

Extensive Rise in Global Issues and Role of Literature: A Brief Introduction with Special Reference of Climate Change and Global Warming

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Abstract

As 'Literature is consider as a Mirror of society', it has to represent every single detail of surrounding and make people aware from upcoming dangers. At present state the most fatal dangers are natural disasters and they are invited by us on the earth by various activities, such as pollution, industrialization, limitless mining and much more. In this paper I tried to figure out some literary pieces throughout the history of Literature, where authors tried to make important statements about environment. If we try to look back in ancient times, we have that story of 'Noah and his Ark' where the story talks about the brutal end of the corrupted and profligate civilization by the flood. Then we have that epic from Mesopotamia titled 'The Epic of Gilamesh' which was written somewhere in 2000 BC to 1500 BC. This piece of literature highlights the errors made by humanity and then the punishment given by the Gods in form of floods. One can relate the story to Sura 71 of the holy Quran. There also is the description of flood. Similar story is in Matsya Purana of Hindu mythology. Then we have the Book of Revelation, written around 1st century AD where author talks about apocalypse related things happened on earth.

Basically those literary pieces were written to make humanity aware of upcoming dangers. Those writings helped to change human mentality. As we all know that from the beginning, human is wasteful animal and there are no limitations to his greed. To fulfil his greed, he can reach any level and so to prevent him and conserve nature, literature comes in act. Writers, by showing fear of supernatural elements, Gods, tried to protect nature and automatically save earth from natural as well as human disasters till now. But the time has changed now. Humanity is no more blind-believer and therefore a serious need come to show them importance of nature conservation. As human mentality changed as per the time, the mediums also changed. So, to create and spread awareness among humanity regarding Global issues like Climate change, pollution, global warming etc. literary writers can play a vital role. By using social media, movies and other means, literature can effectively solve some of the issues. Here in this paper, I tried to discuss all this things which are the only way now to aware humanity.

KEYWORDS- Global Warming, Climate change, Literature, Global Issues

INTRODUCTION-

Plato, in his legendary essay titled 'The Republic', rightly claims that the literature (poetry) is nothing but imitation or copy of society which in present scenario we can take as 'Literature reflects society' or 'Literature is a mirror of society'. Some other scholars praise literature by calling it as a torchbearer for society. For some of legendary revolutionaries literature was a spark which fires minds of thousands of people and showed them the path of wisdom and independence. All my intension behind above information is to highlight the importance of literature in society. No one could deny that behind each revolution, whether it was good or bad, literature has its hand. In short, we can say that literature has that power to shape mindset of people

and therefore its literatures integral responsibility to make society aware of upcoming dangers. Generation to generation, century to century literary writers contribute to literature to make society, its people aware of things happening around them. As plenty of famous authors rightly said that literature is just not to delight and entertain but it opens the doors of wisdom to the reader.

OBJECTIVES-

- ✓ To point out vital role of literature in shaping society.
- ✓ To highlight the intense need of literature, which can spread awareness among people about environment conservation.

RELIGIOUS & HOLY TEXT-

As we have already talked about the depiction of natural disasters in different ancient and religious texts earlier, here we will have a close look on it one by one.

THE BIBLE-

The story of first flood is there in the Bible as well and it has that reason behind the flood that people were no more obedient to God that time or to say, they were no more ready to live in peaceful atmosphere. By reading this sort of book, may with fear of God and flood kind of thing, reader starts thinking about what to do and what not. So, directly or indirectly Bible tried to make people think about good and bad things. Unfortunately, the Bible was not read in that context very long but now a day's readers are reading it with different perspectives. Now days, environmentalists highlighting these new research from the great Bible and guiding readers and believers about the true meaning of Bible which is to conserve nation and peace within society and live with harmony.

THE QURAN-

One can relate the story of the flood to Sura 71 of the holy Quran. Here in sura 71 of the Quran, character named Nuh talked about the same flood we had looked in Bible and other holy scripts. While addressing Allah, Nuh said that, let all the disbelievers die. They were covering their ears when I was preaching those good things; they were fighting when I was, by your holy orders, conveying them the importance of peace in society. Indirectly here also the holy Quran wants to convey the message that if you are not obedient and responsible in society, this sort of disaster will struck the earth and wiped in completely. So by this fear, readers were expostulated to be more responsible in society along with the nature.

MATSYAPURAN

There is a special importance to the Matsyapuran in Hindu mythology as it is about Lord Vishnu's very first Avatar and that was Fish. Here in the Matsyapuran, 'Satyavrat' also talked to lord about the great flood and reasons behind it. To answer him, lord Vishnu tells him that due to increasing sins and misbehaviour of humans, he planned that flood on earth. This story also guides us to walk on good path and not to show pride to anyone who is helpless.

My intension behind this discussion was to show how effective these books worked in nature conservation and in maintaining harmony in society. Even in present rural areas, people, by fear of Gods and their anger, never try to steal anything from temples. They live their lives with peace and ease. So, why this happen? The reason is indeed this sort of books, which they yet worship. Here we can get how effective literature can be in expostulation of human beings. May be because of that, some literary authors, poets tried their hand in such literature which talks and aware us from natural dangers which are at our door now a days. Let us talk about some other pieces of literature and streams which tried their hand in this global issue.

APOCALYPSE POETS-

15th and 16th century, we find that apocalypse poets were trying their hand in such themes, which were never discussed in its deep sense. The Apocalypse Poets also known by the name Apocalyptic, were a group of British writers who composed poems around the largely forgotten Apocalypse poetry movement. Their themes were very strange in very first reading. Aesthetically, this group dealt in nightmarish, gloomy images, related to mythology, and meditated on war. Politically, it tended towards anarchism. For instance- 'The New Apocalypse' (1939) and 'The White Horseman' (1941) are two anthologies which consist of literature of Writers like Dylan Thomas, Kathleen Raine, David Gascoyne, George Barker, Henry Treece, G. S. Fraser, Vernon Watkins, and Herbert Read about that nightmarish images of society, anarchism. The intension behind this sort of literature was no doubt creating awareness about upcoming dangers but with gloomy and mysterious ways. This type of literature is very hard to grasp but its impact on human mindset is worth study.

CLI-FI or CLIMAT FICTION-

In 21st century, many different genres were invented. One such genre is Climate Change Novel. When we search for definition of Cli-Fi, we get that it's an abbreviated name of Climate Fiction. It is a literature, which deals with global warming, population and climate change issues. One more special thing about cli-fi is that, it took place in a location that we are well aware of or a world in the near future. The term was first used in 2013 at radio segment where they were describing novels and movies based on man-made climate change. This genre describes the effects of a dramatic change in the earth's atmosphere and climate on one particular location with a vision of how to adopt or mitigate the effects.

The roots of this genre can be found in 21st century. As we have already discussed that, the location for this genre varies and it can have setting of past, present or future. This genre has that one character mostly, who worked as scientist and found something disastrous in his research. The story is based on his research, which has that inevitable connection with environment and nature. The setting for this genre usually is arctic land, deserts or some remote places in dense forests. The events in such genre are rapid and accelerated, as it has to maintain the anxiety in reader. Herewith are some examples- Edward Abbey's 'Desert Solitaire', Annie Dillard's 'Pilgrim at Tinker Creek', Terry Tempest Williams' 'Refuge'.

DEPICTION IN MOVIES-

Now days some movies are made which talk about these global issues like global warming and climate change. One of the best examples is that movie titled '2012' released in 2009, which was a blockbuster in Hollywood. The movie was one of the most important efforts in this sector that stamped the upcoming dangers and natural disasters in people's minds. The recent romantic Bollywood movie 'Kedarnath' can also include in this genre as it talks about a cloudburst that happened in the holy pilgrimage of Kedarnath in India. There are some other examples as well where we can find light glimpses of climate change issues, like 'Pirates of the Caribbean', 'The Geostorm', 'The Day After Tomorrow' etc. These movies have indeed played a vital role in awakening people's minds about nature conservation.

CONCLUSION-

As we all are aware that the issue of climate change has become very complicated now days, it is a responsibility of all of us to create and spread awareness about it among the people. As plenty of fellows have the habit of reading and it can be utilised by writing such novels or literature, which talk about natural disasters and climate

change. So here, we can easily say that literature, in present state as well, can be used as an instrument, which can be used to create awareness in society about population, pollution, and many other things, which are harming nature badly. Indeed, it will be helpful and can awake a ray of hope in the society.

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