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The Future Makers

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Central Research Committee
Shri ShikshayatanCollege, Kolkata

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Research Committee came into existence in March, 2014 and for more than a year it has been our endeavour to instill an acumen for research-work especially among our students.

It is a matter of immense pride and pleasure to publish the SECOND volume of IMPACT, the Journal of the Research Committee, Shri Shikshayatan College, comprising solely of articles written by our students.

These articles have been chosen carefully by various Heads of Departments from Students' Research Projects, funded by the college that were completed last year.

Editorial Board
July'16

সাহিত্য থেকে চলচ্চিত্র

গ্রন্থনা : তৃতীয় বর্ষ ও দ্বিতীয় বর্ষ

সমীক্ষা ও সাক্ষাৎকার : প্রাক্তন (বাংলা বিভাগ)

কিছু কথা

প্রকল্প '২০১৫ - ২০১৬' এর আলোচ্য বিষয় 'সাহিত্য থেকে চলচ্চিত্র' সাহিত্য থেকে সেলুলয়েড ..... একটা বড় পরিসরের যাত্রা। এক্ষেত্রে প্রথমেই প্রশ্ন উঠে আসে যে সাহিত্যকে রূপোলী পর্দায় আনার প্রাসঙ্গিকতাটা ঠিক কি?

রবীন্দ্রনাথের লেখা উপন্যাসগুলো আজ এক শতক পর নতুন ভাবে ফিরে ফিরে আসছে চলচ্চিত্রের বিষয় হয়ে। পরিচালকরা কোথাও সেই কালের যাত্রাধ্বনি শোনানোর লক্ষ্যেই তাহলে বিষয় হিসাবে তাঁর উপন্যাসগুলোকে বেছে নিচ্ছেন? আসলে রবীন্দ্রনাথ তাঁর লেখার মধ্যে বারবার নারী-পুরুষের সম্পর্কের নানান দিককে নিয়ে এসেছেন। জীবন যতই পাল্টে যাক, মানুষ যতই বদলে যাক, সম্পর্কের সেই কালের প্রবাহমানতা তো আজও একই থেকে যায়। আর তাই একাল সেকালকে মিলিয়ে দেওয়ার লক্ষ্যেই বই থেকে একটা উপন্যাসের সেলুলয়েডে যাত্রা।

কোনো বিষয়কে পড়ে মনে রাখার চেয়ে চোখে দেখে আত্মস্থ করাটা অনেকটা বেশি দীর্ঘস্থায়ী এবং বিভিন্ন ব্যস্ততার মাঝে একটা সিনেমা অনেকটা বিনোদনরেও কাজ করে থাকে। একটা গল্প বা উপন্যাস থেকে যখন একটা স্ক্রিপ্ট তৈরি হয়, তখন তার অন্যতম একটা লক্ষ্যই থাকে যে তা কিভাবে কম সময়ের মধ্যে বেশি সংখ্যক মানুষের দরজায় পৌঁছে যাবে।

একজন লেখক যখন একটা কাহিনী লেখেন, তখন তাতে তাঁর তৎকালীন সময়ের ছাপ অবশ্যই থাকবে; আর সেই কাহিনীই অবলম্বন করে যখন একটা নতুন text, নতুন স্ক্রীপ্ট তৈরি হচ্ছে তখন একটা পুনর্নির্মান হয় ..... স্ক্রিপ্ট লেখক মূল কাহিনীকে সবসময় হুবহু অনুকরণ না করে বরং সেই কাহিনীকে তার নিজের সময়র, যুগের উপযোগী করে নির্মাণ করে থাকেন..... ফলে একটা সিনেমা যা কোনো বিখ্যাত গল্প কাহিনীকে অবলম্বনে তৈরি তা যখন আমরা দেখি তখন সেখানে কাহিনীকারের মনোভঙ্গীর পাশাপাশি সিনেমা পরিচালক, স্ক্রিপ্ট লেখকের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীও উঠে আসে। অনেক ক্ষেত্রেই একটা কাহিনী এবং ঐ কাহিনী অবলম্বনে তৈরি সিনেমার মধ্যে হয়ত বেশ অনেকটা সময়, যুগের তফাৎ থেকে যায়..... যার ফলে সিনেমা পরিচালকের একটা বিরাট দায় থেকে যায় মাঝের ঐ সময়টাকে সেলুলয়েডে প্রকাশ করবার, আসলে ভিন্ন ভিন্ন সময়, পরিবেশ, মানুষের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর উপর নির্ভর করে একটা text পাল্টে পাল্টে যায়..... আর মূলের সঙ্গে এই পাল্টে যাওয়াটার কোলাজই হল স্ক্রিপ্ট।

বর্তমান কালে অবশ্য আর ধরা বাধা ছকে স্ক্রীপ্ট তৈরির কাজ চলে না..... সময়ের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সেটাও পাল্টে পাল্টে যাচ্ছে। একটা গল্প, উপন্যাস - যাকে অবলম্বন করে সিনেমাটা তৈরি হবে সেই কাহিনিকে নিয়ে বেশ কয়েকজন ভাবতে ভাবতে, বিভিন্ন point of views নিয়ে, ভাবনাগুলোকে একের পর এক জোড়া লাগিয়ে একটা স্ক্রিপ্ট তৈরি হয়ে থাকে..... অর্থাৎ কাজ করতে করতে ক্রমশ একটা text বদলে বদলে তবে সেলুলয়েডে গিয়ে পৌঁছায়।

তাদের দাম্পত্যের মাঝে মহেন্দ্রর মা'র উস্কানিতে যখন বিনোদিনীর প্রবেশ, তখন ধীরে ধীরে আশা - মহেন্দ্র'র দূরত্ব বাড়তে থাকে দুস্তর।

রবীন্দ্রনাথের উপন্যাসে যে মহেন্দ্র, বিনোদিনীর প্রতি তীব্র আসক্ত হয়ে আশালতাকে ছেড়ে দিয়ে বিনোদিনীকে নিয়ে বাড়ি পর্যন্ত ছেড়েছিল, সেই মহেন্দ্র'র কিন্তু আপাত কোনো পরিণতিই রবি ঠাকুর দেখাননি.... বরং বিনোদিনীর কাশী যাত্রাকালে তার কাছে ক্ষমা ভিক্ষা করেছেন। ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষ চাইলেই তাঁর সিনেমায় মহেন্দ্র'র একটা নির্দিষ্ট পরিণতি দেখাতেই পারতেন, যেহেতু ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষ নিজেই বলেছিলেন যে একটা সিনেমা যখন তৈরি হয়, তখন সেটা একটা সিনেমা নির্মাতার নিজস্ব প্রকাশভঙ্গী। অর্থাৎ উপন্যাসের যতটা মূল রস সেটাকে গ্রহণ করে তিনি তার সিনেমায় নতুন কিছু সংযোজন ঘটাতেই পারতেন বলে মনে হয়। কিন্তু তিনি রবীন্দ্রনাথের ঐ ছক থেকে বেরোতে পারেননি।

উপন্যাসের মধ্যে একটা অসাধারণ নজর কাড়া অংশ বলে মনে হয়েছে চিঠি পাঠের অংশটা। অনর্গল চিঠি পাঠের মধ্যে দিয়ে আশালতা এবং বলাই বাহুল্য সমস্ত দর্শকের কাছে বিনোদিনী - মহেন্দ্রর সম্পর্ক, অনুভূতিগুলো একে একে স্পষ্ট হয়ে ওঠে এবং কাহিনিটা যেন ক্যামেরার মতো ঐ ভাষ্যর মধ্যে দিয়ে এগিয়ে চলে।

সিনেমায় অন্যতম দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেছে মহেন্দ্রর বাড়ি ঘরের আসবাব, দেওয়ালে টাঙানো ছবি..... সব কিছুর মধ্যে দিয়ে যেন একটা ঐশ্বর্য ফুটে উঠেছে।

তবে বিশেষভাবে বলার বিষয় হল বিনোদিনীর ইংরাজী সম্পর্কে..... তৎকালীন সময়ে এক বিদেশীর কাছে তার ইংরাজী শিক্ষার প্রসঙ্গ রয়েছে ঠিকই কিন্তু সেই সময়ে দাঁড়িয়ে বিনোদিনীর অত স্পষ্ট উচ্চারণ কিছুটা হলেও অসঙ্গত বলে মনে হয়েছে।

ঔপন্যাসিক : রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর (১৯০৬)
নৌকাডুবি
চলচ্চিত্র পরিচালক : ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষ (২০১১)

রবীন্দ্র উপন্যাসের দীর্ঘ তালিকায় ১৯০৬ এ প্রকাশিত নৌকাডুবির প্লট, চরিত্র, কাহিনী বিন্যাস কিছুটা দুর্বল। ২০১১ এ ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষের 'নৌকাডুবি' ঝকঝকে একটি উপস্থাপন। সাহিত্য থেকে চলচ্চিত্র..... দুটি আলাদা মাধ্যম, 'নৌকাডুবি' এর নির্যাসটা এক রাখলেও দেখার ভঙ্গি, ভাবানোর ভঙ্গি আলাদা করে দেয়।

পাঠক থেকে দর্শকের ভূমিকায় অবতীর্ণ 'আমরা' উপন্যাস পাঠের সময় কিছু অক্ষর, শব্দ, বাক্যের গঠন থেকে সামগ্রিক একটা গঠনের 'আইডিয়া' করে নিই। উপন্যাসটি চিত্রনাট্য পরিমার্জিত হয়ে সেলুলয়েডে নানান রঙে, ছন্দে যখন দেখি সেই 'আইডিয়া' তখন পরিশোধিত হয়। পরিচালক, চিত্রনাট্যকার নতুনভাবে দেখান, এই নতুনের তাৎপর্য এখানেই, যখন সেটি উপন্যাসের দিগন্ত বিষয় থেকে বিষয়ান্তরে পৌঁছে দেয়।

রবীন্দ্র উপন্যাসের ঝুলিতে সার্বিকভাবে নৌকাডুবির গুরুত্ব বেশ কম মানের, যেখানে 'চোখের বালি' এর মতো আঁতের কথা, মনের কাটা ছেঁড়া প্রকাশিত হয়ে গেছে তারপর নৌকাডুবির মতো একটা দুর্ঘটনায় রমেশ, হেমনলিনী এর

ঔপন্যাসিক : রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর (১৯১৬)

চতুরঙ্গ

চলচ্চিত্র পরিচালক : সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় (২০০৮)

"Four Chapters"..... জ্যাঠামশাই, শচীশ, দামিনী, শ্রীবিলাস - চারটি চরিত্রের সংযোগ হয়ে উঠেছে অখন্ড আখ্যান। 'সবুজ পত্র' পত্রিকায় প্রথম এটি প্রকাশিত হয় ১৩২১ বঙ্গাব্দের অগ্রহায়ণ থেকে ফাল্গুন মাসে। গ্রন্থ আকারে প্রকাশ পায় ১৩২২ বঙ্গাব্দে। সমগ্র উপন্যাস জুড়েই চলেছে মনস্তাত্ত্বিক আবহ।

সমগ্র উপন্যাস জুড়ে জ্যাঠামশাই চরিত্রটি আবহের মতো ফিরে ফিরে এসেছে। শ্রীবিলাসের কথায় ঘটনাগুলি ক্রমানুসারে বিবৃত হয়ে চলেছে। এই বিবৃতির মধ্যে রবীন্দ্রনাথ খুঁজে চলেছেন আধুনিক জীবনের ব্যক্তি মানুষের আঁতের কথা, যার প্রকাশ অত্যন্ত তির্যক কিন্তু সংকেতময়।

সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায়ের চিত্রনাট্য 'চতুরঙ্গ' - এ বিশ শতকের ব্যক্তির সমস্যা ও সামাজিক সমস্যা বর্তমান সময়ের সঙ্গে প্রাসঙ্গিক হয়ে ওঠে। রবীন্দ্রনাথের উপন্যাস 'চতুরঙ্গ' আর সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায়ের 'চতুরঙ্গ' এক, কিন্তু রবীন্দ্রভাবনা ও নাট্যকারের ভাবনায় নিজস্বতা আছে। সময়ভেদে, কালভেদে প্রতিটি বিষয়ই আলাদা হয়ে যায়।

জগমোহনবাবু শচীশের জ্যাঠামশাই, হরিমোহনবাবু শচীশের বাবা - দুটি মানুষ সম্পূর্ণ পৃথক প্রান্তে অবস্থান করেন। জগমোহনবাবুর মধ্যে জীবের মৌল্যবোধ আছে, হরিমোহনবাবুর মধ্যে পূর্বপুরুষদের কাছ থেকে পাওয়া মিথ্যা সংস্কারের আড়ম্বর আছে। কিন্তু হরিমোহনের সন্তান শচীশ জীবনের সব সংস্কার, জীবনকে দেখার দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী, সামাজিক জীবনে এগিয়ে চলার পথ প্রস্তুত করা সব কিছুই জগমোহনবাবুর কাছ থেকে পেয়েছে। চিত্রনাট্যের মধ্যে একই প্রভাব রয়েছে।

লক্ষণীয় 'নাস্তিক' আর 'আস্তিক' এই দুই 'ism' এর মতবাদ। রবীন্দ্রনাথের সময়ে নাস্তিক ভাবনা চূড়ান্তরূপে সমাজে প্রকাশ পেয়েছিল কিন্তু চিত্রনাট্যের আঙ্গিকে নাস্তিকতার ভাবনা দর্শকের কাছে বিশেষ গুরুত্ব পায় নি। বর্তমান সমাজে নাস্তিক ভাবনার সমালোচনা করা হয় কিন্তু তা বিশেষ প্রাসঙ্গিক নয়।

জ্যাঠামশাই এর কাছে ঈশ্বর হল মানুষ। অহিন্দু ধর্মের মানুষেরা যাদের কাছে দেবতা নিরাকার তাদের মতে ভগবানের সেবা হল সমাজে প্লেগরোগে আক্রান্ত মানুষের সেবা। রবীন্দ্রনাথের সময়ের ভাবনার প্রাসঙ্গিকতা সময় অনুসারে বদলে যায়। স্বাধীনতা পূর্ববর্তী ও পরবর্তী সময়ের জাতিভেদ প্রথা বর্তমান সময়ে প্রায় নেই বললেই চলে। মানুষের মধ্যে মানবিক বোধের অভাবটুকু রয়েছে কিন্তু জাতিভেদের প্রাচীরটুকু ক্রমশ লুপ্ত হচ্ছে।

সামাজিক দৃষ্টিতে যে ননীবালা ছিল অত্যন্ত পতিত, সম্মানের আশা করাও যার ছিল ব্যর্থ, সেই ছোট্ট ননীবালাকে জ্যাঠামশাই 'মা' বলে সম্বোধন করেছেন। তাঁর কথায় - ''জীবকে যিনি গর্ভে ধারণ করেন তাঁকে যিনি প্রাণ সংশয় করে ছেলেকে জন্ম দেন তাঁকে 'মা' বলা যায়।'' কিন্তু ননীবালা শেষ পর্যন্ত মৃত সন্তান প্রসব করলেও জগমোহনবাবুর কাছে মাতৃত্বের বোধ অটুট থাকে। রবীন্দ্র ভাবনায় নারীর এক অন্যদিক আছে। কবি গুরুর মতো করে অন্য কোনো মানুষ বোধহয় 'মা' এর এত 'perfect' সংজ্ঞা দিতে পারবে না। ভাবলে অবাক হতে হয় অন্ধকুসংস্কার প্রবণ হিন্দু সমাজের গন্ডিকে অতিক্রম করে কিভাবে 'মা' এক সংজ্ঞা বদলে দিলেন। অথচ সমাজ বারে বারে অসহায় নারীটিকে অসম্মান করে, কখনও অত্যাচারী পুরুষটিকে প্রশ্ন করা হয় না। কিন্তু অসহায় ননীবালাকে সমাজ বারে বারে অসম্মান করে, বিবাহ

পায় - "রসের কোনো মান - জাত-ধর্ম-বিশ্বাস নেই, সত্যিই 'রস' শব্দটি শচীশের 'রস' এর ব্যাখ্যার মধ্যে ধরা সম্ভব?

একটি উপন্যাসের মধ্যেই দর্শক ও পাঠক নারীর দুটি রূপ দেখেছে - একদিকে ননীবালা যার মধ্যে শুচিতা না রক্ষা করতে পারার যন্ত্রণা, অপরদিকে নিজের জীবন দিয়ে অমৃতের পাত্র পূর্ণ করল দামিনী, যে সর্বদা ভেবেছে নারী মৃত্যুর জন্য নয়, সে জীবনরসের রসিক। যার স্থান গৃহে নয়, প্রকৃতির উদার প্রান্তে। যে বসন্তের পুষ্পবনের মতো দিকে দিকে ছড়িয়ে পড়ে।

মানুষ যে পথে মিলনের পথ প্রস্তুত করে, তার বিপরীতে শচীশ দামিনীর মিলনের পথ প্রস্তুত হয়। 'মেঘদূত' এর ভাবনা, বিরহই যেন মিলনের পথ প্রস্তুত করে। মিলন কি সম্পূর্ণ হয়? শচীশ - দামিনীর মিলন প্রকৃতির মধ্যেকার মিলন, খোলা আকাশ, খোলা প্রান্তরের মধ্যেই কেবল খুঁজে পাওয়া যায়। সংসারের বন্ধনে সেই মিলনের স্থান কোথায়.....।

উপন্যাস ও চিত্রনাট্যের শেষে দেখা যায় শচীশের গৃহে শ্রীবিলাস ও দামিনীর অবস্থান ও দামিনী সেলাই শিক্ষিকা। শেষ পর্যন্ত দামিনী অসুস্থ শরীরে শ্রীবিলাসের পায়ের ধূলো নিয়ে বলে - "সাধ মিটিল না, জন্মান্তরে আবার যেন তোমাকে পাই....."

"পথে যেতে তোমার সাথে
মিলন হল দিনের শেষে।
দেখতে গিয়ে সাঁঝের আলো
মিলিয়ে গেল এক নিমেষে।"

শচীশের কথায় -
"স্বধর্মে নিধনং শ্রেয়ঃ পরধর্মো ভয়াবহঃ"

ঔপন্যাসিক : রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর (১৯২৯)

যোগাযোগ

চলচ্চিত্র পরিচালক : শেখর দাশ (২০১৫)

যোগাযোগ - relationship সম্পর্ক এখানে মূল বিষয়। ১৩৩৪ বঙ্গাব্দের অঘ্রান মাসে প্রথমে রবীন্দ্রনাথ উপন্যাসে উল্লেখিত তিনটি প্রজন্মের সূত্র ধরে নামকরণ করেন - তিনপুরুষ, কিন্তু পরবর্তীকালে উপন্যাসটি প্রকাশকালে তিনি তার নামকরণের বদল ঘটিয়ে রাখেন - 'যোগাযোগ'। রবীন্দ্রনাথের কাছে চিরকালই গুরুত্ব পেয়েছে মানব মনের সম্পর্ক - তাই এরূপ নামকরণের পরিবর্তন।

'যোগাযোগ' উপন্যাসটির অন্তরালে রয়েছে যোগাযোগের কথা। এ যোগাযোগ সম্পর্ক তথা দাম্পত্যজীবনে দৃঢ়তা দান করে। কিন্তু যদি ভিন্ন প্রকৃতির দুজন মানুষের মধ্যে এরূপ মনের যোগসাধনের চেষ্টা করা হয়, তবে কি তা কোনো প্রকার সম্ভব হতে পারে? অথবা সম্ভব হলেও কি তা চিরস্থায়ী হবে? সকল প্রশ্নের উত্তর হিসাবে রবীন্দ্রনাথ তাঁর প্রেমভাবনার মুক্ত আকাশে ধূমকেতুর ন্যায় যোগাযোগ উপন্যাসটি রচনা করেন।

১৯২৯ সালে রবীন্দ্রনাথ রচিত এই উপন্যাসটি আবার ২০১৫ সালের ৮ই মে শেখর দাশের পরিচালনায় ও

আবার মতির মার মধ্যে দিয়ে বার বার সমাজে নারীর অবস্থান ও নারী সম্পর্কে সমাজ ভাবনার কথা উঠে এসেছে। স্বামীগৃহে এই মতির মাই ছিল কুমুর একমাত্র কাছের মানুষ, যাকে সে তার আঁতের কথা প্রাণ খুলে বলতে পেরেছে।

যোগাযোগ চলচ্চিত্রটি সেলুলয়েডের মোড়কে গড়ে উঠলেও তা কোনো প্রকার আড়ম্বরতার শিকার হয়নি। যদিও আকাশের ন্যায় ব্যপ্ত রবীন্দ্র ভাবনাকে অপরিবর্তিত রেখে পুনরায় রূপদান করা সহজসাধ্য নয় তবুও পরিচালক শেখর দাশ তার এই চলচ্চিত্রে ঔপন্যাসিকের ভাবনাকে শেষ পর্যন্ত বজায় রাখতে পেরেছেন। তাই ঔপন্যাসিক ও পরিচালক উভয়ই পাঠক ও দর্শককে যথাযথ আনন্দ দান করতে সার্থক হয়েছেন।

ঔপন্যাসিক : রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর (১৯২৮)
শেষের কবিতা
চলচ্চিত্র পরিচালক : সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় (২০১৫)

বিশ শতকের তৃতীয়ার্ধে লেখা রবীন্দ্রনাথের 'শেষের কবিতা' তৎকালীন সময়ে বেশ আলোড়ন ফেলেছিল..... রবীন্দ্রনাথ একটা সম্পর্কের মাঝের খোলা আকাশকে দেখিয়েছিলেন। ২০১৫ তে সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় সেই খোলা আকাশকে সেলুলয়েডে ধরতে চেয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু এখন প্রশ্ন হল কালের সেই যাত্রাধ্বনি কি পরিচালক তাঁর দর্শককে শোনাতে পেরেছেন?

সিনেমা শুরু হচ্ছে অমিত রায়ের নিবারণ চক্রবর্তী হয়ে ওঠার মধ্যে দিয়ে। অমিতের অমিট্ রে থেকে অমিত রায় হয়ে ওঠাটা অনেকটা স্পষ্ট হয়েছে। অন্যদিকে শিলঙ পাহাড়ে যাওয়ার পর রবীন্দ্রনাথ অমিতের সাজ পোষাকের যে বর্ণনা দিয়েছিলেন, তার কিছুই সিনেমায় নেই - শুধু অমিত কেন লাবণ্য বা যোগমায়ার চেহারায় যে সূক্ষ্ম সূক্ষ্ম বর্ণনা সাহিত্যে রয়েছে, তার বিন্দুমাত্র কিন্তু সুমন দেখাতে পারেননি বলে আমার মনে হয়েছে। পাহাড়ের রাস্তায় গাড়ির দুর্ঘটনার সময় রবীন্দ্রনাথ অত্যন্ত যত্ন করে লাবণ্যের চেহারার বর্ণনা করেছেন..... যেখানে লাবণ্যর মাথার খোপা থেকে শুরু করে খোপার কাঁটাটা কিভাবে লাগানো আছে তারও অপরূপ বর্ণনা রয়েছে..... রবীন্দ্রনাথের এই পুঙ্খানুপুঙ্খ বিবরণ একজন পাঠক মনে যে অসামান্য প্রতিফলন ফেলে, তা কিন্তু সেলুলয়েডে ধরা পড়ে নি। অন্যদিকে যদি যোগমায়ার কথায় আসা যায় সেখানেও মনোভাবটা একই..... উপন্যাসে রবীন্দ্রনাথ যোগমায়াকে যেভাবে গড়ে তুলেছিলেন একটা মাতৃসুলভ চেহারা, ছোট করে কাটা চুল, যাকে শ্রদ্ধা (পড়লে) অনায়াসেই একজন পাঠকের ভিতর থেকে আসে ..... ইত্যাদির কোনো প্রভাব সিনেমায় উঠে আসে নি। আসলে রবীন্দ্রনাথের বর্ণনায় প্রত্যেকটা চরিত্র যেভাবে আলাদা আলাদা হয়ে উঠেছে, চরিত্রগুলোর যে বাহ্যিক একটা কাল্পনিক চেহারা মনের মধ্যে গেঁথে গিয়েছে সেখান থেকে বেরিয়ে এসে সিনেমার এই চরিত্রগুলোকে সেই একইভাবে মেনে নিতে কোথায় একটা দ্বিধা চলেই আসছে।

তবে এক্ষেত্রে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ করার কথা হল অমিত, লাবণ্য, যোগমায়াকে বাদ দিয়ে যদি কেতকীকে দেখি, তবে সেই কেতকী ওরফে স্বস্তিকা মুখার্জ্জী কিন্তু অনেকটা যথাযথ। রবীন্দ্রনাথ কেতকী থেকে কেটিতে..... আবার কেটির কেতকীতে পরিণত হওয়াটাকে সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় একটা অন্য মাত্রা দিয়ে কেতকী থেকে কেটি এবং কেটির কেয়াতে পরিণত হওয়াকে দেখিয়েছেন..... অমিত একেবারে শেষে কেটিকে কেয়ায় পরিণত করেছে। কেতকীর চরিত্রে কোনো উগ্রতা নেই..... এমনকি কেটি বা কেয়ার চরিত্রেও নয়। বরং অন্যান্য চরিত্রের মাঝে স্বস্তিকাই বেশি নজর কেড়েছে আমার মতে।

পাঠককে আলাদা করে ভাবিয়েছে। সময়ের ব্যবধানটা প্রায় ১০০ বছর.... সেখানে চরিত্র স্রষ্টা এবং চলচ্চিত্র পরিচালক সম্পূর্ণ ভিন্ন স্বভাব-গন্ধ-মানসিকতার। বেশিরভাগ মতানুযায়ী ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষ, উপন্যাস রচনার সময়টিকেই ধরতে চেয়েছেন, তার থেকে বেরিয়ে আসতে পারেননি। তবে রবীন্দ্রনাথের বিনোদিনীর সঙ্গে চলচ্চিত্রের বিনোদিনীর পার্থক্য অনেক.... উপন্যাসের সৌন্দর্যের সঙ্গে বহু অংশেই মিল পাওয়া যায় না। একজন পাঠক - দর্শকের কাছে ২০০৩ এর ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষের 'চোখের বালি' নাকি একটা 'failed erotica'। আসলে রবীন্দ্রনাথের বিনোদিনী, বিনোদিনীই হয়ে উঠেছিল, কারণ সে অপেক্ষা করতে জানতো, কিন্তু ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষের ছবিতে বিনোদিনীকে অনেক বেশি স্বাধীন-স্বতন্ত্র নারী রূপে প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হয়েছে।

প্রঃ ২০১৫ এ সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায়ের 'শেষের কবিতা' উপন্যাস থেকে চলচ্চিত্রে কতটা যথাযথ? কেতকী কি চলচ্চিত্রে নতুন মাত্রা পেয়েছে?

উ: সমীক্ষার মধ্যে দিয়ে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে, যে সকল পাঠক উপন্যাস 'শেষের কবিতা' এর সঙ্গে আগে থেকে পরিচিত ছিলেন, তারাই যখন দর্শকের ভূমিকায় অবতীর্ণ হয়েছেন, তখন কিন্তু তারা চলচ্চিত্রটিকে তেমন সাগ্রহে গ্রহণ করতে পারছেন না.... অনেকাংশের মতেই এই উপন্যাসের ক্ষেত্রে দৃশ্যায়নের বদলে পড়ার সময়েই তারা চরিত্রগুলোর সঙ্গে অনেক বেশি একাত্ম হতে পেরেছেন। অর্থাৎ সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় সেই কালের যাত্রাধ্বনি শোনাতে তেমন সচেষ্ট হন নি।

তবে একটা বিশেষ উল্লেখযোগ্য যে চলচ্চিত্রে কেতকী অন্যান্য চরিত্রের থেকে সবচেয়ে বেশি নজর কেড়েছে দর্শকের..... উপন্যাসের পাশাপাশি চলচ্চিত্রের কেতকীও যথেষ্ট জীবন্ত ও যথাযথ.... তাই সিনেমায় কেতকী অবশ্যই নতুন মাত্রা পেয়েছে একথা স্বীকার্য।

প্র: 'চতুরঙ্গ' চলচ্চিত্র এবং 'চতুরঙ্গ' উপন্যাস দর্শক এবং পাঠক হিসাবে কি আলাদা উপলব্ধি দিয়েছে?

উ: চতুরঙ্গ উপন্যাসের পাঠে রবীন্দ্রভাবনায় নারীর স্বতন্ত্র অবস্থানকে প্রত্যক্ষ করা হায়। উপন্যাস পাঠের পর উপন্যাসের চরিত্র নিয়ে নিজস্ব ভাবনার অবকাশ থাকে। সেলুলয়েডে পরিচালকের ভাবনায় চরিত্রগুলির নির্মাণ হয়, এবং অভিনেতার ভিতর নিয়ে রূপায়িত হয়। চতুরঙ্গের দামিনী সম্পর্কে পাঠক হিসাবে যে ধারণা হয়, দর্শকের ভূমিকায় দাঁড়ালে সেই ধারণা দৃঢ়ভাবে রক্ত মাংসের মানুষ হয়ে ওঠে। দামিনী চরিত্রের মধ্যে দিয়ে ঔপন্যাসিক বলেছিলেন সে - দশ বিশের খুঁটি নয়, তার চালক সে নিজেই, তার চলচ্চিত্র নির্মাণে দামিনীর এই উচ্চারণ বিশ্বাস করতে শেখায় পাঠককে। দামিনী চরিত্রটির হাঁটা চলা, সংলাপ, সব মিলিয়ে নিজের ইচ্ছায় নিজেকে চালনা করার দৃঢ় প্রত্যয় পাঠকের উপলব্ধির, ভাবনার পরিণতি দিয়েছে। দর্শকের ভূমিকা এখানে পাঠকের 'আইডিয়া' কে সমৃদ্ধ করে।

প্র: রবীন্দ্রনাথের উপন্যাসে সম্পর্কের গড়ে ওঠার ক্ষেত্রে যে অপেক্ষা, সময় দেওয়া থাকে..... তার চলচ্চিত্রায়নে কি সেই অপেক্ষা একই ভাবে ধরা পড়ে?

উ: অধিকাংশের মতেই রবীন্দ্রনাথের উপন্যাসে একটা সম্পর্ক গড়ে ওঠার ক্ষেত্রে যে সময়ের ব্যবধান, যে অপেক্ষা থাকে, সময় দেওয়া থাকে, যখন সেই উপন্যাসকে নির্ভর করে চলচ্চিত্রায়ন করা হয়, তখন সেখানে সেই সময়, ধৈর্য, অপেক্ষা থাকে না। কারণ চলচ্চিত্র একটা fast medium, আর দর্শকের সঙ্গে সব সময়েই আলো-ছায়ার একটা খেলা চলতেই থাকে। আসলে ছবির প্রয়োজনার্থে চলচ্চিত্র পরিচালক অনেক সময়েই উপন্যাসের থেকে সরে এসে পর্দায় ছবি এঁকে থাকেন - তবে এর অর্থ এই নয় যে মূল উপন্যাসের মান ক্ষুন্ন হচ্ছে। একজন পরিচালক যখন সিনেমা তৈরি করছেন, তখন সেখানে তিনি মূল কাঠামোটিকে এক রেখে প্রয়োজন অনুসারে কিছু পরিবর্তন এনে থাকেন।

একটা সাক্ষাৎকার

চিত্র পরিচালক : পাভেল

(পরিচিতি - শতরূপা সান্যালের দুটি চলচ্চিত্র 'ফেকবুক' এবং 'বাওয়াল'-এর script writer এবং assistant director, 'বাবার নাম গান্ধীজি' চলচ্চিত্রের script writer এবং director)

প্র: 'সাহিত্য থেকে চলচ্চিত্র'.... দুটি আলাদা মাধ্যম, একটির পাঠক হই আমরা, অন্যটির দর্শক। এই বদলে যাওয়াটা আসলে কি?

পাভেল ঃ আসলে দুটি আলাদা form of art, এদের ভিতরের একটাই যোগাযোগ গল্প। যখন একটা উপন্যাস হচ্ছে তখন একটা গল্প ধরেই হচ্ছে, আবার অনেক সময়েই গল্পের কাঠামো ভেঙে প্রবন্ধের আকারে গোটা উপন্যাস তৈরী হয়েছে। এই সংরূপ বদলটা সিনেমার ক্ষেত্রেও হয়েছে, Gouthier করেছেন। সাহিত্য, চলচ্চিত্র দুটোরই কাঠামোগত জায়গা story element। সাহিত্য বা উপন্যাস যখন কেউ পড়ে তার কাছে অনেকগুলো ধারণা হয়, লেখক যে interpretation দিতে চাইছেন তার বাইরেও হতে পারে, কতগুলো imagination তার নিজস্ব মৌলিক ভাবনাটা গড়ে তোলে। যেমন রামায়ণকে যদি আমরা একটা টেক্সট ধরি এবং সেটা পড়েই পাঠকরা রাবণের প্রচুর point of view বার করেছে, সেখান থেকেই মধুসূদন মেঘনাদবধ লিখেছেন। উপন্যাস থেকে যখন কোনো সিনেমা তৈরি হয় তখন 'tangle' টা কেটে যায়। উপন্যাসে ভাবনার অনেক সুযোগ থাকে, চরিত্রগুলি নিজের মতো গঠন করার সুযোগ থাকে। পরিচালক যখন কোনো উপন্যাস নিয়ে তার চলচ্চিত্রায়ন করেন তখন সেটায় তার দৃষ্টিকোণ প্রতিফলিত হয়। যেমন ঘরে বাইরে উপন্যাসটি নিয়ে ১৯৮৪ সালে সত্যজিৎ রায় যখন সিনেমা করেন - এবার যদি রবীন্দ্রনাথের ঘরে বাইরে উপন্যাসের সমকাল দেখি লেখা ও ছবির ক্ষেত্রে জনমতের আলোড়নটা কিন্তু আর থাকে না।

স্বদেশি আন্দোলনের ব্যর্থতা, নেগেটিভ স্পিরিট ইত্যাদির প্রাসঙ্গিকতা, প্রয়োজনীয়তা নিয়ে অনেক সমালোচনা হয়েছে। সত্যজিৎ রায় ব্যক্তিগত জীবনে ব্রাহ্ম ছিলেন, তাঁর দৃষ্টিকোণ ভাবনার 'ঘরে বাইরে' আলাদা ব্যাখ্যা দিয়েছিল। আবার 'ঘরে বাইরে' যখন নাটক হয় তখন সেটার interpretation উপন্যাসেরঅনেকটাই কাছাকাছি হয়, এত নেগেটিভিটি সেখানে দেখানো হয় নি। একই গল্প নিয়ে অনেক সিনেমা হয়েছে, যেমন - Victor Hugo এর Mega Hunchback of Notre Dame সেটা নিয়ে Antono Queen এর একটা সিনেমা, পরে Charles Kimbrough এবং আরো পরে Walt Disney সিনেমা করে। তিনটি আলাদা আলাদা ভাষ্য তৈরি হচ্ছে এখানে। পরিচালকরা একটাই উপন্যাস নিয়ে আলাদা আলাদা গল্প তৈরি করেছেন। পাল্টে দিয়েছেন গল্পের আদল। Walt Disney যেমন 'Esmeralda' কে মারেনি। কারণ ডিসনির দর্শক বাচ্চারা, তাদের কাছে মৃত্যুর ভয়াবহতা, হিংসাকে প্রকাশ করতে চায় নি।

ম্যাকবেথ থেকে মকবুল, ওথেলো থেকে ওমকারা এরকম interpretation ঘটেছে যেখানে প্লটে আছে মূল টেক্সট। আমার মনে হয় একটা টেক্সট একটা সময়কে বহন করে আনছে, সেই টেক্সট এর সমকালীন যে প্রাসঙ্গিকতা আছে, তাকে তুলে আনার জন্য পরিচালক নানান ভাষ্য ঘটান। অনেকে টেক্সট এর সময়কে নিপাট ভাবে আনেন, অনেকে তার contemporary ব্যাখ্যা আনেন। এটা পরিচালকের নিজস্বতার প্রতিফলন, যে যেভাবে দেখবেন এবং দেখাতে, ভাবাতে চাইবেন।

সময় ধরে করা হয়েছে। অন্যদিকে যখন স্টিভেন মফাট আর মার্ক গ্যাটিস বি.বি.সি. এর জন্য তৈরি করছেন ওয়াটসন হচ্ছে আফগান যুদ্ধ থেকে ফিরে আসা একজন লোক - ডাক্তার। ভিলেন চরিত্র জিম মরিয়ার্টি আর অন্য কিছু নয় একজন পরিকল্পিত terrorist, একজন specialist ditective, অন্যজন specialist criminal - এই নতুন তৈরি হওয়াতে কারোর খারাপ লাগে নি বরং জনপ্রিয়তা সারা বিশ্বজুড়ে। বিশ্বজুড়ে সবাই নানান মতামত দিলেন, এক কথায় ভালো। অতএব মানুষ, দর্শক, পাঠক যাই বলি না কেন তাদের কোনো সমস্যা নেই, interpretation পরিবর্তন নিয়ে। তারা সহজেই গ্রহণ করেন, যদি সেই বদলগুলো ঠিক থাকে আর অ্যাপিলও।

প্র: শেষের কবিতা, চোখের বালি, চতুরঙ্গ, নৌকাডুবি, যোগাযোগ এই চলচ্চিত্রগুলির ক্ষেত্রেও বদল ঘটেছে, সাহিত্য থেকে চলচ্চিত্রে নতুন রূপে উপস্থাপনের জন্য। দর্শক এবং চিত্র পরিচালক হিসাবে এই পরিবর্তন আপনার কেমন লেগেছে?

পাভেল : ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষ, সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় কিভাবে বদলালেন সেই বিষয়ে যাচ্ছি না। আমার সিনেমা হিসাবে পছন্দই হয় নি। শার্লক হোমসের সিনেমা হিসাবে রবার্ট ডাউনির কাজ পছন্দ হয়েছে আমার, কিছু কিছু জায়গা ছাড়া। আর বি.বি.সি. এর সিরিজটা তো সিরিজ হিসাবেই অসাধারণ। বদলগুলোই অসাধারণ এখানে। সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় যখন হারবার্ট বানালেন নবারুণ ভট্টাচার্যের সেটা গত পনেরো বছরের মৌলিক সিনেমা হিসাবেই অসাধারণ। এই সিনেমার নিজস্ব ভাষা, ট্রিটমেন্ট, অদ্ভুতভাবে ভালো লাগার মতো। কাঙাল মালসাট দেখতে যাওয়ার আগে কিন্তু মাথায় ঘুরছিল ঐ লোকটা হারবার্ট বানিয়েছিলেন ফলে - expectation ছিল অনেক বেশি, হতাশ হলাম। সিনেমার শেষের দিকে যে যায় লঙ্কায় সেই রাজা হয় এই ধারণা পছন্দ হয়নি। লেখক নবারুণ ভট্টাচার্য তখন জীবিত, উনিও বলেছিলেন ব্যাখ্যার বদলে যাওয়া নেগেটিভ সেন্সে এটা লেখক পাঠক সবার জন্যই অপ্রস্তুতকর।

প্র: আলোচ্য উপন্যাস চলচ্চিত্রের সবকটি না দেখলেও কিছু কিছু দেখেছেন। এই উপন্যাসগুলির চলচ্চিত্র হিসাবে প্রাসঙ্গিকতা কোথায়? যেভাবে চিত্রায়ন ঘটেছে তা ছাড়া আর কিবাবে সম্ভব?

পাভেল : এই পাঁচটি উপন্যাসের চলচ্চিত্র গঠনের ক্ষেত্রে একটা সাদৃশ্য থেকে গেছে, সবকটিতেই সেই সময়কে তুলে ধরা হয়েছে। একটা সিনেমা তেরো হাজার ভাবে দেখানো যায়। Shot technique দিয়েই পাল্টে দেওয়া যায় interpretation, এই যে আমি কথা বলছি এর একটাclose shot, একটা distance shot, frame এ অন্যকিছু রেখে শুধু সংলাপ গেল.... নানানভাবে প্রতিষ্ঠা করা যায়। Dialogue মিথ্যা কথা বলে, shot বলে না। আর প্রাসঙ্গিকতার ক্ষেত্রে বলা যায় রবীন্দ্র সাহিত্যের আবেদন তো চিরকালীন। মানুষ তার ব্যক্তিগত উপলব্ধি, অনুভূতির আশ্রয় পায় এরমধ্যে তাই পাঠক দর্শক হন।

প্র : রবীন্দ্র সাহিত্যের এমন কোনো জায়গা যা নিয়ে আপনি চলচ্চিত্র করতে চান?

পাভেল : রবীন্দ্রনাথের ডাকঘর নিয়ে কাজ করতে চাই। প্রোডিউসার পাই নি। ধরা যাক ২০১৬ সাল, চারদিকে সিরিয়ালের রমরমা। একটা নির্দিষ্ট বাচ্চা ছেলে যে সিরিয়ালে অভিনয় করে। বাচ্চাটির মা বাবা আছে, সে অমলের মতো নয়। বাবা ব্যস্ত নিজের চাকুরি নিয়ে, আর মা ছোটেন ছেলেকে নিয়ে স্টুডিও পাড়ায়। সিরিয়াল, সিনেমা, নন-ফিক্সন সব করানো হয় বাচ্চাটিকে দিয়ে। মা বাবা দেখেন টাকা উপার্জন হচ্ছে আবার সামাজিক স্টেটাসও বাড়ছে। এই করতে করতে বাচ্চাটি অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়ে। রোগ দেখাব একটা, পুরোটা এখন বলব না, তো বাচ্চাটি violent হয়ে যায়, রেগে যায় মাঝে

ডাকে সাড়া দিতে পারে না? পারে না নিজের নারীত্ব কে প্রকাশ করতে? তোমার আড়ালে সবটাই কি ফিকে হয়ে পড়ে? অনেক প্রশ্ন তবে।

অন্যদিকে নৌকাডুবি - শেষের বাঁকেই নতুনের শুরু, স্রোতে ভেসে যাওয়া এক সম্পর্ক। ডুবে যাওয়া অংশ থেকেই সূচনা এক নতুন খেলাঘর বাঁধার। নদীর তটে পড়ে থাকা চেতনাহীন দুই নিথর দেহ। চেতনা ফিরতেই অচেনা, অদেখা এক মানুষ, এক সম্পর্ককে আপন করে নেওয়ার প্রবল চেষ্টা। তাদের চোখে যে বিশ্বাসের ঘর সবে বাঁধতে শুরু করেছে, তা দেখে মানতে ইচ্ছা করে যে ভালোবাসা নিছকই এক চেষ্টার মাপকাঠি মাত্র। কমলা যেদিন তার অস্তিত্ব জানতে পারল, সেদিন সে বয়ে গেছিল এক অজানা অন্ধকার নদীর গভীরে। যেই বাধল তার খেলাঘর সেই গ্রাস করল তাকে শেষে।

দুই সময়ের দুই ভিন্ন স্বাদের ছায়াছবি। আচ্ছা আমরা 'ছায়াছবি' বলি কেন? হয়তো যে ছবিটা জীবনের ছায়াতে বানানো, হয়তো যে ছবিটা বালির তৈরি এক খেলাঘরের অংশ বা নিজের দৃষ্টির গভীর জলে নিমজ্জিত এক দিনের কাহিনি।

ছায়া হয়ে থেকো তবে আমাদের পাশে।

মৌমিতা শীল
(জুলজি অনার্স, মৌলানা আজাদ কলেজ)

The most striking featurethat lingers after watching "Noukadubi" is the play of light and darkness. The barely visible, silhouettes, the shadows peeping through, in most parts of the movie it seemed as if it was the dark that Rituporno wanted to capture, the lights were a by product; something unavoidable, as shadows are in the sun. The frames were dialogue takes place at night are a stroke of genius, as the faces that we can't seem to see, convey more through their silhouettes than expressions ever could. The glimmer of lights, be it in the night when Ramesh proposes Hemnalini or when Nalinakhho and Hemnalini climb the stairs in Kashi certainly add wonder to the cinematography. The scene following the shipwreck is oddly beautiful. The pink sun glowing in the storm-tinted backdrop gives way gracefully for Ramesh to search amidst the wreckage, Kamala unflinchingly asking him not to leave her once she regains consciousness. The red and beige of Kamala and Ramesh's attire against the bluish-green of nature and river around them makes for a refreshing contrast. Rituporno certainly makes the most of the period film as he depicts 1920's impeccably; the lanterns to the whitewashed ghats of Benaras, not only in terms of decor and props but he also successfully captures the essence of the age - Kamala's blushful hesitation in front of Ramesh, as it takes her quite a while to even ask him to correct her name, is a beautiful reminder of their decade. Ramesh's willingness to educate Kamala and to teach her on the issues of a world is faint reminder of Nikhilesh's urge to do the same for Bimala in Tagore's "Ghore Baire", although Ramesh's effort seem halfhearted in comparison, as his prime focus is still on Hemnalini. Hemnalini

see, convey more through their silhouettes than expressions ever could. Musically Noukadubi is a pleasure to the auditory senses, with songs catering to situations and moods mellifluously. The title itself is not only descriptive of the literal boatwreck but also how lives can drift and wreck themselves, yet here in the movie, there is a reminder that lifeboats come floating by once in a while and not always does every boat sink. My works of Tagore have been made into films by different film maestros. Without drawing any comparison with anybody, it might just be said that Rituporno Ghosh showed us what he saw of Tagore, of his interpretation of the greatest poet of all times, of his very different, perhaps more entwining than unraveling vision of Tagore.

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পাঠক থেকে দর্শক : একটা journey

সাহিত্যের নিষ্প্রাণ শব্দগুলি, বাক্যগুলি পাঠকের ভাবনায় কল্পনায় জীবন্ত হয়ে ওঠে। উপন্যাসের বিষয় আশয় জায়গা করে নেয় পাঠকের হৃদয়ে। তাদের গড়নের নির্দিষ্ট অবয়ব তখন আর থাকে না। কেউ ভাবেন সাদা, কেউ কালো, কেউ সোজা আবার কেউ বাঁকা। ভাবনার অবকাশ থেকেই যায় পাঠকের মস্তিষ্কে। আর এই অনির্দিষ্ট অবয়বকে আলো আঁধারির ভিতর থেকে একটা প্রাণময়, স্বতস্ফূর্ত গড়নে চলমান করে তোলে চলচ্চিত্র। কোনো উপন্যাসের অভ্যন্তরে অস্পষ্ট, না বলা ইঙ্গিতগুলি পরিচালকরা দর্শকের সামনে মেলে ধরেন। অবশ্য পরিচালকের ব্যক্তিগত দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী, ব্যাখ্যা অনেক সময়েই সাহিত্যের পাঠক থেকে চলচ্চিত্রের দর্শক হয়ে ওঠাকে হতাশ করে। ব্যক্তি স্বাতন্ত্র্য, বৈচিত্র্য, বিভিন্নতা সমান্তরালে হাঁটে না।

চলচ্চিত্রের ভিতরের চলমান চিত্রতা আসলে আমাদের সামনে আমাদেরই মতো জীবন, যন্ত্রণা, আনন্দকে সাজিয়ে দেয়। পর পর চলতে থাকে শুধু চিত্রগুলি আর আমাদের ভাবনাকে ব্যপ্তি দেয়।

রবীন্দ্র উপন্যাস থেকে চলচ্চিত্র - বিরাট একটা সময়ের ব্যবধান তবু ব্যবধানটা যেন মনেই আসে না তাদের প্রাসঙ্গিকতা দেখে। সময়ের দাবিতে রাস্তা, বাড়ি, আসবাবপত্র, পোশাক-পরিচ্ছেদ, উপন্যাসের সময়কে তুলে ধরলেও অন্তর্নিহিত অধ্যায় সেই চিরকালীন জীবন নিয়ে। আর যেখানে জীবনের কথা এসে যায় সেখানে মাধ্যমের অদল বদলে বিষয়টা বিষয়ান্তরে পৌঁছায়।

সাহিত্য থেকে চলচ্চিত্র পাঠক থেকে দর্শকের একটা 'journey'। মাঝখানের লাইট, সাউন্ড, ক্যামেরা বিভিন্ন স্টেশন যার উপর দিয়ে আমরা চলতে থাকি।

METHODOLOGY

DESCRIPTIVE APPROACH BASED ON LITERATURE SURVEY: TO IDENTIFY TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE PAST DECADE

The Indian labor force market displays several striking features: very low rates of female labor force participation, considerable variance in rates of female labor force participation across Indian states and a large share of both men and women working in the informal sector. The literature on female labor force participation has traditionally focused on how demographic participation and educational attainment affect the labor force participation decisions of women. In a separate literature, well known rigidities in Indian labor markets have been put forth as the reason for high share of informal employment in overall employment - for example, about 85% of India's non agricultural workers are employed in informal sector jobs. Studies have noted the lack of medium sized enterprises in India and have linked firm hiring decisions, growth and productivity outcomes to cross state differences in labor market regulations. The literature survey stresses that gender gaps in labor force participation, entrepreneurial activity or education act impede economic growth (e.g. Cubres-Teignier, 2014, Esteve-Volart, 2004, Klasen-Lamana, 2008, among others). Cubres-Teignier in 2014 examined the quantitative effects of gender gap in labour force participation on productivity and living standards. They stimulate an occupational choice model with heterogeneous agents that impose several frictions on female economic participation and their wages and shows that gender gaps in entrepreneurship and labor force participation reduces per capita income. In India, they find that gender gap reduces per worker incomes by about 26%. In recent work Agenor (2015) uses a generations model in which time is modeled over three phases (childhood, working and retirement) and simulates the effect of public policies on participation choices and economic growth.

Such policies raise female labor force participation rates by about 1.5-2.4% per annum depending on the policy efficiencies. We find that female participation has increased in various economic activities in which earlier it was negligent, which is an evidence of the effectiveness of various policies by the government.

Economic Activities	1993-94		2004-05	
	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)
Agriculture, Forest,hunting	86.2	73.9	83.3	66.5
Manufacturing	7.1	6.9	8.4	7.9
Construction	0.8	3.2	1.5	6.8
Trade restaurants & hotels	2.1	5.5	2.5	8.3
Finance and Business	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.7

Source: Calculated from the unit level employment and unemployment NSS data , 50th round 1993-94 and 61st round 2003-04.

effective targets of public expenditure and to offset any budgetary gender bias of the past. Besides all this, the year 2001 was celebrated as the 'Women's Empowerment Year'. The approach of the Tenth Five Year Plan was to bring these policies to action. Apart from strengthening women nationally, mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process and allowing the de-jure and de-facto enjoyment of rights was emphasized. The objective of economic empowerment included provision of training, employment and income opportunities with forward and backward linkages so as to make all women independent and self -reliant. In the approach to the 11th five year plan (2007-12), it has been established that women and children are not homogenous categories and thus catering to the needs of these differential categories will be undertaken. In this plan, for the first time women are recognized not just as equal citizens but as agents of economic and social growth. This plan seeks to maintain all policies and issues as gender sensitive right from their inception to the formulation stages.

Thus, gender equality have always been an important issue till the 12th Five Year Plan which also seeks to strive towards a gender unbiased economy and the equality of the sexes. Much more still is left to be done to have gender equity as a concrete strategy for accelerating economic progress.

ANALYSIS

As per the NSSO Employment statistics 2004-05, 9.3 million jobs were created per annum since 1999-2000. From the table below we find that there has been a slight decline in the share of women as agricultural labourers, while their share among cultivators has increased. The urban women have substantially achieved higher growth of employment in the manufacturing than the male. Even in the domestic and personal sector , women have gained high employment.

All India labour force participation rates and worker population ratios, usual status, over time

Labour force participation rates (%)	1993-1994	1999-2000	2004-2005
Rural Males	56.1	54.0	55.5
Rural Females	33.1	30.2	33.3
Urban Males	54.3	54.2	57.0
Urban Females	16.4	14.7	17.8
Worker Population Ratio (%)			
Rural Males	55.3	53.1	54.6
Rural Females	32.8	29.9	32.7
Urban Males	52.1	51.8	54.9
Urban Females	15.5	13.9	16.6

Source: NSS data, various rounds.

are concentrated in
anufacturing, trade,
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ivity participation of

2004-05	
%)	Male (%)
	6.1
	23.5
	9.2
	28.0
	5.9

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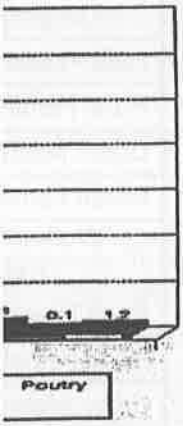

CONCLUSION

The larger number of women both in rural and urban sectors entering the labour force and seeking work is an illustration of demand for employment and the need for employment among women. Any employment policy for India therefore must pay specific attention to women and development of sectors that can absorb the labour supplies of women. Simultaneously improving the skill content of women in order for them to participate for them productively and receive adequate returns is another area that must be addressed.

The biggest drawback of women participation is the low or inadequate education and skill/ training attributes for women. With nearly 85% of rural and 59% of urban workers illiterate or literate upto primary level, the labour market participation of these women is innately circumscribed. Being a social group wise segregation of occupation guided by educational attainment and to some extent social customs. Due to economic distress , females of the respective social groups had to enter physically exhausting and low income jobs.

To improve this, education is a basic requirement. It has been improving over time, but the change is still very gradual .alongside basic literacy skill, women need to be trained in professional or vocational skills that are market oriented.

In terms of remuneration, average wages of males were higher than that of females. Again average wage in urban areas were higher than that of the rural areas. The female workers suffered both in quality and quantity of employment, household responsibilities security concerns, etc. forced females to accept unfavourable terms of working conditions in term of low wage and long working hours.

A major concern that remains in the context of women's work is the unrecognized and invisible component of their contribution , which keeps the female workforce participation rate as low 29%. In order to increase female workforce participation rate , there is need to provide conducive environment with enabling conditions for enhancing women's visibility and participation in productive and decent employment. This can be planned through infrastructure development for facilitating employment generation.

Newer avenues for work have been identified that have the potential to lead the gradual transformation in terms of acceptance of a typical and uncommon job profiles (e.g.- night shifts in IT office, BPOs) changing perception or aspiration among parents . The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme of Employment of Adolescent Girls-Sable (RGSEAG, 2012), Priyadarshini (2011), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK-1993) along with others.

A SURVEY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN ON A SCHOOL IN KOLKATA

Report on a Project conducted by : Sayandita DebRoy & Parnasree Ghosh
(Education Honours, 2nd Year)

INTRODUCTION

Universalisation of elementary education is a prerequisite for a country's cultural and economic progress. Elementary education, which forms the foundation of education, not only plays a crucial role in the improvement of quality of life but democracy demands it, economic progress depends on it, national integration requires it as its base. For this reason education for all and its achievement by all countries have become a global agenda. Children's survival, development and protection are no longer matters of charitable concern but it has now become a legal obligation. Some achievable targets for creating more egalitarian societies by providing good quality 'Education for All' were adopted by the World Education Forum at Dakar, Senegal in April 2000. The forum declared six commitments in the form of goals, one of which was to ensure that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children with difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality.

However the idea of education for all is nothing new in Indian context. Our constitution and the subsequent policies adopted by the Government repeatedly harped on issues of mass education and equalization of educational opportunities. In tune with the commitment of International communities to provide "Education for All", Government of India started the mission of "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" with the aim of universalizing Elementary Education by community ownership of school system. The scheme was approved by the cabinet in its meeting held in 2000 and it was finally launched in the year 2001.

The government levies a 2% education cess in order to bridge the gap between available plan resources and requirements to finance the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and midday meal scheme - the two main programmes for universalisation of elementary education.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is the Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner as mandated by the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory to children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is an effort to universalize elementary education by community-ownership of the school system. It is a response to the demand for quality basic education all over the country. The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan programme is also an attempt to provide

In the current project a survey was conducted on a school named Adarsh Hindi Primary School recognized by the West Bengal Board of Primary Education, located at 10/7D Deshpran Sashmal Road, near the Rabindra Sarobar Metro station in Kolkata. Observations were made regarding its educational facilities, infrastructure, teaching faculty, mid-day meal and educational progress of the students and a detailed report was made.

The school starts from 11 am and runs till 3.30 pm. Student strength of the school is 65 with around 10-12 absentees everyday on an average. The Headmaster of the school is Sri Vijay Pratap Tiwari.

The following observations were made:

Educational Facilities:

The subjects which are taught in the school are English, Hindi, Social Studies, General Science and Mathematics. Unfortunately, there is only one teacher for teaching all the above subjects for all the standards. Educational qualification of the teacher is Higher Secondary Pass. According to the Headmaster, they are not provided with enough funds by the state government to recruit more teachers. With only one teacher it is not possible to look after each and every student in the class and attend to their personal needs and problems.

Building Structure:

The school is a small, two-storied building. Each floor comprises of two classrooms, each classroom around 90 sq. ft. The benches are broken and dirty and there is no sitting arrangement for the teacher in any of the classrooms. There is only one fan in every classroom, most of which do not function properly. Due to the absence of even windowpanes and curtains, the students have to bear the brunt of scorching heat, lashing rain and cold winds during winter.

Toilet facility:

No importance has been given to sanitation. There is only one toilet in the entire school. It is very dirty and unhygienic. There is only one cleaning staff. No phenyl or anti-germ liquids are used for cleaning the floors and toilet. A broom and plain water is all that they have. All these are greatly detrimental to students' health.

Drinking water facility:

There is no drinking water facility. There is only the school tap to quench thirst.

Co-curricular activities:

Indoor activities like singing and drawing are done in the classroom itself. For outdoor games like running, skipping, football, students walk towards a nearby field as there is no provision for a field within the school compound.

Educational progress:

A few learning achievement tests were conducted in the Adarsh Hindi Primary School in order to assess the educational progress among the students.The results can be seen as follows:

COMPLETELY
35
19

COMPLETELY
18
25

COMPLETELY
3
3

COMPLETELY
7
7

We can also observe from the above that the higher the class, the lesser the number of students.

Mid-day meal:

The Mid-day meal scheme is a school meal programme of the government of India, launched in 2004, designed to improve the nutritional status of school age children nationwide. This programme comes under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme since the formulation of the NPE (1986) and the Programme of Action (1992).Several new schemes for the qualitative as well as quantitative improvement to primary education and reaching the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) have been initiated by the government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Department of Education.

A nationwide programme of NP-NSPE was launched on 15th August 1995. This is called the NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT TO PRIMARY EDUCATION. This programme intended to give a boost to UEE by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously to make an impact on nutritional levels of students in primary classes. The ultimate aim under the programme is the provision of wholesome cooked or processed food having a calorie value equivalent to 100 grams of wheat or rice per student per school day.

The Supreme Court occasionally issue interim order regarding mid-day meals, some of which are :

a) The order regarding BASIC ENTITLEMENTS dated 28th November 2001 stated

" Every child in every government and government-assisted primary school with a prepared mid-day meal with a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein each day of school for a minimum of 200 days".

b) The order regarding KITCHEN SHEDS dated 20th April 2004 stated –

" The central government shall make provisions for construction of kitchen sheds".

c) In the order regarding PRIORITY TO DALIT COOKS dated 20th April 2004 stated –

"In appointment of cooks and helpers, preference shall be given to Dalits, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes".

d) In the order regarding QUALITY SAFEGUARDS dated 20th April 2004 stated - " Attempts shall be made for better infrastructure, improved facilities (safe drinking water etc),closer monitoring (regular inspection etc) and other quality safeguards as also the improvement of the contents of the meal so as to provide nutritious meal to the primary schools".

The nutritional guidelines for the minimum amount of food and calorie per child per day are :

village near Darjeeling in 2006, 23 children of Dharma Sati village in Saran district dying after eating pesticide-contaminated mid-day meal on 16th July 2013, guardians of Chardhara Primary school, an anganwadi school complaining that students being served midday meal of poor quality consisting of rice with radish leaves as reported in the Ananda Bazar Patrika dated 25th December, 2015.

The findings of this survey along with the reports in the print media reiterate the report of an expert panel formed by the Union ministry of human resource development that has found the schemes of SSA and midday meal as "fraudulent" and plagued with "malpractice and corruption". It reported that the funds meant to spread primary education through the SSA are being misused by the officials in many districts while "children returned home hungry and deprived of their midday meals".

The picture is not so grim always. A glimmer of hope appears in the efforts of some organizations which have been doing valuable work in promoting health and education of our future generation. One such organization is the Akshay Patra.

The Akshaya Foundation commonly known as Akshaya Patra has been doing a noble job in the field of serving mid-day meals to the school students. It is a non-profit organization in India that runs a school lunch programme across the country. Their slogan is "Unlimited Food for Education". The programme embraced the vision that "No child in India shall be deprived of education because of hunger". Their mission is to reach out to 5 million children by 2020.

A total of around 11 crore children across 12 lakh schools are benefitting from this programme. As an extension of its vegetarian philosophy, Akshaya Patra does not provide eggs but by incorporating alternatives such as milk and bananas it provides meals that are prepared scientifically and with required nutritional value. The food distributed by the Akshaya Patra is perceived to be 'hygienic, nutritious and delicious'.

Following is the summary of findings of impact on students of a nutritious mid-day meal by Akshaya Patra –

1. Increased enrolment : The mid-day meal acts as a great incentive for children to come to school. As more often than not, this meal becomes the child's only meal for the day, it also motivates parents to send their children to school.
2. Increased attendance: Children look forward to coming to school everyday because of mid-day meal. As the Akshaya Patra meal caters to the regional palate it further suits the taste buds of the children and draws them to attend school.
3. Increased concentration: A stomach full of freshly cooked nutritious and healthy mid-day meal keeps classroom hunger at bay and increases the child's concentration in class.
4. Improved socialization: As the meal served by the Akshaya Patra can be consumed universally by children of all castes and communities it has fostered the habit of eating together. The intermingling has increased the unity among children of various religions and castes. It has also helped in removing divisional hierarchy in terms of social standing thereby enhancing a sense of equality among all children.

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though the time has run out. But we cannot deny that some progress have been achieved in certain parts of the country where there is sustained effort, dedicated individuals, adequate finance and less corruption. Hence with constructive policies, conscious effort, proper monitoring and dedicated participation of the stakeholders and the community at large, schools can provide better facilities and the beneficiaries of the schemes can hope for a better future.

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✠✠✠✠✠✠

Thus begins *Maqbool* - a striking, Mafia-based take on *Macbeth* that is as audacious as it is ambitious. In its extremely complex and successful reworking of *Macbeth* in a different genre (film), language (Hindi and Urdu), time and setting (present day Bombay), the filmmaker does not adulterate the complex issues evoked by Shakespeare's plays.

The director ingeniously recasts the weird sisters as a pair of corrupt policemen having connections with the underworld – Inspector Purohit (Naseeruddin Shah) and Inspector Pandit (Om Puri) – for whom the future is as tangible as the present. They blithely tell Maqbool that in six months, he will reign over Abbaji's (Duncan's) terrain. They also convey the information that Abbaji killed his own boss to head the gang, which fortifies Maqbool's desire to lead the gang by killing his own boss.

Bhardwaj is able to realize the tragic potential present in the sincere and inflaming love between Maqbool and Nimmi (Abbaji's mistress) (Macbeth and Lady Macbeth); paradoxically a "forbidden" relationship; resulting in the most striking recasting of the film. She uses her sexual control over Maqbool, plants the seed of murder in his head, and uses all her wiles to cast her spell over him and Abbaji. Nimmi also warns Maqbool of the relationship between Sameera, Abbaji's daughter, and Guddu (Fleance) who is the son of Kaka (Banquo), *"kyonki agar beta na ho, to damaad hi waaris hota hai"*.

The filial bond between Maqbool and Abbaji is very strong. In Shakespeare's words, it could be said that *"He was a gentleman on whom Abbaji had built an absolute trust"*. Nimmi gives her ultimatum – Maqbool has to choose between her and Abbaji. And he chooses Nimmi, against his conscience, against every moral fibre in his being. A little before the murder, he hallucinates that blood is coming out of the cauldron in which he was cooking food earlier for the wedding guests, an image that provides further incitement for the act he plans to commit. The policemen's prediction of rain, extremely unusual for that time of the year, comes true and creates a suitably tense atmosphere. It exhibits the Shakespearean technique of mirroring a breach in the human order by a breach in the natural order. That Maqbool is driven to murder this man betrays a sense of desperation. But the desperation is not his – it is Nimmi's. It is she who goads him into it – just as Lady Macbeth had goaded Macbeth into committing Duncan's murder.

The banquet scene in which the ghost of Banquo appears is replaced by a meeting of Maqbool's gang from which Guddu and Kaka (Fleance and Banquo) are missing. When Kaka's dead body is brought back, only Maqbool thinks that Kaka is alive and loses his calm while Nimmi, like Lady Macbeth, comes to his rescue. Maqbool's fear of Kaka's gaze is tied to Abbaji's murder scene in which Abbaji dies looking at him. Abbaji's blood splashes over Nimmi, who, like her Shakespearean counterpart, becomes increasingly obsessed with imaginary bloodstains.

Othello's racial difference becomes one of caste in India. Omkara is a muscle man born of a low caste mother who has emerged as the local leader of a Brahmin party. He is set to marry a "fair" daughter of a powerful political chieftain. As such, he experiences the unusual mixture of respect and mockery to which Othello is also subjected.

In the original play, Othello's 'tragic flaw' is his jealousy, his inability to take things as they are. *Omkara*, in spirit, stays true to that central theme and weaves all other conflicts around it. Having said that, Vishal has made the story his own and ends up humanizing Shakespeare's characters with the necessary folklore and ethnic charm that is very close to the Indian ambience.

Othello was always Iago's play, and Omkara too is dominated by his desi equivalent - Langda Tyagi. The whole play rests upon the two-facedness of Iago, and Langda is able to wear the two faces without making the transition seem awkward or laboured. Many critics have opined that Iago is a classical Machiavellian villain - he is shrewd and finds wicked enjoyment in evil for evil's sake. But Langda's disappointment was built up. Throughout the film we see a Langda who is always ill-planning but is not probably as cold-blooded as Iago. Langda is more human and rawer unlike the silken Iago who was a master of speech and was revered by Othello and all as 'Honest Iago'. Langda is also not as conniving as Iago – there are situations where Langda capitalised on an incident afterwards instead of planning that – e.g. using Dolly's (Desdemona) waistband (stolen by Langda's wife Indu (Emilia)) to plot Kesu (Cassio) against Omkara. In the original play Iago only persuaded Emilia to steal the handkerchief.

Omkara is true to the spirit of *Othello*; what Shakespeare does verbally, Bhardwaj does visually. The film is full of highly symbolic gestures. The waist band, which replaces the handkerchief, is a perfect example. When Langda (Iago) gets hold of the waist band, he places it on his forehead. Langda's desire to subvert, and become involved in, the marriage, status and sexual life of Omkara is evoked in this one image, in the same way that Shakespeare uses language to suggest a plethora of similar motives for Iago.

Bhardwaj has added more flesh to Indu (Emilia). She is the well-meaning and capable wife of Langda. She is simple, large-hearted and yet strong. Wise to the ways of the world, she possesses the unfailing rustic common-sense and always ready to lend a shoulder to cry upon. Her sole character flaw is perhaps in not understanding her husband's rage at being superseded and not sensing the scheming monster within. At the end of *Omkara,* the Emilia figure, instead of quietly dying, butchers Langda with a machete and disposes of the body down a well. Her final act is the only departure from the original narrative.

Dolly (Desdemona) is kept rather unaltered, the archetypal self-sacrificing, doomed lady and a symbol of purity, love and innocence. One thing that stands out in the movie is the way she subtly lets Omkara know that her liking for him is no mere infatuation.

Bhardwaj was clearly influenced by Ernest Jones' *Hamlet and Oedipus*. Why does Haider want to kill Khurram – to avenge his father's murder or the fact that he married Ghazala? The reason why Hamlet and Haider took time to kill Claudius or Khurram, according to Freud, is because Khurram had done exactly what he, Haider, had wished to do from childhood. Claudius serves as a flesh and blood expression of his own repressed childhood fantasies, and to kill him would be to murder a part of his own inner self already associated with self-loathing. The scene where Haider is back from college and sees his mother Ghazala laughing with his uncle; the pain in his eyes is simply for the reason that after his father, it was his uncle that she loved. In another scene Ghazala fondly remembers how Haider as a child wished to marry her when he grows up and would not let his father touch her, by sleeping in between his parents. Bhardwaj very aesthetically captures this very complex relationship.

Shakespeare is known for his language, specially his soliloquys. One of his best soliloquys is from Hamlet:

If I listen to my heart – it's there
It's not of my mind
To kill or to die
To be or not to be

It is interesting to note how in Haider, the essence of the dialogues has not been lost in translation.

Dil kî agar sunooñ to hai
Dimâgh kî to hai nahin
Jaan looñ ki jaan duñ
Main rahooñ ki main nahiñ

Haider ends by evoking the bloody end of Hamlet but leaving the heroic figures quite altered. Unlike Hamlet, Haider doesn't avenge his father's death by killing his uncle. Unlike Gertrude, Ghazala doesn't die accidentally, she chooses her death after she comes to know the truth. The final act, so to speak, is the highlight of the film and quite possibly the most macabre song setting in Hindi cinema. To transport the singing grave diggers from Denmark to Kashmir and that too so poetically is a statement on the brilliance of Bhardwaj's screenwriting prowess.

The movie has successfully adapted the play's well-known twists and turns in the backdrop of the armed insurgency in the Kashmir of the 1990s. Critics say Bhardwaj has succeeded in bringing out the raw emotions of Hamlet in the film, while keeping his focus firmly on Kashmir.

That's precisely what makes *Haider* a smashing success — it blends a complex work of literature and the history of a forlorn state effortlessly. But what it has is chutzpah — a word that is frequently mentioned in the film and essentially means 'shameless audacity' — and it's also one that describes it perfectly. Haider is a great act of chutzpah.

Shakespeare," says Shah who has acted in both *Maqbool* and *Omkara*, apart from performing in almost every Shakespearean play on stage.

It is true that if there was an award for Biggest and Most Frequent Inspiration in Bollywood, William Shakespeare would perhaps be a frontrunner to win it posthumously almost every other year. Vishal Bhardwaj, who is perhaps the most inspired by Shakespeare, has successfully adapted three of his plays into major Bollywood films. Let us hope the Bhardwaj-isation of Shakespearean tragedy doesn't end with his trilogy.

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प्रतिष्ठानों, यानी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों और उनके संकेंद्रण के सबसे सबल केंद्र अमेरिका के हितों की रक्षा का माध्यम बनी हुई है, संसार को एक करने की इसकी दृष्टि पूरी तरह एक आयामी है। यह सिर्फ व्यापार के लिए दुनिया को एक करना चाहती है, बाकी सारी बातें आनुषंगिक हैं।''[12] भूमंडलीकरण की इस परिघटना को आकार देने में संचारक्रांति की प्रमुख भूमिका है। मीडिया के सारे साधन बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के हाथ में हैं और उन्हीं के लिए हैं। आज स्थिति यह है कि एक भूमंडलीय कार्पोरेट उद्यम ने सारी दुनिया को दो हिस्सों में बांट दिया है। एक तरफ दुनिया का वह हिस्सा है जिसका भूमंडलीकरण हो चुका है और दुसरी तरफ वह, जो इस प्रक्रिया से बाहर रह गया है। भूमंडलीकृत हिस्सा उत्तरोत्तर प्रौद्योगिकीय समाधानों, वित्तीय सट्टेबाजियों, उसके भीतर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार, बैंकिंग, स्थानीय स्तर के भ्रष्टाचार और अपराधीकरण के बीच फल-फूल रहा है। दूसरी ओर बहुसंख्यक आम जनता, जिसके पास क्रय शक्ति का अभाव है और इसी नाते जो बाजार का हिस्सा नहीं बन पा रही है, कूड़े के ढेर की तरह निरर्थक ही नहीं, वातावरण को गंदा करने वाली होने के नाते असह्य होती जा रही है।

भूमंडलीकरण कुछ समस्त लोगों द्वारा सुख सांझा करने का व्यापार है। वृहत्तर दुख सांझा करने की संस्कृति नहीं है। जिन बड़े-बड़े दिग्गजों ने वैश्वीकरण को एक वास्तविकता बना देने का निश्चय स्वप्न देखा था, उनके मन में दूर-दूर तक भी इस व्यापार का मानवीय आधार नहीं था. एक वैश्विक संस्कृति का निर्माण वैश्वीकरण की प्रमुख योजना का हिस्सा है। वैश्विक्ता या भूमंडलीकरण के सही मानवीय आधार क्या हो सकते हैं इसकी जोरदार ढंग से बात कहीं सुनाई नहीं देती। एक ही चित्र हमारे सामने है सूचना तंत्र सांझा हो, बाजार में चीजें एक साथ प्रकट हों, कोई भी कहीं जाकर अपनी दुकान खोल ले, कारखाना लगा ले। सारा संसार सांझी मण्डी है। मोटे तौर पर अमीर आदमी या देश के लिए भूमंडलीकरण का यही अर्थ है।

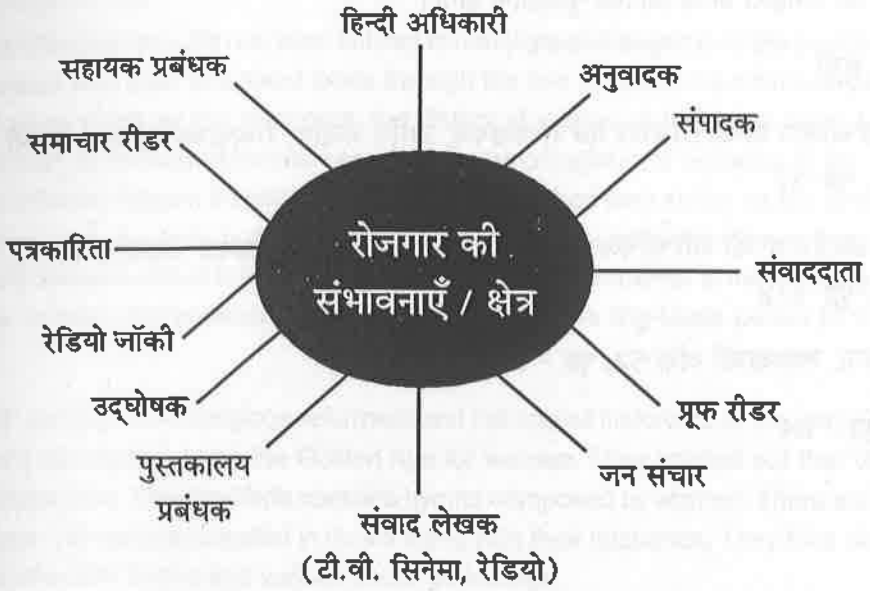
भूमंडलीकरण का हिन्दी पर दुष्प्रभाव

इसमें संदेह नहीं कि वर्तमान संदर्भ में भूमंडलीकरण का अर्थ व्यापक तौर पर बाजारीकरण है। आज के भाषा संकट को इस रूप में देखा जा रहा है कि भारतीय भाषाओं के समक्ष उच्चरित रूप भर बनकर रह जाने का खतरा उपस्थित है। अपने विज्ञापनों से लेकर करोड़पति बनाने वाले अतिशय लोकप्रिय कार्यक्रमों तक में हिन्दी में बोलता भर है, लिखता अंग्रेजी में ही है।

भूमंडलीकरण के आगमन के बाद से सरकारी कार्यालयों में हिन्दी अधिकारी की स्थिति सर्वाधिक अपमानजनक हो चुकी है। उसे केवल हिन्दी पखवाड़े में याद किया जाता है। इसके साथ ही कंप्यूटरीकृत अनुवाद से खानापूर्ति की जाती है। हिन्दी पखवाड़ा मनाया जाए यह आदेश भी अंग्रेजी में निकलता है। ''भूमंडलीकृत सदी में तकनीक और धन के पिरामिड का जितना और जैसा इस्तेमाल प्रतिक्रिया वादी और सांप्रदायिक शक्तियों ने किया है, उतना अन्य ने नहीं। ताकत और आधुनिक तकनीक के दम पर न केवल इतिहास को तोड़ मरोड़कर पेश किया जा सकता है, बल्कि अपनी जरूरत के हिसाब से उसकी मनमाफिक व्याख्या भी की जा सकती है।''[13]

समाज की प्रतिरोधी शक्तियाँ इस हद तक स्वार्थ और स्वसुरक्षा तक सीमित हो गई हैं कि किसी भी अन्याय और जुल्म के खिलाफ संघर्ष का नारा गुजरे जमाने की चीज लगने लगी है। आत्मकेंद्रित समाज आत्म को बचाने के लिए कुछ नहीं बोलता है। अन्याय और अत्याचार के विरूद्ध जब लोग नहीं बोलते हैं, तो एक दिन उनके लिए बोलने वाला

अपनी आंतरिक ऊर्जा के बल पर अब दुनिया की प्रमुख भाषाओं में गिनी जाने लगी है। हिन्दी की फिल्में, टेलीविजन के चैनेल, आज भारत में सर्वाधिक प्रसार वाले अखबारों में हिंदी का अखबार सबसे आगे है। हिन्दी में रोजगार की संभावना पर यह लेखाचित्र प्रकाश डाल सकता है –



भारत में रहने वाले लगभग सभी लोग हिन्दी समझते और बोलते हैं। अपने उत्पादों का प्रचार करने के लिए विदेशी कंपनियों ने जहाँ आज प्रसार सामग्री हिन्दी में छपवाई है वहीं आज टीवी के सभी चैनलों पर हिन्दी का प्रयोग हो रहा है। विज्ञापनों की भाषा और प्रोमोशन वीडियो की भाषा के रूप में सामने आने वाली हिंदी शुद्धतावादियों को भले ही न पच रही हो, युवा वर्ग ने देश भर में अपने सक्रिय भाषा के रूप में शामिल कर लिया है। इसे हिन्दी के संदर्भ में संचार माध्यम की बड़ी देन कहा जा सकता है। 21वीं सदी में मुद्रित और इलेक्ट्रानिक दोनों ही प्रकार के जनसंचार माध्यम नए विकास के आयामों को छू रहे हैं जिसके फलस्वरूप हिन्दी भाषा भी नई-नई चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए शक्ति का अर्जन कर रही है।

निष्कर्ष

हिन्दी जनसंपर्क की भाषा के रूप में जरूर अपनाई जा रही है और अपनाई जाती रहेगी किंतु वैज्ञानिक आविष्कार की भाषा के रूप में वह उपेक्षित है और भूमंडलीकरण के माहौल से अधिक उपेक्षित रहेगी। भूमंडलीकरण का प्रधान प्रयोजन दुनिया को उपभोक्तावादी बाजारू संस्कृति में बदलना है। भूमंडलीकृत युग में जिस अनुपात में सत्ता की

'POSITION OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL INDIA'

(History Honours 2nd Year)

INTRODUCTION

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by the reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. The position of women in ancient India has been a very complicated one because of the paradoxical statements in different religion scriptures. Some have described their status as equal to men, while others have held them not only in disrespect but even in positive antipathy. This is why sociologists while evaluating women's status in India have encountered many problems. In the following paragraphs we will survey, in brief, the position of women in India from the Rig-Vedic period till the medieval times.

Nineteenth century socio-religious reformers and nationalist historians of the early 20th century often presented the Vedic Age as the Golden Age for women. They pointed out that Vedic people worshipped goddesses. The Rig-Veda contains hymns composed by women. There are references to women sages. Women participated in rituals along with their husbands, They took part in chariot races and attended the Sabha and various social gatherings.

Recent scholarship has shifted the focus from discussing women in isolation to an analysis of gender relations. Gender refers to the culturally defined roles associated with men and women. Earlier historians tended to focus on the public political domain relegating the family, household and gender relations to the private, domestic domain.

The experience of women belonging to different groups in society varied . Women have to be understood in relation to men and their relationships are embedded in wider social, economic and political contexts.

In the older writings, a great part of the discussion about women of the Vedic age focused on elite women, ignoring the less privileged members of this sex. Although the Rig-Veda mentions goddesses, none of them are as important as the major gods. The social implications of the worship of female deities are complex. While such worship mark the ability of a community to visualize the decline in feminine form, it does not automatically mean that real women enjoyed power or privilege. The proportion of hymns attributed to women in the Rig Veda is miniscule as is the number of women sages.

Education and learning constituted a significatiant aspect of Gupta society. Education during Gupta period was provided by the, Brahmanical agrahara monasteries. As regarding female education, girls had opportunities for acquiring proficiency in general learning. In Vatsyayana's Kama sutra, princesses and daughters of nobles are mentioned as women whose intellect is sharpened by knowledge of Shastras. In particular, Vatsyayana gives us a long list of 64 subsidiary branches of knowledge (Angavidya) which should be learnt by women. Widows led a simple and ascetic life.

In respect of the partition of the ancestral property or the property of the father among his children, the women received a good treatment as compared with the Hindu practice, for unlike among the Hindu, is the Muslim community, half of the share due to the brother went to his sister. In the case of the marriage, however, the inferior position of the girl was quite obvious. She was made to feel her social disability. The very birth, of the female child depressed the spirits of the anxious parents who declared that an unwanted guest got an entry into their family. Of course, as a child the girl received all the affection and care of the parents.

Ibn Batuta, the Moorish traveller, says that the Samira community was endogamous. So were the Afghans. The proposed marriages between Sikandar and Ismail Jalwani's daughter and also between Mobarak Khan Sur and Allahadad Khan's daughter were not approved by the parents of the daughters because they thought their families to be noble and aristocratic and so superior to the families to which the bridegrooms belonged.

Young married women were expected to be pure and chaste to earn a good name to remain indoors and to be good companions of their husbands. It was believed that they could preserve their chastity and morality and earn reputation as good wives by confining themselves to the four walls of their hearth and home. The married woman was advised to be modest in her behavior and simple in her life. The social ethics forbade her to show off herself in society.

Sultan Raziah was such a masterful personality that she could seize the throne by overthrowing Rukn-ud-din Firuz with the consent of the people, Sultan Kaiqubad came under the influence of the wife of Malik Nazism-ud-din, and she managed to bring the Sulatn's harem under her control. The Afghan ladies, like their Rajput counterparts, distinguished themselves in the defense of their lands.

Muhammad, the Prophet, did not look upon women as equal to men. Although he raised her legal status by clothing her with legal rights, yet she was not equal to man even in legal status. Khalifah ,Abu Bakr and Ali also held similar views. When women in Arabia were enjoying a greater degree of freedom and influence in society and politics, the Muslim women in India were to be content with a lower status. The system of polygamy lowered the position of the women The Muslims carefully guarded their women folk. The men did not like their wives seeing their own brothers and

Women, as depicted in the Vedas have been much romanticised, but a realistic view suggestes varied conditions, especially when the norms of the clan gave way to norms of the caste. In the older writings, a great part of the discussion about women of the Vedic age focused on elite women, ignoring the less privileged women.

Buddhism offered women some respect which they could not get in the Brahmanical society. Two important features of early Buddhism were the assertion that the highest goal-nibbana was possible for women, and the creation of a bhikkhuni sangha. On the other hand, Buddhist texts reflect stereotyped ideals of the submissive and obedient woman, whose life was supposed to revolve around her husband and sons. Buddhist texts contain several references to learned nuns.

Girls of high families and those living at the royal courts were usually trained in the arts of singing, dancing etc. Amarakosa, a work of the Gupta age, refers to words meaning female teachers (upadhyaya and upadhyayi) as well as female instructors of Vedic mantras (acharya). These are some instances of women taking part in government and administrative functions. Prabhabati gupta, the daughter of Chandragupta the second, administered the Vakataka government after the death of her husband.

Under the Delhi Sultanate, there was little change in the position of women in the Hindu society. The old rules of early marriage for girls, and the wife's obligation for service and devotion to the husband, continued. During this period, the practice of purdah became widespread among the upper class women. The practice of guarding women from the vulgar gaze was practiced among the upper class Hindus and was also in vogue in the ancient Iran and Greece. The Arabs and the Turks adopted this custom and brought it to India with them. This practice became widespread in north India. The growth of the purdah has been attributed to the fear of the violence, women were liable to be treated as prizes of war.

Indian women's position in society further deteriorated during the medieval period, when child marriages and a ban on remarriage by widows became part of social life in some communities in India. The Muslim conquest of the Indian subcontinent brought purdah to the Indian society The Bhakti movement tried to restore women's status and questioned certain forms of oppression. Mirabai, a female saint-poet, was one of the most important Bhakti movement figures. Immediately following the Bhakti movements, Guru Nanak the first Guru of Sikhs, preached equality between men and women.

The position of women has been a subject of considerable interest in recent decades. In all societies, particularly in the west, there has been a rethinking of the position accorded to women in all spheres of activity. This has resulted in a significant change in the role played by women in social, economic and even political life. This reappraisal has also touched on the question of the position accorded to women in the main religious traditions of the world.

Instruments and the CMOS 4000 series by RCA, and their more recent descendants. Increasingly, these fixed-function logic gates are being replaced by programmable logic devices, which allow designers to pack a large number of mixed logic gates into a single integrated circuit. The field-programmable nature of programmable logic devices such as FPGAs has removed the 'hard' property of hardware; it is now possible to change the logic design of a hardware system by reprogramming some of its components, thus allowing the features or function of a hardware implementation of a logic system to be changed. Electronic logic gates differ significantly from their relay-and-switch equivalents. They are much faster, consume much less power, and are much smaller (all by a factor of a million or more in most cases). Also, there is a fundamental structural difference. The switch circuit creates a continuous metallic path for current to flow (in either direction) between its input and its output. The semiconductor logic gate, on the other hand, acts as a high-gain voltage amplifier, which sinks a tiny current at its input and produces a low-impedance voltage at its output. It is not possible for current to flow between the output and the input of a semiconductor logic gate. Another important advantage of standardized integrated circuit logic families, such as the 7400 and 4000 families, is that they can be cascaded. This means that the output of one gate can be wired to the inputs of one or several other gates, and so on. Systems with varying degrees of complexity can be built without great concern of the designer for the internal workings of the gates, provided the limitations of each integrated circuit are considered. The output of one gate can only drive a finite number of inputs to other gates, a number called the 'fan-out limit'. Also, there is always a delay, called the 'propagation delay', from a change in input of a gate to the corresponding change in its output. When gates are cascaded, the total propagation delay is approximately the sum of the individual delays, an effect which can become a problem in high-speed circuits. Additional delay can be caused when a large number of inputs are connected to an output, due to the distributed capacitance of all the inputs and wiring and the finite amount of current that each output can provide.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

In a 1886 letter, Charles Sanders Peirce described how logical operations could be carried out by electrical switching circuits.Starting in 1898, Nikola Tesla filed for patents of devices containing logic gate circuits (see List of Tesla patents). Eventually, vacuum tubes replaced relays for logic operations. Lee De Forest's modification, in 1907, of the Fleming valve can be used as AND logic gate. Ludwig Wittgenstein introduced a version of the 16-row truth table, which is shown above, as proposition 5.101 of *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921). Claude E. Shannon introduced the use of Boolean algebra in the analysis and design of switching circuits in 1937. Walther Bothe, inventor of the coincidence circuit, got part of the 1954 Nobel Prize in physics, for the first modern electronic AND gate in 1924. Active research is taking place in molecular logic gates.

UNIVERSAL LOGIC GATE:

Charles Sanders Peirce (winter of 1880–81) showed that NOR gates alone (or alternatively NAND gates alone) can be used to reproduce the functions of all the other logic gates, but his work on it was unpublished until 1933.[4] The first published proof was by Henry M. Shaffer in 1913, so the NAND logical operation is sometimes called Sheffer stroke; the logical NOR is sometimes called *Peirce's arrow*. Consequently, these gates are sometimes called *universal logic gates*. The truth table & logical expression is as follows.

Table :2

NAND	(AB)' = A'+B'	see truth table below

INPUT		OUTPUT
A	B	A AND B
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Table :3

Truth table for NOR gate

NOR	(A+B)' = A'.B'	see truth table below

INPUT		OUTPUT
A	B	A AND B
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	0

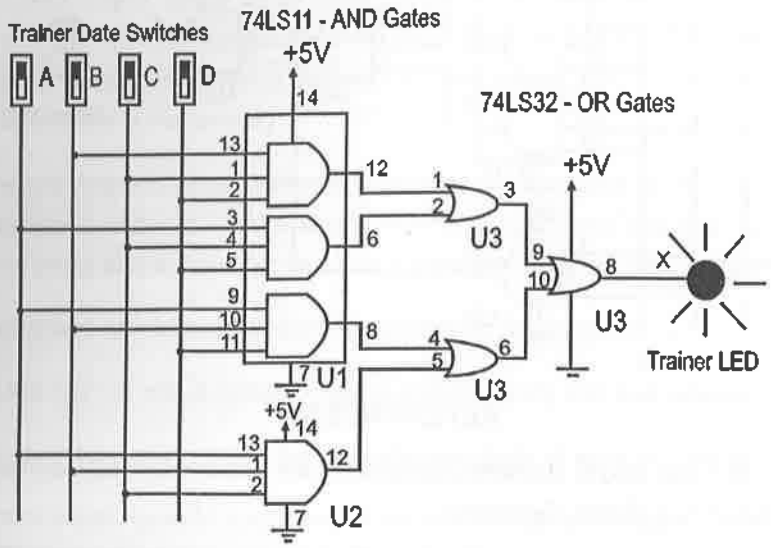
The simplest form has four terms of three variables each:

$$A\,B\,C + A\,B\,D + A\,C\,D + B\,C\,D = X$$

The schematic of a logic design that realizes this Boolean Algebra combinational logic equation is below:

Simplified Majority 3 Voter Circuit

$$B\,C\,D + A\,B\,D + A\,B\,C + A\,C\,D = X$$



If the output lines from the AND gates above were inverted, and the inputs to the OR gates above were also inverted, the circuit would not change as far as what the logic would do. If a signal is inverted twice, the result is no change to the signal.There is a change to the logic.An AND gate with an inverter on its output becomes a NAND gate, while an OR gate with the inputs inverted is also a NAND gate. This makes it possible to build the same circuit from all NAND gates and have it work exactly the same way as the AND-OR version. The all NAND gate realization of the circuit is shown below:

CONCLUSION

We learned following topics from the above experimental model

- How to use the trainer to build and test circuits.
- How combinations of AND, OR, and INVERT gates can be used to solve a real problem.
- NAND gates can be used to substitute for AND-OR gates in logic circuits.
- With the help of these we can check a logic relation. Here we get High output when maximum number of i/ps are high elsewhere we get 0, output. Which helps us to make decision from enormous no of inputs.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT... A MYTH OR REALITY?

A Paper jointly presented by : Mahasweta Chakraborty, Srijoni Ghosh
(Philosophy, 3rd Year)

INTRODUCTION:

What is Women Empowerment?

Women Empowerment refers to an environment in which women can have the power and independence to make all her decisions and be self-reliant for benefiting herself and the society. It refers to equality of women in all fields, viz. social, economical, political and legal so that they can have equal opportunities in the society.

According to the UN Women, empowerment of women is necessary so that they can participate in all sectors of society in order to build a strong economy of the world and to achieve international goals. This would bring about development in the quality of life of women in today's world.

Women Empowerment can take place if concentrated on the following:-

1. She should live her life with a sense of self-respect, dignity and self-reliance.
2. She should have the right to make her own choices, both at work and home.
3. She must have equal rights to participate in social, political and religious activities.
4. She should have equal social status.
5. She must have the right to take her own financial choices.
6. She must get the right to education and employment opportunities.
7. She must get a secure social, working and personal environment.

Now, although Women Empowerment is an international issue, this discussion will be revolving around Indian context.

OBJECTIVE:

This project has been undertaken in order to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To develop a clear understanding about the position of women in India through ages.

unmarried daughters could inherit it. A wife had no direct claim over her husband's property. Though a forsaken wife was entitled to 1/3rd of her husband property, a widow was denied any such right.

e) **Role in the religious Field:** Religious ceremonies were performed jointly by husband and wife in the Vedic age. There was active participation of women in religious discourse. They were even allowed to perform sacrifices by themselves in the absence of their husbands.

The honourable position of women in ancient age was depicted in the following quote:

"Hindu women held an honourable place. They inherited and possessed property; they took share in sacrifices and religious duties; they attended great assemblies and state occasions; they also distinguished themselves in science and learning at their times. ... Considered as intellectual companions of their husbands, as friends and loving helpers in the journey of life of their partners."[1]

- **Women during the Period of Dharmashastras and Puranas:** The position of women went through a drastic change during this phase.

a) Changes in the **social field** included the beginning of pre-puberty marriages, the prohibition on widow remarriage, complete denial of education to women, the increasing prevalence of customs like sati, purdah and the practice of polygamy. The husband was elevated to the status of god for a woman.

b) The **economic field** saw the rights of owning property being denied to women, thus depriving her of any share in her husband's property.

c) Discrimination against women was also manifested in the **field of religion**, as they were barred from offering prayers and sacrifices, practicing penance and undertaking pilgrimages.

- **Women in Buddhist Period:** Buddhist period saw an elevated status of women. Buddhism didn't consider women to be inequal to men. They were considered to be equally important in the society. According to Buddhism, women had multiple roles to play- as a wife, as a mother and a chief member of the family who runs it successfully. The husband was supposed to consider the wife as a companion and a partner. A wife was expected to be acquainted with knowledge of trade and industries, in order to look after it in absence of husband.

Buddhism also emphasized education of women and their religious freedom. Marriage was not regarded as indispensable as Buddhism didn't consider women to be inequal to men. They were considered to be equally important in the society. According to Buddhism, women had multiple roles to play- as a wife, as a mother and a chief member of the family who runs it successfully. The husband was supposed to consider the wife as a companion and a partner. A wife was expected to be acquainted with knowledge of trade and industries, in order to look after it in absence of husband.

- **Status of Women in Independent India:** Since independence, the status of women in India has changed radically. Women have started to enjoy equal opportunities in education, employment and political participation. Several commissions were appointed by the Central and State for realizing this cause. In 1975 International Women's Year was celebrated. The activities of UNESCO also created an awareness regarding the cause for women.

The Government of India had taken measures to secure the interests of women. Some of these are:

- **The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**
- **The Hindu Succession Act, 1956**
- **The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act,1956**
- **The Special Marriage Act, 1954**
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act,1961**

In order to secure economic interests of women , the Government had undertaken different measures. Some of these are as follows:

- **The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961**
- **The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976**
- **The Factories Amendment Act, 1976**
- **The Hindu Succession Act**

However, these measures do not have much significance as most of the women, particularly, the rural women are not aware of these rights. Studies have been undertaken to assess the degree of awareness among the rural women. In one of such studies it was found that 75% of women were unaware of their rights; 20% of them are unaware of their political rights; only 0.5% of them could get a share of their father's property. Hence, it must be admitted that women are yet to become aware of their independent identification.[2]

The above discussion reveals the truth that the real difficulty lies in gender inequality. But as long as women themselves are not becoming alert of their rights as individuals, no amount of legislation can help them to improve their situation. So, what is required is a total shift in the mindset of women themselves. As long as women do not learn to respect themselves as individuals, recognizing themselves as worthy of aspiring to equality, nothing can help them to elevate their position in society. Hence, the key is to respect oneself and respect fellow women and thereby develop a sense of solidarity among themselves.

- I advice in decision making
- All of them
- Nothing
- Other (please specify)

4. **Do you face any kind of abuse in the family?**
- Physical
- Mental
- Verbal
- No one would dare do that

5. **Boy child or girl child?**
- Boy.
- Girl.
- Both or any.

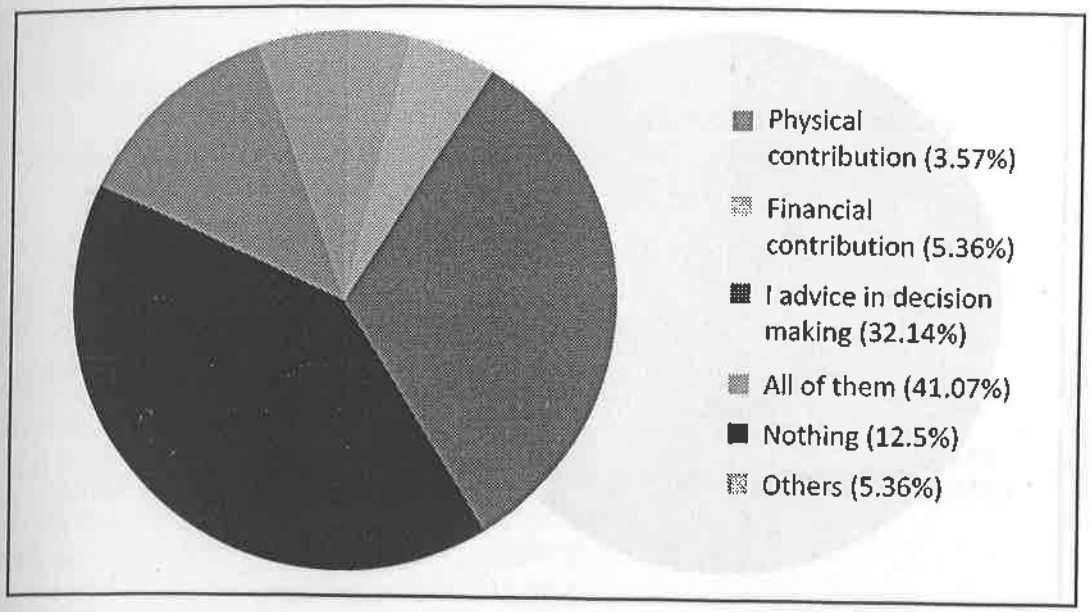
6. **If you have a well to do husband and a well to do family, would you then prefer working?**
- No. There's no need then.
- Yes. I would work anyway.

7. **Do you support the social norm that women should be careful in the streets, like wearing covered clothes or avoiding roads in the evening in order to avoid being molested?**
- Of coursel They must be careful.
- They can do whatever they feel is right, why be afraid?
- Some amount of precautions must be maintained.

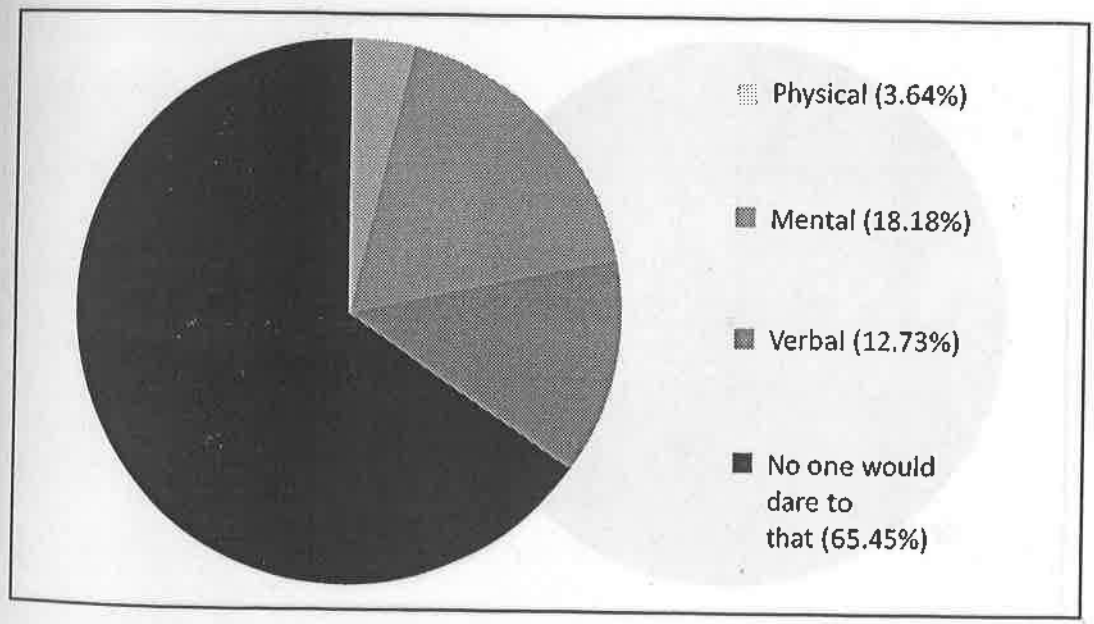
8. **Do you think women should continue education as long as they want or get married after a certain age?**
- Study. Get married. Work or look after family.
- Women should get married after 25.
- Study. Build a career. Then have a family.

9. **Do you think that women can be in the same level as men as or more than them?**
- Absolutely.
- In certain fields.
- No. Men are made stronger.

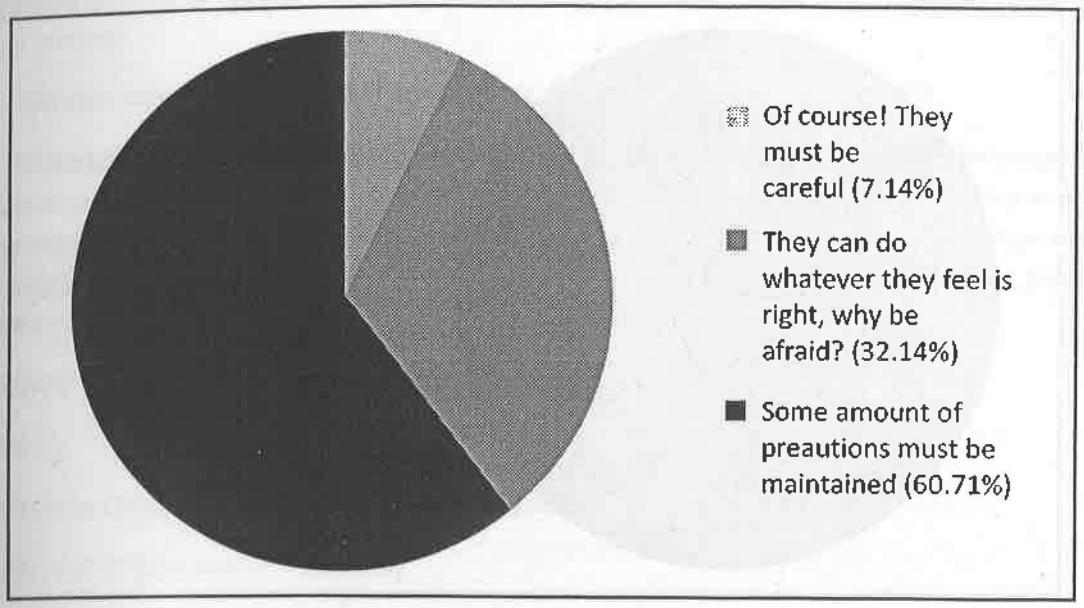
3. WHAT KIND OF CONTRIBUTION DO YOU HAVE IN THE FAMILY?



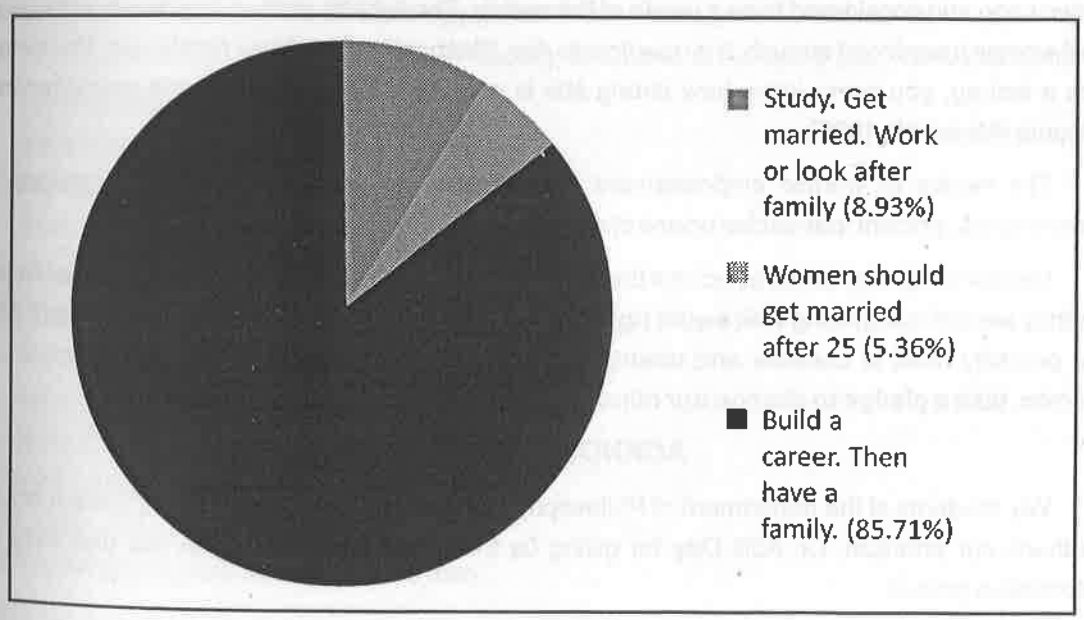
4. DO YOU FACE ANY KIND OF ABUSE IN THE FAMILY?



7. Do you support the social norm that women should be careful in the streets, like wearing covered-up clothes or avoiding roads in the evening in order to avoid being molested?



8. Do you think women should continue education as long as they want or get married after a certain age?



We would like to thank our teachers of the department for their constant support and inspiration.

We would also like to thank all the people who devoted their valuable time and served as the subject of our surveys.

We also thank the rest of the students of our department for their co-operation.

While working on this project, we could reach out to several people and know their views regarding this burning topic. The project gave us knowledge about various aspects regarding women empowerment and how we can stand up for our rights and justice; and represent the women of our society. This project gave us a life-transforming experience which would also help us to grow as empathetic individuals.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Mahasweta Chakraborti and Srijoni Ghosh (3rd year)

Students of Department of Philosophy.

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XIV. Online and manual survey on 7-10 men.

states in Part C and two states in Part D. Later, after Seventh Amendment in 1956, the units were reduced into three main categories like States, Union Territories and Other territories as may be acquired. In addition to this, Jammu-Kashmir was given the special status (Article 370) and Governors of few states were empowered with special powers and discretionary powers in relation to the development of certain states independent of the Chief Ministers of those states.

For the smooth functioning of our quasi-federal model, Constitution has several provisions to regulate Centre-State relation in administrative, legislative and financial spheres..

Unlike the union territories, the states are autonomous administrative units having their own legislation and elected chief ministers as head of the government. The law making body exists both at the central and the state level. Being a parliamentary system, both Union and State Legislatures play an extremely important role in Indian democracy. Hence, the Third Year Honours students of the Department of Political Science undertook the project to study the Institution with reference to the state of West Bengal.

The project consists of the following sections

(I) Highlights of the constitutional provisions related to the composition and functions of the State Legislature in India,

(II) Historical background of the West Bengal State Legislature,

(III) An assessment of the 15th West Bengal Legislative Assembly,

(IV) Experience of the visit to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

OBJECTIVES

State Legislature is the part of the prescribed Honours syllabus of the University of Calcutta. An Institutional Visit was organised by the Department in August 2015 to acquire first-hand knowledge about the functioning of the law making body in West Bengal. Inspired by the visit the students have undertaken this project. Through an in-depth study students aim

- to understand the constitutional provisions related to State Legislature
- to know the historical background of the West Bengal Legislature
- to identify the special features of the West Bengal Legislature
- to take note of the business conducted in the present Assembly (2011-2016)
- to train themselves about how to undertake a project
- to familiarise themselves with the Institution where their elected representatives function.

Assembly not being less than two-thirds of the members actually present and voting followed by an Act of the Parliament.

- ***Article 170 – {Composition of the Legislative Assembly}***

The Legislative Assembly of each State shall be composed of the members chosen by direct election on the basis of adult suffrage from territorial constituencies. The number of members of the Assembly shall not be more than five hundred nor less than sixty. The Article further states that there shall be a proportionately equal representation according to the population in respect of each territorial constituency within the State. The total number can only be readjusted by Parliamentary law after the completion of each census.

- ***Article 333 – {Appointment of Anglo-Indian Member}***

The Governor can nominate one member of the Anglo-Indian community if he is of the opinion that they are not adequately represented in the Assembly.

- ***Article 172(1) – {Duration of State Assembly}***

The duration of the Legislative Assembly is five years but it may be dissolved sooner than five years by the Governor. However, the term of five years may be extended in case of Proclamation of Emergency. It can be extended for a year at a time and not extending beyond the period of six months in any case after the termination of emergency.

- ***Article 356 –{State Emergency}***

If the President is satisfied, based on the report of the Governor of the concerned state or from other sources, that the governance in a state cannot be carried out according to the provisions in the Constitution, he may declare an emergency in the state. Such an emergency must be approved by the Parliament within a period of two months. In case of such emergency, the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament

- ***Article 357 –{ Exercise of legislative powers under Proclamation issued under article 356}***

Parliament can confer on the President the power of the Legislature of the State to make laws.

- ***Article 171(1) –{Composition of the Legislative Council}***

Article 171(1) state that the size of the Legislative Council or Vidhan Parishad shall vary with that of the Legislative Assembly. The membership of the Council shall not be more than one-third of the membership of the Legislative Assembly but not less than forty. The Governor shall appoint persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as the following, namely - literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service.

- ***Article 172(2) –{Duration of Legislative Council}***

The Legislative Council shall not be subject to dissolution but one-third of its members shall retire on the expiry of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by Parliament by law.

- ***Article 197 (Restriction on powers of Legislative Council as to Bills other than Money Bills)***

After an Ordinary Bill is passed by the Assembly, it is sent to the Legislative Council. Here the Bill may either be accepted, rejected or sent with amendment to the Assembly. The Assembly may send it for the second time to the Council. If the bill is rejected for the second time or not sent within one month or sent with amendment to which the Assembly does not agree, the bill will be considered passed by both the Houses of the legislature.

- ***Article 198 (Special procedure in respect of Money Bills)***

Money bill cannot originate in the Legislative Council. However, the Money Bill shall be placed before the Legislative Council after it is passed by the Assembly. The Council gets 14 days time to take action on the bill. It may accept, reject or send the bill to the Assembly within 14 days of the receipt of the bill with or without recommendation. It may also not send it back. After the expiration of 14 days, the bill will be considered passed by both the houses

- ***Article 200* (Assent to Bills)**

After a Bill is passed by the State Legislature, it shall be presented to the Governor for his assent. The Governor may-

- ✓ declare his assent to the bill helping it to become law
- ✓ withhold his assent in which case the bill fails to become law
- ✓ may return non-money bill to the legislature with message
- ✓ may reserve the bill for the consideration of the President.

If the bill is returned to the concerned House and passed again with or without amendment and presented before the Governor again, the Governor shall not withhold his assent.

It is also stated that it is compulsory for the Governor to reserve the Bill which in his opinion, if passed, would derogate from the powers of the High Court under the Constitution.

- ***Article 201 (Bills reserved for consideration)***

When a Bill is reserved by a Governor for the consideration of the President, in case of the money bill so reserved, the President may either declare his assent or withhold his assent.

In the case of a Bill other than a money bill, the President may direct the Governor to return the Bill to the Legislature for reconsideration. The Legislature must reconsider such Bill within six months and if it is passed again, the Bill shall be presented to the President again. However, it is not obligatory for the President to give his assent in this case too.

COMMITTEE SYSTEM

Under the provisions of the Constitution of India a number of committees exist to examine in detail the functions of the executive. They comprise of the elected members of the House. Each committee is headed by a Chairman. It comprises of the members of both ruling and opposition parties. No minister can be its member. Tenure of the committee is not more than one year.

(II)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF WEST BENGAL STATE LEGISLATURE

The history of the West Bengal Legislature can be traced to 18 January 1862 when under the Indian Councils Act of 1861, a twelve Member Legislative Council for Bengal / Presidency was established by the Governor-General of British India with the Lt. Governor of Bengal and some other nominated members. The strength of the Council was gradually enlarged by subsequent Acts. Under the Indian Councils Act of 1892, the maximum strength of the Council was raised to twenty out of which seven were to be elected. The Indian Councils Act of 1909 further raised the number of members of the Council to fifty. Under the Government of India Act 1919, the number of members of the Legislative Council was once again raised to hundred and twenty five members. The Bengal Legislative Council constituted under the Act of 1919 was formally inaugurated on 1 February 1921 by the Duke of Connaught.

Before the construction of the Assembly House, the sittings of the Legislative Council for Bengal was held at Belvedere, Calcutta, the residential place of the then Lieutenant Governor of Bengal till 1920. Later, the Bengal Legislative Council sat at Town Hall between February 1, 1921 and February 8, 1931, till the new building was ready.

A few years later, under the provisions of the Government of India Act 1935, two chambers of the Bengal Provincial Legislature, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly were created. The tenure of the Assembly, consisting of 250 members, was to be five years unless dissolved sooner; while the Council, with a membership of not less than 63 and not more than 65, was made a permanent body and not subject to dissolution with the provision that one-third of the members should retire every three years.

On the eve of Independence in 1947, on account of partition of India, Bengal Province was divided into West Bengal and East Pakistan. The West Bengal Legislative Assembly was constituted with ninety members representing the constituencies that fell within the area of West Bengal and two nominated members from Anglo-Indian community. The Bengal Legislative Council stood abolished. The Legislative Assembly met for the first time after Independence on 21 November 1947.

The Constitution of India again provided for a bicameral Legislature for West Bengal. Accordingly, the West Bengal Legislative Council consisting of fifty- one members was constituted on 5 June 1952. The number of members in the Legislative Assembly was two hundred and forty including two nominated members from the Anglo-Indian Community. After the first General Elections, the new Assembly met for the first time on 18 June 1952.

On 21 March 1969, a resolution was passed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly for the abolition of the Legislative Council. Subsequently, Indian Parliament passed the West Bengal Legislative Council (Abolition) Act, 1969 abolishing the Legislative Council with effect from 1 August 1969.

Presently it is a unicameral legislature where the members are directly elected by the people of the State every five years. The total strength of the Assembly is two hundred and ninety five (294

Some of the important bills debated and passed by 15th Vidhan Sabha

- **The Singur Land Rehabilitation and Development Bill, 2011** was passed on June 14, 2011 amidst walkout by the Left parties who are in opposition. According to Chief Minister Mamata Bandyopadhyay, this Bill was passed to undo the "injustice" meted out to the farmers whose land was forcefully acquired in 2006 for setting up Tata Motor's Nano car manufacturing unit The Bill empowered the West Bengal government to return land to the farmers in Singur.
- **West Bengal Backward Classes (other than SC and ST) (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Bill, 2012** was passed in July 2012. This Bill provided for 17 % reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in government jobs where 10% seat reservation was announced for category A ('more backward classes') and 7% for the other category ('backward classes').
- **West Bengal Panchayat Election Bill, 2012** was passed to provide 50% reservation for women.
- Assembly passed **bills to set up 3 new universities in West Bengal** - A new state-aided university named Kazi Nazrul University at Asansol, state-aided university (PBU) at Coochbehar and Techno-India University at Salt Lake and South 24 Parganas. The three new universities aim at providing opportunities to the young generation to avail management, engineering and professional education in the state and avoid migrating to other states.
- **The West Bengal Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2012** was passed in December 2012. The Bill provides for appointment of members of the Assembly as parliament secretaries who will have the rank and status of a Minister of State. They will help in planning and coordination of legislative business in the House and will serve as an intermediary between administrative secretaries and Ministers.
- **The West Bengal Higher Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill 2013** was passed to reserve seats for SCs (22%) STs (6%) and OBCs Category A (10%) and OBCs Category B (7%) in higher education i.e. Colleges and Universities.
- **Presidency University (Amendment) Bill, 2013**: This Bill provided for the creation of a mentor group of prominent persons which would suggest measures to make the university as a centre for academic excellence. The Bill is an amendment to the Presidency University Act of 2010.
- **The West Bengal Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Amendment Bill 2014** was passed in December 2014 to protect interest of the farmers so that they get the right price for their produce.
- **Dunlop India Ltd (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016 and Jessop and Co Ltd (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016** were passed on February 7, 2016 to take over management and control of Dunlop India Ltd and Jessop & Co Ltd from Pawan Kumar Ruia group. The objective is to help thousands of employees who are in acute financial crisis due to huge dues over a substantial period of time.
- **West Bengal Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Bill, 2013** was passed amidst a walkout by the Opposition Congress for the protection of investors in chit fund companies.

collaboration with Calcutta Flower Growers Association. "Vidhan Sabha Bhawan" the title of the Assembly has been worked out in Bengali topiary letters in. This is in keeping with the lush green surrounding

Chambers Visited

- MLA's Lobby
- Assembly Hall
- Library
- Speaker's Chamber
- Secretary's Room

The MLA's Lobby

The MLA's Lobby with its marble flooring is a grandeur. The walls are decorated with the portraits of the dignitaries like Raja Rammohon Roy, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar Mahatma Gandhi, Shyamaprasad Mukhopadhyay, Subhas Chandra Bose, Siddhartha Shankar Ray and many more. The MLAs sit here during lunch. There is an attendance register where the MLAs have to sign their presence. The opposition and ruling parties sit in their allotted places in the Lobby. The Lobby leads to the Assembly Hall.

Assembly Hall

The Assembly is spectacular with a grand ceiling carved out of wood and velvet flooring. The furnishing dates back to the era of the British Raj. There are multiple entrances to the Assembly. Entry gates have been specified for the Speaker, Governor, Ruling Party members, the Opposition Party members, the Press and the Visitors. We were shown the seating arrangement. One side of the Assembly is donned by the Ruling Party and the other is warmed by the Opposition. Each elected member has a seat allotted to him. The Speaker has the highest chair. But in the presence of the Governor, the Speaker steps aside and the Governor occupies his seat. There is a special seat in the gallery for the Governor's guests. When the Governor, Speaker or Deputy Speaker are absent, the Assembly is presided over by the Chairman selected from among the members of the Assembly unanimously. In normal times, the Speaker controls the switch to the mikes of the various legislators. There is also a press corner exclusively for the Assembly . The Public press sits in an allotted corner of the galleria with the Speaker's permission. There is a recording room in the gallery where the minutes of the session are recorded. There are digital display boards for Ayes and Noes, with indicators in green and red to maintain the speaking time allotted to each Legislator. The Committees, headed by the respective chairmen also sit in the Assembly while the session is on. They are in- charge of scrutinising the reports and presenting them to the Speaker.

We were informed that when the speaker ushers in, he is accompanied by the Marshall with a mace that is adorned by the country's national emblem. This convention started during the British rule and has been followed ever since.

Speaker clarified the queries of the students and teachers. He briefed us on the way the proceedings of the House are carried out, the manner in which the Business Advisory Committee selects the agenda and the date as well as the duration of the sessions of the House. He enlightened us about the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker whose office is expected to be neutral.

- ***Secretary's Cabin***

The Secretary of the Legislative Assembly, Shri ***Budheswar Mahanti*** welcomed the students and the teachers to his office for interaction. He enlightened us about the working of the Secretariat and the different Committees which help in the proper functioning of the Assembly. According to him there are 39 Committees in total and 24 of them are Standing Committees. The Business Advisory Committee, consisting of the members from different political parties, is chaired by the Speaker. He elaborated on the proceedings of the House. First hour is the Question Hour. At least one week prior to the session, the list of questions are submitted to the Speaker who decides which questions to be allowed and which to be rejected.

- ***Shri Rabindranath Chatterjee, MLA, CPI (M)***

The Students were equally gratified to come into contact with Shri. Chatterjee who informed them that the Winter Session of the Assembly might have to be dissolved due to the forthcoming Assembly Elections. He also briefed the students on the various motions and activities of the House.

Observations and Findings of the Visit

The visit to the Assembly was a learning experience for the students. The Assembly House is well maintained with a strict security arrangement. We found ourselves privileged to see the handwritten original Constitution of India kept in the Assembly Library. The heritage building and the plaque highlighting the origin. The dignitaries were open to queries. It was interesting to see the Speaker, Secretary and other officials carrying out the task in person. In fact this visit was the main inspiration behind the current project undertaken on State Legislature.

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