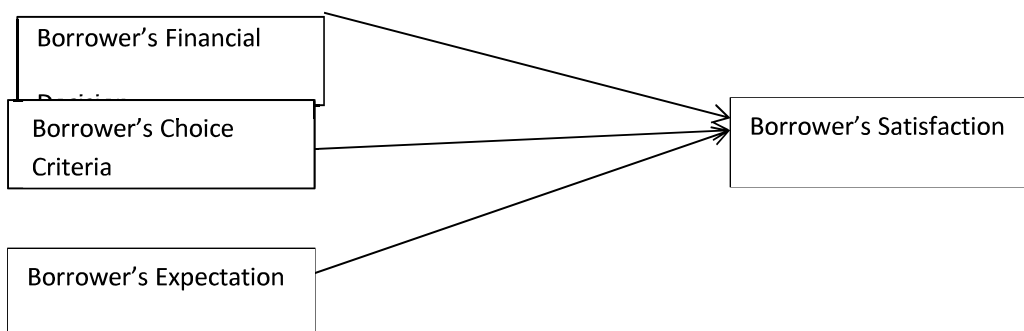


Figure 1.1: Conceptual Model

Research Methodology

This study adopts both descriptive and explanatory research methods, utilizing both primary and secondary data. The study focuses on housing finance borrowers from various banks and financial institutions in the Trissur and Ernakulum districts, with a sample of 200 respondents, including government employees, private employees, professionals, and self-employed individuals. A convenient sampling method was employed to select respondents who borrowed housing finance for purchasing or constructing new houses. Primary data was collected using a well-structured questionnaire, and the data were analyzed using SPSS 21.0, applying statistical techniques such as simple percentage, Chi-square test, correlation, and regression analysis. The reliability of the measurement scale was confirmed using Cronbach's Alpha, which exceeded the minimum acceptable level of 0.7.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The reliability of the instrument used in the study was tested by computing Cronbach's Alpha (α) value for each of the five variables as well as for the entire set. The test result is presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: Test of reliability

Sl. No.	Variables	No of items	Cronbach's Alpha (α)
1	Borrowers' Financial Decision	8	0.870
2	Borrowers' Choice Criteria	11	0.847
3	Borrowers' Expectation	6	0.791
4	Borrowers' Satisfaction	6	0.903
5	Total	31	0.952

The final values of Cronbach's Alpha (α) for the variables used in the study are presented in the above Table. From this it is seen that all factors had Cronbach's Alpha value above 0.7, which justified the reliability of the scale used for measuring variables.

Satisfaction is the happy or pleased feeling of the borrowers while availing housing finance from the various financial institutions. It means the satisfaction attained by the borrower from his actual experience. Satisfaction is the condition of a borrower when

experience with a product at least equals his expectation. The better approach to strengthen customer retention is offering maximum customer satisfaction. This is made possible by understanding their expectations and designing and delivering the home loan products or services to suit their requirements. Literature review undoubtedly established a strong relationship between Borrowers' Financial Decision, Borrowers' Choice Criteria, Borrowers' Expectation and Borrowers' Satisfaction in general. In this study an attempt is made to examine the influence of each variable on the Borrowers' Satisfaction.

Table 2: Correlation between Borrowers' Financial Decision and Borrowers' Satisfaction

		Borrowers' Financial Decision	Borrowers' Satisfaction
Borrowers' Financial Decision	Pearson Correlation	1	.571**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N		200
Borrowers' Satisfaction	Pearson Correlation	.571**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	200	

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

From the above statistical results (Table 2) it is inferred that Borrowers' Financial Decision and Borrowers' Satisfaction are positively correlated each other (0.571). It indicates the extent to which two variables are linearly correlated. The probability value associated with the correlation is less than 0.01. It indicates that there is a positive relationship between Borrowers' Financial Decision and Borrowers' Satisfaction. Hence, the third hypothesis formulated for the study, **there exists positive relationship between Borrowers' Financial Decision and Borrower's Satisfaction, is accepted.**

Borrowers collect and compare information when evaluating their options. Choice criteria are simply refers to collection and comparison of the available information with the alternatives and choose a suitable source of housing finance institution. Before reaching a borrowing decision from a particular financial institution the borrowers do consider so many factors. This part of the study attempts to assess the awareness, attracting factors and affordably level of the borrowers towards the lending institutions and its influence on their choice decision.

Table 3: Correlation between Borrowers' Choice Criteria and Borrowers' Satisfaction

		Borrowers' Satisfaction	Borrowers' Choice Criteria
Borrowers' Satisfaction	Pearson Correlation	1	.656**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N		200
Borrowers' Choice Criteria	Pearson Correlation	.656**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	200	

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

From the statistical results (Table 3) it is inferred that Borrowers' Choice Criteria and Borrowers' Satisfaction are positively correlated each other (0.656). It indicates the extent to which two variables are linearly correlated. The probability value associated with the correlation is less than 0.01. It indicates that there is a positive relationship between Borrowers' Choice Criteria and Borrowers' Satisfaction. Hence, the fourth hypothesis formulated for the study is accepted which is also stated here that, **there exists a positive relationship between Borrowers' Choice Criteria and Borrower's Satisfaction.**

Customer expectation is the outcome a customer expects out of his perception. Expectation is the anticipation or belief of the borrower about the home loan products and services at the time of availing loans from a financial institution. The borrowers become satisfied if they got everything as his expected level. So it is appropriate to study the Borrowers' Expectation towards the housing finance products and services.

Table 4 : Correlation between Borrowers' Expectation and Borrowers' Satisfaction

		Borrowers' Satisfaction	Borrowers' Expectation
Borrowers' Satisfaction	Pearson Correlation	1	.671**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N		200
Borrowers' Expectation	Pearson Correlation	.671**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	200	

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

From the statistical results (Table 4) it is inferred that borrowers' expectation and

borrowers' satisfaction are positively correlated (0.671). It indicates the extent to which two variables are linearly correlated. The probability value associated with the correlation is less than 0.01. It indicates that there is a positive relationship between borrowers' expectation and borrowers' satisfaction. Hence, the sixth hypothesis formulated for the study, there exists a positive relationship between borrowers' expectation and borrowers' satisfaction, is accepted.

Influence of Borrowers' Financial Decision, Borrowers' Choice Criteria and Borrowers' Expectation on Borrowers' Satisfaction

To find out the Influence of Borrowers' Financial Decision, Borrowers' Choice Criteria and Borrowers' Expectation on Borrowers' Satisfaction, multiple regression analysis was done. The result of the analysis is presented in the Table 5.

Table 5 : Statistical results of Borrowers' Financial Decision, Borrowers' Choice Criteria, Borrowers' Expectation and Borrowers' Satisfaction

Variables	Beta value	Sig	R2	djustedR2	ollinearitystatistics		Durbin Watson
					Tolerance	VIF	
Borrowers' Financial Decision	0.139	0.013	0.623	0.617	0.620	1.162	1.725
Borrowers' Choice Criteria	0.361	0.000			0.573	1.745	
Borrowers' Expectation	0.422	0.000			0.605	1.654	

Dependent variable: Borrowers' Satisfaction

From the above multiple regression analysis, it is inferred that the Beta value of influence of borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' expectation are 0.139, 0.361 and 0.422 respectively. Beta value shows how strongly independent variables influences borrowers' satisfaction. Here the Beta values of the independent variables borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria, and borrowers' expectation indicate that a change of one standard deviation will result in a change of 0.139, 0.361 and 0.422 respectively in standard deviation in the borrowers' satisfaction. The beta regression coefficient is allowed to make comparisons and to assess the strength of relationship between each predictor variables (Borrowers' Financial Decision, Borrowers' Choice Criteria, and Borrowers' Expectation) to the criterion variable (Borrowers' Satisfaction). The R2 is the proportion of the variance in the borrowers' satisfaction scores accounted for, by borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' expectation. In essence, it measures, how a good prediction of the

borrowers' satisfaction can make by knowing the borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' expectation. Here, adjusted R2 value of 0.617, point out that the model has accounted for 61.7 per cent of the variance in the borrowers' satisfaction. Durbin Watson is found in the last column of the table infer that whether the assumption of independent error is tenable. If the value is closer to two the result is better, and for this model the value is 1.725 which is very close to two hence, that assumption has almost certainly met.

So, the result of above analysis reveals that borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' expectation are significant and borrowers' expectation highly influencing on borrowers' satisfaction compared to other two independent variables and borrowers' financial decision has comparatively less influence on borrowers' satisfaction. The Collinearity Statistics in the table indicate the Tolerance value and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF). Tolerance and VIF used for assessing multicollinearity. Multicollinearity is the inter-relationship of independent variables, which should be avoided. VIF is a measure of Collinearity (it is the reciprocal of tolerance) in which a large value indicates a strong relationship between predicted variables. Here the VIF value is less than three which is very low so it can infer that there is no multicollinearity in this model.

Model Fit Indices and P Values

The figure 2 shows the research model with the relationship between the latent variables and also the indicators used to measure the variables. The number of indicators used to measure each latent variable and the indicators are also shown.

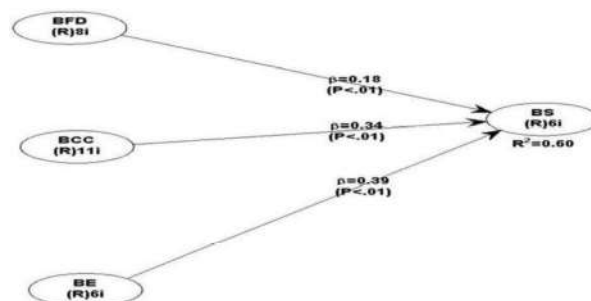


Figure 2 Research Model

(BFD – Borrowers' Financial Decision, BCC – Borrowers' Choice Criteria, BE - Borrowers' Expectation, BS – Borrowers' Satisfaction)

Table 6 : Model Fit Indices and P values – Research Model without Mediation

Average path coefficient (APC) =0.304, P<0.001
Average R-squared (ARS) =0.599, P<0.001
Average adjusted R-squared (AARS) =0.593, P<0.001
Average block VIF (AVIF) =1.665, acceptable if <= 5, ideally <= 3.3
Average full Collinearity VIF (AFVIF) =2.035, acceptable if <= 5, ideally <= 3.3
Tenenhaus GoF (GoF) =0.561, small >= 0.1, medium >= 0.25, large >= 0.36
Sympson's paradox ratio (SPR) =1.000, acceptable if >= 0.7, ideally = 1
R-squared contribution ratio (RSCR) =1.000, acceptable if >= 0.9, ideally = 1
Statistical suppression ratio (SSR) =1.000, acceptable if >= 0.7
Nonlinear bivariate causality direction ratio (NLBCDR) =1.000, acceptable if >= 0.7

The general results of SEM analysis shows that all the criteria for the model fit were satisfied by the model.

Table 7 : Latent Variable Coefficients without Mediation

Latent Coefficients variable	Borrowers' Financial Decision	Borrowers' Choice Criteria	Borrowers' Expectation	Borrowers' Satisfaction
R-squared				0.599
Composite reliability	0.900	0.881	0.853	0.925
Cronbach's alpha	0.873	0.851	0.794	0.903
Average variance extracted (AVE)	0.531	0.406	0.493	0.674
Full Collinearity VIFs	1.751	2.002	1.997	2.388
Q-squared				0.600

The Table 7 shows the every latent variable and coefficients of the model separately. The above statistical result depicts validity indexes for each of these variables. First of all based on R2 coefficient, the more the value of R2 related to the endogenous structures of a model, the better the fitness of the model will be. The value of R2 coefficient (0.599) is higher than the minimum acceptable value. Q square is testing the prediction relevance of the model. Q square values above zero indicate that the values are well constructed and the model has predictive relevance. The Q – squared value (0.600) for the variable is positive and higher than 0 and are close R2. Both Composite Reliability and Cronbach's Alpha indexes have values higher than 0.7, the minimum acceptable value. Therefore, it can be said that the reliability is good.

Also according to Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values, the entire latent variables have sufficient convergent validity, since in all cases values are higher than 0.4, the minimum acceptable value in this study. It can accept 0.4 as AVE value because if the composite reliability is higher than 0.6, the convergent validity of the construct is still adequate (Huang, C.-C., Wang, Y.-M., Wu, T.-W., & Wang, P.-A., 2013). Finally Full Collinearity VIFs indicates that there is no Collinearity problem in latent variables, since all the values are lower than 3.3 units.

From the above analysis it can conclude that all the criteria for the model fit were satisfied. The borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' expectation are significantly influencing borrowers' satisfaction. Borrowers' expectation ($\beta=0.39$) is highly influencing to borrowers' satisfaction compared to other two independent variables. At the same time borrowers' financial decision ($\beta=0.18$) has comparatively less influence on borrowers' satisfaction. Based on R² value 0.599 indicates the better fitness of the model in the combined influence of borrower's financial decision, their choice criteria, and their expectation on borrowers' level of satisfaction. In other words the combination of the independent variables such as borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' expectation are explained approximately 60 per cent of the variance of the dependent variable borrowers' satisfaction.

FINDINGS

- The correlation analysis indicates the positive relationship between borrowers' financial decision and borrowers' satisfaction ($p<0.01$). So the third hypothesis, there exists a positive relationship between borrowers' financial decision and borrowers' satisfaction, is accepted.
- The correlation analysis indicates the positive relationship between borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' satisfaction ($p<0.01$). Based on this the fourth hypothesis, there exists a positive relationship between borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' satisfaction, is accepted.
- The correlation analysis indicates the positive relationship between borrowers' expectation and borrowers' satisfaction ($p<0.01$). Based on this the sixth hypothesis, there exists a positive relationship between borrowers' expectation and borrowers' satisfaction, is accepted.

- Based on the above findings it is concluded that the borrowers' financial decision, their choice criteria, and their expectations are positively influencing their level of satisfaction.
- The results of SEM analysis show that all the criteria for the model fit were satisfied. The borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria and borrowers' expectation are significantly influencing borrowers' satisfaction. Borrowers' expectation ($\beta=0.39$) is highly influencing to borrowers' satisfaction compared to other two independent variables. At the same time borrowers' financial decision ($\beta=0.18$) has comparatively less influence on borrowers' satisfaction. R2 value 0.599 indicates the better fitness of the model in the combined influence of borrower's financial decision, their choice criteria, and their expectation on borrowers' level of satisfaction.

CONCLUSION

The study has attempted to fill the reach gap identified, based on the review of available literature pertaining to studies on housing finance, through a comprehensive analysis of the influence of the independent variables such as borrowers' financial decision, borrowers' choice criteria, and borrowers' expectation on the dependent variable the borrowers' satisfaction. Major part of the literature were scanned with respect to housing finance for conceptualise the frame work for the research. The available literature lacks a comprehensive study incorporating all these variables together. The findings of the study established the relationship between these independent variables to borrowers' satisfaction. In the highly competitive business environment, it is obvious that, banks and other financial institutions should satisfy customers for their success. If there is no customer, there is no business and there will be no income. This leads to an important conclusion that customer satisfaction assumes even greater importance for the housing finance institutions in a competitive and changing business world.

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STUDY ON IMPACT OF MICROFINANCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KUDUMBASHREE UNITS

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ABSTRACT

Kudumbashree, Kerala's flagship poverty eradication and women empowerment initiative, has transformed the lives of thousands of women by providing them with access to microfinance, skill development, and financial literacy programs. Launched in 1997, Kudumbashree functions as a three-tier community network, enabling women to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency through structured financial support and entrepreneurship opportunities.

This study explores the impact of Kudumbashree's microfinance initiatives on women's financial empowerment, examining how access to credit and financial training contributes to improved livelihoods and decision-making power. The research, conducted in the Kalady locality, combines primary data from 100 Kudumbashree members with secondary sources to assess the program's effectiveness. Findings indicate that microfinance has boosted financial confidence and stability, yet challenges remain in entrepreneurial skill development and market access. While women benefit from credit facilities, many require additional support in business mentoring and financial management.

By addressing these challenges through enhanced training programs, policy improvements, and better financial planning, Kudumbashree can further strengthen its role in empowering women and promoting sustainable economic growth. This study highlights the need for integrated support systems to ensure long-term success for women entrepreneurs.

Keywords: Women empowerment, microfinance, Kudumbashree, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, poverty eradication, rural development, economic independence.

INTRODUCTION

Kudumbashree, meaning "prosperity of the family" in Malayalam, is a poverty eradication and women empowerment initiative launched in 1997 by the Government of Kerala under

the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) (Government of Kerala, 2020). Developed in the context of decentralized governance and the People's Plan Campaign, it operates as a three-tier community network comprising Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), Area Development Societies (ADS), and Community Development Societies (CDS), making it one of the largest women's collectives globally (Mukherjee & Ghosh, 2019).

A significant component of Kudumbashree is microfinance, which provides financial services to economically disadvantaged women, enabling them to engage in small businesses and achieve economic independence (Nair, 2018). Microfinance institutions facilitate access to credit, savings, and financial education, bridging the gap between formal banking systems and marginalized communities (Sharma, 2021). This study explores the impact of Kudumbashree's microfinance initiatives on women's empowerment and rural economic development, assessing how these financial interventions contribute to poverty alleviation and social progress in India.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Micro finance is a crucial tool for providing financial services to the low-income group women. Their financial viability remains a concern due to high operational expenditures resulting from costly credit risk management systems and low loan portfolios. Over-debtedness is another common problem among for women in low-income groups. This is because borrowers frequently borrow funds from various sources due to their constant need in money. This shall be studied in this research study.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the impact of microfinance in women empowerment through Kudumbashree.
2. To know the level of effectiveness of Kudumbashree in promoting women's financial empowerment

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study will reveal the importance for understanding how Kudumbashree impacts women's financial empowerment is crucial for shaping effective policies and programs. By identifying key factors contributing to women's financial empowerment, policymakers can tailor interventions to better support women's economic independence. Assessing

Kudumbashree's effectiveness provides insights into its strengths and weaknesses, guiding future program improvements. Recognizing and addressing challenges faced by women entrepreneurs shed light on areas needing intervention, ensuring that Kudumbashree's efforts align with the real needs of women in business.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study follows a Descriptive Research Design to explore the experiences and perspectives of Kudumbashree members in the Kalady locality. The research relies on both primary and secondary data to ensure a well-rounded analysis. Primary data is collected directly from 100 Kudumbashree members using a structured questionnaire, allowing firsthand insights into their experiences. Additionally, secondary data is sourced from credible platforms such as websites, online articles, and journals to supplement the study with existing research and background information. The population for this study consists exclusively of Kudumbashree members in Kalady, and a convenient sampling method is used to select respondents based on accessibility and willingness to participate, ensuring efficient data collection.

To analyze the collected data, the study utilizes graphs, tables, and percentage methods, which help in organizing and interpreting the findings in a structured manner. These tools provide a clear representation of patterns and trends, making it easier to draw meaningful conclusions. By employing a combination of direct responses from participants and supporting secondary data, the study aims to provide valuable insights into the functioning and impact of Kudumbashree in the Kalady locality. The chosen methodology ensures a systematic approach to data collection and interpretation, ultimately contributing to a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Finance plays a critical role in economic development and individual prosperity, addressing the management, creation, and allocation of financial resources. It encompasses key aspects such as credit, investment, and debt, all of which influence economic activity through the time value of money, interest rates, and risk assessment. Within finance, microfinance serves as a specialized sector that provides financial services to individuals who lack access to traditional banking systems. Microfinance institutions empower low-income communities by offering microloans, savings options, insurance,

and financial education, fostering financial inclusion and self-sufficiency. These financial services play a crucial role in women's empowerment, particularly in underprivileged societies, by providing them with the resources needed to achieve economic independence and social upliftment. Women's empowerment is a multi-dimensional process that enhances their ability to make strategic life choices, contribute to household income, and participate actively in economic and social decision-making. Through financial independence, women experience improved quality of life, increased decision-making power, and better opportunities for education and healthcare for themselves and their families.

One of the most successful initiatives in integrating microfinance with women's empowerment is Kudumbashree, a community-based poverty eradication and women's empowerment program implemented by the Government of Kerala. Kudumbashree operates through a structured three-tier system, comprising Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), Area Development Societies (ADS), and Community Development Societies (CDS), creating a strong grassroots network for women's financial and social development. Rooted in Kerala's decentralized planning framework, Kudumbashree evolved as part of the People's Plan Movement, drawing inspiration from traditional community organizations and the Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Program led by NABARD. The initiative has proven to be a transformative force, providing women with access to microfinance, skill development programs, and income-generating opportunities. By facilitating financial literacy, business education, and credit access, Kudumbashree has empowered thousands of women to become entrepreneurs, significantly contributing to local economic development. In addition to economic benefits, Kudumbashree has enhanced women's self-confidence, social status, and decision-making capabilities, further solidifying its impact as a model for sustainable community development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings of this study paint a clear picture of the impact of Kudumbashree's microfinance programs on the lives of its beneficiaries. Most of the respondents belong to the 41-50 age group, showing that middle-aged individuals are the primary participants in these initiatives. Younger and older individuals form a smaller segment, which may indicate that awareness or accessibility of these programs is lower among them. Education

levels among the respondents are relatively low, with most having completed only up to the 10th standard or lower, and very few having pursued higher education. This suggests that Kudumbashree primarily caters to individuals with basic educational qualifications, making its financial literacy and training programs all the more valuable in empowering them to make informed economic decisions.

Family size is another important factor in understanding the socio-economic conditions of the respondents. Many of them come from large families with 5-6 members, followed closely by medium-sized families. This means that financial stability is crucial for these individuals, as they are responsible for multiple dependents. Employment data indicates that the majority are private employees or engaged in informal occupations, while a smaller portion are self-employed or government employees. This aligns with income levels, as a vast majority earn less than ₹20,000 per month, highlighting the urgent need for financial support and self-employment opportunities.

One of the most encouraging findings of this study is the overwhelmingly positive impact of Kudumbashree's microfinance services. Most respondents believe that these programs have helped them become economically empowered, allowing them to better manage their finances and improve their overall well-being. The accessibility of these services is another plus—many find the process user-friendly and easy to navigate. However, despite access to financial assistance, a large number of respondents feel that their entrepreneurial skills have not improved significantly. This suggests that while microfinance helps provide capital, there may be a gap in the training and mentorship required to turn these funds into sustainable business ventures.

Looking at the long-term sustainability of Kudumbashree's microfinance programs, most respondents are confident that the model is viable and will continue to provide financial stability. Many also expressed satisfaction with the financial resources provided, stating that they have positively impacted their economic independence. A particularly striking finding is that 96% of respondents feel more confident in managing their finances after participating in Kudumbashree's programs. This shows that microfinance is not just about providing loans—it is also about equipping people with the knowledge and confidence to handle money effectively. However, there are still a few who lack confidence, suggesting that further financial training and support could help bridge this gap.

When it comes to women's entrepreneurship, the results are mixed. While most respondents rate the microfinance services as moderately effective, only a small fraction finds them highly effective. This indicates that while financial assistance is available, other factors— such as market access, business mentoring, and industry-specific training—may be missing. On the other hand, Kudumbashree's financial literacy programs have been highly successful, with a majority of respondents stating that they have gained valuable knowledge about managing money, savings, and credit. These programs are crucial in ensuring that beneficiaries make the most of their financial resources and develop long-term financial stability.

The study also examined the interest rates on loans, and it was found that all respondents received loans at a standardized rate between 5-10%, with most paying 9% interest. This uniformity ensures transparency and fairness in financial transactions. Additionally, Kudumbashree's training programs were widely appreciated, with most respondents agreeing that these programs help bridge technological gaps. This shows that the organization is not only providing financial assistance but also equipping women with the digital and business skills necessary to succeed. Moreover, all respondents confirmed that their training and technical support came through local government agencies, reinforcing the role of decentralized governance in the success of Kudumbashree's initiatives.

A particularly interesting aspect of the study is the impact of Kudumbashree's microfinance on small-scale entrepreneurship. The data reveals that a significant number of respondents have started their own businesses, with tailoring being the most common venture, followed by soap manufacturing, food production, and other small-scale businesses. This shows that microfinance plays a key role in enabling self-employment. However, the concentration of businesses in traditional female-dominated industries suggests that many women may be choosing familiar paths due to societal norms or lack of exposure to other industries. Encouraging diversification into higher-growth sectors and providing targeted training programs could help expand opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

Overall, this study highlights that Kudumbashree's microfinance initiatives have significantly improved financial stability, economic independence, and confidence in financial management among its beneficiaries. However, there is still room for improvement in entrepreneurial skill development and business sustainability.

Strengthening training programs, providing mentorship, and improving market access could ensure that financial assistance leads to sustainable and scalable businesses. By addressing these areas, Kudumbashree can further strengthen its impact and continue empowering women towards greater financial self-sufficiency and long-term success.

CONCLUSION

The study highlights the remarkable impact of Kudumbashree's microfinance initiatives on the financial empowerment of women and the overall economic development of marginalized communities. Through accessible credit, financial literacy programs, and entrepreneurial support, Kudumbashree has provided women with the tools to become financially independent and take control of their economic futures. The findings show that while microfinance has significantly improved financial stability and confidence in money management, there are areas that need further attention, particularly in entrepreneurial skill development and business sustainability.

For Kudumbashree's success to be truly transformative, it is crucial to bridge the gap between financial assistance and practical business knowledge. Strengthening training programs, expanding mentorship opportunities, and improving market access will ensure that financial support translates into long-term economic growth. By addressing these challenges, Kudumbashree can continue to empower women, reduce poverty, and foster a more inclusive and sustainable economy, ultimately shaping a future where financial independence is within reach for all.

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THE IMPACT OF AI AUTOMATION ON JOB DISPLACEMENT: ANALYZING VULNERABLE SECTORS AND FUTURE-PROOF ROLES

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ABSTRACT

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has raised concerns about its potential impact on the workforce, with fears of widespread job displacement across various industries. This paper explores the complex relationship between AI and human labor, arguing that collaboration between humans and AI can lead to enhanced productivity, innovation, and workforce capabilities, rather than mass unemployment. While AI-driven software is capable of handling tasks such as data analysis, scheduling, and customer service, experts suggest that automation will primarily affect repetitive, rule-based jobs. However, the World Economic Forum predicts that although AI and robotics may displace 85 million jobs by 2025, they will also create 97 million new roles in areas like AI development, data science, and human-AI collaboration. The integration of AI in fields such as manufacturing, healthcare, and finance has revolutionized these industries, but jobs requiring creativity, emotional intelligence, ethical decision-making, and adaptability remain beyond the current capabilities of AI. As AI technologies continue to evolve and integrate into business and everyday life, it is crucial to investigate how AI can complement human workers rather than simply replace them. Ultimately, the future of work will depend on how we adapt to these developments through upskilling, reskilling, and embracing the potential for human-AI collaboration to create a more efficient and innovative workforce.

KEYWORDS: - *AI automation, Repetitive tasks, Emotional intelligence, Cost-effectiveness, Job displacement, Data entry clerks, Telemarketers, Artificial Intelligence, Workforce, Job Displacement, Automation, Human-AI Collaboration, Up skilling, Reskilling*

I. INTRODUCTION

The simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, particularly computer

systems, is known as artificial intelligence (AI). The phrase was first used at the Dartmouth Conference in 1956, and it has since expanded to include a few subfields, such as robotics, computer vision, natural language processing, machine learning, and more.

A quickly developing topic that straddles technology, ethics, and society's influence is reflected in the literature on artificial intelligence. To ensure that these potent instruments improve human existence, ongoing research attempts to both harness AI's potential and overcome its difficulties.

Some jobs are being replaced by AI and will continue to do so. AI will likely cause recruiting disruptions for workers in a variety of industries, including healthcare, agriculture, and industry.

However, AI is also predicted to increase the need for humans in other industries.

A major worry for businesses, legislators, and workers alike is the threat of job relocation. Many experts agree that within the next five to 10 years, many jobs will be completely automated.

To overcome these issues, this study investigates how humans and AI might work together to improve productivity, worker skills, and innovation as opposed to causing mass unemployment.

II MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Background of Ai in the Workforce

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly evolving from a trendy term to a key component of how many companies' functions. AI is having a greater impact than most of us know, from improving manufacturing to simplifying processes. However, this development raises an important query: Will AI replaces humans in the workforce? By 2030, AI is expected to transform the workforce in unprecedented ways. Both manual labor and office employment are changing because of AI-driven software's ability to perform activities like scheduling, data analysis, and even customer support. Yet there's also controversy over whether AI will merely take the place of existing employment or offer up new ones.

Experts warn against the idea that automation will lead to a widespread loss of jobs, particularly in occupations that involve repetitive, rule-based tasks. A World Economic Forum analysis projects that by 2025, robotics and AI will replace 85 million jobs, but

they will also generate 97 million new employments in fields like data science, AI development, and human-AI cooperation. Understanding both sides of this debate is crucial. The true test will be how we adapt to these changes by reskilling, upskilling, and avoiding AI-related disruptions. Thus, as we look to 2030, the question is not only whether artificial intelligence (AI) will replace human labor, but also how we can get ready for the world that AI is influencing.

The development of AI has revolutionized several sectors, such as banking, healthcare, and manufacturing. These days, machines can do repetitive, dangerous, or highly precise tasks, which sometimes removes the need for human labor. However, when it comes to tasks requiring creativity, emotional intelligence, moral judgment, and adaptability, AI is still far behind.

Thus, it is important to carefully assess whether AI will replace or enhance human labor. As AI technologies advance, they become more prevalent in both business and daily life. But there is still hope. If you had to choose between hiring an AI and a human, which would you trust more? as well as in the professions of financial advisor, physician, and lawyer. Almost all of them chose humans.

When calculators were developed, mathematicians were still working in the field and making contributions to our education and advancement, so it wasn't as if they had abruptly died out or become outdated. Tractors did not lead to the extinction of farmers. There were fewer farmers, but they were still there. They continue to help us. As artificial intelligence develops, it won't replace software engineers and people. They will receive assistance. You may acquire superhuman skills. You have the power to take charge and change.

B. Why AI Automation Is More Dangerous for Some Jobs

As AI technology advances, it becomes increasingly clear that not all jobs are equally in danger.

1. Tasks That Are Rule-Based and Repetitive Are the Main Targets

The nature of the tasks involved is one of the primary reasons why certain jobs are more vulnerable to AI automation. Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are ideal for tasks that require repeated, rule-based processes.

Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered chatbots and software are increasingly handling data entry, basic bookkeeping, and even customer care responses. Robots can easily do these

tasks and do them more effectively than humans since they adhere to a predictable set of rules and patterns.

According to a McKinsey Global Institute estimate, artificial intelligence (AI) might replace half of current work tasks, especially in industries that need physical and administrative labor.

2. Positions Where Emotional Intelligence Is Not Necessary

Human qualities that are essential in specific occupations, including empathy, creativity, and emotional intelligence, are difficult for AI to mimic. AI is unlikely to replace people in emotionally complex, highly interpersonal, and problem-solving professions like teaching or nursing very soon. However, professions like bookkeeping and assembly line labor that don't require a lot of human interaction are more vulnerable.

3. Automation Is Driven by Cost-Effectiveness and Efficiency

The demand for cost and efficiency reductions is one of the main forces behind job automation. Artificial intelligence has the potential to analyze information at extraordinarily high speeds and work continuously for hours on end without any benefits. This makes artificial intelligence (AI)-powered automation an alluring substitute for human labor for businesses in industries where cost-effectiveness is crucial. Self-checkout lanes and AI-driven inventory control are already becoming more common in retail. AI has the potential to destroy jobs, particularly in industries where profitability is significantly impacted by labor cost reduction.

A study from Oxford University suggests that in the next 20 years, 47% of American jobs may be automated, mostly due to AI's ability to reduce costs associated with low-skilled, repetitive labor.

4. How Technology Contributes to the Acceleration of Job Displacement

Lastly, some professions are now less safe due to the quick development of technology. A greater variety of duties can now be handled more effectively by custom LLMs. A job that was once thought to be safe may not be in the future.

The advent of driverless vehicles may pose a threat to jobs in logistics, including truck drivers.

It's important to realize that, overall, artificial intelligence (AI) may increase employment in some sectors while potentially decreasing it in others. Artificial intelligence will never completely

replace human judgment, sensitivity, and creativity in the workplace.

AI Will Probably Replace These Jobs by 2030

By 2030, a lot of occupations as we know them now might be mostly automated due to AI's rapid development and industry transformation. Let's look at five crucial jobs that AI is expected to replace, along with the reasons why they are especially vulnerable to automation.

1: Clerks who enter data

Data entry is ideal for automation since it requires a lot of repetition. Because AI-powered computers can analyze large amounts of structured data quickly and accurately, human clerks are no longer required. These methods reduce human error while also improving task management. According to a McKinsey estimate, up to 38% of data input processes may be automated by 2030.

2. Telemarketers

Artificial intelligence-powered chatbots and virtual assistants are rapidly evolving to perform cold calling, run promotions, and respond to consumer inquiries. These systems can manage several discussions at once, never take a day off, and offer rapid access to enormous information stores. Since AI chatbots can save up to 80% on costs, telemarketing as a human-centered vocation is becoming less and less popular.

3. Front desk agents

Hotels and corporate offices are among the many locations where automated check-in systems are already becoming increasingly common. AI-based systems are becoming more and more efficient than people at tasks like visitor tracking, appointment scheduling and basic

question answering. According to studies, the deployment of these AI-based robots may reduce the necessity for human receptionists in the next ten years.

4. Customer service agents

One of the industries where AI is most noticeable is customer service. Businesses are using chatbots and AI-powered virtual assistants to handle a growing number of customer care inquiries. They can use natural language processing and machine learning to solve both simple and complex problems. By 2027, 25% of customer service tasks will be handled

by AI chatbots, significantly reducing the need for human agents, according to Gartner studies.

5. Clerks in bookkeeping

An accounting software driven by artificial intelligence can now handle financial transactions, prepare tax returns, and reconcile balances. Bookkeeping clerks are becoming less and less necessary as these technologies develop. By 2030, bookkeeping tasks are expected to be fully automated with little chance for human involvement.

6. Cashiers in retail

traditional retail cashiers are already beginning to give way to automated checkout systems, such as those found in Amazon's cashier less stores. These systems use sensors, cameras, and AI algorithms to track transactions and handle payments without requiring human participation. This trend is expected to accelerate, and a lot of shops wish to

7: Truck and Taxi Drivers

Companies like Tesla and Waymo are at the forefront of the rapid advancements in self-driving technology.

The haulage and taxi industries are expected to be largely replaced by autonomous vehicles, particularly for long-distance routes where human drivers are more likely to become fatigued. Millions of driving jobs could be lost worldwide by 2030 because of self-driving trucks and taxis.

8: Proofreaders

AI tools like Grammarly and other language processing software are becoming more and more adept at identifying spelling, grammar, and even style errors. Human proofreaders are becoming less and less necessary as these algorithms improve over time and learn from massive datasets. 90% of proofreading tasks are expected to be handled by AI by 2030.

9: Workers in Manufacturing

AI and robotics are automating many manual assemblies line tasks, transforming the industrial sector. Robots with machine learning capabilities can work faster, more correctly, and constantly without taking breaks. This trend is expected to continue, with a 30% reduction in human manufacturing

roles by 2030, according to a World Economic Forum study.

10. Drivers of Delivery

Drones and AI-powered logistical solutions are increasingly being used to test deliveries. Major companies like UPS and Amazon have already made large investments in drone delivery systems, which have the potential to replace human delivery drivers for short-distance deliveries. AI-powered delivery systems are anticipated to become the norm. Spelling, grammar, and even style mistakes are increasingly being detected by AI programs like Grammarly and other language processing software. As these computers get better over time and learn from large datasets, human proofreaders are becoming less and less necessary. By 2030, AI is predicted to be able to handle 90% of proofreading duties. Using generative AI techniques, even the writing activities are still completed in tandem with humans.

11: Security Guards

The growing efficacy of AI surveillance systems is reducing the necessity for human security personnel. These systems use behavior analysis and facial recognition technologies to monitor large areas.

These systems can continuously monitor the environment, spot anomalies, and contact the appropriate authorities right away. Above all, you are not required to pay for them for the rest of your life; it is really a one-time investment. The need for human security guards is therefore anticipated to decline significantly during the ensuing years.

12: Market Research Analysts

Large volumes of market data may now be analyzed by AI-powered analytics tools more quickly than by humans. Compared to human analysts, they are more accurate at identifying patterns, forecasting customer behavior, and offering useful insights. By 2030, AI-powered solutions will dominate market research, reducing the need for human analysts.

13: Pharmacists

Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms are being used by pharmacies to manage inventories and prescribe drugs based on patient histories. AI's potential to automate some of the tasks that chemists have traditionally performed is a major concern since it may lead to job

displacement, which would eliminate at least 50% of the pharmacy workforce. According to Dr. Marilyn Stebbins, a pharmacy professor and UCSF vice-chair of clinical innovation, "automation will win because it will ultimately be cheaper if the pharmacists don't prove their value outside of their existing roles." Two examples of jobs that could be automated to reduce the requirement for human interaction are inventory management and prescription filling. Even if chemists may automate a lot of their repetitious work, there are still some cases where human oversight is required.

"A new two-tier model involving "distribution" and "non-dispensing" pharmacists may replace the current model of employing highly qualified pharmacy practitioners for the sole purpose of drug dispensing."

14: Legal Assistants

Lawyers are already benefiting from artificial intelligence (AI) systems that automate processes like document screening, contract analysis, and even case outcome prediction. Because these tools can process vast amounts of legal papers much more quickly than humans, legal assistants are becoming less and less required. "With 67% of professionals anticipating a transformational or high impact change in their industries over the next five years, AI is rapidly changing legal work."

15: Financial Analysts

Algorithms using artificial intelligence (AI) are getting better at predicting market patterns, evaluating financial data, and even suggesting investments. If artificial intelligence (AI) takes over as the main instrument for trading and portfolio management in the next 10 years, many financial firms may see a dramatic reduction in the demand for human financial analysts. AI's ability to perform repetitive, rule-based jobs quickly and accurately is transforming the labor market.

C. Why AI Can't Replace All Jobs

Even while AI is transforming many industries, it has its limitations. AI's potential is often limited by its programming and the data it is fed. This explains why AI currently lags far behind in many occupations, especially those requiring creativity, emotional intelligence, and human empathy. Let's examine why some occupations will not be affected by AI automation for some time to come.

Human Emotions and Empathy: The AI Blindspot

It is possible to teach a machine to recognize patterns, analyze data, and even mimic speech. However, AI is not very good at comprehending emotions, making compassionate decisions, or relating to people. One excellent example is HR managers. These jobs require managing intricate interpersonal connections, settling disputes, and choosing employees based on their goals and emotions as well as data. No matter how advanced AI becomes, it is unlikely to be able to fully comprehend these nuances.

Creativity: The Final Frontier AI Can't Cross

AI has difficulties with creativity as well. AI can come up with ideas, produce content, and even craft a simple plot. The creative spark that sets human creativity apart is still absent from AI. The talents that authors, graphic designers, and painters depend on—original ideas, storytelling, and ideation—are absent from it.

A basic illustration would be the ability of AI to synthesize several pre-written sentences into a coherent piece; it lacks the depth of comprehension and intuition of a human writer who draws on personal experience. It can generate theories and concepts that it is taught, but it will never generate original ideas.

Complex Human Interactions: More Than Just Logic

It becomes clear that no algorithm can ever fully replace the human element required in occupations like event planning or psychology. Event planners must plan, make concessions, and create experiences that make guests feel strongly. In the same vein, a psychologist needs empathy, trust, and a thorough understanding of human behavior—qualities that AI does not possess. Analyzing data is not the same as providing customer comfort, recognizing subtle emotional clues, and tailoring counsel for circumstances. AI reaches a dead end at this point.

AI's Struggle with Unpredictable Scenarios

Then there are professions with loose regulations. Project managers deal with circumstances where plans might change at any time, teams may have interpersonal conflicts, and quick and creative problem-solving is required to keep the project moving forward.

AI can assist with scheduling or resource management, but it cannot deal with the often-

unpredictable human aspects. Artificial intelligence's logic-based decision-making process falters when improvisation is needed, or emotions are running high.

III.SUMMARY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming various industries, but not all jobs are equally susceptible to automation. Jobs involving repetitive, rule-based tasks and minimal emotional intelligence are more likely to be replaced by AI. Cost-effectiveness and efficiency are driving factors for automation. By 2030, jobs such as data entry clerks, telemarketers, front desk agents, customer service agents, bookkeeping clerks, retail cashiers, truck and taxi drivers, proofreaders, manufacturing workers, delivery drivers, security guards, market research analysts, pharmacists, legal assistants, and financial analysts may be largely automated. However, AI has limitations and cannot replace jobs that require human emotions, empathy, creativity, and the ability to handle unpredictable scenarios. Professions such as HR managers, writers, graphic designers, artists, event planners, psychologists, and project managers are less likely to be replaced by AI. While AI is shaping the future, there is still a need for jobs that only humans can do best.

III. CONCLUSION

Keep in mind that AI is more than just a tool to replace human labor. Artificial intelligence is often augmenting human capabilities. In fields like medicine, AI helps doctors by analyzing medical images or suggesting treatment plans, but the final call is still made by a human.

While AI can help and even expedite some tasks, human doctors are still indispensable when it comes to comprehending each patient's particular circumstances and rendering empathetic decisions.

The jobs that demand characteristics that are specific to humans such as empathy, creativity, emotional intelligence, and the capacity to negotiate challenging social situations, are ultimately the ones that will be most protected from AI.

With AI's continued development, jobs in some sectors will probably disappear, but roles that focus on people will become more and more important. So, while AI is undoubtedly shaping the future, there's still plenty of space for jobs that only humans can do best.

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(Thomas et al., n.d.)

WORKPLACE SPIRITUALITY AS A CATALYST FOR INNOVATIVE WORK BEHAVIOR: EXPLORING KEY DETERMINANTS AND OUTCOMES

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Abstract:

Workplace spirituality has become a popular topic, gaining significant attention in the organizational sciences over the past decade. However, there remains a gap in research regarding the specific factors that influence workplace spirituality. This study aims to develop a model with two key objectives: (1) to identify the factors that contribute to workplace spirituality, and (2) to explore the organizational outcomes influenced by workplace spirituality. Based on a comprehensive literature review, the study identifies six key determinants of workplace spirituality: mindfulness, meaningful work, sense of community, organizational values, compassion, and inner life. The study also suggests that job satisfaction and organizational commitment are significant outcomes of workplace spirituality. Furthermore, when perceived organizational support is considered as a moderating factor, workplace spirituality is linked to higher levels of job satisfaction. This conceptual paper offers insights that can be empirically tested and validated.

Key words: Workplace Spirituality, Mindfulness, Meaningful work, Sense of community, Organizational values, Compassion, Inner life, Perceived Organizational Support

1. INTRODUCTION

Workplace spirituality refers to how employees express and experience a sense of meaning and purpose at work (Pawar, 2009). It is shaped by various organizational factors such as mindfulness, compassion, transcendence, meaningful work, organizational values, inner life, and a sense of belonging (Daniel, 2015). It also plays a crucial role in enhancing job satisfaction and organizational commitment (Rego & Cunha, 2007).

Workplace spirituality is about finding meaning in work while achieving organizational goals. Dehler and Welsh (2003) describe it as the pursuit of purpose and self-awareness at a deeper level. According to Tepper (2003), spirituality involves a person's drive to find meaning in life but is not necessarily tied to religion (Mitroff & Denton, 1999). Ashmos and Duchon (2000) emphasize that workplace spirituality is influenced by both individual

experiences and the overall work environment. Olivia and Adhiatma (2014) define it as a work culture where both leaders and employees are motivated to perform their best and contribute to organizational success.

A workplace that nurtures spirituality encourages employees to engage in meaningful work, enhancing their creativity and adaptability. Spirituality at work is about employees feeling inspired and energized by their tasks (Marschke et al., 2009). It provides a deeper sense of purpose beyond financial rewards and performance evaluations (Marschke et al., 2011). Spirituality fosters a shared sense of connection and belonging within teams and the organization (Hong, 2012). A workplace that values spirituality helps employees become more creative, embrace change positively, and experience higher job satisfaction, mental well-being, and commitment to the organization (Martin et al., 2005).

The significance of workplace spirituality has been widely explored over the past few decades (Gupta et al., 2014). Researchers and professionals alike have shown a growing interest in this concept (Hicks, 2003). However, despite numerous studies, no comprehensive theoretical model has been developed to fully explain how workplace spirituality affects different organizational aspects and what factors influence it.

This paper aims to establish a theoretical framework by focusing on two key aspects:

1. Identifying the factors that contribute to workplace spirituality.
2. Understanding how workplace spirituality impacts various organizational functions.

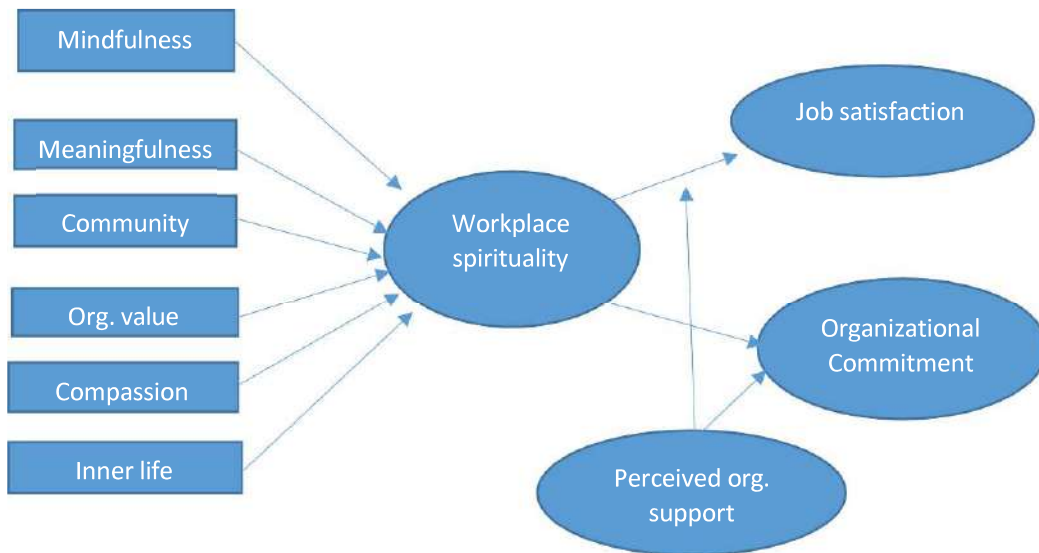
2. STRUCTURE OF THE PAPER

- The first section presents a framework outlining the key elements that shape workplace spirituality, including mindfulness, meaningful work, a sense of belonging, organizational values, compassion, inner life, and transcendence.
- The second section examines the effects of workplace spirituality on outcomes like job satisfaction and organizational commitment.
- The third section explores how perceived organizational support influences the relationship between workplace spirituality and job satisfaction.
- Finally, the paper concludes with key findings and discusses their practical and theoretical implications.

3. FRAMEWORK FOR WORKPLACE SPIRITUALITY IN AN ORGANIZATION

To gain a deeper insight into workplace spirituality and its related factors, a framework has been developed (see Figure 1) based on existing research studies.

Figure 1: Framework for Workplace Spirituality



4. ANTECEDENTS OF WORKPLACE SPIRITUALITY

4.1 Mindfulness

According to Petchsawang & Duchon (2009), a state of inner consciousness in which one is aware of one's thoughts and actions moment by moment can be defined as mindfulness. Mindfulness is about a person's mind being present, not wandering with past, future thoughts or other distractions. It is important to note that mindfulness is about acting with awareness; therefore, it stands in contrast to notions of 'automatic pilot', acting without awareness (Baer et al., 2004). By being aware of their thoughts and actions in the present, people are better able to control their emotions and behaviors. Eight items from the 'Mindful Attention Awareness Scale' (MAAS) (Brown and Ryan, 2003) can be used to measure mindfulness.

4.2 Meaningfulness of Work

Meaningful work is defined as one's experience that his/her work is a significant and meaningful part of his/her life (Petchsawang and Duchon, 2009). Indeed, one feels that

work has meaning for him/her beyond the material rewards (Duchon & Plowman, 2005). Meaningfulness of work is all about individuals feeling that his or her work is an important and meaningful part of life (Gupta et al., 2014). Meaningful work provides opportunities for creativity leading to happiness and joy that will ultimately increase employees' spirituality at the workplace and also creates a sense of joy and energy at work (Duchon and Plowman, 2005). In another sense, meaningful work answers the question of why one is in the workplace.

4.3 Sense of community

A sense of community at work refers to the feeling of unity and connection that arises from collaborating on a shared objective with others (Duchon & Plowman, 2005). In today's world, employees spend a significant amount of their time at work, often leaving little time for socializing with friends or neighbors (Gupta et al., 2014). As a result, they often seek to satisfy this need for connection within the workplace itself.

As the work environment rapidly evolves, organizational values have become increasingly crucial. These values must be adhered to by every member of the organization (Gupta et al., 2014). According to Milliman et al. (2003), organizational values are considered the most significant spiritual factor in the workplace.

4.5 Compassion:

Compassion is the deep understanding and sympathy for others' experiences (Twigg & Parayitam, 2006), combined with a desire to alleviate their suffering (Farlex, 2007). It involves taking responsibility for those who are struggling or less fortunate (Delgado, 2005). Delgado further suggests that compassion represents a genuine wish for mutual care and support. In a spiritual context, this means being attuned to others' needs and having a strong desire to assist them (Ingersoll, 2003). Measuring compassion is complex, as there is no single, validated method for doing so. Thus, compassion is often assessed using adapted measures from the works of various scholars.

4.6 Inner Life

Ashmos and Duchon (2000) describe inner life as the opportunity to express personal aspects of ourselves at work, beyond just performing physical or intellectual tasks. Duchon & Plowman (2005) further emphasize that employees have spiritual needs, similar to their physical, emotional, and cognitive needs, and these needs don't disappear

when they come to work. According to this perspective, employees are more motivated when there is alignment between their inner life and their job. Additionally, Duchon & Plowman (2005) suggest that individuals who view themselves as having a spiritual dimension are more motivated if their work environment allows them to express this aspect of their identity. Therefore, the inner life aspect of workplace spirituality also encompasses spiritual elements that significantly influence attitudes, including factors like stress.

5. Workplace spirituality and Job Satisfaction

Previous studies have established that workplace spirituality positively impacts job satisfaction. McLaughlin (1998) highlighted that workplace spirituality can boost organizational profitability by enhancing employee performance. Research has shown that while work overload negatively affects job satisfaction, workplace spirituality tends to have a positive influence. When spirituality is emphasized in the workplace, employees' needs are better addressed, leading to increased productivity as satisfied employees tend to perform better (Altaf & Awan, 2011). According to Spector (1997), job satisfaction refers to how employees feel about their roles and how they perform their job duties. It reflects the extent to which employees like (satisfaction) or dislike (dissatisfaction) their jobs. Job satisfaction can be viewed in two ways: overall contentment with the job or specific, momentary satisfaction (Cook et al., 1981). There are two types of job satisfaction employees may experience: intrinsic and extrinsic. Research suggests these categories help measure how employees feel about their work, their tasks, and their organization (Bhuiyan et al., 1996). Extrinsic satisfaction occurs when employees are rewarded by the organization, typically through raises or promotions (Bhuiyan et al., 1996). On the other hand, intrinsic satisfaction is more related to internal feelings of accomplishment and personal growth. Herzberg (1968) defines intrinsic satisfaction as an individual's attitude toward work elements such as achievement, responsibility, and advancement. This type of satisfaction is closely connected to an employee's spirituality. Previous research has shown that intrinsic satisfaction has a deeper, longer-lasting effect on employees, encouraging greater dedication to their work compared to extrinsic satisfaction.

6. Workplace Spirituality and Organizational Commitment

Organizational commitment is a psychological state that reflects the nature of an

employee's relationship with their organization, reducing the likelihood that they will leave (Allen & Meyer, 2000). The most well-known model of organizational commitment, developed by Allen and Meyer (Meyer & Allen, 1991), identifies three components: affective (emotional attachment to the organization), continuance (perceived costs of leaving the organization), and normative (sense of obligation to the organization). Each component contributes to the employee's decision to stay, but the motivation behind each one varies. Employees with strong affective commitment remain because they want to, while those with continuance commitment stay because they feel they have to. Employees with normative commitment stay because they feel they should. An important aspect of this model is that all three components influence the decision to stay or leave. The stronger the commitment, the stronger the intention to remain, but each component leads to different behavioral outcomes (Allen & Meyer, 1997).

Affective commitment is based on emotional attachment to the organization, so employees with a strong affective bond are likely to contribute more to the organization than those with a weak emotional connection (Rego & Cunha, 2007). When continuance commitment is the dominant factor, employees may stay because they feel obligated, but this may still lead to positive work behaviors (Allen & Meyer, 2000). Finally, employees with a strong sense of normative commitment feel compelled to contribute positively to the organization. This leads to a straightforward conclusion: organizations with higher levels of commitment from employees tend to perform better. Studies suggest that greater workplace spirituality is linked to higher organizational commitment (Fry, 2003). There is both theoretical and empirical support for this idea. For example, engaging in benevolent behaviors, like showing kindness to colleagues, generates positive emotions that enhance employee attitudes towards their work and organization, which in turn fosters greater commitment (Milliman et al., 2003).

Vol. IX, No. 1, March 2016- August 2016 commitment, stronger is the intention to stay.

However, it is expected that each of the components will have a different pattern of behavioural consequences (Allen & Meyer, 1997;

Meyer & Herscovitch, 2001). Since, affective commitment relies on an emotional attachment to the organization; it is likely that affectively attached employees will be motivated to make greater contributions to the organization compared to employees with a weak affective bond (Rego & Cunha, 2007). If continuance commitment is the primary

tie that bonds employees to their organizations, this attachment may lead to desirable work behaviour (Allen and Meyer, 2000). Finally, the model predicts that employees who feel a non-obligation towards the organization (normative commitment) tend to want to make positive contributions. This reasoning leads to a simple yet powerful argument: to reach higher performance, organizations need to develop high organizational commitment. We hypothesize that the higher the spirituality at work, the higher the commitment (Fry, 2003; Giacalone & Jurkiewicz, 2003; Milliman et al., 2003).

Theoretical and empirical evidence supports this contention. For example, benevolent activities (e.g. kindness towards colleagues) generate positive emotions and can result in more positive employee attitudes about work and the organization. These, in turn, can translate into commitment towards the organization (Pfeffer & Vega, 1999; Milliman et al., 2003). Vol. IX, No. 1, March 2016- August 2016 commitment, stronger is the intention to stay. However, it is expected that each of the components will have a different pattern of behavioural consequences (Allen & Meyer, 1997; Meyer & Herscovitch, 2001). Since, affective commitment relies on an emotional attachment to the organization; it is likely that affectively attached employees will be motivated to make greater contributions to the organization compared to employees with a weak affective bond (Rego & Cunha, 2007). If continuance commitment is the primary tie that bonds employees to their organizations, this attachment may lead to desirable work behaviour (Allen and Meyer, 2000).

Finally, the model predicts that employees who feel an obligation towards the organization (normative commitment) tend to want to make positive contributions. This reasoning leads to a simple yet powerful argument: to reach higher performance, organizations need to develop high organizational commitment. We hypothesize that the higher the spirituality at work, the higher the commitment (Fry, 2003; Giacalone & Jurkiewicz, 2003; Milliman et al., 2003). Theoretical and empirical evidence supports this contention. For example, benevolent activities (e.g. kindness towards colleagues) generate positive emotions and can result in more positive employee attitudes about work and the organization. These, in turn, can translate into commitment towards the organization (Pfeffer & Vega, 1999; Milliman et al., 2003).

7. Mediating role of organizational support

Organizational Support Theory suggests that the development of Perceived Organizational Support (POS) is influenced by employees' tendency to view the

organization as having human-like qualities (Eisenberger et al., 1990). POS is defined as the extent to which employees feel that the organization values their well-being and recognizes their contributions (Eisenberger et al., 1990). POS has been found to be associated with positive outcomes for employees, such as job satisfaction and positive mood, and for organizations, including affective commitment, enhanced performance, and reduced withdrawal behaviors (Pathak, 2012). As a result, POS is believed to improve organizational performance by increasing employees' sense of responsibility and engagement in their work (Jain et al., 2013).

Additionally, POS has been shown to have a significant negative moderating effect on the relationship between pro-social behavior and unethical attitudes. Specifically, as unethical attitudes increase, the frequency of pro-social behaviors, such as helping others or volunteering within the organization, tends to decrease (Adebayo, 2005). Pro-social behavior, which shares similarities with workplace spirituality, particularly the dimension of a sense of community, involves caring for others and contributing positively to the organization (Milliman et al., 2003). Jain et al. (2013) also found that POS negatively moderated the relationship between Organizational Citizenship Behavior (OCB) and organizational stressors. Among 56 significant interactions, only one was positively significant: the Individual Initiative dimension of OCB was positively influenced by the interaction of the Job Security dimension of organizational stressors with POS. Individual initiative refers to employees going beyond the basic expectations of their tasks, a concept similar to job involvement (Podsakoff et al., 2000).

Based on these findings, the study proposes that POS significantly moderates the relationship between workplace spirituality and job involvement. The following hypotheses are suggested:

1. Workplace spirituality in any organization is influenced by mindfulness.
2. Workplace spirituality in any organization is influenced by meaningful work.
3. Workplace spirituality in any organization is influenced by a sense of community.
4. Workplace spirituality in any organization is influenced by organizational values.
5. Workplace spirituality in any organization is influenced by compassion.
6. Workplace spirituality in any organization is influenced by inner life.
7. The relationship between workplace spirituality and job involvement will be

positively moderated by perceived organizational support.

8. There is a positive relationship between workplace spirituality and organizational commitment.

8. Discussion

Workplace spirituality has become an increasingly discussed concept over the past few decades (Krishnakumar & Neck, 2002). This study aims to explore the key factors that contribute to workplace spirituality. Based on existing literature, we developed a theoretical model (shown in Figure 1). The model suggests that workplace spirituality in any organization is influenced by six key factors, which are a blend of individual and organizational aspects. These factors are Mindfulness, Meaningful Work, Community, Organizational Values, Compassion, and Inner Life, all of which align with previous research on workplace spirituality, such as studies by Petchsawanga & Duchon (2009), Duchon & Plowman (2005), Gupta et al. (2014), and Milliman et al. (2003).

Additionally, the study examines the outcomes of workplace spirituality in an organization. The primary outcomes identified are Job Satisfaction (both intrinsic and extrinsic) and Organizational Commitment (including affective, normative, and continuance commitment). This study provides valuable insights for both researchers and practitioners, as they can use the models and propositions presented here for empirical testing. Furthermore, researchers can build upon this work by exploring the role of individual commitment types— affective, normative, and continuance—on workplace spirituality (Pawar, 2009). The study also encourages further exploration of the relationship between intrinsic and extrinsic job satisfaction and workplace spirituality.

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QUEENS OF FIRE AND GRACE: UNRAVELLING POWER, PASSION, AND POLITICS AMONG WOMEN IN *PONNIYIN SELVAN*

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Abstract

This study explores the complex and multifaceted nature of female power, passion, and politics in Kalki Krishnamurthy's *Ponniyin Selvan*. Through a critical analysis of the female characters, particularly Nandini, Kundavai, and Vanathi, this research aims to unravel the ways in which women navigate and exercise power in a patriarchal society.

Keywords

Female, power, passion, politics, *Ponniyin, Selvan*.

Introduction

Historical fiction often highlights the grandeur of kings, warriors, and battles, often casting women in passive or peripheral roles. However, Kalki Krishnamurthy's *Ponniyin Selvan* disrupts this narrative by weaving a story where women are not merely ornaments of the court but powerful players in the political and emotional currents of the Chola dynasty.

Materials and Methods

This study employs a qualitative research approach, using a critical analysis of the female characters in *Ponniyin Selvan*. The data for this study were obtained from the novel itself, as well as from secondary sources such as literary critiques and historical analyses.

Results and Discussion

The results of this study indicate that the female characters in *Ponniyin Selvan* exercise power in complex and multifaceted ways. Nandini, Kundavai, and Vanathi embody diverse forms of power—ranging from cunning manipulation to strategic leadership and emotional resilience.

Literature Review

Scholarly works on *Ponniyin Selvan* predominantly focus on its historical accuracy, political intrigues, and its reflection of Chola grandeur. Critics have lauded Kalki's

narrative style and attention to detail in reconstructing historical events. However, the nuanced portrayal of women has not received equal scholarly attention. *Ponniyin Selvan*, directed by Mani Ratnam, is not the first film adaptation of a historical novel. Other notable examples include *Lagaan* (2001), based on a fictional story set during the British Raj, and *Jodhaa Akbar* (2008), inspired by the life of Mughal Emperor Akbar. These films, like *Ponniyin Selvan*, demonstrate the power of historical fiction to captivate audiences and explore complex themes. However, *Ponniyin Selvan* stands out for its faithful adaptation of Kalki Krishnamurthy's classic novel, bringing to life the intricacies of Chola dynasty politics and society.

In comparison to other Tamil historical dramas like *Baahubali* (2015) and *Kaappaan* (2019), *Ponniyin Selvan* is notable for its nuanced portrayal of female characters. While these films feature strong male protagonists, *Ponniyin Selvan* gives equal importance to its female leads, exploring their agency and power within the patriarchal society of the Chola dynasty. This sets *Ponniyin Selvan* apart from other films in the historical drama genre, making it a significant contribution to Tamil cinema.

Nandini: The Enigmatic Antagonist

Nandini, one of the most enigmatic and complex characters in *Ponniyin Selvan*, embodies both allure and danger. Her beauty is often described as mesmerizing, yet beneath this exterior lies a heart consumed by vengeance. Nandini's motivations stem from deep-seated pain and betrayal, which she transforms into a powerful driving force.

Kundavai: The Embodiment of Strategic Leadership

Kundavai Devi, the Chola princess, represents dignified and strategic leadership. As the daughter of Sundara Chola and sister to Aditya Karikalan and Arulmozhi Varman, Kundavai

occupies a unique position within the royal family. Her intelligence and political foresight make her a key figure in the empire's survival.

Vanathi: The Quiet Strength of Emotional Resilience

Vanathi, though often overshadowed by the more dynamic figures of Nandini and Kundavai, represents a different kind of strength. As the timid and soft-spoken daughter of the Kodumbalur chieftain, Vanathi initially appears as a fragile figure. However, her gentle nature should not be mistaken for weakness.

Themes of Power, Passion, and Politics

The women in *Ponniyin Selvan* are united by their engagement with power, passion, and politics, though each navigates these themes differently. Nandini's use of seduction as a tool for political gain challenges the traditional perception of female power. Kundavai's strategic leadership and Vanathi's emotional resilience demonstrate that power can manifest in diverse forms.

The theme of power is a dominant thread throughout *Ponniyin Selvan*. The novel explores the intricate web of power dynamics within the Chola dynasty, highlighting the struggles for dominance and control. The characters of Aditya Karikalan, Arulmozhi Varman, and Kundavai Devi exemplify the complexities of power, as they navigate the treacherous waters of royal politics. Through their experiences, Kalki Krishnamurthy sheds light on the corrupting influence of power and the moral compromises that come with it.

Passion and politics are intimately intertwined in *Ponniyin Selvan*, as characters' personal desires and emotions shape their political actions. Nandini's all-consuming passion for revenge drives her to manipulate those around her, while Kundavai's passion for justice motivates her to take bold action. Meanwhile, the romantic passions of the characters, such as Vanathi's love for Arulmozhi, become entangled with the political intrigue. Through these complex relationships, the novel illustrates the ways in which personal passions can both fuel and undermine political ambitions.

Conclusion

The women of *Ponniyin Selvan* are not passive figures in the shadow of male rulers; they are dynamic agents of change. Nandini, Kundavai, and Vanathi embody diverse forms of power—ranging from cunning manipulation to strategic leadership and emotional resilience.

Through their actions, Kalki Krishnamurthy redefines the roles of women in historical fiction, presenting them as essential players in the empire's fate.

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Declarations

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Implications and Future Directions

This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex and multifaceted nature of female power in *Ponniyin Selvan*. The findings of this study have implications for future research on women's roles in historical fiction and the ways in which they exercise power in patriarchal societies. Future studies can build on this research by exploring the representation of women in other historical fiction novels.

A Study on the Silent Threat to Modern Workplaces in the Banking Sector Dr. Jeena

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Introduction

Quiet quitting refers to a phenomenon where employees disengage from their work without formally resigning, doing only the minimum required to maintain their positions. This silent form of workplace disengagement poses significant challenges to organizational performance, employee morale, and overall workplace culture. In the high-pressure environment of the banking sector, where precision, customer service, and trust are paramount, the implications of quiet quitting are especially critical. The concept of quiet quitting has gained attention in recent years due to its potential to undermine workplace productivity and employee satisfaction. Employees who engage in quiet quitting often experience low job satisfaction, poor engagement levels, and a lack of alignment with organizational goals. Understanding the factors that contribute to this phenomenon in the banking sector is essential to address the root causes and design

effective interventions.

Objectives of the study

1. To investigate the organizational conditions that contribute to quiet quitting intentions in the banking sector.
2. To evaluate the reliability and validity of the existing Quiet Quitting Scale (QQS) across diverse contexts, particularly within the banking industry.

Review of Literature

Gupta et al. (2022) investigate the effects of quiet quitting on organizational performance in the Indian IT sector. They identify a negative correlation between quiet quitting and organizational outcomes, emphasizing decreased productivity and weakened team dynamics. The study underscores the importance of proactive managerial interventions to mitigate these impacts.

Khan et al. (2022) provide a conceptual framework for understanding quiet quitting, identifying it as a disengagement strategy where employees perform only the minimum required tasks. They

propose that quiet quitting arises from factors like burnout, lack of recognition, and unmet career expectations, making it a silent yet significant challenge for organizations.

Sahoo et al. (2022) further explore the phenomenon through an exploratory lens, highlighting its prevalence across industries. Their findings suggest that quiet quitting is often a result of misaligned employee-employer expectations and a lack of meaningful engagement opportunities.

Kumar et al. (2022) examine the impact of quiet quitting on employee well-being. Their systematic review reveals that quiet quitting is associated with higher stress levels, reduced job satisfaction, and a potential decline in mental health. However, they also note that for some employees, disengaging from excessive demands can serve as a coping mechanism to protect their well-being.

Patel et al. (2022) and Rahman et al. (2022) provide empirical evidence from the banking industry. Patel et al. identify quiet quitting as a significant factor in diminishing customer service quality and profitability. Rahman et al. delve deeper, revealing that quiet quitting adversely affects individual employee performance, which cumulatively impacts organizational success.

Sharma et al. (2022) analyze the relationship between quiet quitting and turnover intention within the service sector. They find that employees who engage in quiet quitting are more likely to consider leaving their organizations. This study highlights the role of leadership and organizational culture in mitigating such tendencies.

Methodology Research Design

This study employs a secondary data analysis approach to explore the phenomenon of quiet quitting in the banking sector. By synthesizing insights from existing literature, industry reports, and case studies, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to quiet quitting and the applicability of the QQS.

Findings & Recommendations

Several factors contribute to quiet quitting in the banking sector, including workplace culture, where a lack of supportive and inclusive environments, rigid hierarchies, and poor communication foster employee disengagement. Leadership styles also play a crucial role, with autocratic or unsupportive approaches diminishing motivation and commitment. Additionally, the high-pressure nature of the sector, characterized by long working hours and elevated stress levels, often leads to burnout and disengagement. Finally, limited career development opportunities and insufficient recognition can leave employees feeling undervalued, further driving disengaged behaviors.

Enhancing leadership training is crucial to equipping leaders with skills for fostering open communication, providing recognition, and supporting employee development. Simultaneously, promoting work-life balance through flexible work arrangements and mental health initiatives can help reduce stress and burnout. Building an inclusive workplace culture that emphasizes collaboration, inclusivity, and transparency is essential for fostering trust and engagement among employees. Additionally, revising the Quiet Quitting Scale (QQS) to address the unique challenges and conditions of the banking sector ensures accurate measurement and a better understanding of quiet quitting behaviors.

Evaluation of the Quiet Quitting Scale (QQS)

The analysis of secondary data indicates that the QQS is a useful tool for measuring quiet quitting. However, its reliability and validity vary across contexts. Adapting the scale to include industry-specific factors, such as regulatory pressures and customer-facing roles, enhances its applicability to the banking sector.

Conclusion

Quiet quitting is a subtle yet significant threat to modern workplaces, especially in the banking sector. Secondary data highlights factors like burnout, lack of recognition, and unmet expectations as primary contributors. The phenomenon impacts organizational performance, employee well-being, and turnover intentions, demanding urgent attention. The Quiet Quitting Scale (QQS) is highlighted as a potential tool for measuring this behavior, but its applicability across industries requires further exploration. Proactive leadership and workplace culture

transformation are critical to addressing quiet quitting effectively. However, limited empirical evidence exists on specific managerial strategies that combat it successfully. Comparative studies across cultural and industry contexts are scarce, leaving gaps in understanding its variability. Additionally, research on its long-term impact on individuals and organizations remains underexplored. A holistic approach combining leadership development, tailored measurement tools, and cultural transformation is essential. Addressing these gaps can help organizations foster engagement, motivation, and sustained performance.

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A STUDY ON OCCUPATIONAL STRESS AMONG CO-OPERATIVE BANK EMPLOYEES

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Abstract

People from all walks of life should deal with stress because it seems to be a universal aspect. Employees who work for multiple firms ought to be sensitive to stress. The study aims to investigate the stress-related issues and factors causing stress among cooperative bank employees, and thus to know the impact of stress among the employees. The study reveals that, stress lead to poor employee performance, poor labor quality, and absenteeism within the organization. Health issues including anxiety, sadness, headaches, and backaches are also brought on by it. In this study, four factors that contribute to workplace stress were investigated: workload and time pressure, digitalization, difficult to get balance between work life and personal life, and high customer expectation. Primary data have been collected from 100 respondents using well-structured questionnaire. Convenient sampling method is used for the study. The results show that the stress and productivity are highly correlated.

Key words

Employee performance, digitalization, customer expectation

Introduction

Stress is a state of tension that affects both your body and mind. Stress is a person's adaptive reaction to a circumstance that they view as difficult or dangerous to their well-being. A company develops stress more likely as situations become more complicated. Rising stress is attributed to various factors, including urbanization, industrialization, and income-related operations scale. A considerable portion of studies has focused on the workplace because it is commonly recognized as a primary source of stress.

The latest increase in bank stress is very concerning. The working environment and daily lives of bank employees have changed as a result of new technology and organizational methods, which has led to stress. Additional reasons that cause stress among workers in the banking industry include increased rivalry, expanding client demands, rapid customer service, time pressure, target and job conflicts, and others.

Statement of the Problem

When we are under pressure or threatened, we react by being stressed. Every human life can be connected to stress, and it will always be a part of life. But not all stress is negative. Every human experience stress, but bankers experience it the most frequently. It has grown to be a major source of worry for co-operative banking sector employees. The need to constantly refresh their technical knowledge puts extra stress on those who work in the co-operative sector. In the current study, an effort is made to comprehend the stress-reduction techniques. The Govt. and management of banking organizations must take corrective action to counteract the detrimental effects of staff stress. Scheduled banks may offer different type of digital services and charge different fees. The comparison between banks regarding the digitalization leads to stress.

Objectives of the Study

- To evaluate how workplace stress affects the output of the Cooperative bank personnel.
- To determine the causes of the occupational stress
- To comprehend the stress-reduction techniques used.

Hypothesis

- ❖ **H0:** There is no correlation between occupational stress and productivity of the employees
- ❖ **H1:** There is correlation between occupational stress and productivity of the employees

Review of Literature

Mrs. Caral Lopes, Ms. Dhara Kachalia (2016) have investigated both governmental and private banks. They have demonstrated how technology advancement has transformed the banking industry and increased worldwide competition due to the state of the economy these days. According to the study, there is a connection between the type of banks, age, gender, and education, as well as the job, role, interpersonal relationships, and the impact of occupational stress. Therefore, the employee in the banking industry should adopt new coping mechanisms to preserve good physical and mental health in order to increase productivity.

B. Kishori & B. Vinothini (2016) It has been determined that the productivity of the workforce is a key determinant in an organization's success. An employee in today's highly competitive and dynamic environment is exposed to a wide range of difficulties that can have an impact on many aspects of their lives. The purpose of the research was to examine how working under stress affected the staff of Nationalised Banks.

Dr. P.Kannan&Suma.U (2015) stated that in order to reduce stress, the company must promote employee growth and implement training interventions aimed towards workers. The organization should assist and encourage employees to take on tasks that will help them balance work and family matters. Stress in the banking sector is mostly caused by excessive job pressure and work-life imbalance.

Dr. Vishal Samartha&Dr. Mushtiary Begum, et al. (2014) In any line of work, stress is inevitable, and banking is no exception. This study indicated that stress among bank employees was primarily brought on by issues including performance pressure, poor workplace planning, shift to flexibility, family demands, and a lack of effective manpower.

Khurram Zafar Awan and Faisal Jamil (2012) According to their study, "A comparative analysis: Differences in total job stress levels of permanent staff in Private and Public sector banks. Employees in the public sector are more impacted by some variables than those in the private sector, but overall, the public sector is deemed to be more stressful.

Bashi.usman et.al (2010) examined the connection between work stress and performance. The findings show a negative correlation between job stress and job performance, and studies show that job stress considerably lowers employee performance. The amount of stress at work decreases the desire of workers to do their jobs more effectively. We can infer that gender-neutral or non-gender-centric stress management is not possible.

Research Methodology

The following research approach has been adopted with the goal of moving the study forward in an orderly way.

The information is gathered using surveys with the help of the co operative bank staff. The study's sample consists of Kunnathunadu Taluk Cooperative employees. The study comprises a sample of 50 Co-operative bank employees. The technique used in the survey is convenient sampling. Primary and secondary data sources are mostly employed in this

analysis. Primary data are gathered via questionnaires, while Secondary data for the proposed study are gathered from a variety of articles, journals, media reports, and websites. Simple percentage analysis has been used for the study.

Tools used for Analysis

The data were classified and analyzed with the help of statistical tools. Simple percentage analysis and correlation analysis are the statistical techniques used.

Research Model

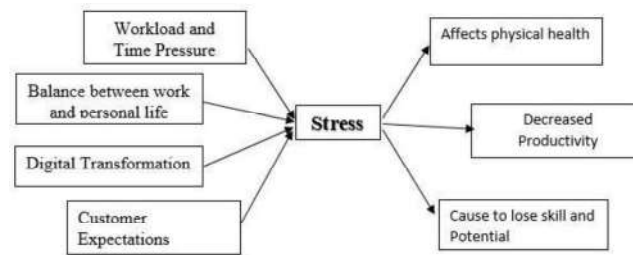


Table 1: Responses for the various questions

Responses in Percentage				
	Factors	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Work Environment				
1	I enjoy the job at work place	82	10	8
2	I am satisfied with the working environment	60	30	10
3	I could balance my work life and personal life.	38	20	42
4	I believe that deadline to complete a project leads to stress	60	25	15
5	I think that increased workload leads to stress	61	28	11
Stress Management				
6	Stress management facilities are helpful	84	4	12
7	Appreciation has a major role in stress management	55	20	25
8	I can manage my job stress	68	14	18
9	I am stressed at work place	72	14	14
Aftermath of stress				
10	I feel that stress affects physical health	50	26	24
11	I feel that stress leads to decreased productivity	60	30	10
12	I feel that being stressed, I lose my skill and potential	40	15	45
13	Stress force me to be absent from work place	55	20	25

(Source: Primary data)

The above table shows that a significant portion, 50%, does not find enjoyment in their current job, while 54% express dissatisfaction with the working environment. Despite 42% achieving a balance between work and personal life, a substantial 60% and 61%

attribute stress to project deadlines and increased workload, respectively. Stress management facilities are deemed helpful by a majority (84%), and 55% emphasize the role of appreciation in stress management. However, a concerning 68% admit to being unable to effectively manage job-related stress, with 72% experiencing stress at their workplace. Physical health is reported to be affected by stress (50%), and 60% perceive a decrease in productivity. Furthermore, 45% feel that stress results in a loss of skills and potential, while 55% attribute absenteeism to stress. These findings underscore the multifaceted impact of stress on both professional and personal dimensions of respondents' lives, highlighting the need for effective stress management strategies in the workplace.

Table 2: Data Analysis

Stress (x)	40	32	14	7	7
Productivity (y)	30	24	20	18	8

R value = 0.925

The above table shows that Stress and Productivity of the employees are highly correlated.

Findings

- The study reveals substantial challenges in the workplace, with half of the respondents not enjoying their jobs
- A majority expressing dissatisfaction with the working environment.
- Stress is prevalent, with high percentages attributing it to deadlines and workload.
- Stress management facilities are perceived as helpful by most
- Many still struggle to manage job-related stress, leading to adverse effects on physical health, productivity, and skill retention.
- Absenteeism is also a concern, indicating the significant impact of stress on workplace attendance.
- Recognition and support, particularly through appreciation, emerge as key factors in stress management, suggesting areas for intervention to improve overall well-being and job satisfaction among employees.

Suggestions

Employee occupational stress reduction at cooperative banks necessitates a multifaceted strategy that takes into account their work environment, job responsibilities, and personal

wellbeing. Here are some recommendations

- Implement effective project management and prioritize tasks.
- Provide ongoing training to enhance employees' skills and confidence in performing their tasks
- Ensure that employees are adequately trained for new technologies and changes in procedures.
- Encourage feedback and suggestions from employees.
- Encourage the use of vacation days and breaks to help employees recharge.
- Recognize and reward employees for their contributions.
- Promote healthy lifestyle choices and encourage physical activity
- Create awareness about mental health resources available to employees.

Implementing a combination of these strategies can contribute to a healthier and less stressful work environment for co-operative bank employees

Conclusion

In conclusion, there is an urgent need to address workplace stress among employees of cooperative banks. Improving well-being and productivity inside the company can be achieved by addressing this issue through work-life balance, a healthy work environment, and employee support programs. Setting aside time for mental health programs and maintaining open lines of communication can reduce stress and eventually build a more resilient and engaged team.

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A STUDY ON THE CUSTOMER SATISFACION OF GROW BAGS

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Abstract:

Grow bags are made of various materials, such as plastic, fabric, or biodegradable materials, and they come in different sizes and shapes. One of the main advantages of grow bags is their portability and flexibility, as they can be easily moved around and placed in different locations. Grow bags can be used to grow plants in smaller spaces, such as balconies or small gardens. This makes it possible for people with limited space to cultivate plants and enjoy the benefits of gardening. The study of customer satisfaction of grow bags is important because it provides insights into the needs and preferences of customers, and can help manufacturers and sellers to improve their products and services.

Keywords.

Durability, Ease of use, Material quality, Market preferences

Introduction

Grow bags are a popular alternative to traditional pots for growing plants, and they are increasingly being used by gardeners and farmers alike. The aim of this research is to understand the level of customer satisfaction with grow bags, as well as the factors that influence their satisfaction. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in using grow bags for various types of plants, including vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Grow bags can be used to grow plants in smaller spaces, such as balconies or small gardens. This makes it possible for people with limited space to cultivate plants and enjoy the benefits of gardening. The study of customer satisfaction of grow bags is important because it provides insights into the needs and preferences of customers, and can help manufacturers and sellers to improve their products and services. By understanding the factors that influence customer satisfaction, companies can identify areas for improvement, and develop strategies to enhance the overall customer experience. They are a versatile option for gardeners with limited space and can be easily moved indoors during inclement weather. This Study identifies problems faced by customers while using grow bags, the changes needed to make the use of grow bags more satisfactory, and the factors

contributing to the adoption of grow bags.

While there is ample information available on the technical aspects of using grow bags, there is a lack of research on customer satisfaction with these products. Understanding customer satisfaction is crucial for any business to thrive. It provides insights into the needs and expectations of customers and helps businesses identify areas for improvement. Given the growing popularity of grow bags, it is important to investigate the factors that contribute to customer satisfaction with these products. To identify the factors that contribute to customer satisfaction with grow bags, and how can businesses improve their products to better meet the needs and expectations of their customers. By studying customer satisfaction, companies can identify the areas where their product quality is lacking and make improvements to meet the expectations of their customers. Understanding what customers like and dislike about a product can help a company provide a better customer experience. If customers are dissatisfied with the size or shape of the grow bags, the company can consider developing new sizes or shapes that better meet the needs of customers. Studying customer satisfaction of grow bags can help companies improve their product quality, and enhance customer experience. Customer satisfaction studies can provide valuable insights into customer preferences and behaviours, which can help companies tailor their marketing strategies to better reach and appeal to their target audience.

Conducting a study on customer satisfaction of grow bags can provide valuable insights into the market's needs and preferences. Customer satisfaction studies can help a business understand what their customers are looking for in a grow bag. By analysing customer feedback, companies can identify the key features that are important to customers, such as durability, ease of use and material quality. Identifying the specific areas where customers are not satisfied with the grow bags can help them work on improving product design and development. This can help in creating a better product that meets customer needs and expectations. Overall conducting a study on customer satisfaction with grow bags can provide businesses with valuable information to improve their products and sales

Methods and Materials

The primary data is collected through a questionnaire. Apart from primary data collected, data is collected from Journal articles. Sahoo, D. , & Mishra , S. (2015) study examines customer satisfaction with e-commerce websites in the United States. A survey was

conducted with a sample of 500 online shoppers. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the variety of products and ease of use of e-commerce websites, but identified some areas for improvement, including customer service and shipping times. Johnson, R. M., & Keener, M. T. (2016) study examines customer satisfaction with fast food chains in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 fast-food customers. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the taste and price of fast food, but identified some areas for improvement, including customer service and healthy options. Lee, D., & Kim, J. H. (2017) study examines customer satisfaction with social media platforms in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 social media users. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the features and ease of use of social media platforms, but identified some concerns regarding privacy and data security.

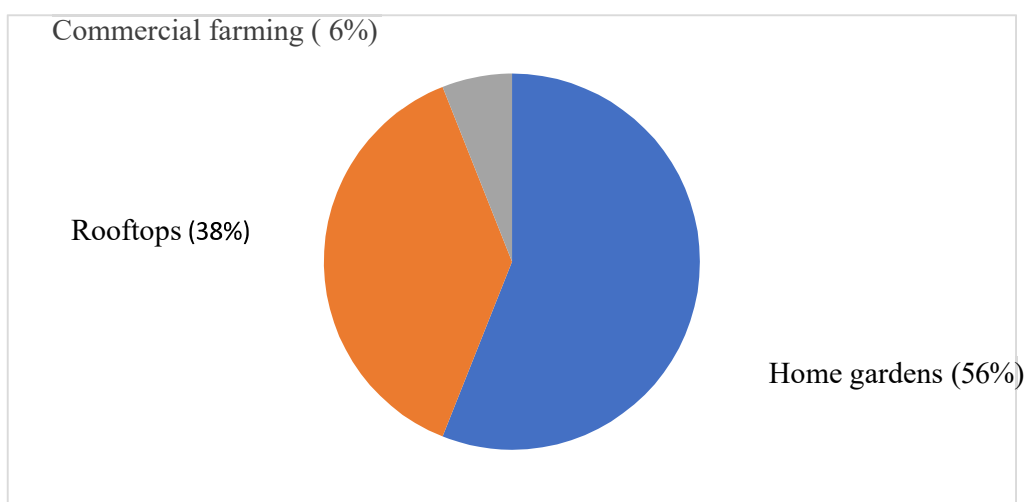
Li, J., & Li, J. (2018) study examines customer satisfaction with online banking services in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 online banking users. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the convenience and accessibility of online banking, but identified some concerns regarding security and the complexity of online banking systems. Choi, S. H., & Johansson, M. (2018) study examines customer satisfaction with airline services in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 airline passengers. The study found that customers are generally dissatisfied with the fees and customer service provided by airlines, but are satisfied with the safety and comfort of their flights. Kwon, J., & Lee, K. (2019) study examines customer satisfaction with fitness centres in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 gym members. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the cleanliness and equipment of fitness centres, but identified some areas for improvement, including staff friendliness and class offerings. Wang, J., & Yang, L. (2020) study examines customer satisfaction with online clothing retailers in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 online clothing shoppers. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the selection and convenience of online clothing shopping, but identified some concerns regarding sizing and the accuracy of product descriptions. Singh, A., & Srivastava, A. (2020) study examines customer satisfaction with mobile banking services in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 mobile banking users. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the convenience and accessibility of mobile banking, but

identified some concerns regarding security and reliability. Park, J., & Kim, J. (2021) study examines customer satisfaction with ride-hailing services in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 ride-hailing users. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the convenience and affordability of ride-hailing services, but identified some concerns regarding driver behaviour and safety. Tariq, M., & Naeem, M. A. (2021) study examined customer satisfaction with online grocery shopping in the United States. A survey was conducted with a sample of 500 online grocery shoppers. The study found that customers are generally satisfied with the convenience and selection of online grocery shopping, but identified some concerns regarding delivery times and quality of fresh products.

S. No.	Category	Subgroups	%	Total
1.	Place of using grow bags	Home gardens	56	100
		rooftops	38	
		Commercial farming	6	
2.	Types of crops grown	Vegetables	36	100
		Root vegetables	12	
		Flowers	24	
		Small fruits	12	
		Herbs	16	
3.	Satisfaction with regard to durability of bags	Satisfied	70	100
		Neutral	26	
		Not satisfied	4	
4.	Satisfaction with the shape of bags	Satisfied	86	100
		Neutral	18	
		Not satisfied	6	
5.	Satisfaction with regard to irrigation of bags	Satisfied	56	100
		Neutral	40	
		Not satisfied	4	
6.	Number of harvests from growbag	0	12	100
		1 to 2	24	
		3 to 4	44	
		More than 5	20	
7.	Respondents based on the availability of bags in their area	High	80	100
		Moderate	14	
		Low	6	
8	Service facility available	Good	74	100
		Neutral	22	
		Not good	4	
9	Plant growth ratio compared to other traditional method.	Much better	58	100
		Same	30	
		Worse	12	

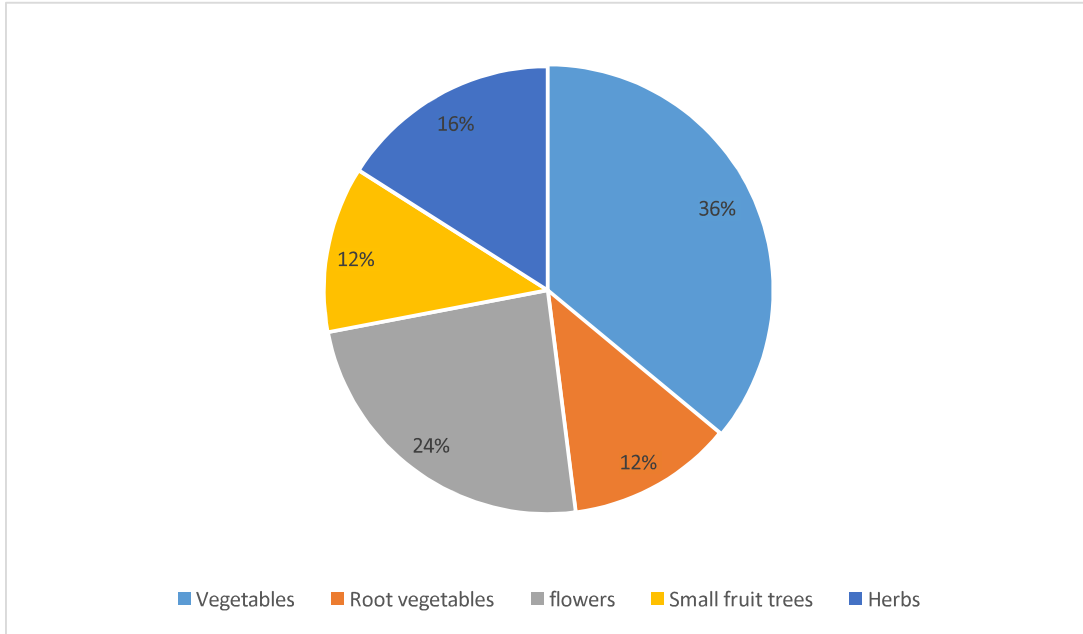
10	Value given to growbags	Extremely valuable	14	100
		Valuable	24	
		Neutral	50	
		Not valuable	10	
		Not at all valuable	2	
11	Satisfaction level of fulfillment of their expectation about grow bags.	Satisfied	58	100
		Neutral	10	
		Not satisfied	32	

Table 1. Distribution of samples



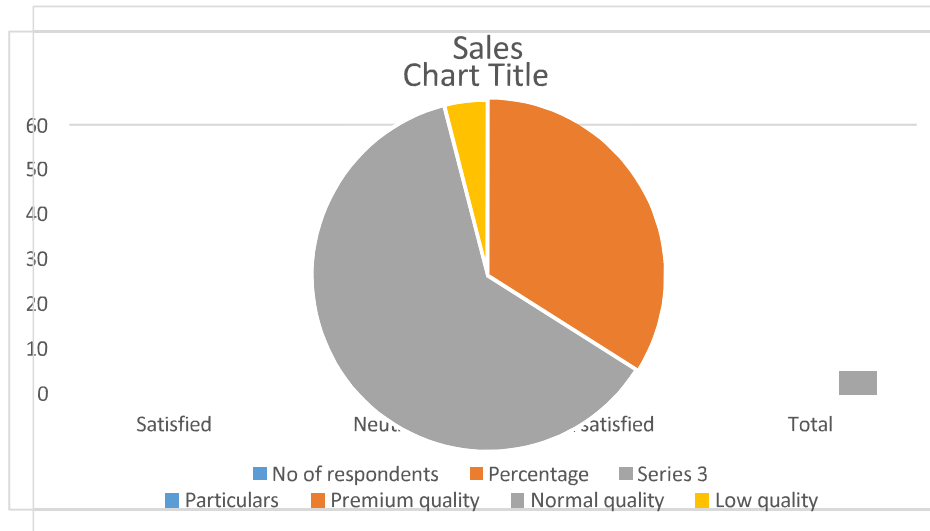
Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Vegetables	18	36%
Root vegetables	6	12%
Flowers	12	24%
Small fruit trees	6	12%
Herbs	8	16%
Total	50	100%

Table 3. Type of crops grown



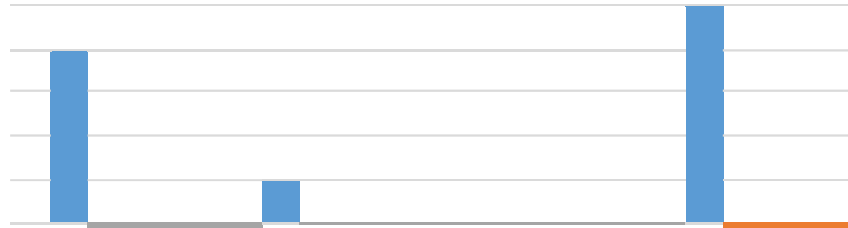
3. Satisfaction with regard to durability of bags

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Satisfied	35	70%
Neutral	13	26%
Not satisfied	2	4%
Total	50	100%



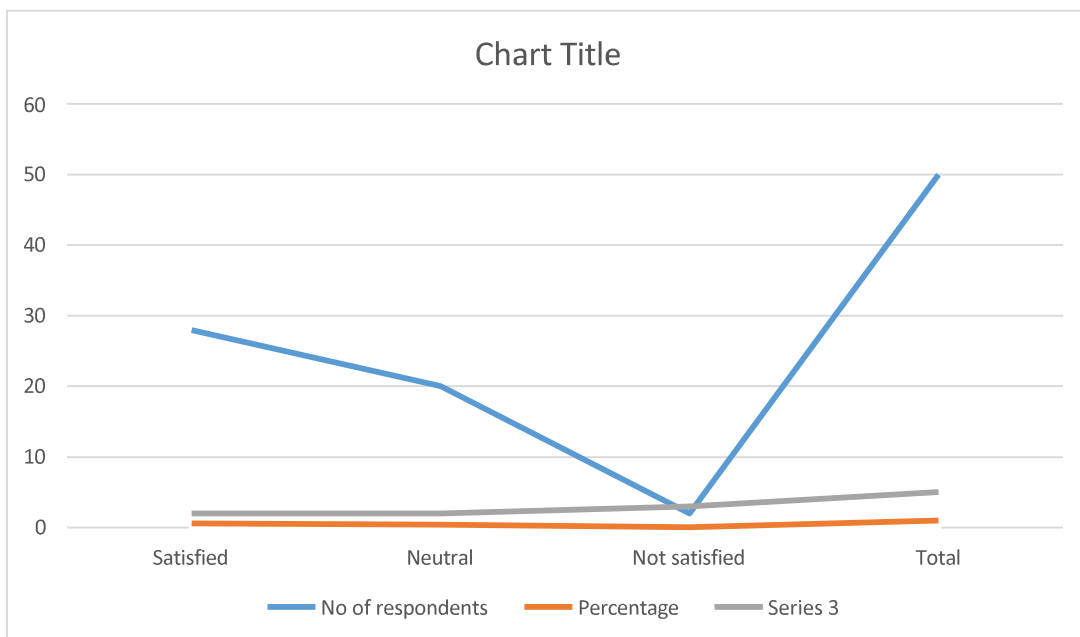
4. Satisfaction with regard to shape of bags

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Satisfied	38	86%
Neutral	9	18%
Not satisfied	3	6%
Total	50	100%



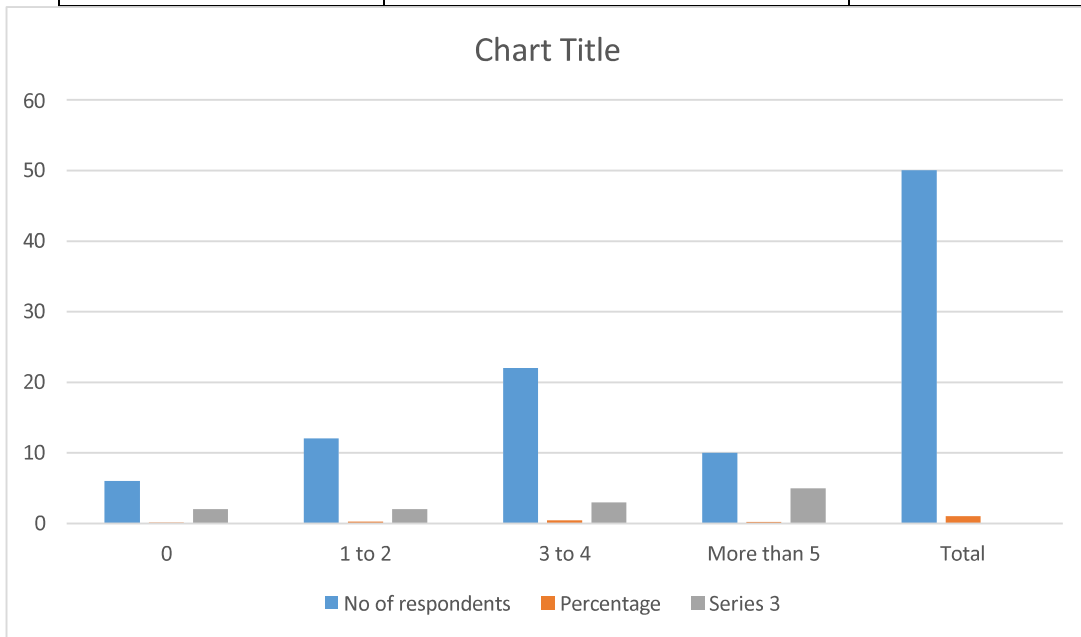
5. Satisfaction with regard to irrigation of bags

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Satisfied	28	56%
Neutral	20	40%
Not satisfied	2	4%
Total	50	100%



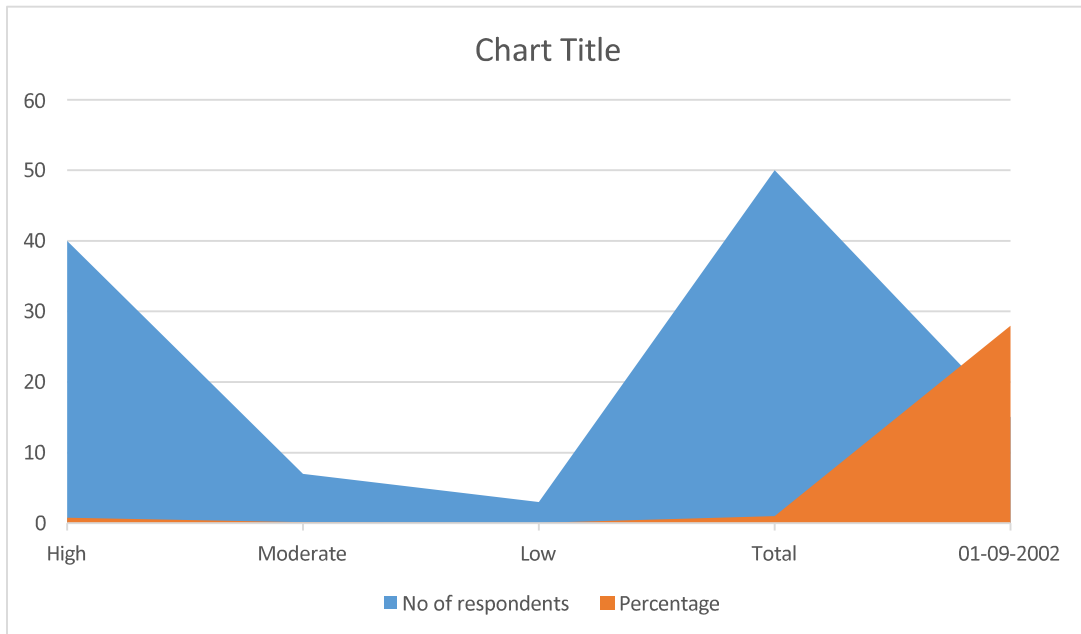
6. Number of harvests from growbag

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
0	6	12%
1 to 2	12	24%
3 to 4	22	44%
More than 5	10	20%
Total	50	100%



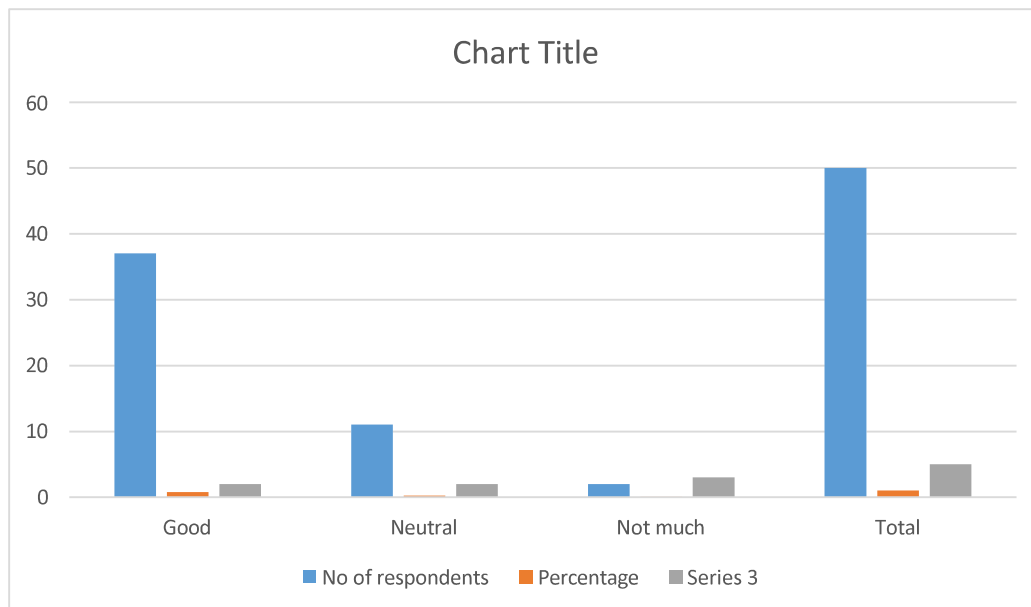
7. Respondents based on the availability of bags in their area

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
High	40	80%
Moderate	7	14%
Low	3	6%
Total	50	100%



8. Service facility available

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Good	37	74%
Neutral	11	22%
Not much	2	4%
Total	50	100%



9. Plant growth ratio compared to other traditional method

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Much better	29	58%
Same	15	30%
Worse	6	12%
Total	50	100%

10. Value given to growbags

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Valuable	19	38%
Neutral	25	50%
Not valuable	5	10%
Nor at all valuable	1	2%
Total	50	100%

11. Satisfaction level of fulfillment of their expectation about grow bags.

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Satisfied	29	58%
Neutral	16	32%
Not satisfied	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Results and Discussions

- 56% of them use grow bags in home garden.
- 36% of the users use it to grow vegetables.
- 52% of the respondents are satisfied with the durability of grow bags.
- 58% of the respondents got their grow bag within their budget.
- 46% of the respondents received the right size grow bag for their needs.
- 46% of the respondents are satisfied with the shape of the grow bag.
- 46% of the respondents are satisfied with the irrigation system in the grow bag.
- 44% of the respondents had 3 to 4 harvests from the grow bag.

- 76% of the respondents are satisfied with the colour of the grow bag.
- 50% of the respondents found the availability of grow bag somewhat easy.
- 44% of the respondents found it easy to set up and use grow bag.
- 60% of the respondents got good service while purchasing the grow bag.
- 40% of the respondents have only got slightly better plant growth compared to other methods.
- 52% of the respondents are satisfied after the harvest.
- 50% of the respondents consider it as not valuable.
- 40% of the respondents have neutral satisfaction by the crop produced.
- 40% of the respondents are satisfied or have neutral satisfaction by the availability of different sizes of grow bags.
- 50% the respondents have found no issues with the material used for grow bags.
- 32% of the respondents are satisfied with the yield produced.

Recommendations

- Grow bags are generally user friendly and meets users expectations in terms of size, shape and colour.
- Manufacturers could make it more available in the market and can make people aware of its use.
- Since grow bags can be used to grow plants in smaller spaces, such as balconies or small gardens it is a viable option and can attain popularity and growth with some improvements and additional resources

Implications of the Study

The findings suggest that grow bags are a popular choice for home gardeners to grow vegetables. Majority of the users are satisfied with the durability, size, shape and colour of grow bag. Additionally most users find it easy to set up and use grow bags. Most users were satisfied or had neutral satisfaction with the crop produced and half of the respondents found no issues with the material used for grow bags.

Despite the mixed responses, the majority of the users were satisfied with the yield

produced, and almost half of the respondents would recommend using grow bags. Therefore grow bags could be a viable option for home gardeners looking to grow vegetables, particularly those who prefer ease of use and have less availability of space and durability.

Limitations and Scope for Further Research

- The response from some respondents was not satisfactory
- The study was limited to 50 customers and hence this does not pertain to the entire customer base, as it was not possible to conduct each and every customer.

Conclusion

Grow bags offer several advantages over traditional gardening methods, including portability, affordability, and sustainability. They are a versatile option for gardeners with limited space, and can be easily moved indoors during inclement weather. Additionally, grow bags are less expensive than other types of garden containers, and can be reused year after year, making them an eco-friendly and cost-effective choice for gardeners. Overall, grow bags provide a simple and effective solution for those looking to grow plants without the hassle of traditional gardening methods.

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A STUDY ON CONSUMER INSIGHTS ON THE DEMAND FOR ECO-FRIENDLY BEVERAGES

Mr. Tilvin Sabu, Assistant Professor, Department of Hotel Management NIMIT Abstract

With growing environmental awareness and health consciousness, the demand for eco-friendly beverages has been increasing among consumers. This study explores consumer insights regarding the demand for eco-friendly beverages, focusing on their preferences, motivations, and purchasing behavior. Through surveys and market analysis, the research identifies key factors influencing consumer choices, such as sustainability, packaging, organic ingredients, and brand transparency. The findings suggest that while consumers are willing to pay a premium for eco-friendly options, factors like price sensitivity and availability still pose challenges. The study highlights the need for beverage companies to align their marketing strategies with consumer expectations to foster a sustainable and competitive market.

Introduction

In recent years, there has been a significant shift in consumer preferences toward sustainable and environmentally friendly products. This shift is particularly evident in the beverage industry, where consumers are increasingly seeking eco-friendly options that align with their values of health, sustainability, and ethical consumption. Eco-friendly beverages, which include organic drinks, plant-based alternatives, and sustainably packaged products, have gained popularity as individuals become more conscious of their environmental impact.

This research aims to explore consumer insights on the demand for eco-friendly beverages, analyzing the key factors that influence purchasing decisions. Understanding consumer behavior in this segment is crucial for businesses to develop effective strategies that meet market demands while promoting sustainability. Factors such as environmental awareness, product affordability, brand transparency, and packaging sustainability play a vital role in shaping consumer choices.

By investigating consumer preferences, motivations, and challenges, this study seeks to provide valuable insights into how businesses can enhance their offerings and marketing strategies. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of the growing eco-

friendly beverage market and offer recommendations for companies looking to align with the evolving consumer mindset toward sustainability.

Significance of the Study

The demand for eco-friendly beverages has been rising due to increasing consumer awareness of environmental sustainability and health-conscious living. This study is significant as it provides valuable insights into consumer preferences, behaviors, and motivations regarding eco-friendly beverage choices. Understanding these insights is crucial for businesses, policymakers, and other stakeholders in the beverage industry to develop strategies that align with consumer expectations and promote sustainable consumption.

Firstly, this study benefits businesses and beverage manufacturers by helping them identify key factors that drive consumer demand for eco-friendly products. By understanding consumer preferences related to sustainable packaging, organic ingredients, and ethical sourcing, companies can tailor their product offerings, improve marketing strategies, and enhance customer engagement.

Secondly, the research is valuable for policymakers and environmental organizations, as it highlights the role of regulations and incentives in encouraging sustainable production and consumption. Insights from this study can inform policies that support green business practices and promote environmental conservation.

Thirdly, this study is significant for consumers, as it raises awareness about the benefits of eco-friendly beverages and the impact of their purchasing decisions on the environment. Educating consumers can contribute to a broader movement toward sustainability and responsible consumption.

Overall, this research provides a comprehensive understanding of the market dynamics surrounding eco-friendly beverages, offering strategic recommendations that can drive industry growth while promoting environmental sustainability. The findings contribute to the ongoing global effort to reduce carbon footprints and encourage sustainable business practices in the food and beverage sector.

Statement of the Problem

As environmental concerns and health consciousness continue to rise, consumers are becoming more inclined toward sustainable and eco-friendly products, including beverages. However, despite the growing awareness and demand, the adoption of eco-friendly beverages remains inconsistent due to various challenges. Businesses often struggle to understand the key factors that influence consumer preferences, leading to gaps in product development, pricing strategies, and marketing approaches.

One of the primary challenges is the lack of comprehensive consumer insights regarding the demand for eco-friendly beverages. While some consumers express strong interest in sustainability, their actual purchasing behavior may be influenced by factors such as price, availability, brand trust, and packaging design. Additionally, there is limited research on how demographic and psychographic factors impact consumer decisions in this segment.

Moreover, businesses face difficulties in balancing profitability with sustainability, as eco-friendly production methods and packaging often incur higher costs. Understanding consumer willingness to pay a premium for such products is crucial for companies looking to expand in this market.

This study seeks to address these challenges by analyzing consumer insights on the demand for eco-friendly beverages, identifying the key motivators and barriers affecting purchasing decisions, and providing actionable recommendations for businesses and policymakers. By doing so, this research aims to bridge the gap between consumer expectations and industry practices, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable beverage market.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this research is to analyze consumer insights regarding the demand for eco-friendly beverages and understand the factors influencing their purchasing decisions. The study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. To examine consumer awareness and perception of eco-friendly beverages and their impact on the environment and health.
2. To identify key factors influencing purchasing decisions, such as sustainability,

- packaging, pricing, brand transparency, and health benefits.
3. To analyze consumer willingness to pay a premium for eco-friendly beverages and the barriers that may hinder their adoption.
 4. To assess the role of marketing and branding strategies in shaping consumer preferences and increasing demand for eco-friendly beverages.
 5. To explore demographic and psychographic trends in consumer behavior related to eco-friendly beverage consumption.
 6. To provide recommendations for businesses and policymakers on how to promote sustainable beverage choices and enhance market growth.

These objectives will help in understanding market trends and consumer behavior, enabling businesses and policymakers to make informed decisions that support sustainability and eco-conscious consumption.

Results and Discussions

Examining Consumer Awareness and Perception of Eco-Friendly Beverages and Their Impact on the Environment and Health

Consumer awareness of eco-friendly beverages has been growing due to increasing concerns about environmental sustainability and personal health. Many consumers recognize that these beverages, which are often made with organic ingredients, sustainable sourcing, and eco-friendly packaging, contribute to reducing environmental harm, such as plastic waste and carbon emissions. However, perception varies—while some consumers see eco-friendly beverages as a healthier and more ethical choice, others remain skeptical about their actual benefits or find them expensive compared to conventional options. Many associate these beverages with reduced chemical additives, fewer preservatives, and enhanced nutritional value, making them appealing to health-conscious individuals. At the same time, eco-labels and certifications, such as USDA Organic, Fair Trade, and Carbon Neutral, influence purchasing decisions by building trust in sustainability claims. Despite growing awareness, barriers such as affordability, availability, and misinformation still affect consumer adoption. To enhance market growth, businesses and policymakers must focus on education, transparent branding, and accessibility, ensuring that consumers fully understand the benefits of eco-friendly beverages for both their health and the planet.

Consumer purchasing decisions for eco-friendly beverages are influenced by several key factors, including sustainability, packaging, pricing, brand transparency, and health benefits. Sustainability plays a crucial role, as environmentally conscious consumers prefer beverages produced using ethical sourcing, carbon-neutral methods, and minimal ecological impact. Packaging is another significant factor—many consumers seek biodegradable, recyclable, or reusable packaging to reduce plastic waste. However, pricing remains a major barrier, as eco-friendly beverages are often perceived as expensive, making affordability a decisive factor, especially for price-sensitive buyers. Brand transparency also shapes purchasing behavior, as consumers are more likely to choose brands that provide clear information about their sustainability practices, certifications (e.g., Fair Trade, USDA Organic, or Carbon Neutral), and ethical commitments. Additionally, health benefits are a strong motivator, with many consumers preferring organic, preservative-free, and plant-based beverages that contribute to overall well-being. Understanding these factors can help businesses tailor their marketing strategies, improve product accessibility, and drive greater adoption of eco-friendly beverage choices.

Consumers are increasingly willing to pay a premium for eco-friendly beverages, especially those who prioritize sustainability, health benefits, and ethical consumption. Many buyers perceive these beverages as a better alternative to conventional drinks due to their organic ingredients, environmentally responsible production, and reduced use of artificial additives. However, willingness to pay varies based on factors such as income level, environmental awareness, and perceived value. While some consumers are eager to support sustainable brands, others hesitate due to high prices, limited availability, and skepticism about green claims (greenwashing). Additionally, lack of awareness and education about the long-term benefits of eco-friendly beverages can discourage purchases. To overcome these barriers, businesses must focus on cost-effective production, transparent branding, competitive pricing strategies, and greater accessibility through wider distribution. Government incentives and policies that support sustainable businesses can also help make these beverages more affordable. By addressing these challenges, the market for eco-friendly beverages can expand, appealing to a broader consumer base and encouraging more sustainable consumption habits.

Marketing and branding strategies play a crucial role in shaping consumer preferences and driving demand for eco-friendly beverages. Effective branding helps position these products as sustainable, healthy, and ethically responsible, appealing to environmentally conscious and health-focused consumers. Companies that leverage green branding, eco-labels, and transparent messaging build trust and credibility, making consumers more likely to choose their products. Additionally, digital marketing, influencer partnerships, and social media campaigns have proven to be powerful tools in spreading awareness and engaging younger demographics, particularly Millennials and Gen Z, who prioritize sustainability. Storytelling and emotional branding, where companies highlight their commitment to reducing carbon footprints, supporting fair trade, or using biodegradable packaging, create deeper consumer connections. However, challenges such as greenwashing concerns and price sensitivity require businesses to ensure authenticity in their marketing efforts. Offering loyalty programs, promotional discounts, and educational initiatives can further encourage trial and long-term adoption. By implementing strategic and transparent marketing approaches, businesses can enhance consumer trust, shape positive perceptions, and ultimately increase the demand for eco-friendly beverages.

Consumer behavior toward eco-friendly beverages is influenced by both demographic and psychographic factors, shaping preferences, purchasing decisions, and brand loyalty. Demographically, younger consumers, particularly Millennials and Gen Z, are the most active adopters of sustainable beverages due to their strong environmental consciousness and willingness to pay for ethically sourced products. Urban dwellers tend to have greater access to eco-friendly options and are more exposed to sustainability campaigns, while higher-income groups are generally more willing to pay a premium for organic and environmentally friendly products. Psychographically, eco-conscious consumers prioritize sustainability, ethical sourcing, and personal well-being, often seeking brands that align with their values. Health-conscious individuals, including those following organic, vegan, or plant-based diets, prefer beverages free from artificial additives and chemicals. Consumers driven by social responsibility are influenced by transparent branding, ethical certifications, and a company's commitment to environmental causes. By understanding these demographic and psychographic trends, businesses can effectively segment their markets and tailor marketing strategies to attract and retain sustainability-driven consumers.

Conclusion

The demand for eco-friendly beverages is steadily rising as consumers become more conscious of their environmental impact, health benefits, and ethical consumption habits. This study has provided valuable insights into the factors influencing consumer choices, including sustainability practices, eco-friendly packaging, pricing concerns, brand transparency, and health considerations. While there is a growing willingness to pay a premium for sustainable beverages, barriers such as higher costs, limited accessibility, and consumer skepticism about corporate sustainability claims (greenwashing) continue to pose challenges. Understanding demographic and psychographic trends reveals that younger, urban, and environmentally aware consumers are more inclined toward eco-friendly beverage options, making them a key target audience for businesses and marketers.

Moreover, effective marketing and branding strategies have proven essential in shaping consumer preferences and driving demand. Green branding, sustainability certifications, digital engagement, and influencer marketing all contribute to enhancing brand trust and consumer loyalty. However, companies must ensure authenticity and transparency in their messaging to avoid misleading consumers and damaging brand credibility. To bridge the gap between interest and adoption, businesses should focus on competitive pricing, innovative sustainable packaging, strategic promotions, and increased product availability across retail and online platforms.

Policymakers also have a crucial role in fostering a sustainable beverage market by implementing incentives for eco-friendly businesses, stricter regulations on unsustainable packaging, and public awareness campaigns that encourage responsible consumption. Collaborative efforts between government bodies, beverage companies, and environmental organizations can create a more sustainable marketplace, benefiting both consumers and the planet.

In conclusion, while the market for eco-friendly beverages is promising, businesses and policymakers must work together to remove adoption barriers, educate consumers, and promote long-term sustainability. By addressing key challenges and leveraging strategic initiatives, the eco-friendly beverage industry can continue to grow, driving positive environmental change

while meeting evolving consumer needs.

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ആശാന്റെ കാവ്യദർശനവും സാമൂഹികപ്രസക്തിയും പുനർവായന (ദ്രിദിയൻ ചിന്താവഴികളിലൂടെ)

രജിത കെ രവി

അസി. പ്രൊഫസർ, ഭാഷാവിഭാഗം

നൈപുണ്യ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഓഫ് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് & ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ടെക്നോളജി പൊങ്ങം

ആമുഖം

സാഹിത്യത്തിലെ ഏതു കൃതിയും സാമൂഹികജീവിത വ്യവസ്ഥയുടെ പ്രതിഫലനമോ പ്രതികരണമോ ആകാം. എഴുത്തുകാരന് താൻ ചേർന്നു നിൽക്കുന്ന സാമൂഹികപ്രശ്നങ്ങളെ ഏറ്റെടുക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. മനുഷ്യനെ ചൂഴ്ന്നുനിൽക്കുന്ന സാമൂഹിക രാഷ്ട്രീയ പ്രതിസന്ധികൾക്ക് ഉചിത നിലപാടുകളോടെ ക്രിയാത്മകമായ പ്രതികരണങ്ങളിലേക്ക് എത്തിച്ചേരാനുമാർഗ്ഗം അവൻ/അവൾ പ്രാപ്തനാകുന്നു. കലുഷിതമായ ലോകജീവിതവ്യവസ്ഥയിൽ മതം, ജാതി തുടങ്ങിയ 'പ്രാകൃത' പ്രേരണകൾക്ക് അറുതി വന്നിട്ടില്ല. ക്ലാസിക് കാലഘട്ടത്തിലെ കവികളെയും കൃതികളെയും സാമൂഹികമായി നിരീക്ഷിക്കാതെ ആ കൃതികളിലെ അന്തർധാരയായിരുന്ന പ്രതിരോധശക്തിയെ സമൂഹം കാണാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചില്ല. പത്തൊമ്പതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന്റെ പകുതിയോടെയും ഇരുപതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിലുമായി നൂതനാശയങ്ങളുമായി പുതിയ കാവ്യവഴികൾ രൂപപ്പെട്ടു. സാമൂഹിക ഉച്ചനീചത്വങ്ങൾ, ജാതിചിന്ത, വർണ്ണവിവേചനം തുടങ്ങിയ വരുത്തിവെച്ച സാംസ്കാരികക്കെടുതികൾക്കെതിരെ മനുഷ്യമനഃസാക്ഷിയുടെ പ്രതികരണമുണ്ടാകുന്നു. നാട്യവാഴിത്തം അവസാനിച്ചു. സവർണ്ണമേധാവിത്വം സമൂഹത്തിനു വിനയമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു. ഇതിനെതിരെ പ്രതിരോധിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ആശാൻ എഴുതിയ 'ദുരവസ്ഥ', 'ചണ്ഡാലഭിക്ഷുകി' എന്നീ കവിതകളെ പഠനവിധേയമാക്കുന്നു. ആശാൻ ഈ കൃതികളിലൂടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന മേലാളകീഴാള ബന്ധത്തിലൂടെ സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ ജാതിചിന്തകളെ വിപ്ലവാത്മകമായി നേരിടുക എന്നതായിരുന്നു ലക്ഷ്യം. എന്നാൽ ഈ ദമ്പദം സൃഷ്ടിക്കലിലൂടെ യഥാർത്ഥമായി കവി ആഗ്രഹിച്ച ഒരു സാമൂഹിക നീതി നടപ്പാക്കപ്പെട്ടുവോ എന്നുള്ളത് ഇപ്പോൾ ചിന്തക്കു വിധേയമാണ്. ആശാൻ കവിതകളിൽ കണ്ടെത്തിയ ചില ആശയങ്ങളുടെ സാമൂഹികപ്രസക്തി, ദ്രിദിയൻ ചിന്തകളിലൂടെ പുനരവലോകന സാധ്യതയും അന്വേഷണ വിഷയമാണ്.

“മാറ്റുവിൻ ചട്ടങ്ങളെ സ്വയമല്ലെങ്കിൽ
മാറ്റുമതുകളീ നിങ്ങളെത്താൻ”

എന്ന ഒരു ആശയം സ്ഥിരമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥാപിത സമൂഹത്തിനകത്ത് കാലികമായി മാറി വരുന്ന നിയമങ്ങളും ചട്ടങ്ങളും ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെടേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് തെളിയുന്നു. നിയതമായ ആശയങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയ ഒരു സമൂഹത്തിൽ അവ എല്ലാക്കാലത്തേയും നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന ഒന്നല്ല എന്ന സിദ്ധാന്തത്തിന്റെ പിൻബലത്തോടെ ആശാന്റെ ചില ആശയങ്ങൾ ചർച്ചക്ക് വിധേയമാക്കുകയാണ് പ്രബന്ധലക്ഷ്യം.

പഠനപ്രസക്തി

ആശാൻ കവിതകളിലെ ദർശനങ്ങൾ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കർത്തൃത്വരൂപീകരണം പോലും പ്രത്യുശാസ്ത്രപരമാണെന്ന തിരിച്ചറിവിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ചിന്തകൾ സമകാലീന സാമൂഹിക സംഭവങ്ങളിൽ അനുകരിക്കാവുന്ന കേന്ദ്രീകൃതാശയങ്ങളെ കണ്ടെത്തുകയുമാണ് പ്രബന്ധലക്ഷ്യം.

പൂർവ്വപഠനങ്ങൾ

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കുമാരനാശാന്റെ കാവ്യദർശനം - ഡോ. അയ്യപ്പപണിക്കർ.

വിഷയാപഗ്രഥനം

ആശാൻ തന്റെ കാവ്യവൈഭവം കാവ്യരചനയിൽ പരിവർത്തനത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഉപയോഗിച്ചതുപോലെ സാമൂഹിക പരിവർത്തനത്തിനുവേണ്ടിയും കാവ്യകലയുടെ ശക്തി പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ സാമൂഹിക പരിവർത്തനത്തിനുള്ള ഉദ്ബോധനങ്ങൾ ആശാൻ കവിതകളിൽ കേൾക്കാം. കേരളത്തിൽ ജാതിവ്യവസ്ഥയുടെ ശക്തിയിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ധീരമായി പോരാടേണ്ടിവന്നു. സാമൂഹിക ചരിത്രത്തിന്റെ നിയന്ത്രണം, അധീശവർഗത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ഒഴിവാക്കാനുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങൾക്ക് പത്തൊമ്പതാം

നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന്റെ ഉത്തരാർദ്ധത്തിൽ ശക്തികൂട്ടുകയായിരുന്നു. ശ്രീനാരായണഗുരുവിൽ നിന്ന് പ്രചോദനം ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ട് കാവ്യവഴികളിൽ നവീനാശയങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുവരികയായിരുന്നു ആശാൻ.

1921ൽ മലബാർ കലാപത്തിന്റെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ ആശാൻ രചിച്ച കാവ്യമാണ് 'ദുരവസ്ഥ'. 'ദുരവസ്ഥ' യുടെ മുഖവുരയിൽ കാവ്യം എന്തിനെഴുതി എന്ന് സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ആ കൃതിയെ എങ്ങനെ സ്വീകരിക്കപ്പെടണമെന്നും ഉപസംഹാരമായി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. "ഉൽകൃഷ്ടമായ ഒരു ധർമ്മദർശത്തെ പുരസ്കരിച്ചുള്ള കൃത്യബോധത്താൽ പ്രേരിതനായി ഈ സാഹസത്തിന് ഒരുവെട്ടുതാകുന്നു. ശക്തിയേറിയ ഒഴുക്കിൽ മുന്നോട്ടു നീന്താനുള്ള ഈ ശ്രമത്തെ സഹൃദയരായ വായനക്കാർ അനുകമ്പാപൂർവ്വം നിരീക്ഷിക്കുമെന്നും ഇതിലെ തോൽവി തന്നെയും ഒരു വക വിജയമായി ഗണിക്കുമെന്നും ആശിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു". (ദുരവസ്ഥ, ആമുഖം ആശാൻ)

സാമൂഹിക പരിഷ്കരണ ലക്ഷ്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ് ദുരവസ്ഥ രചിച്ചതെന്ന് കവി തന്നെ പറയുന്നു. മലബാറിൽ സംഭവിച്ച മാപ്പിളലഹളയുടെ ഭയാനകമായ അന്തരീക്ഷത്തിലാണെങ്കിലും സാവിത്രി എന്ന അന്തർജ്ജനസ്ത്രീ, ചാത്തൻ എന്ന പുലയ യുവാവിനെ സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ മുതിരുന്നത് സാമൂഹികമായ മാറ്റം ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ടാണ്.

ബ്രാഹ്മണ/പുലയ ദ്വന്ദ്വം, മേലാള/കീഴാള ദ്വന്ദ്വം ആശാൻ ചിന്തകൾക്ക് അന്നൊരു ശക്തമായ ഉദാഹരണമായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും ഒരു പുനർവായന നടത്തുമ്പോൾ അത്തരം ദ്വന്ദ്വങ്ങൾ തമ്മിൽ ചേർക്കപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ സാമൂഹികമായ മാറ്റത്തിനപ്പുറം വ്യക്തിപരമായി തന്റേതായ 'ഇടം' നഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു വസ്തുത നമുക്ക് അറിയുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. അവർ നിലനിന്നിരുന്ന അവരുടേതായ ഒരിടം ഏതൊരു വ്യക്തിക്കും തുല്യമാണ്. പുലയ യുവാവ് അയാൾ ഇടപെടുന്ന ചുറ്റുപാടുകളിൽനിന്ന് വ്യത്യസ്തമായി അന്തർജ്ജനസ്ത്രീക്ക് അവരുടേതായ ഒരിടം സ്ഥാപിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതിന് ബോധപൂർവ്വമല്ലാതെ ഒരു ശ്രമം നടത്തേണ്ടി വരും. തന്റേതായ ഇടം വിട്ടുനിൽക്കേണ്ടി വരുന്ന അവസ്ഥ രണ്ടുപേർക്കും നേരിടേണ്ടിവരുന്നുവെന്ന യാഥാർത്ഥ്യം അതിലുണ്ട്. ഇതേ ദ്വന്ദ്വം സ്ഥാപിക്കൽ തന്നെയായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം 'ചണ്ഡാലഭിക്ഷുകി' യിലും നിർവഹിച്ചത്. ചണ്ഡാലഭിക്ഷുവിന്റെ വ്യക്തി വൈശിഷ്ട്യത്തിൽ ആകൃഷ്ടയായ 'മാതംഗി' എന്ന ചണ്ഡാല യുവതി ബുദ്ധവിഹാരത്തിൽ എത്തിച്ചേരുമ്പോൾ പ്രമാണിമാർ രാജധാനിയിൽ പരാതി ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെയും ആശാൻ സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നപോലെ സഹോദരിസ്ഥാനം ഉള്ള കൃതിയാണ് 'ചണ്ഡാലഭിക്ഷുകി'.

ആശാൻ ഹിന്ദുമത വിശ്വാസങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം ബുദ്ധമതചിന്തകളെയും കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നു. സുകുമാർ അഴീക്കോടിന്റെ 'മതവും മതങ്ങളും' എന്ന ലേഖനത്തിൽ ശ്രീനാരായണഗുരുവിന്റെ ദർശനങ്ങളും, മാറ്റവും അതിനുള്ള സാഹചര്യങ്ങളും വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. 1914 ൽ ഗുരുവിന്റെ വിശ്വവിശ്രൂമായ "ഒരു ജാതി, ഒരു മതം, ഒരു ദൈവം" എന്ന ദർശനം ജന്മദിന സന്ദേശമാക്കുമ്പോൾ, 1923ൽ "മതമേതായാലും മനുഷ്യൻ നന്നായാൽ മതി" എന്ന് സഹോദർ അയ്യപ്പനോട് പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. 'മതം' എന്നതിനോട് 'ഒരു' എന്ന വിശേഷണം ചേരുകയാൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് തന്റെ ദർശനങ്ങളിൽ അയവു വരുത്തേണ്ടി വരികയാണ്. പലപ്പോഴും തന്റേതായ ആശയങ്ങൾക്ക് മാറ്റം വരുത്തേണ്ടിവരുന്നു.

അപനിർമ്മാണസിദ്ധാന്തത്തിലേക്ക് വഴിതെളിച്ച ഴാക്ക് ദിദയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാന പ്രബന്ധത്തിൽ, (ട്രോഗരയോല, ടഗഴി മിറ ജഹമ്യ ശി വേല ഉശരീഘുലെ ഴ വേല ഞാമി ടരശലിരലല) സ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഏതൊരു സിസ്റ്റവും അസ്ഥിരമാണെന്നും ഒരു സിസ്റ്റത്തിന്റെ അസ്ഥിരതയിൽ നിന്ന് വേറൊരു സിസ്റ്റത്തിലേക്ക് വഴിമാറുമ്പോൾ സംഭവിക്കുന്നത് അസ്ഥിരമായേക്കാവുന്ന മറ്റൊരു സിസ്റ്റത്തിലേക്കുള്ള മാറ്റം മാത്രമാണ്. അസ്ഥിരമായ വ്യവസ്ഥിതികളിൽ ദിദ പറയുന്ന സാധ്യത സിസ്റ്റത്തിൽനിന്ന് മാറി നിൽക്കുകയോ അസ്ഥിരത ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ട് സിസ്റ്റത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമാവുകയോ എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. കാരണം എക്കാലത്തേക്കും സ്ഥിരമായ, സനാതനമായ ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥിതി അസാധ്യമാണ്.

എന്നാൽ എല്ലാക്കാലത്തേക്കും ആവശ്യമായ ചില ദർശനങ്ങൾ കാവ്യലോകത്തിനു സംഭാവന ചെയ്യാൻ ആശാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നത് ശ്രദ്ധേയമാണ്. ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥക്കകത്ത് അതിനുള്ള കലഹങ്ങളും നടക്കുമ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ചില ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കും കണ്ടെത്തലുകൾക്കും കാലാതീതമായ പ്രസക്തിയുണ്ട്.

'മാറ്റുവിൻ ചട്ടങ്ങളെ സ്വയമല്ലെങ്കിൽ
മാറ്റുമതുകളീ നിങ്ങളെത്താൻ' (ദുരവസ്ഥ)

ഈ ചിന്ത അന്വർത്ഥമാക്കുന്നത് പിൽക്കാലത്ത് എത്രയോ സാമൂഹിക പരിവർത്തനങ്ങളാണ് കേരളത്തിൽ സംഭവിച്ചത്. കവിയുടെ ക്രാന്തദർശിത്വം വായനക്കാരെ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. ആശാൻ മാർദ്ദവമില്ലാതെ പറഞ്ഞ പല വരികളിലും കാലികപ്രസക്തിയുണ്ട്. അടിമത്തം കിട്ടിയവർ അത് ദൈവിക കൽപ്പന പോലെ അനുസരിച്ചുപോരുന്ന പ്രവണത ഇന്നും നിലനിൽക്കുന്നു. ഭരണനിയന്ത്രണങ്ങളും അധികാരവ്യവസ്ഥയും പലപ്പോഴും മേലാളർക്ക് അനുകൂലമാകുന്ന അവസ്ഥ ഇന്നും തുടർന്നുപോരുന്നു, മറ്റൊരു വിധത്തിൽ. സ്തുതിവാക്കുകൾ കൊണ്ട് നിലനിൽപ്പില്ലാത്ത ലോകത്ത് പര്യടൻ വാക്കുകൾ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുക തന്നെ വേണം എന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം ഉറപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് തന്നെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ നവോത്ഥാനചിന്തകൾക്ക് കാലികപ്രസക്തി കൈവരുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തെ സാമൂഹിക ചിന്തകളിൽ മേലാള-കീഴാള ദ്വന്ദ്വങ്ങൾപോലെ വേറൊരുവിധത്തിൽ ഇത്തരം വേർതിരിവുകൾ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്.

"ഈപ്പാഴുപാട്ടാമെളിയ വിജ്ഞാപനം

മുല്പാടു വച്ചു വണങ്ങിടുന്നേൻ”

ഇതൊരു ഫലമില്ലാത്ത പാട്ടാണെന്നുപോലും ചിന്തിച്ചുപോകുന്ന വിധം അധഃപതിച്ചുപോയ സമൂഹത്തിൽ നിന്നുകൊണ്ടാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് പ്രതികരിക്കേണ്ടി വന്നത്.

“ചണ്ഡാലിതൻ മെയ്ദിജന്റെ ബീജ-
പിണ്ഡത്തിനുഷരമാണോ?” (ചണ്ഡാലഭിക്ഷുകി)

ഇത്രയും ശക്തമായ ഒരു ചോദ്യത്തിന് ചരിത്രത്തിൽ ഉത്തരമുണ്ടായില്ല.

“ഇന്നലെചെയ്തോരമ്പലം - മുവൾ
കിന്നത്തെയാചാരമാവാം
നാളത്തെ ശാസ്ത്രമതാവാം - അതിൽ
മുളയ്ക സമ്മതം രാജൻ”

(ചണ്ഡാലഭിക്ഷുകി)

ചരിത്രത്താളുകളിൽ കവി കണ്ടെടുത്ത സത്യമാണിത്. പ്രകൃതിനിയമംപോലെ പ്രാമാണികമായ തത്വം തന്നെയാണിത്. സാമൂഹികപരമായ മാറ്റങ്ങൾ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടു കൊണ്ട് തന്നെ ഈ ചിന്തകൾ മാറ്റം കൂടാതെ നിലനിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

ജോസഫ് മുണ്ടശ്ശേരി, ആശാൻ ‘ദുരവസ്ഥ’യിൽ രണ്ട് വെല്ലുവിളികൾ നടത്തിയെന്ന് വിശദീകരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. “വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ദുരവസ്ഥയിലൂടെ രണ്ട് വെല്ലുവിളി നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒന്ന് കാവ്യലോകത്തിലെ പാരമ്പര്യത്തോടാണ്. പൂർവ്വകൃതികൾ വഴി നിയോക്ലാസിസത്തെ വെല്ലുവിളിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. ദുരവസ്ഥയിലെ കഥാകല്പനകൊണ്ട് ആ വെല്ലുവിളിയെ പൂരിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. നായികാനായക കല്പനയെയും മറ്റും സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള വഴക്കങ്ങളെ മുഴുവൻ തെറ്റിച്ച് കളഞ്ഞു എന്നർത്ഥം. രണ്ടാമത്തെ വെല്ലുവിളി സാമൂഹികാചാരസംഹിതയോടാണ്” (പ്രൊഫ. ജോസഫ് മുണ്ടശ്ശേരി, ആശാൻ കവിത - ഒരു പഠനം)

ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥാപിത സമൂഹത്തിനകത്ത് അതിനെ തകർക്കുന്ന ആശയങ്ങൾ അതിൽതന്നെ നിലനിൽക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് സ്ഥാപിക്കപ്പെട്ട വ്യവസ്ഥിതി ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെടും. അതുകൊണ്ട് തന്നെ നവോത്ഥാനാശയങ്ങൾക്കും അതിനെത്തന്നെ പൊളിച്ചെഴുതേണ്ടി വരിക എന്ന യാഥാർത്ഥ്യം നിലനിൽക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെയാണ് ആശാന്റെ ആശയങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള പ്രസക്തി.

ഉപസംഹാരം

ആശാന്റെ ‘ദുരവസ്ഥ’, ‘ചണ്ഡാലഭിക്ഷുകി’ എന്നിവ പഠനവിധേയമാകുമ്പോൾ നിലനിന്നിരുന്ന ജാതി വ്യവസ്ഥയെ തിരുത്തുവാൻ അദ്ദേഹം തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത ഒരു ചിന്ത കീഴാളനെ മേലാളനിലേക്ക് ലയിപ്പിക്കുക എന്ന യുക്തി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രത്യയശാസ്ത്രപരമായ കർത്തൃത്വനിർമ്മിതി നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ ഒരു സ്ഥിരമായ സാമൂഹികഘടന നിലനിൽക്കപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. അത്തരമൊരു ഘടനയിൽ അവ ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്ന സമാന്തര സാമൂഹിക ചുറ്റുപാടുകളും നിലനിൽക്കുന്നു. സാമൂഹിക മാറ്റങ്ങൾ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ട കവി വ്യത്യസ്ത ചുറ്റുപാടുകളിൽ നിന്നുള്ള കൂടിച്ചേരൽ നടത്തുമ്പോൾ ‘ഇടം’ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന വ്യക്തിനിർമ്മിതിയാണ് നടത്തുക. സാമൂഹികഘടന ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ആശാൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്ന ചില നവോത്ഥാനാശയങ്ങൾക്ക് ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുകയോ തകർക്കപ്പെടുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്ന സാമൂഹിക വ്യവസ്ഥ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. ഏതൊരു കാലത്തേക്കും ആവശ്യമായ ഒരു സ്വാധീനശക്തി അത്തരം ചിന്തകൾക്ക് ഉള്ളതായി കണ്ടെത്താനാവും. സമകാലീന സമൂഹത്തിലും ആശാൻ സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്ന വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ കാലാനുസൃതമായ മാറ്റങ്ങൾ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ട് സമൂഹത്തിൽ നിലനിൽക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് തന്നെ ഇത്തരം നവോത്ഥാനാശയങ്ങൾ കാലത്തെ അതിജീവിച്ചുനിൽക്കുന്നു.

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അക്കിത്തം കവിയുടെ അകം പുറങ്ങൾ**

നീതു വത്സൻ
അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് പ്രൊഫസർ
നൈപുണ്യ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഓഫ് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ആൻഡ് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ടെക്നോളജി

ആമുഖം

പാരമ്പര്യത്തിലേക്ക് വേരുകളാഴ്ത്തിയതും സമകാലീനതയിലേക്ക് പച്ച പടർത്തിയതുമായ രചനാലോകമാണ് അക്കിത്തം അച്യുതൻ നമ്പൂതിരിയുടേത്. എൺപത് വർഷത്തിലേറെ നീണ്ടുനിന്ന സ്വർഗ്ഗജീവിതത്തിന്റെ ദീപ്തഭാവം പകർന്ന ആ കാവ്യസപര്യ മലയാള കവിതാചരിത്രത്തിലെ സമ്പന്നവും വ്യത്യസ്തവുമായ ഏടുകളാണ്. വേദാന്ത്യസനവും സോഷ്യലിസ്റ്റ് ആശയങ്ങളുടെ സ്വാംശീകരണവും സമന്വയിച്ചുണ്ടായ ജ്ഞാനപരിസരമാണ് അക്കിത്തം കവിതകളുടെ പൊതു പശ്ചാത്തലം. അക്കിത്തം കവിതയിലെ ഗ്രാമ നഗര സംഘർഷം എങ്ങനെ അനുഭവവേദ്യമാകുന്നു എന്നതാണ് ഈ പ്രബന്ധത്തിൽ ആലോചിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നത്. ഗ്രാമം / നഗരം എന്നിങ്ങനെ ഒന്നിന് അപരമായ മറ്റൊരു കല്പന എന്ന മട്ടിൽ വേറിട്ട് നിൽക്കുന്ന ഗ്രാമമോ നഗരമോ കവിതകളിൽ നിന്ന് കണ്ടെടുക്കാൻ അല്ല ഇവിടെ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നത്. ആധുനികതാവാദകവികളിൽ ഭൂരിഭാഗത്തെയും കീഴടക്കിയ ഈ സംഘർഷം അക്കിത്തത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചതിന്റെ വ്യത്യസ്തത എങ്ങനെയെന്ന വിചാരത്തിലൂന്നുകയാണ് ഇവിടെ.

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വേദസാഹിത്യ പാരമ്പര്യത്തെയും വേദ ദർശനങ്ങളെയും തന്റെ കവിയുടെയും ലോകവീക്ഷണത്തിന്റെ തന്നെയും അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയ ഒരു കവിയുടെ എഴുത്തിന്റെ അകപ്പൊരുളുകൾ തിരയുമ്പോഴാണ് സൂക്ഷ്മാർത്ഥത്തിൽ കവിയുടെ ആന്തര സംഘർഷങ്ങളിലേക്ക് സഞ്ചരിക്കാനാവുക.

വിശ്വമാനവികതയ്ക്ക് വേണ്ടിയുള്ള സത്യസന്ധമായ കവിയുടെ നില്പ്, വീരവാദം(1946) മുതലിങ്ങോട്ടുള്ള ഓരോ കവിതയിലും തൊട്ടറിയാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണ്. സ്റ്റേഫമൂല്യത്തെ തള്ളിപ്പറയാൻ തയ്യാറില്ലാത്ത വിപ്ലവ ബോധമെന്ന് ഡോ.എം ലീലാവതി അടയാളപ്പെടുത്തിയ (2014:309) ആ കാവ്യ ബോധം തന്നെയാണ് ഇസങ്ങൾക്കപ്പുറത്തേക്ക് പടർന്നു നിൽക്കാൻ അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെ കവിതകൾക്ക് കരുത്ത് പകർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടാകുക.

ഭാരതീയ സംസ്കൃതിയുടെ ഉറവിടങ്ങൾ തേടുന്ന കാവ്യപാരമ്പര്യത്തിലാണ് ഏവരും അക്കിത്തത്തെ അടയാളപ്പെടുത്തുക. വേദ പാരമ്പര്യവും സംസ്കൃത പഠനവും നൽകുന്ന ഗരിമയുള്ളപ്പോൾ തന്നെ സമകാലികരായ കവികളുമായുള്ള അടുപ്പം കൊണ്ടും സാമൂഹിക പരിഷ്കരണ പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചതിനാലുമൊക്കെ അക്കിത്തം കവിത തദ്ദേശീയമായ പന്ഥാവുകളും പരിചിതമാക്കിയിരുന്നു എന്ന് പറയേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. നമ്പൂതിരി

സമുദായവും അതിന്റെ പരിചരണസ്ഥലികളും കവിതയിൽ നിത്യസാന്നിധ്യമാകുമ്പോഴും ഭാവതലത്തിൽ ഏതൊരു മനുഷ്യനെയും ചേർത്തുപിടിക്കാൻ ശേഷിയുള്ള ചിലയിടങ്ങൾ കവിതയിൽ സ്ഥാനം പിടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. സ്നേഹരഹിതമായ വിപ്ലവത്തെ തള്ളി പുറത്താക്കാനുള്ള ശേഷിയും ആ കവിതകൾക്കുണ്ട്.

അഞ്ചു ഖണ്ഡകാവ്യങ്ങളും അറുനൂറോളം കവിതകളുമുൾപ്പെടുന്ന അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ രചനാലോകത്തിൽ ഭാഗവതത്തിന്റെ വിവർത്തനവുമുണ്ട്. ആസ്തിക്യമെന്ന അനുഭൂതിയുടെ സൗന്ദര്യം പ്രസരിക്കുന്ന കൃതികളാണ് അവസാനകാലത്ത് അദ്ദേഹം രചിച്ചതെന്നു പറയാം.

അക്കിത്തം കവിതയിലെ ഗ്രാമ -നഗര സംഘർഷങ്ങൾ എന്നതാണ് പ്രബന്ധ വിഷയം. വിശുദ്ധി നിറഞ്ഞ ഗ്രാമവും കാപട്യം നിറഞ്ഞ നഗരവും നമ്മുടെ വിമർശന വിചാരങ്ങളിൽ നിത്യസാന്നിധ്യമെന്നു പറയാവുന്ന ദ്വന്ദ്വ കൽപ്പനയാണ്. ചികഞ്ഞു നോക്കിയാൽ അക്കിത്തം കവിതകളിലും ഇങ്ങനെ ഗ്രാമവും നഗരവും പരസ്പരം വിപരീതങ്ങളായി നിലകൊള്ളുന്നത് കാണാം. പക്ഷേ ഗ്രാമവിശുദ്ധി ഇവിടെ കേവലം ബാഹ്യപ്രകൃതി ആവുന്നില്ല. നഗര കാപട്യം മുൻവിധി നിറഞ്ഞ പട്ടണ നിഷേധവും ആവുന്നില്ല. അത് ഒരുതരത്തിൽ അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെ രചനകളിലാകെ ചിതറിക്കിടക്കുന്ന പാരമ്പര്യവും ആധുനികതയും തമ്മിലുള്ള സംഘർഷമോ സംവാദങ്ങളോ ആണ്. ഗ്രാമത്തിന്റെ നന്മയെ അല്ല കവി ചേർത്തുപിടിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നത്. തന്റെ പ്രിയങ്ങളുമായി തന്നെ ചേർത്തണയ്ക്കുന്ന ഒരു നൂലിഴ എല്ലാ ഗ്രാമ നഗരസഞ്ചാരങ്ങളിലും അക്കിത്തം സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അത് സവർണ്ണമായ പൂണൂലല്ല, ആർക്കും അറുത്തെറിയാവുന്ന വെറും രസച്ചരടുമല്ല. ആ നൂലിഴ, കവിയെ പാരമ്പര്യത്തിലുറപ്പിക്കുകയും ആധുനികതയിലേക്ക് വിഹരിക്കുവാൻ വിടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നത് അതിശയകരമായ വസ്തുതയായി അനുവാചകനുമുന്നിൽ തെളിയുന്നു. ഈ അന്വേഷണം അക്കിത്തം കവിതയിലെ അകവും പുറവും വിടർത്താൻ ശ്രമിക്കുകയാണ്. സൂക്ഷ്മവും സമൃദ്ധവുമായി ഗ്രാമനഗര സംഘർഷം അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെ കവിതകളിൽ ആവിഷ്കരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത് എങ്ങനെയെന്ന് നോക്കാം.

2 കവിതയുടെ അകം-പുറങ്ങൾ

കവിയുടെ ജീവിത ചുറ്റുപാടിൽ നിന്നുരുവായ കാഴ്ചകളാണ് ഇവിടെ ഓരോ കവിതയിലും ചിത്രങ്ങളായി പുനരാവിഷ്കരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്. ക്ഷേത്ര പരിസരങ്ങളും ഇല്ലവും കുളക്കടവും ശ്രീകോവിലുമെല്ലാം കവിതയിലെ പ്രത്യക്ഷ പ്രകൃതി മാത്രമല്ല, എങ്കിലും മലയാള കവിതയെ ചങ്ങമ്പുഴക്കവിതയുടെ ലഹരി മാധുര്യത്തിൽ നിന്ന് വേറിട്ട് നയിച്ച എഴുത്തിടങ്ങളായി ഇവയെ കണ്ടെടുക്കാം. വൈദിക പാരമ്പര്യത്തോട് ചേർന്ന് നിൽക്കുന്ന വ്യക്തിജീവിതത്തിന്റെ അനുരണനങ്ങൾ തന്നെയാണ് അക്കിത്തം തന്റെ കവിതയിലും വരച്ചത്. മലയാള കവിത വിപ്ലവാത്മകമായ രചന പരീക്ഷണങ്ങളെയും പുതിയൊരു ഭാവുകത്വത്തെയും അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അറുപതുകളിൽ അക്കിത്തം വളരെ വ്യതിരിക്തമായാണ് തന്റെ ഇടപെടലുകൾ നടത്തുന്നത്. വിഷാദിയായ ഒരു ഏകാകി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കവിതയിൽ ആവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ആത്മചൈതന്യമുള്ള ആ കവിതാതന്തുവാണ് വിശ്വ മാനവികതയായി വളരുന്നതും.

സാമൂഹിക മാറ്റങ്ങൾ വ്യക്തിയിൽ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന ആഘാതങ്ങളെ ചിത്രീകരിക്കുവാനായി ഭൂതകാലത്തിന്റെ നന്മകളും സമകാല പരിണാതികളും അക്കിത്തം കൂട്ടിയിണക്കുന്നു. കേരളീയ സമൂഹത്തിന് ഉണ്ടായ പരിണാമത്തിന്റെ വ്യാകുലതകളും സന്ദേശങ്ങളും പര്യക്ഷമായ യാഥാർത്ഥ്യബോധത്തോടെ എഴുതിയ ഒരു കാവ്യവഴിയിലാണ് പി. കെ. രാജശേഖരൻ

അക്കിത്തത്തെ സ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്. (പുറം 288). ഗ്രാമീണ സംസ്കൃതിയിൽ നിന്നും നഗര കേന്ദ്രിതമായ മുതലാളിത്ത വ്യവസ്ഥിതിയിലേക്ക് പരിഷ്കരണങ്ങൾ വിധിക്കപ്പെട്ട വ്യക്തിയുടെ ആന്തരിക സമസ്യകളെ തന്മയത്തോടെ ആവിഷ്കരിക്കാൻ അക്കിത്തത്തിനു കഴിയുന്നുണ്ട്. നഗര ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ കൃത്രിമത്വങ്ങളിലേക്കും യാന്ത്രികതയിലേക്കും കുടിയേറേണ്ടി വരുന്ന മനുഷ്യന്റെ മൂല്യബോധങ്ങളുടെ ഗൃഹാതുരതയാണ് ഇവിടെ ഗ്രാമനന്മ. നാഗരിക മനുഷ്യന്റെ കാപട്യങ്ങളും പൊള്ളത്തരങ്ങളും കവിയെ നോവിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ നൊമ്പരങ്ങൾ പ്രകടമാകുന്ന നിരവധി കവിതകൾ അദ്ദേഹം എഴുതിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

'കമരനെല്ലുരേത്തുമോ? ' എന്ന കവിത ഹൃദയസ്തർശിയാകുന്നത് നഗര വിഷാദങ്ങളിലേക്ക് ഗ്രാമം സ്മൃതിയായി കടന്നുവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. കുടുംബം പുലർത്താൻ ജോലി സംബന്ധമായി നഗരത്തിൽ പാർക്കേണ്ടി വരികയാണ് കവിയ്ക്ക്. കോഴിക്കോട് കടൽക്കരയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന കവി അവിടെ വീശുന്ന കാറ്റിനോട് ഗ്രാമത്തിൽ തളർന്നു മയങ്ങുന്ന തന്റെ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളുടെ അടുത്തുചെല്ലാമോ എന്ന് ചോദിക്കുന്ന ആർദ്രമായ ഒരു കാവ്യ സന്ദർഭമാണ് ഈ കവിത.

" അച്ഛനീപ്പോളെന്തു ചെയ്തയാണെ-
 ന്നമ്മയോടരായുമെൻ കിടാക്കൾ
 വേർപ്പിൽ തളർന്നുമയങ്ങിടുന്ന -
 തോർപ്പേൻ വിദൂരസ്ഥമെന്റെ ചിത്തം.. "

വീട്ടിലേക്കു ചെന്നെത്താൻ കഴിയാതെ പണമില്ലാതെ നിസ്സഹനായ ഒരവസരത്തിൽ എഴുതിയ കവിതയാണിതെന്ന് അക്കിത്തം ഓർമ്മിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. നാഗരിക പ്രവാസമെന്ന സാംസ്കാരികത പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അനേകം കവിതകൾ അക്കിത്തം രചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

'കുതികാലിലെത്തും കുളിർത്ത കാറ്റേ, കമരനെല്ലുരിൽ ചെന്നെത്തുമോ നീ, എന്ന് കവി കാറ്റിനോട് പറയുന്നു. ഏകാകിയായ വ്യക്തി തന്റെ ജീവിത നൊമ്പരങ്ങളിലേക്ക് കാറ്റിനെ ദൂതയക്കുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭം അനുവാചക ഹൃദയങ്ങളെ ആഴത്തിൽ സ്തർശിക്കുന്നതാണ്. മനോരാജ്യം എന്ന കവിതയിലും 'ഏകാന്ത നാഗരികത്വത്തിൽ വിന്നസ്വരം' എന്ന പ്രയോഗം കാണാം. 'ഗൃമസ്തൻ ഹോട്ടലിൽ' എന്ന കവിതയിൽ ജീവിത പ്രാരാബ്ധങ്ങളിൽ നിസ്സഹായനാകുന്ന വ്യക്തിയുടെ ആന്തരിക സംഘർഷങ്ങൾ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഹോട്ടലിൽ എല്ലാവരും സുഭിക്ഷമായി ഊണു കഴിക്കുമ്പോൾ തയ്യിർസാദം കഴിക്കുവാൻ ഗൃമസ്തനായ ആഖ്യാതാവിന് കഴിയുന്നില്ല. കാരണം ഉള്ളിൽ സ്വന്തം മനസ്സാക്ഷി തന്റെ വീട്ടിലെ ചിത്രം വിടർത്തി കാണിക്കുകയാണ്. 'അമ്മതൻ പഞ്ചാരവാക്കലിഞ്ഞു ചേരാക്കഞ്ഞി /വെള്ളവുമായിപ്പുലാവില ചുംബിക്കും ചിത്രം ' ഇത് കാണുമ്പോൾ വീണ്ടെയുന്ന തൈർഗ്ഗാസ് പോലെ നിത്യ വേദനയുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യകാലത്തെ കവി അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയാണ്.

'കർക്കടകപുലരിയിൽ ' എന്ന കവിത പങ്കുവെക്കുന്നത് മഴവില്ലിന് വിരിഞ്ഞ പ്രഭാതത്തിന്റെ ചാതുരി നോക്കി നിൽക്കുമ്പോഴും ഉള്ളിൽ തെളിയുന്ന ഭൂതകാലത്തെ സ്നേഹസ്മരണകളാണ്. 'പട്ടണം വായിൽ തിരുകിയ ഗോതമ്പ് റൊട്ടിയുമായി' വാടകവീട്ടിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയാണ് കവിതയിലെ ആഖ്യാതാവ്. കർക്കടകപുലരിയിൽ ഇല്ലത് ഗണപതിഹോമം നടത്തി നിവേദിച്ചതിൽ നിന്ന് അമ്മ വാത്സല്യപൂർവ്വം തരാറുള്ള നാളികേരപ്പുളാണ് മനസ്സിൽ നിറയുന്നത്. വാടകവീടും പനിപിടിച്ച കുഞ്ഞും മാസാമാസം കിട്ടുന്ന ശമ്പളം കൊണ്ട് രണ്ടറ്റവും കൂട്ടിമുട്ടിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസപ്പെടുന്നതുമെല്ലാം 'ആര്യൻ ' എന്ന കവിതയിലും കടന്നുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ധർമ്മസമരം എന്ന കവിതയിലും വാടക വീട്ടിലേക്ക് ജോലി സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്ന് തിരിച്ചെത്തുമ്പോൾ ആശ്വസിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ജോലിക്കാരനെ കാണാം. പട്ടണം ജോലിയുടെ അസ്യാസ്ഥ്യങ്ങൾ ഈ കവിതയിലും വന്നു നിറയുന്നുണ്ട്. ജീവിതവൃത്തിക്ക് പണം തികയാതെ

തെരുവിൽ പണിയെടുത്ത് തളരുന്ന തെരുവിലെ ഭക്തൻ എന്ന കവിതയിലെ ആഖ്യാതാവട്ടെ, 'മദ്യം പോലെ കുടിക്കുന്നു ഞാൻ/ ഹൃദയം നാരായണ നാമം' എങ്കിലും ദുഃഖം മറക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ലല്ലോ എന്നു പരിഭവിക്കുന്ന ഒരാളാണ്. ദുഃഖം ജീവിതവൃത്തിക്ക് പണം തികയാത്ത അവസ്ഥയാണ്. 'ഏകാകി' എന്ന കവിതയിലും നഗരവിഷാദവും ആവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ജീവിതയാതനകളും സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

ഇവിടെയെല്ലാം ജീവിതവൃത്തിക്ക് വേണ്ടി കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ആധുനിക മനുഷ്യന്റെ മനോവേദനകൾ ആലേഖനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്.

നഗരപരിസരങ്ങളിൽ ജീവിക്കുന്ന വ്യക്തിയുടെ വെമ്പൽ ഗ്രാമത്തിലേക്ക് വന്നുണ്ടായാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണ്. ഗ്രാമം എന്നതല്ല അകലെ ഗ്രാമത്തിൽ കാത്തിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രിയപ്പെട്ടവരുമായുള്ള വിരഹം തന്നെയാണ് മേൽ സൂചിപ്പിച്ച പല സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിലും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നത്. സ്വാർത്ഥനാകാൻ കഴിയാത്തതിനാൽ മാത്രം ആസ്വദിക്കാതെ പോകുന്ന ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ തിളക്കങ്ങൾ. വേദനിക്കുന്ന ഒരാളെങ്കിലും തന്നെകരുതി അകലെയുണ്ടെന്ന് അറിവ് നിസ്വാർത്ഥമായ ത്യാഗമായി വിരിയുന്ന മുഹൂർത്തങ്ങളെ തന്മയത്വത്തോടെ അക്കിത്തം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

നാഗരികതയെ സംശയാസ്സദമായി നോക്കിക്കാണുന്ന തരം രചനകളും അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെതായുണ്ട്. മുൻപു സൂചിപ്പിച്ച 'കർക്കിടകപ്പുലരിയിൽ' എന്ന കവിതയിൽ 'പട്ടണം വായിൽ തിരുകിയ ഗോതമ്പ് റൊട്ടി' എന്ന പ്രയോഗം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാം. അമ്മ വാത്സല്യത്തോടെ തന്റെ ആനവായിലേക്ക് തരുന്ന നിവേദ്യമാധുര്യത്തിന് പകരം നഗരം തരുന്ന വരണ്ട റൊട്ടിയാണ് യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമെന്ന് തിരിച്ചറിവ് ഇവിടെ കാണാം. 'ബുഫെ' എന്ന കവിത പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ട് തന്നെ വ്യത്യസ്തമാക്കുന്നത് നാഗരിക പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾക്ക് നേരെ കവി സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്ന സംശയക്കണ്ണുകൊണ്ടാണ്. ഭക്ഷണശീലത്തിലെ പരിഷ്കാരമാണ് ബുഫേ രീതി.

"നിന്നുണ്ണുമ്പോഴോർത്തു, സംസാരം -
ര പ്രതീകമിതല്ലല്ലോ "

അവനവന്റെ കിണ്ണവും അതിലെ അന്നവും മാത്രം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചു കഴിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്ന 'ബുഫെ'യെ കുറിച്ച് എഴുതുമ്പോൾ ഏതു മാത്രയിലും വന്നു 'മതി സാപ്പാടെന്നു 'പറഞ്ഞേക്കാവുന്ന അനന്തതയെ ഓർക്കുകയാണ് കവി. കാൽ കടയുന്ന 'ആ നിന്നുണ്ണലിന്റെ അസൗകര്യങ്ങൾ' എരിവുനീട്ടിയ കണ്ണിലെ കണ്ണീർ തുടയ്ക്കാൻ പോലും കഴിയാതെയുള്ള നിലയെ തത്വചിന്തപരമായാണ് ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നത്.

'പക്ഷിക്കടുമ' എന്ന പേരിൽ അക്കിത്തം എഴുതിയ കവിത പുതിയ ഹൈൻഡ് സ്റ്റൈൽ പരീക്ഷണങ്ങളെ ഗുഡ്മായി പരിഹസിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. പക്ഷേ ഇവിടെ പരിഷ്കാരത്തെയല്ല പരിഹസിക്കുന്നത് മറിച്ച് അത് ഉൾക്കൊള്ളാൻ മടിക്കുന്ന തന്നെപ്പോലുള്ളവരെ സ്വയം പരിഹാസത്തോടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത് എന്ന് കാണാം. കടുമവച്ച തന്നെ പക്ഷിക്കടുമയോടെ ബാർബർ തിരിച്ചയക്കുന്നു. 'ഇതാണ് സാർ ഫാഷൻ' എന്ന ബാർബറുടെ വാക്കുകൾ വേദനയോടെ ഉരുവിട്ടുകൊണ്ട് പുറത്തേക്കിറങ്ങി പോകുന്ന കവിയെ ഈ കവിതയിൽ കാണാം. പരിഷ്കാരത്തെ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്നവിധം എന്താകണമെന്നാണ് ഈ കവിതയിലെ വിഷയം.

'ആര്യൻ' എന്ന കവിതയിൽ ഗ്രാമസൗഭാഗ്യങ്ങളുടെ നഷ്ടം പ്രകടമായി ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നത് കാണാം. "കാറുകളലക്ഷ്യമായ് മാനത്ത് തെണ്ടീടുന്നു / കാടെല്ലാം പണക്കൊതി വീടാക്കി കളഞ്ഞില്ലേ" മഴയില്ലാതെ കുടിക്കാൻ വെള്ളം ഇല്ലാതെ ജീവിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്ന കാലിക പ്രതിസന്ധിക്ക് കൃത്യമായ കാരണമാണ് കവി പറയുന്നത്. ശ്രീലകത്ത് ഇപ്പോഴും പരദേവതയുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും മച്ചിലെ ഇരുട്ടിൽ പത്തായം വിഴുങ്ങുന്നത് പെരുച്ചാഴികളാണ് എന്നും പറയുന്നുണ്ട് ഈ കവിതയിൽ. റബർ എസ്റ്റേറ്റും കാറും ഫാനും എയർകണ്ടീഷണറും ട്രാൻസിസ്റ്റുമില്ല, മൺ ചട്ടിയിൽ വളർന്ന പൂവല്ലിയും ചെമ്പൻ പട്ടിയുമില്ല പക്ഷേ തന്റെ തറവാടിൻ തട്ടകത്ത് വിളങ്ങുന്ന ഭദ്രദീപം ഉണ്ടെന്നു കവി പറയുന്നു. ഇവിടെ നാഗരികത പരിഷ്കാര സ്വഭാവത്തിലുള്ള ബിംബങ്ങളായി അവതരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു. തറവാടും അതിന്റെ ദൈവിക ചൈതന്യവും ഇവയ്ക്കുപരമായി നിലകൊള്ളുന്നു.

പട്ടണത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ഗ്രാമത്തിലേക്കുള്ള തിരിഞ്ഞു നോട്ടത്തിന്റെ വ്യത്യസ്ത ചിത്രമാണ് നിലവാരം എന്ന കവിതയിൽ. കരൾക്കൂട്ടിലെ സ്വപ്നത്തിന്റെ തുവൽ ചിറകിലേറി ഒരാൾ ലീവെടുത്ത് ഗ്രാമം കാണാൻ എത്തുന്നു. മുറ്റത്തെ പന്തലിൽ ഇളവനും മത്തനും കണ്ടിട്ട് അതിന് ഒന്നരയുറുപ്പിക, രണ്ടുറുപ്പിക വില വരുമെന്ന് വിലപ്പട്ടിക അയാളുടെ മനസ്സിൽ വരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ തുളസിത്തടം കാണുമ്പോൾ ആത്മീയമായ ഒരു ഭാവത്തിൽ മനം മറന്നു നിൽക്കുന്നതായി കവി എഴുതുന്നു. വിലയിടാൻ പറ്റാത്ത ഗ്രാമവിശുദ്ധിയുടെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തൽ കൂടിയായി മാറുന്ന കവിതയാണിത്. പട്ടണത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള നോട്ടത്തിൽ ഗ്രാമം വില്ലനച്ചരക്ക് മാത്രമാണ്. പക്ഷേ ഗ്രാമചൈതന്യം നിറഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കുന്ന ചില ബിംബങ്ങളുടെ അമൂല്യത വേറിട്ട് അടയാളപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന കവിതയാണിത്.

കർക്കിടകത്തിന്റെ പഞ്ഞം ആവർത്തിക്കുന്ന കവിതയാണ് നിറ നിറോ നിറ നിറ. റേഷൻ കടയിൽ കോഴിക്ക് വേണ്ടി അരിവാങ്ങാൻ കാത്തുനിൽക്കുന്ന ആൾക്കൂട്ടത്തെ പരിഹാസപൂർവ്വം കവി ചിത്രീകരിക്കുന്നു. അപ്പോഴാണ് അടുത്ത മനയിൽ നിന്നും നമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാട് 'നിറ നിറോ നിറ പൊലിയെന്ന്' നിറപ്പത്തരി ആഘോഷിക്കുന്നത് കേൾക്കുന്നത്. 'വിശപ്പുണ്ടോ കഷ്ടമി മനകളിൽ പാർക്കുന്നവർ അറിയുന്നു' എന്ന് മട്ടിൽ ആൾക്കൂട്ടം ഉടനെ തന്നെ സവർണർക്ക് നേരെയുള്ള ജാമയായി പരിണമിക്കുന്നു. 'നെല്ലു തരൂ നമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാടെ' എന്ന മുദ്രാവാക്യവുമായി മനയിലേക്ക് കയറി പത്തായം തുറന്നവർ ഞെട്ടുകയാണ്, കുറച്ചു കപ്പപ്പള്ള മാത്രം കണ്ട്. ഇവിടെ താൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന ഇടം സവിശേഷമായി കവിതയിലെ സ്ഥലമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. കഞ്ഞിക്കു വകയില്ലാതായിട്ടും നിറപ്പത്തരി നേരുന്ന, നമ്പൂതിരിപ്പാടിന്റെ സമചിത്തത കൃത്യമായി കവിതയിൽ ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

പാരമ്പര്യത്തിന്റെ നൂലിഴകൾ

ബ്രഹ്മസൂത്രം എന്ന കവിത വിശ്വാസത്തെയും വിപ്ലവത്തെയും ശക്തമായി രാഷ്ട്രീയവൽക്കരിക്കുന്ന കവിതയാണ്. 'എന്തിനീ പൂണൂലിനും ധരിച്ചിടുന്നു പാഴിൽ നീ ' എന്ന സഹയാത്രികന്റെ ചോദ്യമാണ് കവിതയിൽ ചലനമാകുന്നത്. ഭൂതകാലത്തിന്റെ ഭാരമാണ് ഈ കവചം എന്നു കൂടി പഴി കേൾക്കുകയാണ് കവി. ചാതുർവർണ്യ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ കിറുക്കാണെന്നും ഷോഡശ ക്രിയകൾ എല്ലാം സംസ്കാരഭാസങ്ങൾ ആണെന്നും സഹയാത്രികൻ തുടരുന്നത് കവിയ്ക്ക് അസ്വസ്ഥതയാകുന്നു. ഒരുപടികൂടി കടന്ന് "പൂണൂൽ ഉഴരിത്തരൂ താനതിൽ മത്തി കോർക്കട്ടെ " എന്നുകൂടി അയാൾ പറയുമ്പോൾ കവി തന്റെ പാരമ്പര്യത്തിലേക്ക് ആഴ്ന്നുനമങ്ങുകയാണ്. തന്റെ പൂണൂൽ സ്വീകരണ ചടങ്ങു മുതൽ

യാഗത്തിലൂടെ മഴ പെയ്യിപ്പിച്ച ഋഷിതുല്യരായ പൂർവ്വികരെയും കവി ഓർക്കുന്നു. അഴി ക്കാൻ വേണ്ടി താൻ ഈ പൂണൂൽ ഭൂമിയിൽ പലപ്പോഴും അഴിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും കവി പറയുന്നു. അപ്പോഴൊന്നും സുകുമാര ശരീരത്തിൽ നിന്നും അത് വിട്ടു പോയിട്ടില്ല. അത് പകർന്നു നൽകിയ ബ്രഹ്മ ദർശനത്തെ കവി നമസ്കരിക്കുന്നു. പട്ടണത്തിലെ ബസ്സിൽ, സഹയാത്രികന്റെ ചോദ്യത്തിൽ നിന്നും മത്തി കോർക്കുകയല്ല പൂണൂൽ ലോടൊത്ത് തന്നെത്തന്നെ നിനക്ക് ഞാൻ തന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് മത്സ്യാവതാരത്തോട് പറഞ്ഞ് അവസാനിക്കുകയാണ് കവി.

പൂണൂലിൽ ഉറഞ്ഞുതിർന്ന ബ്രഹ്മത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ആലോചനയുടെ ദൈനംദിനത്വം നൂൽപ്പാലം എന്ന കവിതയിൽ പ്രകടമാവുന്നുണ്ട്. അച്ഛന്റെ ഉടുപ്പിൽ നിന്നൊടുത്ത നൂൽ കൊണ്ടല്ലേ താൻ മുഴുതിക്കളെ ആരാധിച്ചത് എന്ന് കവിയോർക്കുന്നു. ചാന്ദ്രപൂർണ്ണിമയെ ആരാധിക്കാൻ വർഷങ്ങൾക്കിപ്പുറത്തു നിന്ന് തന്റെ ഉടുപ്പിലെ നൂൽ എടുത്തു മകന് നീട്ടുകയാണ് കവി. സുകൃതാതിരേകം നൂൽപ്പാലമാകുന്ന അവസ്ഥയെ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയാണ് കവി. പാരമ്പര്യത്തിന്റെയും വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെയും നൂലിഴ അദ്വൈതമായി തുടരുന്നതിനെ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട് കവിത.

നിത്യമേഘം എന്ന കവിതയിൽ ' വജ്രം തുളച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന / രത്നങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിലൂടെ ഞാൻ/ കടന്നു പോന്നു ഭാഗ്യത്താൽ / വെറും നൂലായിരുന്നു ഞാൻ ' എന്ന ഭാഗത്ത് സൂത്രസ്യേ വാസ്തു മേഗതി ' എന്ന കാളിദാസദർശനം ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന് ഒരു അഭിമുഖത്തിൽ ആലങ്കോട് ലീലാകൃഷ്ണൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട് (മാതൃഭൂമി ആഴ്ചപ്പതിപ്പ്, പുറം :31).

"പൂണൂലിതഹങ്കാര മുദ്രയല്ലേ " എന്ന ചോദ്യവുമായി ആരംഭിക്കുന്ന കവിതയാണ് ഒരു പൂണൂൽക്കാരന്റെ മനോരാജ്യം. ഭയപ്പെടുന്നത് ദൈവത്തെയാണെങ്കിലും ഭയമെന്ന വികാരം മോശമല്ലേ എന്നൊരു ചോദ്യവും കവിതയിലുണ്ട്. എന്തിനാണ് പൂണൂലിന്റെ ബന്ധനമെന്ന് അറിയില്ലെങ്കിലും അതില്ലാതിരുന്നാൽ എന്തോ സുഖക്കുറവുണ്ടെന്ന് അക്കിത്തം പറയുന്നു.

'ജീവോ ബ്രഹ്മൈവ' എന്ന കവിതയിൽ ബ്രഹ്മസൂത്രം മുഴുവനും അറിയാമെങ്കിലും കയ്യിലെ ടോർച്ച് കത്താതിരുന്നാൽ പരുങ്ങി നിൽക്കേണ്ട അവസ്ഥയാണെന്ന് കവി പറയുന്നു. മകന്റെ കണ്ണുവിരൽ തൊട്ടാൽ ടോർച്ചകത്തുന്നു, റേഡിയോ പാടുന്നു. നിന്ന ടൈംപീസിലെ സൂചി കുറങ്ങുന്നു. 'ബ്രഹ്മസത്യം ജഗന്മിഥ്യാ ജീവോ ബ്രഹ്മൈവനാ പര:' എന്ന ശങ്കരസൂത്രം ഓർമ്മിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഈ കവിതയിൽ ജഗന്മിഥ്യാ എന്നത് പുതുതലമുറയുടെ ജ്ഞാനശേഷിയുടെ പൊരുളു തേടൽ ആകുന്നു.

പാരമ്പര്യത്തിന്റെ, വിശ്വാസങ്ങളുടെയൊക്കെ ഈ നൂലിഴ നിരന്തരം ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നതായി ഈ കവിതകൾ തന്നെ വ്യക്തമാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കവിതയിൽ നിന്ന് കണ്ടെത്താവുന്ന ചില സാംസ്കാരിക മുദ്രകളുടെ സാവർണ്ണത്വം ആരോപിക്കൽ കൂടി ഈ വിമർശനത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായിട്ടുണ്ട് പലപ്പോഴും. പക്ഷേ മനുഷ്യദുഃഖത്തെ കുറിച്ചുള്ള നിതാനന്തമായ ആവലാതികളാണ് അക്കിത്തം കവിതകളുടെ പൊതു സ്വഭാവം. പാരമ്പര്യത്തോടുള്ള കലഹം ആധുനികതയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനസ്വഭാവമായിരുന്നു. യുക്തിബോധം നാഗരികതയുടെ ചാലകശക്തിയുമാണല്ലോ. ഏത് നഗരജീവിതത്തിരക്കിൽ നിന്നും തന്നെ തിരിച്ചു വിളിക്കുന്ന കുഗ്രാമത്തിന്റെയോ തന്റെ

വിശ്വാസങ്ങളുടെയും ആചാരങ്ങളുടെയും സ്വാഭാവികസ്ഥലികളോ അക്കിത്തം കണ്ടെടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. പരിഷ്കാരത്തെ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളാൻ മടിച്ചു നിൽക്കുകയും അതേ സമയം തന്നെ കാലത്തിന്റെ ഒഴുക്കിൽ അതോടൊപ്പം സഞ്ചരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുകയാണ് കവി.

അക്കിത്തം കവിതയിലെ ഗ്രാമ -നഗര സംഘർഷം എന്നത് കേവലം ഭൂമിശാസ്ത്രപരമല്ല എന്നു സൂചിപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായല്ലോ. ഇവിടെ വിശ്വാസവും യുക്തി ബോധവും, സവർണ്ണതാ വിമർശനം,നവ്യതിരി സമുദായത്തിന്റെ ജീർണ്ണത തുടങ്ങിയ വിഷയങ്ങൾ കവിതയിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുമ്പോൾ കവി അബോധപരമായി നഗരം,പരിഷ്കാരം, വികസനം തുടങ്ങിയ ഘടകങ്ങളെ അപര വൽക്കരിച്ചു നിർത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. വേദത്തോട് ചേർന്ന് നിൽക്കുമ്പോഴും നിർവേദം കവിക്ക് അന്യമല്ലെന്ന് വരുന്നു.

'നരനായിങ്ങനെ' എന്ന കവിതയിൽ 'നരനായിങ്ങനെ ജനിച്ചു ഭൂമിയിൽ' എന്ന കീർത്തനത്തെ പാരഡിയാക്കുകയാണ്. ശരിക്കും ചിന്തിച്ചാൽ ജനിച്ചു ഞാനെന്നും/ ശരിക്കുവാനില്ല തെളിവൊന്നും' എന്ന് തിരിച്ചറിയുകയാണ് കവി. നാഗരികനായ ആധുനിക മനുഷ്യന്റെ ആവലാതികൾ നിരത്തിക്കൊണ്ട് തന്റേത് വെറും ജീവിതമാണെന്ന് കവി വിധിയെഴുതുന്നു. എംപിയോ മന്ത്രിയോ എംഎൽഎയോ പോലുമായില്ല, പ്രണയനിയൊത്തു ഡ്യൂയറ്റ് പാടീല്ല തുടങ്ങി പരിഭവങ്ങൾ നീളുകയാണ്. ഇതൊന്നുമില്ലാതെ 'നരനായിങ്ങനെ മരിച്ചു ഭൂമിയിൽ നരകവാരിധി നടുവിൽ ഞാൻ' എന്നു കവിത അവസാനിക്കുന്നു. ആഡംബര ഭ്രമങ്ങൾ തലക്കുപിടിച്ച ഒരു തലമുറയോടുള്ള പരിഹാസമാണ് ഈ കവിതയിലും.

ഗുരുവായൂർ ബസ്സിൽ എന്ന കവിതയിൽ ജ്ഞാനപ്പാനയും കവി പൂന്താനവും ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. വിത്തമെന്ന ദുഃഖത്തിൽ നിന്ന് കരയാൻ ഗുരുവായൂരപ്പനെ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയാണ് കവി. ഈശ്വരവാസ്യം എന്ന കവിതയിൽ ദൈവത്തിന് മതം മാറിത്തന്നുവെന്ന ആലോചനയാണ്. 'ഭൂരിയോ നൃപനമോ പക്ഷമേതുമൊക്കട്ടെ നശ്വരം: ഈശാവാസമിദം സർവ്വം : പുജ മുട്ടാതിരിക്കണം' എന്ന് മാത്രമാണ് കവി ആശിക്കുന്നത്. കടഞ്ഞു കളയാൻ വയ്യാത്ത ഒരു ബ്രഹ്മസൂത്രം കവിതയിലും കവിയുടെ പ്രജ്ഞയിലും തുടരുന്നുവെന്ന് കാണാം.

ഇതിഹാസത്തിന്റെ വിപ്ലവപാഠങ്ങൾ

'അക്കിത്തം കവിയും കാവിയും' എന്ന ലേഖനത്തിൽ ഡോ.അസീസ് തരുവണ കവിതയിലെ അക്കിത്തം ലിബറൽ ഹ്യൂമനിസ്റ്റ് ആയിരുന്നുവെന്നും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയ നിലപാടുകൾ പക്ഷേ വ്യതിരിക്തമായിരുന്നു എന്നും നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ വിമർശനം അദ്ദേഹം ഏറെ നേരിട്ടതാണ്. എന്താവണം എന്ന കവിതയിൽ,ചീറ്റട്ടെ വിപ്ലവബോധമേ, നിൻ കൊടും / കാറ്റൻ തുടു നിണച്ചാലിലെല്ലാം!" എന്ന് എഴുതിയ അക്കിത്തം എപ്പോഴും തന്റെ കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് ബോധ്യങ്ങൾ തുറന്നു പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കേരളത്തിന്റെ ഇടതു പൊതു സാംസ്കാരികധാരയെ ഞെട്ടിച്ചു കൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹം രാഷ്ട്രീയത്തിൽ വേറിട്ടു ചില നിലപാടുകൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചത് വൻ വിമർശനങ്ങളെ ക്ഷണിച്ചു വരുത്തി. ഇവിടെയെല്ലാം അക്കിത്തം ആവർത്തിച്ചു പറയാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചത് വേദം വായിച്ചു കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് ആയ ആളാണ് താൻ എന്നതാണ്. ഭാരതീയ പാരമ്പര്യത്തിൽ ഊന്നി നിന്നുകൊണ്ട് ലോക മനുഷ്യവേദനയെ മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ അദ്ദേഹം ശ്രമിച്ചു. എം. തോമസ് മാതൃ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടും പോലെ പ്രത്യയശാസ്ത്രവ്യാഖ്യാനങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അലട്ടിയില്ല. എന്തേ മനുഷ്യൻ വേദനിക്കാനും കണ്ണീരുകുടിക്കാനും എന്ന ചോദ്യം

ഒരു ആദ്ധ്യാത്മിക സമസ്യയായിത്തന്നെയാണ് അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെ മനസ്സിനെ അലോസരപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നത്(2013:17).

1952ൽ ആണ് ഇരുപതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന്റെ ഇതിഹാസം പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്.അധർമ്മത്തിന്റെയും അക്രമത്തിന്റെയും വഴിയിലൂടെ മുന്നേറുന്ന വിപ്ലവം അൽപ്പായുസ്സാണെന്ന് പ്രവചിച്ച് ആയിരങ്ങളുടെ അപ്രീതി സമ്പാദിച്ച കൃതിയാണിത്.തീവ്ര നക്സലൈറ്റ് പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിലേക്ക് കവികൾ പോലും ആകർഷിക്കപ്പെട്ട അക്കാലത്ത് ആത്മീയധാര ഉയർത്തിപ്പിടിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുകയാണ് അക്കിത്തം ചെയ്തത്.അതിരാത്രം പോലെയുള്ള യജ്ഞപാരമ്പര്യത്തെ തിരിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുവരാനുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങളിലും വേദപഠനശാലകളുടെ സ്ഥാപനത്തിലും അദ്ദേഹം പങ്കു കൊണ്ടു.കമ്മ്യൂണിസ്റ്റ് വിപ്ലവ മാർഗ്ഗത്തെ വിമർശിക്കുന്ന കൃതി എന്ന നിലയിലാണ് ഇരുപതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന്റെ ഇതിഹാസം ഒരുപാട് വായിക്കപ്പെട്ടത് .ഈടുവെപ്പുകൾ എന്ന് കരുതിയിരുന്നവയെല്ലാം ഒറ്റയ്ക്ക് കടപ്പഴക്കിപ്പോകുന്നത് കാണുന്ന വേദന ഇതിലുണ്ട്.

സ്വർഗം എന്ന ആദ്യഖണ്ഡത്തിൽ ബാല്യസ്മരണയുടെ വസന്തകാലം ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.ഭാവനയ്ക്ക് പകരം യുക്തിബോധം പ്രവർത്തിക്കുകയാണ് രണ്ടാം ഖണ്ഡമായ നരകത്തിൽ.മനുഷ്യ പരിണാമത്തിന്റെ ചിത്രം ഇവിടെ തെളിയുന്നു. നാഗരികതയുടെ പൊങ്ങച്ചവും മനുഷ്യത്വമില്ലായ്മയും ഹൃദയശൂന്യതയും ഇവിടെ ചിത്രീകരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.യുവത്വത്തിന്റെ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ ഓരോന്നും കണ്ടെടുത്ത് എഴുതുന്നുണ്ട് അക്കിത്തം. 'ഗോൾഡ്ഫ്ലൈക്കധരങ്ങളിൽ', 'മോറീസും ബ്യൂക്കുമുക്കോടെ' തുടങ്ങി നിരവധി ചിത്രങ്ങൾ. ഇവിടെയെല്ലാം പുതിയ കാലത്ത് നിന്ന് പഴയ കാലത്തെ നോക്കുന്നതിന്റെ കണ്ണട കാണാം. തെരുവ് അതിദാരുണ ചിത്രങ്ങൾ നടമാടുന്ന ഭൂമികയായി ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു. അത് വക വെക്കാതെ കാറിൽ പാഞ്ഞു പോകുന്ന നാഗരിക ആധുനികതയെ ഈ കൃതി അടയാളപ്പെടുത്താൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. വെളിച്ചം ദുഃഖമാണെണ്ണി, തമസല്ലോ സുഖപ്രദം എന്ന തിരിച്ചറിവ് നാഗരികതയുടെയും ആധുനികതയുടെയും പൊള്ളത്തരങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് രൂപം കൊള്ളുന്നതാണ്.

"തോക്കിനും വാളിനും വേണ്ടി ചെലവിട്ടോരന്യകൾ, ഉരുക്കി വാർത്തെടുക്കാവൂ ബലമുള്ള കലപ്പകൾ " എന്ന ലോക നന്മയുടെ ദർശനം അക്കിത്തം എഴുതിയത് ചരിത്രത്തിൽ പ്രവാചകത്വമുള്ള സ്വരമായതും കൗതുകം. ഉക്രൈനിൽ ആയുധഫാക്ടറി കാർഷികോപകരണ നിർമ്മാണ ശാലയായി അടുത്ത കാലത്ത് മാറുകയുണ്ടായി.ഈ വരികളിൽ യുക്തിയിൽ അധിഷ്ഠിതമായ പുരോഗതി മാതൃക അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

'സംഘടിതം 'കപട വിപ്ലവത്തിന്റെ നേർക്ക് കല്ലെറിയുന്ന കവിതയാണ്. രാഷ്ട്രീയ സമരങ്ങൾക്ക് അണികളെ ദിവസങ്ങളിക്ക് സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അവസ്ഥയെ തുറന്നു കാണിക്കുകയും വിമർശിക്കുകയുമാണ് കവി. കക്ഷപ്പോരിൻ നിഘണ്ടുവിൽ നീതിയെന്ന വാക്കില്ലെന്ന് കവി തിരിച്ചറിയുന്നുണ്ട് ഇവിടെ.

'ഇദം ന മമ' ഇത് എനിക്ക് വേണ്ടിയല്ല എന്ന യജ്ഞവാക്യം തന്നെയാണ് കാവ്യ ശീർഷകം. കാട്ടുവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ കോടാലി കൊത്തിൽ വീഴുകയും അട്ടപ്പാടി ഫുട്ബോൾ ഗ്രൗണ്ടാവുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ യാഗം നടത്താൻ നവശാസ്ത്രീകൾ ഒരുങ്ങുന്ന ഒരുകാലത്ത് മനുഷ്യനായ താൻ പ്രകൃതിയെജ്ജയിക്കുന്നില്ല ഒരിക്കലും. വിപ്ലവത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ആദ്ധ്യാത്മികതയിലേക്കുള്ള കവിയുടെ ദർശനം ഇവിടെ പ്രകടമാണ്.

അക്കിത്തം കവിതയിലെ നാട്ടുവഴക്കങ്ങൾ

നന്യതിരി കടുംബാന്തരീക്ഷത്തെ മാത്രമല്ല, പാടത്തു പണിയെടുക്കുന്ന കർഷകത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ജീവിതമുഹൂർത്തങ്ങളും തനിമയോടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ അക്കിത്തം ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രമേയതലത്തിൽ മാത്രമല്ല, സാധാരണ മനുഷ്യരുടെ നാടൻ ഭാഷാപ്രയോഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന ധാരാളം രചനകൾ അദ്ദേഹം എഴുതിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചില കവിതകളുടെ തലക്കെട്ടുകൾ തന്നെ ഇതിന് ഉദാഹരണമാവുന്നുണ്ട് 'വാമൊഴി പാരമ്പര്യം അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെ കവിതയിൽ' എന്ന ലേഖനത്തിൽ രമിച്ച ദേവി നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. തൊള്ളേക്കണ്ണൻ, ഇളിച്ചിവായൻ, കട്ടോടഞ്ചാത്തൻ, അങ്ങോട്ടെ കാര്യസ്ഥൻ, തൊയിരം മേണം, കാളി, അണ്ടി പോയ അണ്ണാൻ, പറങ്ങോടൻ തുടങ്ങി നിരവധി ഉദാഹരണങ്ങൾ. ഐതിഹ്യങ്ങളും പുരാവൃത്തങ്ങളും ഒക്കെ നാട്ടുപാരമ്പര്യത്തോട് കലർന്നു കിടക്കുന്ന വ്യവഹാരങ്ങളാണ്.

'തൊയിരം മേണം' എന്ന കവിത ഒരു നാടൻ പാട്ടുമട്ടിൽ തന്നെയാണ്. പ്രമേയപരമായി തികച്ചും ഗ്രാമീണമായ ഒരു ആഖ്യാനമെന്ന് ഈ രചനയെ പറയാനാവും. സംസ്കൃതബദ്ധമെന്ന് പൊതുവെ പറയാറുണ്ട് അക്കിത്തം കവിതകളെ. എങ്കിലും സരളമായി അർത്ഥസംവേദനം നടത്താൻ അവയ്ക്കു കഴിയുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ കവിതയിലാവട്ടെ തികച്ചും പ്രാദേശികമായ ബിംബങ്ങളും നാടൻ പാട്ടിന്റെയീണവുമിനിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. തന്റെ പെണ്ണായ നീലിയെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ച മേലാനെ അടിച്ചു താഴെയിട്ട് മതി തോന്നുവാസം, തെണ്ടിച്ചു തിന്നാൻ സ്വൈര്യം വേണമെന്ന് മേലാന്റെ പണിക്കാരനായ ചക്കൻ പറയുന്നുണ്ട് ഈ കവിതയിൽ. തമ്പ്രാൻമാരുടെ തോന്നുവാസങ്ങളെ പുനരാവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്ന ഈ രചന കാർഷിക കേരളത്തിന്റെ ചരിത്രത്തിൽ പാടിപ്പതിഞ്ഞതാണ്. ഇതേ ജനസ്സിൽപ്പെട്ട കവിതയാണ് 'കാളി'. തമ്പ്രാന് പുലയിയായ പണിക്കാരിയോട് തോന്നുന്ന കമ്പമാണ് ഇവിടെയും വിഷയം.

"എങ്ങട്ട് പോണ്ടു മുത്തേയുമേ?

ചാത്തുനെ കണ്ടോ കുട്ടോളെ"

(കണ്ടവരുണ്ടോ) ഈ മട്ടിൽ നാടൻ പാട്ടിന്റെ സ്വഭാവമുള്ള രചനകളും കാണാം. അയ്യപ്പൻ പാട്ടിന്റെ അല എന്ന കവിതയിൽ

കോഴി മുഴുക്കെ കൂവീല

കോണി കുലുക്കി പാഞ്ഞെത്തി

കോസറി തട്ടി വിളിച്ചു, മോനോ

കോവാലാ കോവാലാ

എന്നെഴുതുവോഴും നാടൻപാട്ടുകളുമായുള്ള രൂപപരവും ഭാവപരവുമായ സാദൃശ്യം കാണാം.

നാടോടി പാരമ്പര്യത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള ഇതിവൃത്തങ്ങളും അക്കിത്തം ധാരാളം ഉപയോഗിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതെല്ലാം സൂചിപ്പിച്ചത് ഗ്രാമീണമായ സർഗ്ഗപ്രപഞ്ചം അക്കിത്തത്തിന് ഉണ്ടെന്നത് ഉറപ്പിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണ്. കവിതയിൽ നഗരാനുഭവങ്ങൾ പ്രവാസത്തിന്റെ ഏകാന്തതയുടെയും അസൗകര്യങ്ങളുടെയും വാഴ്ത്തുകളാവുമ്പോൾ തന്റെ ഗ്രാമവും അതിലെ ഊർജ്ജവും തിരിച്ചു പിടിക്കാനുള്ള ഒരു വെമ്പൽ അക്കിത്തത്തിൽ പ്രകടമാകുന്നുണ്ട് എന്ന് തന്നെ പറയാം.

ഉപസംഹാരം

അക്കിത്തം കവിതയിൽ ഗ്രാമവും നഗരവും അവയുടേതായ തനിമകളെ പ്രകടമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടാണ് ആവിഷ്കരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്. ഇവ ഭൂമിശാസ്ത്രപരമായല്ല അവയുടെ സ്വത്വം പ്രകടമാക്കുന്നത്. മറിച്ച് സാംസ്കാരികമായാണ്. ജനിച്ചു വളർന്ന ഗ്രാമം അതിന്റെ ദേശത്തനിമകളോടെ, അനുഭവപരമായി നിലകൊള്ളുന്നു. നഗരമാകട്ടെ, പ്രവാസത്തിന്റെയും ആധുനിക വ്യക്തിയുടെ ആത്മസംഘർഷങ്ങളുടെയും സന്ദേശങ്ങളുമായി കടന്നു വരുന്നു. വിലയിടാൻ കഴിയാത്ത നൈർമല്യം എന്ന് ഗ്രാമത്തെ പലയിടങ്ങളിലും വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. പ്രകൃതി ഇങ്ങനെ അമൂല്യവും വികസനസങ്കല്പങ്ങളോട് ചേർന്ന ' പരിസ്ഥിതി ' ചെടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളുടെ പ്രകടനമായും നിലകൊള്ളുന്നു. പാരമ്പര്യത്തെ ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യാനുള്ള നാഗരികതയുടെ യുക്തിബോധം കവിക്ക് കണ്ണടകൾ നൽകുന്നു. ഇതുപയോഗിച്ച് ഗ്രാമത്തെ നോക്കുന്നുണ്ട് കവി. അപ്പോൾ വിശ്വാസങ്ങളും ആചാരങ്ങളുമൊക്കെ യുക്തിബോധത്തിന്റെ കണ്ണിൽ വിശദീകരിക്കേണ്ടി വരുന്നു കവിക്ക്. ഇനി നഗരം ജീവനോപാധിയാവുകയും ജീവിതം ഗ്രാമത്തിൽ തറഞ്ഞു നിൽക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതും കാണാം. ഗ്രാമത്തിലേക്ക് തിരിച്ചു വരാൻ വിളിക്കുന്ന ഒരു തായ് വേര് കവിതയിൽ ആഴ്ന്നു കിടക്കുന്നു.

വിപ്ലവ ബോധം വേദത്തിൽ നിന്നും ആർജ്ജിച്ചെടുത്ത അക്കിത്തത്തിന് പ്രപഞ്ചം മുഴുവൻ വേദന പ്രതിഫലിക്കുന്നത് കാണാം. നെഞ്ചിലെ ബ്രഹ്മസൂത്രം കടഞ്ഞെറിയാൻ കഴിയാത്തതും അതിനാൽ തന്നെ. ഗ്രാമം /നഗരം എന്ന ദ്വന്ദ്വം പാരമ്പര്യം / ആധുനികത, വിശ്വാസം / യുക്തിബോധം, തുടങ്ങി പല മാനങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതായി കവിതകളിൽ നിന്ന് മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചു. പച്ചയായ ഗ്രാമീണ ജീവിതവും നാട്ടുവഴക്കങ്ങളും കവിതകളിൽ കൊണ്ട് വരാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ ആധുനിക കവികളെല്ലാം അനുഭവിച്ച നഗര ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ സ്വത്വപ്രതിസന്ധികൾ അക്കിത്തവും ആവിഷ്കരിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കാവ്യ ഭാഷയിൽ തന്നെ ഈ സംഘർഷം പ്രകടമാവുന്നത് ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളിലൂടെ വെളിപ്പെടുത്താൻ ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞാനവും മനുഷ്യപുരോഗതിയും എത്ര ഉയരങ്ങളിലെത്തിയാലും വെളിപ്പെടാൻ കഴിയാതെ പ്രപഞ്ച നിഗൂഢത അവശേഷിക്കുമോ എന്ന ചോദ്യം ബാക്കിയാവുന്നു. മനുഷ്യവേദനയെന്ന മഹാപർവ്വത്തെ അതിജീവിക്കാൻ താൻ ചെലവിടുന്ന ഒരു പുഞ്ചിരി മതിയെന്ന് കവി അടിവരയിടുന്നത് ഇത് കൊണ്ടാണ്.

ഗ്രന്ഥസൂചി

1. അച്യുതൻ നമ്പൂതിരി, അക്കിത്തം, അക്കിത്തം കവിതകൾ സമ്പൂർണ്ണം, 2010, മാതൃഭൂമി ബുക്സ്, കോഴിക്കോട്.
2. " ", തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത കവിതകൾ, 2013, ഡി സി ബുക്സ് കോട്ടയം.
3. നാരായണൻ പി എം(എഡി), ഇരുപതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന്റെ ഇതിഹാസം എഴുത്ത്, വായന, പുനർ വായന
4. രാജശേഖരൻ പി കെ, ഏകാന്ത നഗരങ്ങൾ, 2016, ഡി സി ബുക്സ്, കോട്ടയം.

5. ലീലാവതി എം. മലയാളകവിതാ സാഹിത്യ ചരിത്രം, 2021, കേരള സാഹിത്യ അക്കാദമി, തൃശ്ശൂർ.
6. ശിവരാമൻ കൂമുള്ളി (എഡി), അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെ ലോകം, 2006, വള്ളത്തോൾ വിദ്യാപീഠം, ശ്ലോകപുരം.

ലേഖനസൂചി

1. ശ്ലഥസ്തുതികളിൽ അക്കിത്തം - ആത്മാരാമൻ (മാതൃഭൂമി ആഴ്ചപ്പതിപ്പ്, ഒക്ടോബർ 2020)
2. അഭിമുഖം - അക്കിത്തം / ആലങ്കോട് ലീലാകൃഷ്ണൻ (മാതൃഭൂമി ആഴ്ചപ്പതിപ്പ്, ഒക്ടോബർ 2020)
3. അക്കിത്തം കവിയും കാവിയും - ഡോ. അസീസ് തരുവണ
4. വാമൊഴി പാരമ്പര്യം അക്കിത്തത്തിന്റെ കവിതയിൽ - രമിള ദേവി (ചെങ്ങഴി റിസർച്ച് ജേർണൽ ജനുവരി 2019)

कृष्णा सोबती के उपन्यास "यारों के यार" में चित्रित सामाजिक संरचना: एक विश्लेषण

डॉ. सोनिया एस
असिस्टेंट प्रोफसर
नैपुन्या इन्स्टिट्यूट ऑफ मानेजमेन्ट एन्ड इंफोरमेशन टेकनोलजी
पोडम

कृष्णा सोबती भारतीय साहित्य की उन महान लेखकों में से एक हैं जिन्होंने अपने लेखन में भारतीय समाज की जटिलताओं और विविधताओं को बारीकी से चित्रित किया है। कृष्णा सोबती का उपन्यास यारों के यार भारतीय समाज में हो रहे सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक बदलावों का सूक्ष्म विश्लेषण प्रस्तुत करता है। इस शोध पत्र का उद्देश्य उपन्यास में चित्रित सामाजिक संरचना और उसमें निहित सामाजिक वर्गों, जाति व्यवस्था, और लिंग असमानताओं को समझना है। लेख इस बात पर भी प्रकाश डालता है कि किस प्रकार सोबती ने अपने पात्रों और कथा के माध्यम से सामाजिक ढांचे और पारंपरिक मूल्यों को चुनौती दी है। उनका उपन्यास "यारों के यार" इसी श्रृंखला का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, जिसमें उन्होंने मित्रता और मानव संबंधों के माध्यम से सामाजिक संरचनाओं का विश्लेषण किया है। इस शोध लेख में हम "यारों के यार" में चित्रित सामाजिक संरचना का विस्तृत विश्लेषण करेंगे।

यारों के यार को लेकर अनेक साहित्यकारों और आलोचकों ने विविध दृष्टिकोण प्रस्तुत किए हैं। कुछ इसे सामाजिक यथार्थवादी कृति मानते हैं, तो कुछ इसे व्यक्ति और समाज के बीच के संघर्ष का प्रतीक मानते हैं। आलोचक हरीश त्रिवेदी के अनुसार, कृष्णा सोबती की लेखनी में समाज और राजनीति की गहरी पकड़ होती है, जो उनके पात्रों के माध्यम से सामने आती है। अन्य समीक्षकों ने इस उपन्यास को सामाजिक परतों और लिंग आधारित संघर्षों का प्रतीकात्मक चित्रण माना है।

उपन्यास का सामाजिक ढांचा :

- जाति और वर्ग संरचना :** उपन्यास में जाति और वर्ग विभाजन की स्पष्ट झलक मिलती है। सोबती ने यह दर्शाया है कि समाज में जाति और वर्ग की जटिलता किस प्रकार से व्यक्तियों की पहचान और सामाजिक संबंधों को प्रभावित करती है। निम्न वर्ग के पात्रों की स्थिति और उनके संघर्ष को गहराई से दर्शाया गया है, जो तत्कालीन सामाजिक व्यवस्था की क्रूरता को उजागर करता है।
- पितृसत्तात्मक संरचना :** सोबती के उपन्यासों में पितृसत्तात्मक समाज की स्पष्ट आलोचना मिलती है। यारों के यार में स्त्री पात्रों के संघर्ष और उनकी सामाजिक स्थिति को बारीकी से उकेरा गया है। यह दर्शाया गया है कि किस प्रकार से महिलाएं सामाजिक और पारिवारिक ढांचे में अपनी पहचान और स्वतंत्रता के लिए संघर्ष करती हैं। इस उपन्यास के नायक और नायिका के बीच के संबंधों में असमानता स्पष्ट रूप से दिखती है, जो पितृसत्तात्मक व्यवस्था की आलोचना है।
- संस्कृति और समाज :** कृष्णा सोबती ने सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक मान्यताओं पर भी गहन प्रश्न उठाए हैं। उपन्यास में चित्रित समाज पारंपरिक मान्यताओं के सहारे आगे बढ़ता दिखाई देता है, लेकिन साथ ही आधुनिकता की ओर भी बढ़ने का प्रयास करता है। यह द्वंद्व उपन्यास में प्रमुख रूप से उभरता है।

पात्रों का अध्ययन और सामाजिक संरचना:

1. **मुख्य पात्रों का सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण** : प्रत्येक पात्र के माध्यम से सोबती ने सामाजिक संरचना के विभिन्न पहलुओं को प्रस्तुत किया है। नायक का संघर्ष, उसकी सामाजिक स्थिति और उसके संबंध समाज में वर्ग और जाति विभाजन को उजागर करते हैं। वहीं, नायिका के माध्यम से लिंग भेद और पितृसत्तात्मक व्यवस्था की जटिलताओं का चित्रण मिलता है।

2. **समाज और व्यक्तिगत पहचान** : उपन्यास के पात्र व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता की तलाश में संघर्षरत हैं, लेकिन समाज की जकड़ी हुई संरचनाएं उन्हें बांधकर रखती हैं। सोबती ने यह स्पष्ट किया है कि समाज में व्यक्तियों की पहचान जाति, वर्ग और लिंग के आधार पर निर्धारित होती है, और यह संरचना उनके जीवन के प्रत्येक पहलू को प्रभावित करती है।

सामाजिक संरचना का परिचय

"यारों के यार" में सोबती ने एक आधुनिक समाज की परतों को उधेड़ते हुए विभिन्न सामाजिक संरचनाओं का चित्रण किया है। इन संरचनाओं में पारिवारिक ढाँचा, जाति-व्यवस्था, आर्थिक विषमता, और लिंग भेदभाव प्रमुखता से उभरकर सामने आते हैं। उपन्यास में इन संरचनाओं का प्रभाव मुख्य पात्रों की जीवन यात्रा और उनके आपसी संबंधों पर गहरा पड़ता है।

पारिवारिक ढाँचा

"परिवार की बुनियाद पर खड़ी ये इमारतें कितनी ही ऊंची क्यों न हो जाएं, उनकी जड़ें हमेशा ज़मीन में ही होती हैं। ज़मीन में दबी हुई, सब कुछ सहती हुई।"

सोबती ने पारिवारिक ढाँचे की जटिलताओं को बड़े ही सूक्ष्मता से उकेरा है। उपन्यास में पारिवारिक संबंधों की मजबूती और कमजोरियों को दर्शाया गया है। पारिवारिक अपेक्षाएं, जिम्मेदारियां और पारिवारिक सदस्यों के बीच की भावनात्मक दुविधाएं इस ढाँचे को और भी जटिल बनाती हैं। खासकर भारतीय समाज में पारिवारिक संरचना का महत्व और उसकी दमनकारी प्रवृत्तियों को सोबती ने गहराई से चित्रित किया है। यह उद्घरण पारिवारिक ढाँचे की मजबूती और उसमें दबी हुई भावनाओं को दर्शाता है।

जाति-व्यवस्था

"जात का सवाल ऐसा है कि आदमी चाहे कितना भी ऊंचा उड़ ले, उसकी जड़ें हमेशा नीचे ही रहेंगी। जात की दीवारें इतनी ऊंची हैं कि उन्हें लांघना आसान नहीं।"

भारतीय समाज में जाति-व्यवस्था एक प्रमुख भूमिका निभाती है। "यारों के यार" में जाति-आधारित भेदभाव और इसके प्रभावों का विश्लेषण किया गया है। उपन्यास के पात्र जाति-व्यवस्था के विभिन्न स्तरों से जूझते हुए दिखाई देते हैं। सोबती ने जाति के आधार पर होने वाले भेदभाव और उससे उत्पन्न सामाजिक विषमताओं को बड़े ही यथार्थवादी तरीके से प्रस्तुत किया है। इस उद्घरण में जाति-व्यवस्था के प्रभाव और उससे उत्पन्न सामाजिक बाधाओं को स्पष्ट किया गया है।

आर्थिक विषमता

"धन और संपत्ति का होना और न होना, दोनों ही अपने-अपने दुखों के साथ आते हैं। गरीब का दुख उसकी रोटी का है और अमीर का दुख उसकी तिजोरी का।"

आर्थिक विषमता भी सामाजिक संरचना का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, जिसे सोबती ने इस उपन्यास में चित्रित किया है। पात्रों के आर्थिक स्थिति और उनके जीवन पर इसका प्रभाव उपन्यास में स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देता है। आर्थिक असमानता कैसे व्यक्ति के सामाजिक स्थिति, संबंधों और मानसिक स्थिति को प्रभावित करती है, इसका गहन विश्लेषण उपन्यास में मिलता है। आर्थिक विषमता और उससे जुड़े विभिन्न प्रकार के दुखों को इस उद्घरण में दर्शाता है।

लिंग भेदभाव

"औरत का जीवन हमेशा दूसरों की छाया में बीतता है। वह कभी बेटी होती है, कभी पत्नी, कभी मां, पर वह स्वयं के रूप में कभी नहीं देखी जाती।"

लिंग भेदभाव का विषय भी उपन्यास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। सोबती ने महिलाओं की स्थिति, उनकी संघर्षशीलता और समाज में उनके प्रति भेदभाव को प्रमुखता से उभारा है। उपन्यास में नारी पात्रों के माध्यम से उन्होंने समाज में व्याप्त पितृसत्तात्मक सोच और उसके प्रभावों को दिखाया है। महिलाओं की आत्मनिर्भरता और उनकी सामाजिक पहचान को स्थापित करने की उनकी कोशिशें उपन्यास का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू हैं। इस उद्घरण में महिलाओं की सामाजिक स्थिति और लिंग भेदभाव की कठोर वास्तविकता को उकेरा गया है।

मानव संबंध और सामाजिक संरचना

"मित्रता वह बंधन है जो खून के रिश्तों से भी ज्यादा मजबूत हो सकता है। पर समाज की नज़रों में, यह हमेशा दूसरी श्रेणी में ही रहता है।"

"यारों के यार" में मानव संबंधों को सामाजिक संरचना के संदर्भ में प्रस्तुत किया गया है। मित्रता, प्रेम, और पारिवारिक संबंधों को सामाजिक ढाँचे में कैसे देखा और समझा जाता है, इसका विश्लेषण उपन्यास के माध्यम से किया गया है। इन संबंधों पर सामाजिक मानदंडों और प्रथाओं का प्रभाव कैसे पड़ता है, इसे सोबती ने बड़े ही संवेदनशील तरीके से प्रस्तुत किया है। यह उद्घरण मित्रता और समाज में उसके महत्व को दर्शाता है, जो अक्सर पारिवारिक और जातिगत संबंधों के मुकाबले कमतर आंका जाता है।

निष्कर्ष

कृष्णा सोबती का उपन्यास "यारों के यार" सामाजिक संरचनाओं का एक गहन अध्ययन प्रस्तुत करता है। कृष्णा सोबती का उपन्यास यारों के यार भारतीय समाज में व्याप्त सामाजिक संरचनाओं का सजीव चित्रण करता है। इसमें जाति, वर्ग, और लिंग भेद जैसे महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को उभारा गया है। उपन्यास में सोबती ने इन संरचनाओं को चुनौती दी है और समाज की जटिलताओं को गहराई से उकेरा है। इस शोध पत्र के माध्यम से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि सोबती का लेखन न केवल साहित्यिक दृष्टिकोण से महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि समाजशास्त्रीय अध्ययन के लिए भी उपयुक्त है। इसमें पारिवारिक ढाँचा, जाति-

व्यवस्था, आर्थिक विषमता, और लिंग भेदभाव जैसे विषयों को मानव संबंधों के संदर्भ में विश्लेषित किया गया है। सोबती की लेखनी की गहराई और उनकी संवेदनशीलता इस उपन्यास को एक महत्वपूर्ण सामाजिक दस्तावेज बनाती है। यह उपन्यास न केवल साहित्यिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि यह समाज के विभिन्न पहलुओं को समझने और उनसे जुड़े मुद्दों पर विचार करने के लिए एक सशक्त माध्यम भी है।

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