

# સાહિત્યિક

2019-2020

સંપાદક

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શ્રી ઉમિયા કેવીસી એજ્યુકેશન ટ્રસ્ટ સંચાલિત  
શ્રી મેઘમણિ પરિવાર એન્ડ શ્રી ભાઈલાલભાઈ એ. પટેલ (દેત્રોજવાળા)  
ઉમિયા આર્ટ્સ એન્ડ કોમર્સ કોલેજ ફોર ગર્લ્સ  
ભાગવત વિદ્યાપીઠની પાસે, સોલા, અમદાવાદ - ૩૮૦૦૬૦  
ફોન - ૦૭૯ ૨૭૬૬૫૦૧૧

સન્નિધિ

**SANNIDHI** 2019-20, Published by Shree Meghmani Parivar and Shree Bhailalbhai A. Patel (Detrojwala), Umiya Arts and Commerce College for Girls, Managed by Shree Umiya KVC Education Trust

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કિંમત રૂ150/-

ISBN 978-81-942189-2-0

પ્રકાશક

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ટાઈપ-સેટિંગ

પ્રિન્ટ ઓ' ટાઈપ

પ્લોટ નં. ૬૬૨/૨, સેક્ટર નં. ૧૩/એ, ગાંધીનગર-૩૮૨૦૧૬

મુદ્રક

એસ. જી. પબ્લિશર્સ (ઇન્ડિયા)  
એફ-૫૦૧, તુલસી રેસિડન્સી, ન્યૂ રાણીપ,  
અમદાવાદ-૩૮૨૪૮૧

**N**amaskar!

It gives me immense pleasure and happiness to present the Fourteenth Issue of our Annual College Magazine-“Sannidhi”!

That it has been coming out year-after-year with unfailing regularity makes it a very special occasion for me.

“Sannidhi” which literally means proximity, closeness and togetherness – of thoughts, actions and ideas. “Sannidhi” symbolizes harmony.

I feel very proud to share that this fledgling of yester years is young today, very aspiring; very bold and completely sure of itself... truly it has found its expression! And this 14th issue is a reflection of that.

Over these years “Sannidhi” has evolved in every sense-from its layout & presentation to print quality to improvement in quality, range & depth of its coverage and ofcourse, the increasingly overwhelming participation of all faculty members of our Institution Umiya.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every one connected with “Sannidhi” in any and every small way to have given me this proud moment.

To the well-read and learned readers it is my humble request to provide their suggestions and correct any lacunae...because continuous improvement and ‘the way forward’ is the only way...

I pray with sincere gratitude to the God Almighty that journey continue everlastingly...

**~ Dr. Sangeeta Ghate**

Principal, Umiya College for Girls

## સંપાદકીય

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સન્નિધિ: 2019-20' પ્રગટ કરતાં હર્ષ અનુભવું છું, કારણ કે કોરોનાની વૈશ્વિક મહામારીએ સમગ્ર વિશ્વને પોતાના પંજામાં એવું તો જકડી લીધું છે કે થોડો સમય વિશ્વ આખું થંભી ગયાનો અહેસાસ થયો - થઈ રહ્યો છે.

પણ મનુષ્ય ચૈતન્યપુંજ છે એને સ્થગિતતા ક્યાંથી પાલવે? મહામારી સામે ઝૂઝતી ઝઝૂમતી માનવજાત ફરીથી New Normal થઈ રહી છે. આ પુસ્તક પ્રકાશન પણ એ ચૈતન્યધબકારનો જ એક ભાગ.

આ પુસ્તકમાં માનવવિદ્યાઓ - અને વાણિજ્યવિદ્યા ઉપરાંત મહામારીનો વિભીષિકાને લક્ષ કરતા લેખોનો સમાવેશ થયો છે. સાંપ્રત સમયને સમજવા માટે આ લેખો ઉપયોગી થશે. તો ખૂબ જ પરિશ્રમપૂર્વક થયેલા સંશોધનલેખો અભ્યાસીઓ માટે ઉપયોગી થશે.

ભાષાસાહિત્યની મહત્વની કૃતિઓ, સર્જકના અભ્યાસને દર્શાવતા લેખો કે મહામારીના પરિપ્રેક્ષ્યમાં જુદા જુદા વિષયના લેખો - આર્થિક, સામાજિક, માનસિક પાસાંનો અભ્યાસ મહત્વપૂર્ણ બની રહેશે. પુસ્તકમાં સહયોગ આપનારાઓ સહુને અભિનંદન; અને આભાર.

~ અજય રાવલ  
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## વાર્તાકાર શિરીષ પંચાલ

શિરીષ પંચાલે વાર્તાલેખન થોડું મોડું શરૂ કર્યું - એમણે નોંધ્યું છે કે, “દુર્ભાગ્યે મારી (અને મિત્ર સુમનની) સર્જનાત્મકતા ઉપર વિવેચના છવાઈ ગઈ.”<sup>૧</sup> તો સંખ્યાની દૃષ્ટિએ પણ એમણે ઓછી વાર્તાઓ લખી છે તોપણ, ૧૯૮૫ પછીના મહત્વના વાર્તાકારોમાં શિરીષ પંચાલનો સમાવેશ કરવો પડે એ એમના ‘અંચઈ’ (૧૯૮૩) અને ‘આયનો’ (૨૦૦૪) નામના વાર્તાસંગ્રહને લીધે. તો ત્યાર બાદ પણ સામયિકો - સંપાદનોમાં એમની વાર્તાઓ પ્રગટ થતી રહી છે ને ધ્યાન ખેંચતી રહી છે. સ્મરણ થાય છે ‘ગો-વર્ધન મહોત્સવ’, ‘હરિશ્ચન્દ્ર’ જેવી વાર્તાઓનું. અહીં વાર્તાકાર શિરીષ પંચાલના વાર્તાવિશેષને પ્રગટાવવાની નેમ છે, સમગ્ર મૂલ્યાંકન કરવાનું અભિપ્રેત નથી.

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સર્જનની ભૂમિકા : વાર્તાકાર ૧૯૬૨માં બી.એ.ના પહેલા વર્ષમાં બે વાર્તા લઈને સુરેશ જોષીને સંભળાવે છે. “તેઓ એક વાર્તા પસંદ કરીને પ્રતિભાવ આપે છે, ‘શામળ વાંચીને બેઠા છો ને કંઈ! ચાલો, હવે આ વાર્તા જ્યાં પૂરી થાય છે ત્યાંથી શરૂ કરો.’ મેં (શિરીષ પંચાલે) કહ્યું : ‘મને એ નહિ ફાવે.’ એમણે મને ધીરજ બંધાવતાં કહ્યું : ‘ચાલો, તમારો હાથ પકડીને ઘૂંટાવું.’, પણ મેં ના પાડી, ‘મને જાતે મથવા દો...’ (ત્યાર) પછી વિવેચનો કરવા માંડ્યાં અને મારા પર ગુજરાતે મહોર મારી વડોદરા સ્કૂલના વિવેચક તરીકેની. એક બાજુ આ સ્કૂલ માટે ભારે આદર અને બીજી બાજુ ભારે તિરસ્કાર, આ બેની વચ્ચે ઝૂલતાં ઝૂલતાં યાત્રા આગળ ચાલી. પણ મનને જંપ નહોતો, સર્જનાત્મક અભિવ્યક્તિ વિના હું અકળાવા લાગ્યો, આત્મપરિચય કરવો હતો, સંસાર ઓળખવો હતો, ટૂંકી વાર્તાના સ્વરૂપને વધારે સમજવું હતું, પણ એ માટે તો કલમ ઉપાડવી જ પડે, એટલે સામા વહેણે તરવાની હિંમત કેળવી... ૧૯૮૫ પછી... મેં વાર્તાઓ લખવા માંડી.”<sup>૨</sup>

આ વાર્તાઓ પછીનાં વર્ષોમાં રજની મહેતાના નામે સામયિકોમાં પ્રકાશિત થતી રહી અને ૧૯૮૩માં ‘અંચઈ’ નામથી આઠ વાર્તાઓનો સંગ્રહ પ્રગટ થયો ત્યારે નિવેદનમાં વાર્તાકારે નોંધ્યું કે, “આધુનિકતા - અનુઆધુનિકતાનો ખાસ્સો પરિચય હોવા છતાં આ વાર્તાઓનાં માળખાં પરંપરાગત જ રહ્યાં, કહો કે એમ જ ઊતરી આવ્યાં.” (‘અંચઈ’, નિવેદન, ’૮૩) આધુનિકતાના વાતાવરણમાં ઊછરેલા આ વાર્તાકાર જાતે મથે છે. વિષયવસ્તુ કે રચનારીતિ સંદર્ભે પરંપરાનો જ મહિમા કરે છે - આધુનિકતાની સામે સામા વહેણે તરે છે. આ સંગ્રહની ‘અંચઈ’, ‘મજૂસ’, ‘હવેલી’, ‘ઈચ્છામૃત્યુ’ વાર્તાઓ વિશે અહીં નોંધ આપું છું.

‘અંચઈ’ શીર્ષકની વાર્તા સહજ અભિવ્યક્તિરીતિથી દામ્પત્યજીવનની મધુર ક્ષણોની સ્મૃતિથી એકાકી વૃદ્ધ રસિકલાલના વર્તમાનને આલેખે છે.

રસિકલાલ પત્ની શારદાના મૃત્યુથી એકલા પડી જાય છે - થાય છે જાણે પત્નીના મૃત્યુ પછીનાં આ ત્રણ વર્ષમાં તો ત્રણ જન્મારા જોઈ કાઢ્યા! આ અસહ્ય એકાકી સમયને સહ્ય બનાવે છે દામ્પત્યની પ્રસન્ન મધુર ક્ષણોની સ્મૃતિ. પત્ની હયાત નથી છતાં આસપાસ સતત એની હાજરીને અનુભવતા રસિકલાલની સ્મૃતિએ એનું નવું રૂપ પામે છે. વાર્તા આરંભ જ પત્નીના અવાજના ભણકારથી થાય છે : “અરે ઊઠો તો ખરા, પેલી પેઢી પડેલી બિલાડી દૂધ ઢોળી નાખશે...” આ ભણકાર, પચાસ વર્ષ સુધી સાંભળ્યા કરેલો એ અવાજ અચાનક એક દિવસ બંધ થઈ ગયો.

શારદાની સાથે સંકળાયેલી વસ્તુઓ, વિગતોના સંદર્ભથી જાણે એ વસ્તુ કે વિગતખંડ જીવંત બની જાય છે, ને નાયકના જીવનનો આધાર જ હવે તો આ ભર્યો ભર્યો ભૂતકાળ છે. તો ‘અંચઈ’ કરીને ચાલી જતી શારદા વગરનો વર્તમાન નર્યો ઠાલો છે. ઝીણી-ઝીણી વિગતો વડે એ સરસ અભિવ્યક્ત થાય છે ‘લેમ્પના પ્રકાશમાં પુસ્તકો ઉપર ધૂળ દેખાઈ’ વગેરે... તો, ઘરનું પરિમાણ બદલાઈ જાય, રસિકલાલ સ્વપ્નસૃષ્ટિમાં સરી જાય વગેરે... તો, શારદાના હોવાના સંદર્ભ અવાજનાં કલ્પનોથી વાર્તાકારે સરસ મૂકી આપ્યા છે : સાડીના ફરફરતા પાલવનો અવાજ, શારદાના ગાવાનો અવાજ, શારદાનો હસવાનો અવાજ... તો સાગનો પલંગ, અરીસો, ચમેલીવેલ, વગેરેમાંથી દામ્પત્યની ઉલ્લાસપૂર્ણ છબીઓ પ્રગટાવી છે.

તો, ઋતુવર્ષન પાત્રોની ભાવપરિસ્થિતિને વ્યક્ત કરવા માટે ઉપકારક બન્યાં છે, ઉનાળો અભાવ સાથે તો, ચોમાસું એકાકી શુષ્ક જીવનમાં નવી આશાનો સંકેત બની રહે છે, ભીંજાય છે, ને લીમડી ઉગાડવા તત્પર થતા રસિકલાલ તો મનોમન ક્યાં પહોંચે છે, હીંચકે ઝૂલતી શારદા પાસે - ને મૂંઝાય છે. રસિકલાલને થયું છે કે અંચઈ કરે છે. નાયક કહી ઊઠે છે, “શારદા, છેલ્લી અંચઈ ભારે પડી ગઈ.”

સ્વપ્ન, જાગૃતિ, ભૂતકાળ, વર્તમાન, ભરપૂર જીવન, ખાલી જીવન, છે-નથી - આવી અનેક વિરોધ રચતી ભાત સંવેદનશીલ નાયકનાં મનોસંચલનો, ભાષાકર્મથી વાર્તા સ્મરણીય બની રહે છે.

વીજાણુ ક્રાંતિનો પ્રભાવ એના લાભાલાભ જેવી સાંપ્રતની સમસ્યાને શિરીષ પંચાલે ‘મજૂસ’ વાર્તામાં કલાત્મકરૂપે મૂકી આપી છે.

કથાનાયક માધવ ગામ છોડી શહેર આવ્યો છે. ચાની લારી છે. સ્થળાંતરના પ્રશ્નો, એટલું જ નહીં, ગામ જેવું શહેર નથી, ફિક્કું લાગે છે. પત્ની દિવાળી ઘરકામ કરે છે. વરસાદને લીધે માધવ મોડા જવાનું નક્કી કરે છે. નાયકને શહેરના અભાવ દૂર કરવા - દિવાળીની કાયા ને ગમતી મજૂસનો આધાર છે. ‘મજૂસ’ એના માટે સાત માળનો મહેલ



છે. એ ખોલતાં જ ભૂતકાળની સમૃદ્ધિ એની આંખ સામે આવી જાય છે. થાક-કંટાળો દૂર થઈ જાય છે. તો સામે પક્ષે દિવાળીને મન ‘મજૂસ’ - ‘વંતરી’, ‘રાંડકભારજા’ ‘મારી શોક્ય’ છે. આમ, મજૂસ એકનું સર્વસ્વ ને બીજાની શત્રુ - એવો તણાવ વાર્તામાં ઊભો થાય છે. માધવ માટે જેવું મજૂસ ‘આઠ ઓરડાનું ઘર’, ‘સાત માળનો મહેલ’ તો દિવાળી માટે એવું ટી.વી., જે એના ઘરે નથી. એ કામથી થાકે-કંટાળે ત્યારે પડોશીને ત્યાં ટી.વી. જુએ છે. બાળકો માટે ટી.વી. જાદુઈ ઝાડ છે, ટી.વી.નો વિસ્તરતો પ્રભાવ વાર્તામાં સરસ બતાવાયો છે. દાતણનું સ્થાન ટૂંચબ્રશ લે છે. ઘરમાં ટી.વી. માટે માંગ વધતી જાય છે, માધવ પરની ભીંસ વધે છે ને મજૂસના બદલામાં જૂના રંગીન ટીવીના પ્રસ્તાવે એ વીજળી પડવાનું અનુભવે છે. પહેલાં તો ગુસ્સે થાય છે, પણ પછી જિદ્દ - રંગીન સપનાઓથી એ પણ દૂર રહી શકતો નથી, એ પણ માનતો થઈ જાય છે કે પટારાએ આપી આપીને શું આપ્યું? એના બદલે ટી.વી. શું ખોટું? જે માગો તે આપે. આમ ટી.વી. આવ્યું ઘરમાં ને...

તે રાતે ઘરનાં બધાં જે ખીલ્યાં છે, ખીલ્યાં છે. રસોઈ-પાણી કર્યા વિના બેસી રહ્યાં. અને દિવાળીના શરીરે માધવને જે અનુભવ કરાવ્યો તે બેનમૂન હતો. કડક અને મીઠો. તે સાવ ધીમેથી બબડતો હતો. માગ, માગ, માગે તે આપું. અંતે માધવ માટે મજૂસ, ટી.વી., દિવાળી એક થઈ જાય છે. આભાસી વાસ્તવનું જગત કેવું તો હાવી થઈ રહ્યું છે. બજારુ સંસ્કૃતિની ભીંસ કેવી તો વિસ્તરી છે એ છેક છેવાડાના માનવી સુધી પહોંચીને એના વિશ્વને, એની સંવેદનાને બદલી રહ્યું છે એ સરસ રીતે અભિવ્યક્ત થાય છે.

સંઘર્ષ-સમાધાન, ગરીબ-અમીર, ગામ-શહેર, વારસો-વસ્તુ જેવી વિરોધી ચીજોને પાસપાસે મૂકીને ‘મજૂસ’નું થતું પ્રતીકનિર્માણ જેવાં તત્ત્વોથી આ વાર્તા ધ્યાન ખેંચનારી બની છે.

‘મજૂસ’નો નાયક માધવ પૈતૃક વારસાની પ્રતીક એવી ‘મજૂસ’ને આપીને ટી.વી. લાવે છે, ટી.વી. લાવવા મજબૂર બને એ રીતે બજારુ સંસ્કૃતિ એના વડે દેખાડાતાં સપનાં અને એ જ આભાસી વાસ્તવને સુખ માનતો પરિવાર, વારસાનું જતન કરી શક્યા નથી. તો, આનાથી જુદી રીતે વારસાને સાચવવાની વાત ‘હવેલી’ વાર્તામાં છે.

એક બાજુ છે હવેલી. હવેલી અને બધી મિલકતનો વારસદાર પ્રવીણ અને બીજી બાજુ છે હવેલી પાડી એની જગ્યાએ મોટું સંકુલ બનાવી રૂપિયા બનાવવા ઈચ્છતાં સ્વજનો : બાપુજી, મામાનો દીકરો. બીજી રીતે કહીએ તો એક તરફ ભવ્ય સાંસ્કૃતિક વારસો, એની હવેલી, એની કળાકારીગરી ને બીજી બાજુ આ વારસાને પાડી ઘાટઘૂંટ વિના, સૌન્દર્યહીન ઇમારત ઊભી કરી એમાંથી રૂપિયા કમાવાની લાલસા રાખતાં લાલચુ સ્વજનો. વાર્તાકારની સફળતા એની રચનારીતિની પસંદગીમાં છે. વાર્તાકારે વાર્તાનાયક પ્રવીણને પુરાતત્ત્વવિદ્યાનો વિદ્યાર્થી બતાવ્યો છે. તેથી તેને મન આ સમૃદ્ધ વારસાનું મૂલ્ય છે.

પ્રવીણને વૈકુંઠકાકાએ બધી સંપત્તિનું વસિયતનામું કરી ગયા હતા અને એ એકવીસ વરસ પૂરાં કરે ત્યારે બધી મિલકતનો વહીવટ કરવાની એને સ્વતંત્રતા મળે. વાર્તાનો આરંભ પ્રવીણને એકવીસ વરસ પૂરાં થવાનાં છે એ રાતથી થાય છે. ‘હવેલી’નું શું કરવું એવો નિર્ણય કરવાની ક્ષણે પ્રવીણની મનોદશા તંગ છે, એની ઊંઘ વેરણ થઈ છે. નાયકના મનોજગતમાં ઘટનાઓ બને છે. એને ભ્રમણા થાય છે. મારી પાછળ પાછળ કોઈ ચાલી રહ્યું છે, એ છે વૈકુંઠકાકાનો અવાજ, પણ, એ તો ક્યાંથી હોય. એમનું તો બે વરસ પહેલાં મૃત્યુ થયું હતું. પણ એ અવાજ ઊછળતો પ્રકાશ બની જાય છે, નર્ચો પ્રકાશ અને એ પ્રકાશમાં ચમકતી હવેલી, એની મોહિની નાયક પર છવાઈ જાય છે, તો આ ભ્રમણાની સામે બીજી એક ભ્રમણા-વૈકુંઠકાકાની હવેલી ઉતારવાનું, કાટમાળના દૃશ્ય આલેખનનું સન્નિધીકરણ વાર્તામાં તણાવ ઊભો કરે છે, પણ વાસ્તવમાં હવેલી ઊભેલી જ હતી.

ઘરનાં સ્વજનોની લાલચ માટે પણ વાર્તાકારે કરેલું વર્ણન : “મારા ઘરનાં હવેલીને કલ્પવૃક્ષ માનતાં. એની ડાળીઓ ઉપર કેટલાં બધાં શાખિયાં લટકતાં, ઝૂલતાં હતાં અને અમે બધાં લાળઝરતા મોંએ આંખોના ખોળા પાથરી ઊભાં હતાં. આ નર્ચાં કાર્યો એક પ્રતીક્ષામાં અમારું સર્વસ્વ રોકાઈ ગયું હતું.” તો એની સામે પ્રવીણ કેવો છે? ગળામાં નરમુંડ ધારણ કરેલો, લોહિયાળ મોંવાળો, આંખોવાળો - ભૈરવ, વિઘ્નેશ, રાક્ષસ, જેને રીઝવવા ઘરના સૌ તૈયાર હતા. ઘરનાઓએ પ્રવીણને સમજાવવામાં જરાય બાકી રાખ્યું નહોતું. પ્રવીણ આ પૂર સામે, વંટોળિયા સામે, જળપ્રલય સામે, ધરતીકંપ સામે હવેલીને બચાવવા, સાચવવા ઝઝૂમતો હતો અને આજનો દિવસ એના માટે મહત્ત્વનો હતો. કારણ કે, આજે એને એકવીસ વરસ પૂરાં થવાનાં હતાં.

‘હવેલી’ એક સમૃદ્ધ દુનિયા હતી, જુદી દુનિયા હતી, એની સામે ઘાટઘૂટ વિનાના, સાબુ, ટૂથપેસ્ટ, ચા, શરબત, પિપરમિંટોના કકળાટની વચ્ચે દબાઈ ગયેલી, કચડાઈ ગયેલી વિકૃત પુરાકથાઓ મૂઢ બની ટી.વી. સ્ક્રીન પર જોઈ રહેલાં, આંખો વિનાનાં ટોળાં.

રાત્રિની ભ્રમણાઓમાં પછી સવાર પડતાં જ ઘર આખું જાગે છે, પ્રવીણને બોલાવે છે, પણ એ જતો નથી. એને લાગે છે કે ‘ખોદકામ કરતાં કરતાં મહામૂલી વસ મળી જાય અને એક ચમકાર થાય એવો ચમકારો અનુભવ્યો.’ વાર્તાના અંતે પહેરેલા કપડે કૂવા પર નહાતો નાયક જાણે કે દીક્ષિત થાય છે. આ ક્ષણ તેની ભ્રમણામુક્તિની છે, જાગૃતિની છે. એ સમૃદ્ધ વારસાનો રક્ષક બની રહે છે, અને કહે છે, “જો બાપુજીને કહેજે કે હું ઘેર નથી આવતો. હવે અહીં જ રહીશ. ફેણ માંડીને રહીશ.” આ રીતે, ‘હવેલી’ જીવનનો ઉત્સાહ, ઉત્સવ, આનંદ, સમૃદ્ધિનું પ્રતીક બની રહે છે. નાયકની તંગ દશા હળવી થાય છે, તે ‘પુરાતત્ત્વવિદ્યા’ના વારસાનો રખેવાળ થાય છે.

અહીં પણ જીવનસર્વસ્વને ગ્રસી જતી ભૌતિકતા તરફની દોડ, બજારસંસ્કૃતિ આપણાં મૂળિયાંને કેવી રીતે તો ખોખલાં કરી રહી છે એની વ્યાપક ચિંતામાંથી પ્રગટેલું આ વાર્તારૂપ વાર્તાકારની જીવન પ્રત્યેની દૃષ્ટિનો પણ પરિચય કરાવી જાય છે, પણ અંતે આ સમૃદ્ધ વારસાનું જતન કરનાર પણ કોઈક તો હશે જ એવી શ્રદ્ધા પણ એમાં જ પડેલી છે.

‘ઈચ્છામૃત્યુ’માં મરણ સામે ઊભેલી કુસુમ અને ભાઈનાં લગ્નને સાથે સાથે મૂક્યાં છે. આવી નાટ્યાત્મક પરિસ્થિતિ વડે જીવનની સંકુલતા પ્રગટ થાય છે. ઘરના લોકો એવું ઈચ્છે કે, લગ્નવિધિ સુધી કુસુમ રહી જાય! પણ, લગ્ન પૂરાં થાય એ પહેલાં જમણવાર વખતે જ કુસુમ મૃત્યુ પામી. જીવનની વિચિત્ર પરિસ્થિતિને નાયિકાના મૃત્યુથી પ્રત્યક્ષ કરાય છે.

‘કલ્યાણી અને રાક્ષસ’ વાર્તામાં અનિષ્ટ સામે યુદ્ધમાં હારી જતા માણસની વાત આલેખાય છે. સદ્ અને અસદ્નો ગજગ્રાહ સદીઓથી ચાલી રહ્યો છે, ફક્ત સ્વરૂપ બદલાયું છે. અહીં રાક્ષસ છે કપરી વાસ્તવિકતા, સાક્ષાત્ ભૂખ જેવો પુત્ર મહેશ - અકરાંતિયાની જેમ ખા ખા કરે છે. વળી એ મંદબુદ્ધિનો છે અને અપંગ. પહેલાં પતિ ટી.બી.માં મૃત્યુ પામ્યો. રાક્ષસ જેવી વાસ્તવિકતાથી થાકી ગયેલી તે પુત્રની જ હત્યા કરી નાંખે છે, જાણે રાક્ષસવધ કરે છે, પણ એ રાક્ષસ ખલાસ થતા જ નથી. જીવન ખર્ચાતું જાય તોપણ કલ્યાણીને આપઘાત કરવાની ફરજ પડે છે ત્યારે પણ રાક્ષસ જ જાણે વિજયોત્સવ મનાવી રહ્યાનું કલ્યાણીને લાગે છે. કલ્યાણી એટલે અંબા - અસુરસંહારક. પણ અહીં કપરા વાસ્તવ સામે, રાક્ષસ સામે તેણે પરાસ્ત થવું પડે છે. કોણ ચડિયાતું છે સદ્ કે અસદ્? પણ કલ્યાણી અને રાક્ષસનું યુદ્ધ એ જ જાણે કે જીવનની વાસ્તવિકતા છે!

આ રીતે, ‘અંચઈ’ સંગ્રહમાંથી પસાર થતાં આપણને લાગે કે વાર્તાકારનો ઝોક સરળ રીતેભાતે ભાવક સાથે જોડાઈને, આપણી પરંપરાના ઉત્તમ અંશોને પ્રગટાવી આપવા, જીવનની સંકુલતાઓને ચીંધી બતાવવા તરફ છે. ‘અંચઈ’, ‘મજૂસ’, ‘હવેલી’ જેવી વાર્તાઓમાં એ સારી રીતે થઈ શક્યું છે. આ વાર્તાઓ સંગ્રહની ઉત્તમ વાર્તાઓ બની છે.

શિરીષ પંચાલનો બીજો વાર્તાસંગ્રહ ‘આયનો’ ૨૦૦૪માં પ્રગટ થાય છે, જેમાં આઠ વાર્તાઓ ગ્રંથસ્થ થઈ છે. ‘અંચઈ’ વાર્તાસંગ્રહ કરતાં ‘આયનો’ની કેટલીક વાર્તાઓ જુદી દિશામાં ગતિ કરે છે. એ બધી વાર્તાઓની વાત ન કરતાં અહીં આ સંગ્રહની ‘ઓરમાંથી બહાર’, ‘આ ઝુબેદા અને આ કલ્લોલ’, ‘કથા ધારિણી અને પૂર્ણની’ વિશે ટૂંકમાં કહું.

‘ઓરમાંથી બહાર’ વાર્તા અનામતપ્રથાને લઈને સમાજમાં જે વિભાજન થયું તેને વિષય બનાવીને લખાયેલી વાર્તા છે. વાર્તાકાર માને છે કે વર્ણભેદ, વર્ગભેદ, જ્ઞાતિભેદ,

સંપ્રદાયભેદ-આધારિત કોઈ પણ વિચારસરણી ચલાવી ન શકાય. આ માટે આ વાર્તાનો નાયક કરસન, આવો વિદ્રોહી છે જે એવા સમાજમાં જન્મ્યો છે કે જેને વિશેષાધિકાર મળે, પણ કરસનને ‘કોઈની દયા નહીં જોઈએ.’ એ મૈડિકલમાં અભ્યાસ કરે છે, પણ પોતાના ગુણને આધારે; નહિ કે અનામત બેઠક પર. રેખા નામની અનામતનો અધિકાર ધરાવતી એક યુવતી એની સાથે જ અભ્યાસ કરે છે, જે એને ગમે પણ છે - પણ જ્યારે એને પરણવાની વાત કરે છે ત્યારે એ ના પાડી દે છે એમ કહીને કે તારા-મારા સંદર્ભો જુદા છે - ત્યારે એના વિદ્રોહને વળ ચડે છે. આમ, કથાનો એક તંતુ આ છે, જ્યારે એની સાથે અનામતવિરોધી આંદોલનમાં થયેલાં રમખાણો એ કથાનો બીજો તંતુ છે - અનામતનો વિરોધ કરનારાઓ વાસ ઉપર હુમલો કરે છે. કરસનને એમાં ઈજા થાય છે, એમાંથી એને રમા (રમલી) નામની એની જ બાળપણની સખી બચાવે છે - અંધાધૂંધીના વાતાવરણ વચ્ચે, અશાંત વાતાવરણ વચ્ચે ઉકરડાની વચ્ચે, સલામત છે - કરસન - રમા કહીને રમલીને અપનાવે છે. ને અંતે સરસ વાક્ય છે : “ચાંદો બરાબર માથે આવ્યો હતો.”

આમ એક બાજુ સંઘર્ષ (અહીં વર્ગસંઘર્ષ), અને એની બાજુમાં પ્રેમની નાજુક લાગણી. પણ નાયકને નવા જગત તરફ દોરી જનાર છે સાવ મુગ્ધ, અપરિપક્વ એવી કન્યા, એવા આશાવાદ પાસે વાર્તા પૂર્ણ થાય છે.

‘આ ઝુબેદા અને આ કલ્લોલ’ ગોધરાકાંડ પછીના સમકાલીન વાસ્તવનું આલેખન કરતી વાર્તા છે. સંવાદી જીવન જીવતાં પતિ-પત્ની વચ્ચે તાણ ઊભી થાય છે અને એમ અંદરના આગ્રહો-પૂર્વગ્રહો બહાર આવે છે. ‘અમારાવાળાં તમારાવાળાં’ની વાત આવે છે. વાતાવરણને તાદૃશ કરતી આ ભાષા જુઓ - “ચારેબાજુ અગનજવાળાઓ પ્રગટી ઊઠી, લોહીના ફુવારા ઊડ્યા અને એના રેલા ઠેર ઠેર પહોંચ્યા, દર્ભાકુરો તમતમતી કુહાડી બની ગયા.”

વાતાવરણની અસર પતિ-પત્નીના સંબંધ ઉપર પણ પડી છે. વાર્તાકાર લખે છે, “હવડ હવેલીના કોઈ મોટા ખંડમાં ચામાચીડિયાની જેમ કશુંક પીછો કરતું હતું.” પતિ-પત્નીના સંબંધો વધારે તંગ થઈ, તૂટે એ પહેલાં ઝુબેદા સાડી અને ચાંદલો અપનાવી લે છે. આમ સમજણની પહેલ તો ઝુબેદા જ કરે છે. ઝુબેદાનું પાત્ર મોકળા મનની સ્ત્રી તરીકેનું છે. મુસ્લિમો પ્રત્યે વિના કારણે ફેલાયેલા દ્વેષની સામે આ સર્જકને થયેલું દર્શન છે, જે આવકાર્ય છે.

પુરાકથાનું અર્થઘટન, વાર્તાના બે અંતનો પ્રયોગ અને પુરાકથાશૈલીને આત્મસાત્ કરી ઊભી કરેલી વિશિષ્ટ કથાભાષાના લીધે ‘કથા ધારિણી અને પૂર્ણની’ આ સંગ્રહની વિષયવસ્તુ અને અભિવ્યક્તિરીતિની નોખી વાર્તા બની રહે છે.

શિરીષ પંચાલની આ વાર્તાઓમાં સમાજ અને સંસ્કૃતિ સાથે - ઇતિહાસ સાથે

વાર્તાકારની નિસબત છે એ સમજાય છે, તો જીવનની જૃહતા આ ચુસ્ત સ્વરૂપમાં ઝીલવાની એમની મથામણ ઠીક ઠીક પમાય છે. વાર્તાને વાર્તાકળારૂપે પણ અને સાંપ્રતની સાથે સાંકળીને વાર્તાકારે કેટલીક સારી વાર્તાઓ આપણને આપી છે એમ ખુશીથી કહી શકાશે અને તેથી સાંપ્રત વાર્તામાં એમનો નોખો-નરવો અંદાજ આપણે અલગ તારવી શકીએ એટલો સ્પષ્ટ છે, એ નિઃશંક.

સંદર્ભસૂચિ

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૨. ‘શબ્દસૃષ્ટિ’, સામયિક, ઓક્ટોબર-નવે. ૨૦૦૮, પૃ. ૨૫૪

## સંસ્કાર/ ભારતીય ભાષાની ઉત્તમ નવલકથા

‘સંસ્કાર’ નવલકથાના લેખક યુ.આર. અનંતમૂર્તિ. તેઓ બ્રાહ્મણ કુટુંબમાં જન્મ્યા પરંતુ ‘પુરુષસૂક્ત’ના શ્લોક ગોખવાના બદલે તેમના પિતા તેમને એડમંડ બર્કના નિબંધો વાંચવાનું કહેતા,. આધુનિક નવલકથાકાર માલ્કમ બ્રેડબરી પાસે વિદેશની ભૂમિમાં રહી શિક્ષણ પ્રાપ્ત કર્યું. હાઈસ્કૂલમાં વાંચેલા પુસ્તકે તેમનામાં વિદ્રોહના તાંતણા ઉમેર્યા તેમજ એ વખતે વાંચેલી ઢગલાબંધ અસ્તિત્વવાદી નવલકથાઓ વગેરે રસાતું રસાતું સંસ્કારરૂપે પ્રગટ્યું.

યુ.આર. અનંતમૂર્તિ દ્વારા રચિત ‘સંસ્કાર’ નવલકથા ૧૯૬૫માં પ્રકાશિત થાય છે. જે મુખ્ય કન્નડ ભાષામાં લખાઈ છે. જેનો પ્રથમ ગુજરાતી અનુવાદ ૧૯૮૦માં થાય છે. તેના અનુવાદક હસમુખ દવે છે. ગિરીશ કર્નાડ દ્વારા આ નવલકથા પર રસપ્રદ કળા ફિલ્મ બનાવાતાં આ નવલકથાની પ્રસિદ્ધિને વેગ મળે છે. પછી દર વખતે બને તેમ વિવેચનાત્મક મૂલ્યાંકન બાજુ પર હડસેલાઈ જતું હોય છે અને પ્રશંસાનાં પુષ્પોના ઢગલા તળે દટાઈ જાય છે.

‘સંસ્કાર’(૧૯૬૫)ના પ્રાગટ્ય સાથે કન્નડ સાહિત્યમાં હલચલ મચી ગઈ. કારણ કે તેમની બ્રાહ્મણ જાતિ પર પ્રહાર થાય છે. ‘સંસ્કાર’ નાટ્યપ્રધાન કૃતિ છે. કર્નાટકના એક દુર્વાસાપુર ગામની વાત છે. જે બ્રાહ્મણનું ગામ છે. જેમાં તેનાં પાત્રોની વાત કરીએ તો કાશીમાં ભણીને પ્રકાંડ જ્ઞાની બનેલા પ્રાણેશાચાર્ય કૃતિના નાયક છે. જે તે ગામના પ્રતિષ્ઠિત વ્યક્તિ પણ છે. બીજું પાત્ર ભાગીરથી જે પ્રાણેશાચાર્યની પત્ની છે. જે અપંગ છે. તેની તેઓ ખૂબ સેવા કરે છે. તેનું બધું કામ તે જ સંભાળે છે. તેને પોતાના હાથથી જમાડે છે. એ એમની તપોભૂમિ, યજ્ઞકુંડી, બ્રાહ્મણત્વની આધારશિલા છે. આ માંદી અને અશક્ત સ્ત્રીને પરણવાથી પોતે વધુ પરિપક્વ થશે એમ તેઓ માને છે. ત્યાર બાદ જે મુખ્ય પાત્ર છે તે નારણાપ્પા. તે એ જ ગામમાં રહેનારો બ્રાહ્મણ છે. પરંતુ તે બ્રાહ્મણત્વ પાળતો નથી. તે શૂદ્ર સ્ત્રીને રખાત તરીકે રાખે છે, દારૂ પીવે છે, માંસ વગેરે ખાય છે. ગરુડાચાર્ય અને લક્ષ્મણાચાર્ય નારણાપ્પાના સંબંધી છે.

આ નાટ્યપ્રધાન કૃતિમાં આવતું ચંદ્રીનું પાત્ર ખૂબ જ સંકુલતાથી નિરૂપ્યું છે. તે એક વેશ્યા છે અને નારણાપ્પાની સાથે જ રહે છે. નવલકથાના અંતમાં પુત્તો નામનું પાત્ર આવે છે તે એક મધ્યમવર્ગનો છે. અહેમદભાઈનું પાત્ર આ નવલકથાનું આગવું પાત્ર ગણાવી શકાય. કારણ કે જ્યારે નારણાપ્પાનું મૃત્યુ થઈ જાય છે અને તેમના અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કોઈ કરવા તૈયાર નથી હોતું ત્યારે છેલ્લે અહેમદભાઈ જે જાતે મુસ્લિમ છે તે કરે છે.

‘સંસ્કાર’ નવલકથાનું કથાવસ્તુ જોઈએ તો નવલકથાની શરૂઆતમાં પ્રાણેશાચાર્યની વાત કરી છે. જે કાશીમાં ભણીને પ્રકાંડ જ્ઞાની બનેલા છે. જે લોભી, લાલચુ, વિદ્યાભ્યાસ વિનાના દુર્વાસાપુરાના બ્રાહ્મણોની જમાતથી મુકી ઊંચેરા છે. તેમની પંડિતાઈને મઠાધીશે પણ સોનાના રુદ્રાક્ષની માળા પહેરાવીને સન્માની છે. એટલું જ નહીં પરંતુ આજુબાજુનાં ગામોમાં પણ ખ્યાતિ ફેલાયેલી છે. વ્યક્તિત્વહીન બ્રાહ્મણોને કથા સંભળાવવી એ તેમનું કાર્ય છે. માંદી પત્ની ભાગીરથીની તેઓ સેવા કરે છે. એ જ તેમના બ્રાહ્મણત્વની આધારશિલા છે. તેઓ નિત્ય પૂજાપાઠ કરે છે. ગાયત્રી મંત્રનો જાપ કરે છે. આ વાસમાં રહેતો નારણાપ્પા તેમના માટે પડકાર છે. આ નારણાપ્પા શૂદ્ર સ્ત્રી ચંદ્રીને રખાત તરીકે રાખે છે. દારૂ પીવે છે, માંસ ખાય છે. બ્રાહ્મણ વાસમાં પવિત્ર ગણાતા પથ્થરને પણ એક દિવસે નદીમાં પધરાવી દે છે. તેનામાં બ્રાહ્મણત્વના એક પણ ગુણ દેખાતા નથી. તે વેદ-વેદાંતનો નહીં પણ નાટક-તમાશાનો શોખીન છે. તે કુશળ તબલચી છે. આમ જોતાં નારણાપ્પા એક તરફથી અતંત્ર છે. પણ કોચલામાંથી બહાર નીકળ્યા નથી. કોઈ નારણાપ્પાને નાતની બહાર કાઢવાની વાત કરે તો તે મુસલમાન બનવાની ધમકી આપતો. તેથી વાસમાંથી કોઈ તેને બહાર કાઢી ના શક્યા, ખુદ પ્રાણેશાચાર્ય પણ નહીં.

નારણાપ્પાની મરતી માને પ્રાણેશાચાર્યે વચન આપ્યું હતું કે હું તેને સુધારીને જ જંપીશ. એક વાર એને સમજાવા આવેલા પ્રાણેશાચાર્ય સામે દારૂની બાટલી ધરી, આંખ મારી એ કહે છે - “કોઈ પણ સુંદર સ્ત્રીને ભોગવવા માટે હું તો તમારી બ્રાહ્મણની આ સભ્યતા અને સંસ્કૃતિને ઉઠાવી દરિયામાં ફેંકી દઉં.” - આવા નારણાપ્પા આમ કહેવાતા બ્રાહ્મણોથી નિર્ભ્રાંત થઈ ગયો છે. તે પ્રાણેશાચાર્યને સ્ત્રીસુખ ભોગવવા પણ કહી દે છે. અને કહે છે કે, “દુઃખ મને એ વાતનું છે કે તમારા સિવાય કોઈ પણ બ્રાહ્મણ પવિત્ર નથી આ વાસમાં.” પછી ગરુડાચાર્ય, લક્ષ્મણાચાર્ય અને દુર્ગા ભટ્ટના બ્રાહ્મણત્વ પર હાંસી ઉડાવે છે. “તે બધા કંઈ બ્રાહ્મણો છે? સાલા નીચ છે બધા. જો એ બધા સાથે સંબંધ રાખ્યો હોત ને તો પેલો ગરુડો તો મને ક્યારનોય ‘અપાનાય સ્વાહા’ કરીને પી ગયો હોત. અને પેલો લક્ષ્મણો પૈસાનો એટલો ચાર છે કે એ પાજી છાણમાં પડેલો રૂપિયો ચાટીને પણ ગજવામાં મૂકી દે.”

આવા નારણાપ્પાનું પ્લેગમાં મૃત્યુ થાય છે. પ્રાણેશાચાર્ય પૂજા કરતા હોય છે ત્યારે ચંદ્રી બહારથી ભૂમ પાડે છે. દુર્વાસાપુરનો કોઈ પણ બ્રાહ્મણ નારણાપ્પાનો અગ્નિસંસ્કાર કરવા તૈયાર નથી. પરંતુ જ્યારે ચંદ્રી પોતાનાં બધાં ઘરેણાં જે તેને નારણાપ્પાએ કરાવી આપેલાં હતાં તે, પોતે આપવા તૈયાર થાય છે ત્યારે ઘરેણાંની લાલચે કહેવાતા સગાઓ વાદવિવાદ કરીને પણ અગ્નિસંસ્કાર કરવાની હોડ બકે છે. ચોથી પેઢીએ એનો સગો થતો ગરુડાચાર્ય અને સાદુ થતો લક્ષ્મણ અગ્નિસંસ્કાર કરવા તલપાપડ થાય છે. છતાં આવા પતિત બ્રાહ્મણનો અગ્નિસંસ્કાર કરવો કોયડો હતો. દશાચાર્ય કહે છે કે અગ્નિસંસ્કાર કરવાથી જો નીચા ગણાઈશું તો કોઈ જમવાનું નોતરું નહીં આપે. આમ, અગ્નિસંસ્કારનો

કોયડો વધતો જ જાય છે. દિવસ પસાર થતો જાય છે. બ્રાહ્મણોના રિવાજ પ્રમાણે જ્યાં સુધી મઝડાનો અંતિમ સંસ્કારના થઈ જાય ત્યાં સુધી કોઈ ભોજન કરી શકતું નથી. પ્રાણેશાયાર્ય વિચારે છે કે આપણે પારિજાતિપુરાના કોઈ બ્રાહ્મણને બોલાવીને તેને બધાં ઘરેણાં આપી નારણાપ્પાનો અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કરાવી દઈએ પરંતુ એવું પણ બની શકતું નથી. આ બાજુ ચંદ્રી વિચારે છે કે પોતે નારણાપ્પાની રખાત તરીકે એક દાયકાથી વધુ તેની સાથે રહી પણ તેને સંતાન નથી. નહિતર નારણાપ્પાના અગ્નિસંસ્કારનો પ્રશ્ન જ ના ઊભો થાત. સંતાનપ્રાપ્તિ નથી થઈ એનો વિષાદ એને પીડે છે. એ વિચારે છે - જો પુત્ર થયો હોત તો એ એને મહાન સંગીતજ્ઞ બનાવત અને જો પુત્રી થઈ હોત તો નૃત્યાંગના! એની પાસે બધું જ હતું છતાં કંઈ ન હતું! બડી મહારાણી છતાંય ભિખારી! તો બીજી બાજુ પ્રાણેશાયાર્ય બધાં શાસ્ત્રો ફેંદી વળે છે, પણ ઉકેલ મળતો નથી. મંદિરે જઈ ભક્તિભાવથી હનુમાન પાસે ફૂલ મૂકી ઉકેલ માંગે છે પણ ઉકેલ નથી. ચંદ્રીએ ઘરેણાં દઈને જે ઉદારતા બતાવી એનાથી પ્રાણેશાયાર્ય અભિભૂત છે, તો બીજી તરફ બ્રાહ્મણોની ઘરેણાં માટેની ભૂખ જોઈને તે વ્યથિત છે. આવા બ્રાહ્મણો માટેનો તેમનો વિદ્રોહ એમને સમજાતો જાય છે.

રાત્રે મારુતિના મંદિરેથી પ્રાણેશાયાર્ય પાછા ફરતા હોય છે ત્યારે પોતાના માટે આટલી મથામણ કરતા જોઈ ચંદ્રી પ્રાણેશાયાર્યના પગ પકડી લે છે. ચંદ્રીના સ્તનનો સ્પર્શ થતાં પ્રાણેશાયાર્ય ઉત્તેજના અનુભવે છે અને ભાન ભૂલીને ચંદ્રીને ભોગવે છે. ચંદ્રીને ભોગવ્યા પછી, એક ઉત્કટ ઈંદ્રિયાનુભૂતિ થતાં તે એક વિકટ પરિસ્થિતિમાં મુકાઈ જાય છે. વાસના બ્રાહ્મણો તો પ્રાણેશાયાર્ય ઉકેલ આપી શકતા નથી એટલે બીજે ઉકેલ લેવા ચાલ્યા જાય છે. એ દરમ્યાન ગામમાં પ્લેગ ફેલાતાં ભાગીરથીનું મૃત્યુ થાય છે. પ્રાણેશાયાર્યને ભાગીરથીની યાદ આવતાં ગામ તરફ વળે છે પણ મનમાં મૂંઝવણ થાય છે કે હવે પોતે પવિત્ર રહ્યા નથી. પોતે જે પણ વાત બની છે એ ખરેખરી બધાને કહી દેશે. એક બાજુ ચંદ્રી ગામમાં આવે છે ત્યાં નારણાપ્પાની લાશ સડતી હોય છે. તેને થાય છે કે હવે તેનો અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કોઈ નહીં કરે એટલે તે નારણાપ્પાના મુસ્લિમ મિત્ર પાસે જાય છે. તેને બોલાવી તેનો અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કરી દે છે. તો બીજી બાજુ પ્રાણેશાયાર્ય ગામ પહોંચે છે અને ભાગીરથીના મૃત્યુના સમાચાર સાંભળતાં તૂટી જાય છે. ધાર્મિક વિધિવિધાન અને ભાગીરથી એ બન્નેમાંથી એ નિર્ભ્રાંત થઈ જાય છે. બધાં અનુબંધનો તૂટી જાય છે. બન્ને માટે ગાળેલું જીવન નિરર્થક હતું એમ તે અનુભવે છે અને દિશા ન સૂઝતાં તે કોઈને પણ કહ્યા વગર ગામ છોડીને ચાલ્યા જાય છે. અથડાતા કુટાતા રખડતા પ્રાણેશાયાર્યને પુત્તો નામનો સહવાસી મળી જાય છે. જે એમને નવા નવા લૌકિક અનુભવો કરાવે છે. પુત્તો જાણે ભૂતકાળનું કોઈ પાપ હોય એમ તેને વળગ્યો રહે છે છતાં એના પ્રત્યે તેમને પુત્ર જેવી લાગણી થાય છે. પુત્તો તેને મેળામાં લઈ જાય છે ત્યાં થોડી વાર માટે પુત્તો આંખથી અળગો થતાં જે તેને પોતાનાથી દૂર ભગાવવા માંગતા હતા તેવા પ્રાણેશાયાર્યની આંખો તેને શોધે છે. ત્યારે પુત્તો તેમને કહે છે - “આપનો



પુત્તો ખોવાઈ નહીં જાય, જરૂર પાછો આવશે. હા, જો તમે એને છોડી દેશો તો જરૂર જતો રહેશે. પણ જો શોધી કાઢશો તો તમને કદાપી નહીં છોડે.” આ વિધાનથી એમ લાગે છે જાણે પુત્તો એ પ્રાણેશાચાર્યનું આંતરિક અસ્તિત્વ જ હોય. તેથી જ એનો સાક્ષાત્કાર એમને ગમે છે અને અકળાવે પણ છે. પુત્તો જે વિશ્વ બતાવે છે એને પ્રાણેશાચાર્ય સૂક્ષ્મતાથી માણે છે. પુત્તોથી છૂટા પડતાં પણ તેઓ જુઠું બોલે છે કે “દુર્વાસાપુરમાં મારો ભાઈ મરણપથારીએ પડ્યો છે.” અનાયાસ આ જુઠાણું વાસ્તવિકતા સૂચવી આપે છે. આ ભાઈ તે બીજું કોઈ નહીં પણ નારણાપ્પા જ છે. આમ, ચંદ્રી સાથેના સંભોગ પછી પ્રાણેશાચાર્ય જીવનનો સાચો અર્થ સમજે છે. એ ઐતિહાસિક ક્ષણ તેમના મનમાંથી ખસતી જ નથી. તે ફરી વાર તે જગ્યાએ જઈને ઘાસની માદક ગંધ માણે છે. અને ફરી એ ક્ષણ મળે એવો તીવ્ર આવેગ અનુભવે છે. ચંદ્રીને મળ્યા પછી જેને પ્રભુની પ્રસાદી માનતા તે ભાગીરથી તેને વાસી લાગે છે. એનું નળિયા જેવું નાક, ચીમળાયેલી છાતી, વાળની ટૂંકી ચોટલી જોઈને ત્રાસી ઊઠે છે. ‘ક્યાં આ માંદલી સ્ત્રી અને ક્યાં પેલી સુસ્તના?’ જેવા વિચારો તેમનો પીછો છોડતા નથી. પ્રાણેશાચાર્યને થાય છે કે આમાંથી છૂટવા માટે નારણાપ્પા જેટલી હિંમત જોઈએ. એ નક્કી કરે છે કે દુર્વાસાપુર જઈને બ્રાહ્મણોને સાચી પરિસ્થિતિ જણાવી દેશે. એ પુનઃ દુર્વાસાપુર પાછા ફરી રહ્યા છે એવી દોલાયમાન પરિસ્થિતિમાં જ કૃતિ પૂરી થાય છે.

કથાના પ્રારંભમાં નાટ્યાત્મક દૃશ્યોમાં નિરૂપાતું ગદ્ય નોંધપાત્ર અને ગતિશીલ છે. આ નવલકથાનો મુખ્ય ઉદ્દેશ જાતિપ્રથા પર પ્રહાર કરવાનો છે, જે આપણા હિંદુ સમાજમાં આજે પણ લોકો નીચી જાતિના લોકોનો તિરસ્કાર કરે છે, તેમને ધિક્કારે છે. જો કે તે પણ આપણી જેમ એક માણસ જ છે. છતાંય એક પશુની જેમ તેમની સાથે વ્યવહાર કરવામાં આવે છે. જ્યારે આ નવલકથા લખાઈ ત્યારે કન્નડ સાહિત્યમાં ખૂબ જ ઊંડાપોહ મચી ગયો હતો. આમાં બીજો પ્રહાર કહેવાતા લાલચુ બ્રાહ્મણ પર કર્યો છે, જે પહેલાં તો નારણાપ્પાનો અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કરવાનો ઈનકાર કરી દે છે પણ પૈસાની લાલચ મળતાં અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કરવા માટે તલપાપડ થઈ જાય છે. કથાના ઉત્તરાર્ધમાં આંતરએકોક્તિઓનું પ્રમાણ વધ્યું છે. રથયાત્રાવાળા શહેરના વાતાવરણનું પણ વિગતે વર્ણન કરેલું છે. મેળામાં બોમ્બે બોક્સવાળો ‘પૈસા ફેંકો, તમાશા દેખો’ બતાવી રહ્યો છે. ત્યાં પણ એવું જ વાક્ય “તિરુપતિ ભગવાન દેખો. બમ્બઈ કી રાંડ દેખો.” અસરકારક છે. ભગવાનથી રાંડ સુધીની પ્રાણેશાચાર્યની યાત્રા ત્યાં સૂચવાઈ છે. કથા પ્રારંભની સ્ફોટક બાહ્ય ઘટના, એકાએક નારણાપ્પાનું મૃત્યુ અને ઉત્તરાર્ધની એથીય સ્ફોટક પ્રાણેશાચાર્યનું વિચલન તીવ્રતાથી અભિવ્યક્ત થાય છે.

સંદર્ભસૂચિ

નવલકથા - શિરીષ પંચાલ

ભારતીય નવલકથા - રમણલાલ જોષી

## ‘લલિતાદુઃખદર્શક’

૨૧ ણછોડભાઈ ઉદયરામ દવે સુધારકયુગના સમર્થ નાટ્યકાર છે. ગુજરાતી ગુર્જર રંગભૂમિના પિતા પણ કહેવાય છે. તેમનો જન્મ મહુધા (ખેડા) ઈ.સ. ૧૮૩૭માં થયો હતો. રંગભૂમિને ભવાઈની અશ્લીલતાથી અને ધંધાદારી પારસી નાટ્યમંડળીઓથી મુક્ત કરવામાં એમણે મહત્વનો ભાગ ભજવ્યો છે. રંગભૂમિ પર સફળ થાય તેવાં સંખ્યાબંધ સફળ નાટકો એમણે રચ્યાં. એમનાં નાટકો ભજવાયાં અને લોકપ્રિય બન્યાં.

સામાજિક અનિષ્ટો પ્રત્યે ગુજરાતી સમાજને જાગૃત કરવામાં એમનાં નાટકો ઉપયોગી નીવડ્યાં છે. ‘લલિતાદુઃખદર્શક’ જેવું એમનું નાટક સીમાચિહ્નરૂપ બની રહ્યું છે. એમની મહત્વની નાટ્યકૃતિઓ તરીકે ‘જયકુમારી વિજય નાટક’, ‘નળદમયંતી’, ‘હરિશ્ચંદ્ર તારામતી’, ‘સ્વયંવર’, ‘વિક્રમોર્વશીયમ્’, ‘લલિતાદુઃખદર્શક’, ‘સુશીલ સુંદરી’, ‘જુગલ જુગારી’ ગણાવી શકાય. એમણે એકંદરે તેર જેટલી નાટ્યકૃતિઓ રચી છે અને એ બધી જ સફળ રીતે ભજવાઈ છે.

ઈ.સ. ૧૮૬૫માં લખાયેલું ‘લલિતાદુઃખદર્શક’ ગુજરાતી કરુણ નાટક છે. આ ગુજરાતી સાહિત્યનું પ્રથમ કરુણાંત સામાજિક નાટક છે. આ નાટકે લોકપ્રિયતાનાં અનેક શિખરો સર કર્યાં હતાં. બાળલગ્ન, કજોડાં, તેમજ હિંદુ સમાજના કુરિવાજોને વગોવવામાં આવ્યાં છે. ‘લલિતાદુઃખદર્શક’ નજરે જોયેલા બનાવનું જ ચિત્ર છે. નાટકનું કથાનક ઘણાં કાવતરાંથી ભરપૂર છે. ચંપાનગરીના ધનાઢ્ય વેપારી જૈન જીવરાજ અને તેની પત્ની કમલાની એકની એક સંસ્કારી ગુણવાન પુત્રી લલિતાનાં લગ્ન સ્નેહપુરના વેપારી દંભરાજ-કર્કશાના દુર્ગુણી પુત્ર નંદન સાથે નાનપણમાં થયાં છે, પરંતુ નિર્બળ દુર્ગુણી નંદન પ્રિયંવદા નામની ગણિકાના મોહમાં ફસાય છે. છળદાસ જેવા કુટિલની સંગતે, કુછંદે ચડે છે. લોભી છળદાસ નંદનકુમારનો મિત્ર હતો અને લોભી છળદાસ અને ગણિકા સાથે મળીને નંદનકુમારના પૈસા ખંખેરી નાખે છે. આ તરફ ઉંમરલાયક લલિતાને તેડી જવા માટે તેનાં માતાપિતા નંદનકુમારને સંદેશા મોકલાવે છે. ગણિકા અને છળદાસ નંદનકુમારને ભડકાવે છે. નંદનકુમાર છળદાસ અને ગણિકાની વાતમાં આવી જાય છે. આ બંને ચતુરાઈથી લલિતાનું તેડું મોડું કરાવે છે. સ્નેહપુર આવેલી લલિતા વિરુદ્ધ ગણિકા પ્રિયંવદા નંદનકુમારને ભડકાવે છે. પહેલી જ રાતે નંદનકુમાર લલિતાને ઢોરમાર મારી તેનાં બધાં ઘરેણાં ગણિકાને આપી દે છે. ગણિકા પૈસા અને ઘરેણાં મળી જતાં લલિતા અને પછી નંદનને મારી નાખવાનો વિચાર કરે છે. આથી ગણિકા અને છળદાસ બંને ભેગા મળીને આયોજન કરે છે. આથી ગણિકા નંદનકુમારને કહે છે આપણે લલિતાને મારી નાખીએ, તો

નંદન હા પાડે છે. આથી નંદનકુમાર લલિતાને બેભાન કરીને જંગલમાં પૂરણમલ નામના છળદાસના સાથી પાસે લઈ જાય છે, જ્યાં પૂરણમલ નંદનકુમાર, છળદાસ, પંથીરામ અને પ્રિયંવદા આ બધા વચ્ચે હાથાપાચી થાય છે. આ પંથીરામ લલિતાનું રક્ષણ કરે છે. તેમાં પ્રિયંવદાની હત્યા કરે છે. બીજી તરફ પૂરણમલને મારી શિકારી વેશે પર્વતપુરીનો રાજા લલિતાને બચાવી પોતાને મહેલ લઈ જાય છે. લલિતાનું રક્ષણ કરતાં કરતાં પંથીરામ પણ મૃત્યુ પામે છે. રાજા લલિતાને પોતાના મહેલમાં લઈ જાય છે. તે મહેલમાંથી પણ ભાગી જાય છે, તો રસ્તામાં પ્રિયંવદાની બહેન ચંદ્રાવલિનો સામનો કરીને અંતે અથડાતી-કુટાતી લલિતા પોતાના ગામ ચંપાનગરી પોતાના પિયર આવે છે. રાત પડી ગઈ હતી, તેથી એક શિવાલયમાં (મંદિરમાં) છુપાઈ રહે છે. સવારે મંદિરદ્વાર ખોલતાં લલિતાને જોઈ પૂજારી બ્રાહ્મણ લલિતાને ભૂત સમજી તેને ખૂબ મારે છે. અંતે પિતા અને કમલા તેમજ ગામના લોકોને લલિતા પોતાની દુઃખભરી કથની કહી મૃત્યુ પામે છે અને બીજી કોઈ સ્ત્રીની આવી દશા ન થાય તે માટે સુધારાનો લેખ લખેલો સ્તંભ કોતરાવવા કહે છે.

‘લલિતાદુઃખદર્શક’ નાટકની ભાષા સરળ છે અને સંવાદો ચોટદાર છે. આ નાટક કુરુણરસનું છે, જેમાં હિન્દુ સમાજનું વાસ્તવિક ચિત્ર ઊભું થાય છે. હિન્દુ સ્ત્રીની લગ્નજીવનની વિષમતાને રજૂ કરતા આ નાટકના કેન્દ્રમાં નાયિકા લલિતાનું ચરિત્ર છે. સુશીલ, સંસ્કારી પતિના દુર્ગુણો જાણતી હોવા છતાં પતિવ્રતા નારીનાં લક્ષણો લલિતાના ચરિત્રમાં સ્પષ્ટ વર્તાય છે. આ એક ‘કજોડાંદુઃખદર્શક’ નાટક છે. લલિતાનું ચરિત્ર નાટકનું સૌથી કુરુણ ચરિત્ર છે. જ્યારે બિનઆવડતી, મૂર્ખ, લંપટ નંદનકુમારનું ચરિત્ર, કજિયાબાઈ અને કર્કશા દ્વારા લલિતાનું થતું અપમાન, નંદનકુમાર દ્વારા લલિતાની ઉપર થતી મારજૂડ કુરુણ છે. નાટકમાં લલિતાની કુરુણતા ઘેરા રંગે આલેખાઈ છે; તો હિંદુ સંસારનું ચિત્ર વાસ્તવિક રીતે નિરૂપાયું છે. આમ, તો આ પણ એક ‘કજોડાંદુઃખદર્શક’ નાટક છે. અહીં વયનું નહીં, પણ સંસ્કારનું કજોડું છે. સંસારસુધારાનો ઉદ્દેશ સ્પષ્ટ છે.

નાટકમાં લલિતાના ચરિત્રમાં કુરુણરસનાં દર્શન થાય છે. લલિતાની કુરુણ દુર્દશા તો એ છે કે પોતાના ઘરે પહોંચતાં પોતાને જન્મ આપનાર માતા-પિતા તેને ભૂત સમજે છે. તેના આવા પ્રસંગોથી આ નાટકમાં કુરુણતા ઉદ્ભવે છે. લલિતાની આ સંઘર્ષકથા કુરુણતાને વધારે છે. આમ, આ નાટક ગુજરાતી રંગભૂમિમાં સૌથી શ્રેષ્ઠ કજોડાં લગ્ન પર ઉત્તમ ચાવીરૂપે સાબિત થાય છે.

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3. ગુજરાતી સાહિત્યની વિકાસરેખા, ભાગ-4, ધીરુભાઈ ઠાકર

## રાણી લક્ષ્મીબાઈના જીવન-કવન જેવી ઉમિયા કોલેજની વિદ્યાર્થિનીઓ

જીવનના સમગ્ર દેશોમાં આપણો દેશ મહાન છે. આપણા દેશને મળેલી એ મહાનતા આપણી સંસ્કૃતિને આભારી છે. આપણા રાષ્ટ્રજીવનમાં ઝળહળી રહેલા શૂરવીરો અને મુક્તદીઓ, સાધુ-સંતો, વીરો અને વીરાંગનાઓ, ઋષિ-મુનિઓ, કલાકારો અને વિજ્ઞાનીઓ, સમાજસુધારકો અને કેળવણીકારો, લેખકો અને કવિઓની પુસ્તકશ્રેણીના વાંચન દ્વારા બાળકો પોતાનાં સ્વપ્નોને સાકાર કરી શકે એ માટે પ્રેરણા મળશે. ઉમિયા કોલેજની વિદ્યાર્થિનીઓને તેજસ્વી વિચારધારા પ્રાપ્ત થશે. પ્રેરણાનો પુંજ હસ્તગત લાગશે.

**વીરાંગના લક્ષ્મીબાઈ :** જન્મ અને બાળપણ : ધન્ય છે એને જેણે પોતાનું જીવન દેશને ચરણે ધરી દીધું. ધન્ય છે એ જેણે પોતાનું સાંસારિક જીવન લૂંટાવી લીધું. ધન્ય છે જેણે પ્રાણની પરવાહ કરી નથી, જે ખોળામાં ખાંપણ લઈને અન્યાયની સામે ઝઝૂમી છે.

ભારતની એક મહાન વીરાંગના જેણે બાવીસ વર્ષની વયે આ પરાક્રમ કર્યું તે રાણી લક્ષ્મીબાઈ નામે જાણીતી થઈ. ઇતિહાસે એની નોંધ લીધી, કવિઓએ કવિતા રચી એને બિરદાવી, લેખકોએ એના શૌર્યની કથા લખી, યશોગાન ગાયાં.

રાણી લક્ષ્મીબાઈનું બાળપણનું નામ મણિકર્ણિકા હતું પરંતુ સૌ મનુના વહાલસોયા નામથી બોલાવતા. આ મહાન નારીનો જન્મ 19 નવેમ્બર 1835ના રોજ થયો હતો. એમના જન્મનું સ્થળ વારાણસી હતું પિતાનું નામ મોરોપંત તાબે અને માતાનું નામ ભાગીરથી હતું. તેમના પિતા બ્રાહ્મણ હતા. મોરોપંત ચિમણાજીની દીવાનગીરી કરતા હતા. મનુ જ્યારે ચાર વર્ષની હતી ત્યારે માતા અવસાન પામ્યાં. બાજીરાવ પેશ્વાની ગાદી જતી રહેતાં પુના છોડી બિહુર રહેવા ગયાં. મનુ ભણતર ઉપરાંત ઘોડેસ્વારી, તીરંદાજ, તલવારબાજ, નિશાનબાજમાં નિપુણ હતાં.

**ઝાંસીને મળ્યાં રાણી :** બાજીરાવ મનુનાં લગ્ન વિશે વિચારતા હતા એવામાં ગંગાધરરાવનું માંગું આવ્યું. તેઓ મરાઠા હતા. તેમની પત્નીનું અવસાન થયેલું હતું. મનુનાં લગ્ન ગંગાધર સાથે થયાં અને ઈ.સ. 1848માં ઝાંસીનાં રાણી બન્યાં. લગ્ન પછી નામ બદલીને તેમનું નામ લક્ષ્મી પાડવામાં આવ્યું. ગંગાધરરાવ નિઃસંતાન હતા, એવામાં રાણી લક્ષ્મીબાઈની કૂખે પુત્રરત્નનો જન્મ થયો પરંતુ પુત્ર મૃત્યુ પામ્યો. આ જોઈ રાજાએ આનંદરાવને દત્તક લીધો. આનંદનું નામ બદલી દામોદર રાખવામાં આવ્યું.

ગંગાધરરાવ 29 નવેમ્બર 1853ના રોજ મૃત્યુ પામ્યા. તે સમયે લક્ષ્મીબાઈ 18 વર્ષનાં હતાં. આ સમયે ભારતમાં અમુક ભાગોમાં અંગ્રેજોની સત્તા હતી. એ પ્રદેશોનો મુખ્ય વહીવટકર્તા ગવર્નર જનરલ ડેલહાઉસી હતો. આમાં તેની યુક્તિ એવી હતી કે જે રાજાનો કાયદેસર વારસ ન હોય તો દત્તક પુત્ર નામંજૂર કરી તેનું રાજ્ય અંગ્રેજ પ્રદેશમાં ભેળવી દેવું. દત્તકપુત્ર નાનો હોવાથી લક્ષ્મીબાઈએ પોતે જ રાજ્યની ધુરા સંભાળી ખૂબ જ સારી રીતે વહીવટ કર્યો.

**મેરી ઝાંસી નહીં દુંગી :** 1954માં ડેલહાઉસીએ દામોદરરાવને દત્તકપુત્ર નામંજૂર કરી ઝાંસીને બ્રિટિશ પ્રાંતમાં જોડી દેવા દરખાસ્ત કરી. આમ તે બેસી ન રહેતાં મલ્લવિદ્યા, તલવાર બંદૂક વાપરવાનું ઉચ્ચ શિક્ષણ પ્રાપ્ત કર્યું અને ઝાંસી ન આપવાનો નિર્ણય કર્યો. **1857ના સંગ્રામમાં રાણી લક્ષ્મીબાઈની કામગીરી :** ઝાંસીની રાણીને 1857ના સંગ્રામનાં મુખ્ય સૂત્રોમાંનાં એક ગણવામાં આવે છે. આ સંગ્રામની મૂળ શરૂઆત અંગ્રેજોના સૈન્યમાં કામ કરતા ભારતીય સૈનિકો દ્વારા થયેલી.

સ્વાતંત્ર્ય સંગ્રામના આ બળવામાં બે ચિહ્નો પ્રગટ થયાં, એક કમળ અને બીજી રોટી. સ્વાતંત્ર્ય સંગ્રામ નક્કી કરેલા દિવસ કરતાં આગળથી બરાકપુરમાં જંગથી થયો. 10 મેએ ક્રાંતિનો તણખો ઝર્યો અને મેરઠમાં વ્યાપી ગયો. પરંતુ આ બળવો નક્કી કરેલી તારીખ કરતાં દસ દિવસ વહેલો શરૂ થતાં આ બળવો નિષ્ફળ ગયો.

**રાણી લક્ષ્મીબાઈની નીડરતાપૂર્વક લડાઈ અને મૃત્યુ :** આમ રાણી લક્ષ્મીબાઈએ અંગ્રેજો વિરુદ્ધ લડાઈ શરૂ કરી અને કર્નલ સ્મિથે અંગ્રેજ સેના લઈ હુમલો કર્યો. રાણીના સૈનિકો સાથે તુમુલ યુદ્ધ થયું. રાણીએ જાતે જ અશ્વ પર આરૂઢ થઈ અને જંગ ખેલતી રહી. એનો જુસ્સો રાણા પ્રતાપ જેવો હતો. આખો દિવસ આ ભયંકર લડાઈ ચાલી. રાણીના શૌર્ય અને વ્યૂહરચનાને લીધે અંગ્રેજોને પીછેહઠ કરવી પડી. પછી બીજા દિવસે અંગ્રેજોએ ચોતરફથી હુમલો કર્યો. રાણી ઘેરાઈ ગયાં પણ રાણી એમના બદઈરાદાને ધૂળમાં મેળવતાં સૈન્યના ઘેરામાંથી અદૃશ્ય થઈ ગયાં. અંગ્રેજોના મોરચાને ભેદી રાણીનો ધસમસતો ઘોડો આગળ નીકળી ગયો. આમ ત્યાં તેમની પાછળ અંગ્રેજ લશ્કર આવી ગયું અને તેમના દેહ પર તલવાર ઝીંકવામાં આવી. અનેક ઘા વાગવાથી રાણી ધરતી પર ઢળી પડ્યાં. એમના દેહને ગંગાદાસની પર્ણકુટીમાં લઈ ગયા. ગંગાજળ મૂક્યું. 18 જૂન 1858ના દિવસે રાણીના અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કરવામાં આવ્યા.

## વૈશ્વિક મહામારી અને તેની સામાજિક અસરો

સમગ્ર વિશ્વમાં કોરોના વાઈરસે લોકોની જીવનશૈલી બદલી નાખી છે. ભારતમાં સમયાંતરે અનેક વિપત્તિઓ તો આવતી જ રહી અને તેમનો સામનો થતો રહ્યો. કોરોના વાઈરસે સૌ પ્રથમ ચીનમાં દેખા દીધા પછી ધીમે ધીમે સમગ્ર વિશ્વમાં કોરોના વાઈરસ ફેલાયો અને આખી દુનિયામાં હાહાકાર થઈ ગયો. દુનિયાના દેશોએ પણ લાચારી દર્શાવી દીધી. COVID-19ની પરિસ્થિતિને કાબુમાં લેવા માટે વિશ્વના જુદા જુદા દેશો દ્વારા અલગ અલગ સમયગાળાનું લોકડાઉન કર્યું અને તેને લંબાવતા ગયા. ભારતમાં પણ ચાર તબક્કામાં લોકડાઉન લાગુ પાડવામાં આવ્યું જેમાં જોઈએ તો -

23 માર્ચ જનતા કફરું અને ત્યાર બાદ પહેલું લોકડાઉન 25 માર્ચથી 14 એપ્રિલ સુધીનું જેમાં કડક પાલન કરાવવામાં આવ્યું. બીજું લોકડાઉન 15 એપ્રિલથી 3 મે કે જેમાં આવશ્યક વસ્તુની દુકાનોને છૂટ આપવામાં આવી. ત્રીજું લોકડાઉન મે 4થી મે 17 સુધી, જેમાં પ્રવાસી મજૂરો માટે ટ્રેન અને બસ ચલાવી અને ચોથું લોકડાઉન 18 મેથી 31 મે સુધી જેમાં રોમેસ્ટિક ફ્લાઈટ્સ શરૂ થઈ, શહેરોમાં બજાર ખૂલી. પાંચમું લોકડાઉનને unlock-1 નામ આપ્યું છે.

સમગ્ર માનવજાત પોતાની સામે આવેલા પડકારોને પહોંચી વળવા માટે સક્ષમતા તો કેળવી લે છે પણ કેટલીક જીવનશૈલી બદલાઈ જાય છે. માનવજાતની ઉત્પત્તિ હોમો સેપીઅન્સથી થઈ હોવાનું મનાય છે. સૃષ્ટિની રચના થઈ અને માનવજીવન અસ્તિત્વમાં આવ્યું તો કુદરતના નિયમોને આધીન માનવી જીવન જીવતો હતો. જેથી કોઈ પ્રશ્ન ન હતો. પરંતુ કુદરતના નિયમથી વિરુદ્ધ જતાં માનવી ધીમે ધીમે તેની બુદ્ધિનો ઉપયોગ કરી કેટલીક વિનાશક બાબતો તરફ પણ વળવા લાગ્યો અને પ્રકૃતિથી વિરુદ્ધના નિયમો મુજબ જીવન જીવવા લાગ્યો અને કેટલાક પ્રશ્નો ઊભા થતા ગયા. જમીન, વૃક્ષો, તળાવ, નદીઓ, પર્વતો, ગરમી, ઠંડી, વગેરે જે કુદરતી બાબતો હતી તેનો દુરુપયોગ થવા લાગ્યો અને તેનાથી પણ કેટલાક પ્રશ્નો ઊભા થયા.

જ્યારે માનવી જો પોતાની લગામમાં ન રહે તો કુદરત દ્વારા આપોઆપ સૃષ્ટિનું નિયમન થતું હોય છે. વસ્તીશાસ્ત્રીઓ પણ માને છે કે વસ્તીવિસ્ફોટને જો માણસ ન ઘટાડે તો કુદરત દ્વારા તેનું નિયમન થાય છે અને વસ્તી ઘટે છે. કોરોના વાઈરસે વિશ્વના દેશોની જીવનશૈલી બદલી નાખી છે. Covid-19ની પરિસ્થિતિને કારણે લોકોએ લોકડાઉનના નિયમોનું ફરજિયાત પાલન કરવું પડ્યું અને લાંબા સમય સુધી પોતાનું કામ નોકરી, ધંધો, વ્યવસાય, મજૂરી બધું જ છોડી આખા દેશના તમામ લોકોએ ઘરમાં જ પુરાઈ રહેવું પડ્યું, સિવાય કે કોરોના સાથે કામ કરતાં વોરિયર્સ સિવાય બધા જ લોકડાઉનમાં ઘરમાં જ રહ્યા.

કોરોનાને લાગેવળગે છે ત્યાં સુધી આ વાઈરસનો મહાનગરોમાં ઝડપથી પ્રસાર થયો. વુહાન શહેર, ન્યૂ યોર્ક, લંડન, દિલ્લી, ચેન્નાઈ, મુંબઈ, અમદાવાદ, સુરત વગેરે એટલે એવું કહી શકાય કે જેમ ભૌગોલિક અંતર દૂર તેમ કોરોનાનો પ્રભાવ વધારે. તેની સામે ગામડાઓમાં કોરોનાનો પ્રભાવ ઓછો રહ્યો છે. કોરોના વાઈરસ પહેલાં ઉચ્ચમાંથી મધ્યમ અને નિમ્નવર્ગમાં પણ ફેલાયો.

કોરોના જીવનશૈલી સાથે પણ જોડાયેલો છે. જેમનો ખોરાક સાદો સરળ હશે તેમની ઈમ્યુનિટી સારી રહેશે અને તે કોરોના સામે લડી શકશે. આજ સુધી માણસો હોટેલ, રેસ્ટોરન્ટમાં જમતાં તેના કારણે ઈમ્યુનિટી ઘટી જતી હોય તો તેને કોરોના વાઈરસને કારણે મુશ્કેલી ઊભી કરી શકે છે. લોકો ઈમ્યુનિટી વધારવાના પ્રયત્નો કરતાં થયાં, પૌષ્ટિક ખોરાક ખાતાં થયાં. બીજું કે પહેરવેશમાં પણ લોકોએ બદલાવ લાવવો પડ્યો. સુતરાવ કાપડ પહેરવાનું અને માસ્ક પહેરવાનું ચાલુ કર્યું. Covid-19ને કારણે આપણા નાગરિક અધિકારમાં નિયંત્રણ આવ્યું. ગમે ત્યાં ન જઈ શકે, ગમે તેવું વર્તન ન કરી શકો, જાહેરમાં થૂંકી ન શકો, મંદિરમાં ન જઈ શકો, જાહેર પ્રોગ્રામમાં ન જઈ શકો, પ્રસંગો ન કરી શકો ટુ વ્હિલરમાં બે જણ ન બેસી શકો, સાથે સાથે ધર્મની અસર ઘટતી જશે અને વિજ્ઞાનની અસરો વધશે.

કલાસ કેરટેકરની દૃષ્ટિએ જોઈએ તો પ્રવર્તમાન અસમાનતા વધશે. નીચલા વર્ગની કમાણી બંધ થવાથી અન-ઈક્વાલિટી વધશે અને તેને કારણે લૂંટફાટ, ચોરી, ગુનાનું પ્રમાણ વધશે. માણસ હંમેશાં જૂથ જીવનમાં રહેવા ટેવાયેલા છે પરંતુ આ સંજોગોમાં પ્રત્યક્ષ સંબંધો ઓછા થઈ જશે, દૂરના સંબંધો, ફોન દ્વારા, વોટ્સગ્રૂપ ટ્વિટ્ટરગ્રૂપ ફેસબુક ગ્રૂપમાં પોતાનો સંબંધ રહેશે એટલે માણસને જે પીઠ થાબડીને જે આશ્વાસન કે હૂંફ મળતી તે બંધ થઈ જશે વર્ચુઅલ કોન્ટેક્ટ વધશે પણ ઈમોશનલ કોન્ટેક્ટ ઓછા થશે. વર્ચુઅલ કલાસરૂમ આવશે. આજે આ પરિસ્થિતિમાં મોટો વર્ગ એવું વિચારતો થયો છે કે ઓનલાઈન શિક્ષણ આપવું જેમાં સરકાર યુ.જી.સી. અને ઘણા શિક્ષણના વિદ્વાનો પણ ઓનલાઈન શિક્ષણને સમર્થન આપી રહ્યા છે. આ સમયમાં સેમિનારો નહોતા થતા, તેટલા વેબિનારો થાય છે વિદ્યાર્થી ડિસ્ટન્ટ એજ્યુકેશનથી ભણશે. ઓનલાઈન પરીક્ષા લેવાશે અને ઓનલાઈન નોકરી માટેના ઈન્ટરવ્યૂ પણ થશે વર્ચુઅલ કલાસરૂમ તરફ શિક્ષકો વિચારતા થયા.

Covid-19ની પરિસ્થિતિમાં એક મોટો બદલાવ આવ્યો તે મજૂરોનું સ્થળાંતર. આઝાદી બાદ સૌથી મોટું પહેલીવાર આટલી મોટી સંખ્યામાં સ્થળાંતર થયું. ગુજરાતમાંથી અંદાજિત 8 લાખ શ્રમિકોનું સ્થળાંતર થયું. લોકડાઉનમાં ધંધા, રોજગાર, હોટેલ, કારખાનાં, કંપની, કન્ટ્રક્શન સાઈટો આ બધું બંધ થતાં કામદારોને કામ મળવાનું બંધ થયું. જે માલિકોના એકમોમાં કામ કરતા હતા તે માલિકોએ તેમને છૂટા કર્યા અને આર્થિક સહાય પણ ન કરી, કોઈક માલિકોએ મજૂરોનો પગાર એક મહિનો આપ્યો પણ બીજો મહિનો બંધ કરી દીધો. તેની રહેવા-જમવાની વ્યવસ્થા પણ ન કરી અને લોકડાઉનમાં બજારો બંધ હોવાથી તેઓ



જમવાનું પણ મેળવી શકતા ન હતા. સરકાર દ્વારા થોડો સમય રાહત કેમ્પો બન્યા તેમાં જમવાનું આપવામાં આવ્યું પરંતુ જેમ જેમ સમય લંબાતો ગયો તેમ તેમ જમવાનું પણ બંધ થતું ગયું. જ્યાં જમવાનું આપતા હોય ત્યાં મોટી મોટી લાઈનમાં ઊભા રહીને કે બેત્રણ દિવસે માંડ જમવાનું મળતું હતું.

જ્યારે જ્યારે મજૂરો રોડ પર આવી વતન જવા માટે દેખાવો કરે તો પોલીસ દ્વારા તેને માર મારવામાં આવ્યો અને ટોળાંને વિખેરવામાં આવ્યાં. અવારનવાર તેઓ રેલવે સ્ટેશને કે બસ સ્ટેશને અફવાથી પણ ભેગા થાય તો પણ પોલીસનો તેને માર પડતો હતો. કેટલાય મજૂરો ચાલતા પોતાના વતન જવા નીકળી પડ્યા. જેમાં દેશમાં અંદાજે 193 જેટલા મજૂરોના રસ્તામાં ચાલવાથી કે વાહનમાં અકસ્માત થવાથી મોત થયાં. સરકાર દ્વારા શ્રમિકો માટે સ્પેશિયલ ટ્રેનો દોડાવી પણ તે ખૂબ જ મોડી દોડાવી, ત્યાં સુધી શ્રમિકો ખૂબ જ હેરાનપરેશાન થતા રહ્યા. એક રાજ્યમાંથી બીજા રાજ્યની સરહદે ચાલતાં ચાલતાં પહોંચે તો સરહદે તેને અટકાવવામાં આવે અને જવા દેવામાં આવે નહિ. જો કે ઘણા બધા પોલીસ સ્ટાફ દ્વારા પણ મજૂરોને જમવાનું પણ પહોંચાડવામાં આવતું હતું. પોતે પોતાના વતનમાં જાય તો ત્યાં પણ તેનો સ્વીકાર કરવામાં આવતો નહીં. જેથી મજૂરોની પરિસ્થિતિ સૌથી વધારે વિકટ બની. મહામુસીબતે મજૂરો પોતાના વતનમાં પહોંચ્યા બાદ ક્યારે પાછા ફરે તે નક્કી નથી. જ્યાં સુધી મજૂરો પાછા નહીં ફરે ત્યાં સુધી ઉદ્યોગ, ધંધા, કન્ટ્રક્શન, વ્યવસાય, હોટલ, વગેરે ક્ષેત્રોમાં મુશ્કેલીનો સામનો કરવો પડશે. જેની સીધી અસર અર્થતંત્ર પર જોવા મળશે.

લોકડાઉનમાં ઘરેલુ હિંસાના બનાવો વધવા લાગ્યા. કુટુંબના જ સભ્યો સાથે હળીમળીને આનંદ લેવાની સાથે સાથે ઘણાં કુટુંબોમાં ઝઘડાઓ અને સંઘર્ષો પણ થવા લાગ્યા. કેટલા વ્યક્તિઓને પાન-મસાલા-ગુટખા બીડી, દારૂ ન મળતાં તેનામાં મનોવૈજ્ઞાનિક અને શારીરિક પ્રશ્નો ઊભા થયા. આમ, પ્રજાને અને દેશને ઘણું જ નુકસાન ભોગવવું પડ્યું. તેમ છતાં જાન હૈ તો જહાન હૈ તે ઉદ્દેશ રાખીને લોકડાઉન લંબાવવામાં આવતું હતું. COVID-19ની પરિસ્થિતિમાં કોરોના વોરિયર્સ ખૂબ જ સારી કામગીરી કરી જેમાં ડોક્ટર, હોસ્પિટલનો સ્ટાફ, સરકાર, આરોગ્યમંત્રી, આરોગ્યના અધિકારીઓ, મહાનગરપાલિકા, નગરપાલિકા, ગ્રામપંચાયત, પેરામેડિકલ સ્ટાફ, પોલીસ કર્મચારીઓ અને સફાઈ કામદારોએ રાતદિવસ જોયા વગર પોતાના જીવના જોખમે કામગીરી કરી તે પણ કામ બિરદાવવા જેવું કામ છે. આમ સમાજમાં એક નવી જીવનશૈલી અસ્તિત્વમાં આવી.

સંદર્ભસૂચિ

લોકડાઉન સમયના વર્તમાનપત્રો, લોકડાઉન સમયના ન્યૂઝ ચેનલોના રિપોર્ટ  
લોકડાઉન સમયના વેબિનારો, લોકડાઉન સમયનાં નિરીક્ષણો અને અનુભવો  
23 માર્ચ 2020થી 31 મે 2020નો સમયગાળો



## Covid-19 કોરોના મહામારીની સમાજ ઉપર અસરો

સામાજિક સમસ્યાનો ઇતિહાસ માનવસમાજ જેટલો જ જૂનો છે. પહેલાંના સમાજમાં પણ સામાજિક સમસ્યાઓ તો હતી જ પણ એ વખતે માનવીની સામાજિક સભાનતાનો વિકાસ ઓછો થયો હતો આથી અનેક પરિસ્થિતિઓ કે જે લોકોના જીવન માટે હાનિકારક હતી તેને પણ લોકો સામાજિક સમસ્યા તરીકે ગણતા નહોતા. પહેલાંના સમયમાં વસ્તીનું પ્રમાણ પણ ઓછું હતું. ઔદ્યોગિકીકરણ, શહેરીકરણ, યાંત્રીકરણ, વગેરે પ્રક્રિયાઓનો વિકાસ થયો ન હતો, આથી એની વિપરીત અસરમાંથી લોકો મુક્ત હતા. પહેલાં મનુષ્ય ઉપયોગિતાવાદી જીવન જીવતાં હતાં, આથી તે સમયે સમસ્યાનું પ્રમાણ, તીવ્રતા અને ગંભીરતા ઓછાં હતાં, પરંતુ વર્તમાન સમાજમાં નવાં વ્યક્તિવાદી મૂલ્યોનો વિકાસ થયો છે. શહેરીકરણ, ઔદ્યોગિકીકરણ, યાંત્રીકરણ ઝડપી બન્યું છે અને એની વિપરીત અસરો પણ માનવજીવનમાં બધાં જ ક્ષેત્રોમાં વ્યાપક રીતે જોવા મળે છે. મનુષ્યની જરૂરિયાત પણ વધી ગઈ છે. ભૌતિકવાદી બનતો ગયો છે. પરિણામે માનવીની આજુબાજુના જૈવિક અને પ્રાકૃતિક પર્યાવરણની સમતુલા સામે જોખમ વધી ગયું છે. પરિણામે સમાજમાં ઘણી સમસ્યાઓ ઉદ્ભવે છે. સામાજિક સમસ્યાઓ સમાજમાં અનિચ્છનીય પરિસ્થિતિ ગણાય છે અને લોકોના જીવન પર જેની વિપરીત અને હાનિકારક અસરો થતી હોય છે અને તે સામાજિક સમસ્યા ક્યારે બને જ્યારે સમાજના કે સમૂહના નોંધપાત્ર લોકો પર એની અસર થાય. આપણે સૌ જાણીએ છીએ કે સમગ્ર વિશ્વનું અસ્તિત્વ જેના પર છે તે પૃથ્વી, જળ, જમીન અને વાયુની બનેલી છે. જ્યારથી આ પૃથ્વીનું નિર્માણ થયું છે ત્યારથી અત્યાર સુધી તેના પર વસતા માનવીઓએ અનેક મહામારીઓનો સામનો કર્યો છે. મહામારીઓથી જીવસૃષ્ટિને ઘણું નુકસાન થાય છે. પશુ-પંખી અને માનવીઓને મહામારીઓ સામે ટકી રહેવા માટે ઘણો સંઘર્ષ કરવો પડે છે. બદલાતા જતા હવામાનની અસર પણ મહામારીનું કારણ હોઈ શકે છે. ડાયનાસોર જેવાં મહાકાય પ્રાણીઓ પણ આ પૃથ્વી પરથી નષ્ટ થયાં તેની પાછળ આવું જ કોઈ કારણ જવાબદાર હોઈ શકે. જુદી જુદી મહામારી જેવી કે ધરતીકંપ, સુનામી, રોગચાળો, વાવાઝોડું, આગ, દુષ્કાળ, વિશ્વયુદ્ધ આવી બધી અનેક મહામારીનો સામનો વિશ્વએ કરવો પડ્યો છે. જેમાં લાખોની સંખ્યામાં માણસોનાં મૃત્યુ થયાં છે, અર્થતંત્રને ઘણું નુકસાન થયું છે, વેપારઉદ્યોગ પડી ભાંગે છે અને આર્થિક સંકટો ઊભાં થયાં છે. અને કોઈ પણ દેશના અર્થતંત્રને કળ વળતાં કેટલાંય વર્ષો નીકળી જાય છે. આ ઉપરાંત મહામારીની સામાજિક અસરો પણ ખૂબ જ જોવા મળે છે. આપણે હાલમાં સમગ્ર

વિશ્વમાં ચાલી રહેલી કોરોના covid-19 મહામારી વિશે વાત કરીશું.

આપણને મળેલા સમાચાર મુજબ કોરોના વાઈરસનું ઉદ્ભવસ્થાન ચીન દેશમાં છે એવું જાણવા મળ્યું છે. ચીનની લેબોરેટરીમાં બનેલો આ વાઈરસ છે અને તેને જૈવિક યુદ્ધ માટે ઉપયોગમાં લેવામાં આવ્યો છે. ચીનના વુહાન શહેરમાંથી ફેલાયેલા કોરોના વાઈરસે અત્યારે સમગ્ર વિશ્વને ભરડામાં લીધું છે. કદાચ આ વાઈરસ કુદરતી રીતે પણ અસ્તિત્વમાં આવ્યો હોય. અને ચીનમાંથી શરૂ કરી સમગ્ર વિશ્વમાં ફેલાયો છે. જેના કારણે વિશ્વમાં લાખો લોકોનાં મૃત્યુ થયાં છે. ભારતમાં લગભગ માર્ચ 2020માં કોરોના વાઈરસની અસર દેખાવા લાગી છે. એક વ્યક્તિથી બીજી વ્યક્તિને ચેપ લગાડતો ભયંકર ચેપી વાઈરસ છે. જેમાંથી બહાર નીકળવા માટે કેન્દ્ર સરકારે તથા રાજ્ય સરકારે ઘણા પ્રયત્ન કર્યા છે અને આ પ્રયત્નો હાલમાં પણ ચાલુ છે. છતાં આપણે આ મહામારીમાંથી હજુ પણ મુક્ત થયા નથી. Covid-19ની સમાજ પર જે અગત્યની અસરો થઈ છે તે જણાવવા હું પ્રયત્ન કરું છું. આ માહિતી મેં સેકન્ડરી ડેટા ઉપરથી લીધી છે.

**શારીરિક લક્ષણો અને તેની માનવ પર થતી અસરો**

ભારત સહિત દુનિયાભરમાં દિન-પ્રતિદિન કોરોના સંક્રમિત દર્દીઓની સંખ્યા વધી રહી છે. જેમ જેમ સમય જાય છે તેમ કોરોનાનાં લક્ષણો પણ વધતાં જાય છે. શરૂઆતના સમયમાં કોરોનાનાં ચાર જ લક્ષણો સામે આવ્યાં હતાં, જેવાં કે, તાવ, ખાંસી-ગળામાં તકલીફ, શરદી અને શ્વાસ લેવામાં તકલીફ થવી. જેમ જેમ કોરોનાના સંક્રમિત લોકોની સંખ્યા વધતી ગઈ તેમ તેમ કોરોનાનાં લક્ષણો જુદાં જુદાં દેખાવા લાગ્યાં છે, જેમ કે, શરીર દુખવું, માથું દુખવું, થાક લાગવો, ઝાડા થવા, ઊલટી થવી, ગળફામાં લોહી પડવું વગેરે. વર્તમાન કેન્દ્રીય સ્વાસ્થ્ય અને પરિવાર કલ્યાણ મંત્રાલયે કોરોના વાઈરસના ઉપર જણાવેલાં તમામ લક્ષણોને કાયદેસર રીતે જાહેર કર્યાં છે. સોશિયલ મીડિયા દ્વારા લોકોને જાગૃત કરવાનો પ્રયત્ન કરવામાં આવ્યો છે. વિશ્વ સ્વાસ્થ્ય સંગઠન (WHO)ના મત મુજબ સ્વાદ અને સુગંધનો અહેસાસ ન થવો એ પણ કોરોના સંક્રમણનું લક્ષણ જણાવવામાં આવ્યું છે.

WHO ઉપરાંત વૈજ્ઞાનિકો, ડોક્ટરો, સંશોધકો વગેરેએ પણ આ લક્ષણો જણાવ્યાં છે. રિપોર્ટમાં એવું જણાવવામાં આવ્યું છે કે કોરોના વાઈરસના સ્વરૂપમાં સમયે-સમયે પરિવર્તન પણ થતું રહ્યું છે. ભારત સરકાર સહિત WHO દ્વારા કોરોના વાઈરસનાં લક્ષણો ઉપરાંત તેનાથી બચવાના ઉપાયો અંગે લોકોને જાગૃત કરવાના સતત પ્રયત્નો કરવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે. સોશિયલ ડિસ્ટન્સ, માસ્ક પહેરવો, વારંવાર સાબુથી હાથ ધોવા, સેનિટાઇઝરનો ઉપયોગ કરવો, સંપર્કમાં આવેલી જગ્યાઓ-વસ્તુઓ વગેરેને સેનિટાઇઝ કરવી, જરૂર વગર કોઈને અડવું નહીં, આપણા હાથ, આંખ-નાક-મોં ઉપર આપણે આપણા હાથ અડાડવા નહીં, તમાકુનું સેવન ન કરવું, સાર્વજનિક સ્થાનો પર

થૂંકવું નહીં, બિનજરૂરી ઘરની બહાર નીકળવું નહીં, ભીડભાડવાળી જગ્યાએ જવું નહીં, આરોગ્યસેતુ એપ ડાઉનલોડ કરવી અને કોઈ પણ લક્ષણો જણાય તો કેન્દ્ર સરકારનો ટોલ ફ્રી નંબર 1075નો સંપર્ક કરવો. માનસિક તનાવ અથવા પરેશાની હોય તો મનોચિકિત્સકની સેવાની મદદ લેવી.

### માનસિક અસરો

દુનિયાભરમાં કોરોના વાઈરસનો કેર સતત વધતો જાય છે. તેની અસર લોકો પર ફક્ત શારીરિક નહીં પરંતુ માનસિક રીતે પણ થઈ રહી છે. લોકોના મનમાં સતત ડર કે ભય રહે છે. એ લોકોમાં ભય જ્યારે ખૂબ વધી જાય છે ત્યારે તેની અસર દિનચર્યા ઉપર પડે છે, જેના કારણે માનસિક તણાવ ધીમે ધીમે ખૂબ ગંભીર સ્વરૂપ ધારણ કરે છે. વ્યક્તિ હતાશામાં સરી પડે છે અને તેની અસર કુટુંબ પર પડે છે. એક પ્રકારનો અજીબ ગભરાટ લોકો અનુભવે છે. સતત ડરના માહોલમાં જીવે છે તેથી ઘણીવાર આત્મહત્યા જેવું ગંભીર પગલું પણ ધારણ કરી શકે છે. માનસિક સ્વાસ્થ્ય વિશેષજ્ઞોના જણાવ્યા મુજબ આ મહામારી લોકોના મનમાં ખૂબ જ ગભરાટ પેદા કરે છે. આ ઉપરાંત કોરોના વાઈરસના સંક્રમણનો ભય, વધારે પડતી બેચેની, ઊંઘમાં પરેશાની, વધારે પડતી ચિંતા, આર્થિક મંદી, નોકરી-ધંધા તથા કામ-ધંધા બંધ થઈ જવાનો ભય, વગેરેને કારણે લોકોનું માનસિક સંતુલન ખોરવાઈ જાય છે. નોકરી છૂટી જવાનો ભય અને ધંધો કે કામ બંધ થઈ જવાના કારણે આર્થિક સંકટ, ભવિષ્યની ચિંતા, ભોજન તથા જરૂરી ચીજવસ્તુઓ ખૂટી જવાનો ડર વગેરેને કારણે લોકો સતત માનસિક ત્રાસ અનુભવે છે અને ડિપ્રેશનનો શિકાર બને છે. ભારતના સંદર્ભમાં સોશિયલ ડિસ્ટન્સ અને ક્વોરન્ટાઈન શબ્દને કારણે જ હતાશા અનુભવે છે. આ માટે કેન્દ્ર સરકારે નિઃશુલ્ક હેલ્પલાઈન શરૂ કરી છે, જે લોકોને કોરોના મહામારીના કારણે તનાવ-હતાશામાંથી મુક્ત થવા માટે મદદ કરે છે. માંદગી આવ્યા પછી હોસ્પિટલમાં એકલા રહેવું એ બાબત પણ અઘરી બને છે. અછૂત જેવો વ્યવહાર કરવામાં આવે છે તેથી તેના મન પર અસર થાય છે અને આ પરિસ્થિતિનો સામનો કરવા માટે અઘરું બને છે.

### શૈક્ષણિક અસરો

કોમી રમખાણો, ધરતીકંપ, વાવાઝોડ, નદીઓમાં પૂર, સુનામી વગેરે જેવી કુદરતી આફતોને કારણે પણ શિક્ષણને નુકસાન થાય છે પણ એ ટૂંકા ગાળાનું હોય છે. પરંતુ અત્યારે ચાલી રહેલી કોરોના મહામારીની અસર શિક્ષણ ઉપર લાંબો સમય ચાલશે તેવું દેખીતી રીતે લાગી રહ્યું છે. કારણ કે ભારતમાં માર્ચ 2020થી તમામ શૈક્ષણિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ ખોરવાઈ ગઈ છે. અચાનક 23/3/2020થી ભારતમાં લોકડાઉન જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું જેથી સ્કૂલો, કોલેજો, યુનિવર્સિટી, વગેરે અચાનક જ ચાલુ શૈક્ષણિક સત્રથી જ બંધ થઈ ગયાં. ક્યાંક પરીક્ષાઓ પૂરી થઈ હતી, ક્યાંક અધૂરી રહી, તો ક્યાંક પરીક્ષાઓ

થઈ જ નહીં, તેથી વિદ્યાર્થીઓ અને વાલીઓ ટેન્શનમાં આવી ગયાં. બાકી પરીક્ષાઓ ક્યારે થશે? કેવી રીતે થશે? વગેરે જેવા પ્રશ્નો ઊભા થયા. છેલ્લા સેમેસ્ટર સિવાયના તમામ સેમેસ્ટરના વિદ્યાર્થીઓને માસ પ્રમોશન આપીને આગળના સેમેસ્ટરમાં પ્રવેશ આપવામાં આવ્યો અને તેઓનું શિક્ષણ ઓનલાઈન શરૂ કરવામાં આવ્યું. ભારત જેવા અલ્પવિકસિત દેશમાં ઓનલાઈન શિક્ષણમાં ઘણી મુશ્કેલીઓ ઊભી થવા લાગી. પ્રોપર ઈન્ફ્રાસ્ટ્રક્ચરનો અભાવ, નેટવર્કમાં તકલીફો વગેરે જેવા પ્રશ્નો ઊભા થવા લાગ્યા. આ શિક્ષણનો લાભ 50 ટકા વિદ્યાર્થીઓને જ મળે છે. બાકીના વિદ્યાર્થીઓ તેમની મજબૂરીને કારણે શિક્ષણથી વંચિત રહી જાય છે. શિક્ષકોને પણ વિદ્યાર્થીઓની હાજરી વગર ભણાવવાનું હોવાથી સંપૂર્ણ અસરકારક સાબિત થતું નથી. સ્કૂલો, કોલેજ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ વગર સૂમસામ લાગે છે. બધી જ શૈક્ષણિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ અને ઈતર પ્રવૃત્તિઓ ઓનલાઈન ટીચિંગને કારણે બંધ થઈ ગઈ છે. જેની સીધી અસર વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપર થાય છે. નાનાં બાળકોને ઓનલાઈન ટીચિંગમાં માતા-પિતાએ સાથે બેસવું પડે છે. માતાપિતાનો ટાઈમ ઘણો બગડતો હોય તેવું લાગે છે. બાળકોની આંખો પર પણ અસર થતી હોય તેવું લાગે છે. આ શૈક્ષણિક પદ્ધતિને કારણે ઘણી વાર ઘરમાં એક જ મોબાઈલ હોય, બે-ત્રણ બાળકો ભણનાર હોય, આર્થિક રીતે મધ્યમ પરિવાર હોય, તેવા લોકો માટે આ બાબત અઘરી બને છે.

### ધાર્મિક અસરો

ભારત એક આધ્યાત્મિક દેશ છે. ભારતમાં વસતા લોકો અલગ-અલગ ધર્મમાં આસ્થા ધરાવે છે. દરેક ધર્મ અનુસાર અલગ-અલગ ધાર્મિક તહેવારો ઊજવવામાં આવે છે. કોરોના મહામારીની સીધી અસર આ ધાર્મિક તહેવારો ઉપર થઈ છે. ખાસ કરીને ભારતના વરિષ્ઠ લોકો સવાર-સાંજ મંદિરમાં જવાવાળા છે. મંદિર સંપૂર્ણ બંધ થયાં છે. માર્ય મહિનાથી ધાર્મિક તહેવારોની ઉજવણી બંધ છે. ધાર્મિક તહેવારોની ઉજવણી કરવાથી લોકોની એકધારી જીવનની રીતમાં પરિવર્તન આવે છે.

લોકોમાં મનોરંજનની સાથે સાથે માનસિક શાંતિ અને ઉત્સાહમાં વધારો થાય છે. લોકો પ્રસન્નતા અનુભવે છે. અને તેઓની આસ્થા સચવાય છે અને લાઈફમાં હળવાશ અનુભવે છે. ધાર્મિક રીતે કથાઓ સાંભળવા જાય છે, ભજન-કીર્તનના કાર્યક્રમોમાં જાય છે. પરંતુ લોકડાઉનને કારણે તમામ પ્રકારની ધાર્મિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ બંધ કરવામાં આવી છે. વડીલો માટે આ સમય પસાર કરવો મુશ્કેલ બને છે, છતાં પણ ઘણા લોકો આ બધી પ્રવૃત્તિ વગર જીવવાનું ધીમે ધીમે શીખી ગયા છે તે ખૂબ મોટી વાત છે.

### સામાજિક અસરો

માનવી એક સામાજિક પ્રાણી છે. માનવીને હંમેશા સમૂહમાં જીવવું ગમે છે. આપણો ભારત દેશ એ બહુવિધ સમાજ ધરાવે છે. વિવિધ ધર્મના અને જ્ઞાતિના લોકો

ભારતમાં વસવાટ કરે છે. જ્ઞાતિ તથા કુટુંબથી જુદા જુદા સમાજની રચના થાય છે. દરેક જ્ઞાતિનાં સામાજિક સંગઠનો છે. તેઓનાં રીતરિવાજ પ્રમાણે અલગ-અલગ સામાજિક પ્રસંગોમાં બધા સમૂહમાં ભેગા થતાં હોય છે. સોશિયલ ડિસ્ટન્સને કારણે તમામ પ્રકારના સામાજિક પ્રસંગો પર પ્રતિબંધ આવ્યો છે. કોરોના મહામારી પહેલાં લોકો એવું માનતા કે તમામ પ્રકારના સામાજિક પ્રસંગોએ હાજરી તો આપવી જ પડે તેવી માન્યતા ધરાવતા હતા. કામધંધો બંધ કરીને પણ સામાજિક પ્રસંગોમાં હાજરી આપવા જતા. જ્યારે અત્યારના સંજોગોમાં આ માનસિકતા ધરાવતા લોકોની જીવનશૈલી બદલાઈ રહી છે. તેઓ એક પણ પ્રસંગ ઊજવતા નથી, જેથી કરીને પ્રસંગમાં હાજરી આપવાનો પ્રશ્ન જ ઊભો થતો નથી. વ્યક્તિના અવસાનથી માંડીને બારમા સુધીની બધી જ વિધિ લોકો ઘરમેળે કરતા થયા છે. આ ઘટનાને લોકોએ કોરોના મહામારીને કારણે સહજતાથી સ્વીકારી લીધી છે કે જે પ્રથાઓ બંધ કરવા માટે વર્ષોથી પ્રયત્નો થતા હતા. ઘરની બહાર હરવું-ફરવું, રેસ્ટોરન્ટમાં જમવા જવું, મોલમાં ફરવું, બર્થ-ડે પાર્ટી વગેરે જેવી પ્રવૃત્તિઓ પણ બંધ થઈ છે.

### આર્થિક અસરો

કોરોના મહામારીની સૌથી માઠી અસર એ આર્થિક વ્યવસ્થા પર જોવા મળે છે. ધંધા-રોજગારો લોકડાઉનને કારણે બંધ થયા, લોકોને નોકરી છૂટી ગઈ, જેને કારણે સમગ્ર વિશ્વનું અર્થતંત્ર ખૂબ જ નબળું થઈ ગયું છે. ઘણા લોકોની આજીવિકા પણ છીનવાઈ ગઈ છે. આર્થિક મંદી આવી ગઈ છે. જે લોકો રોજ રોજ કમાઈને દિવસનો ગુજારો કરતા હતા તેઓને તથા તેમના પરિવારને બે ટંક ખાવાનાં પણ ફાંફાં પડવા લાગ્યા. લોકોની પાયાની જરૂરિયાતો પણ પૂરી ન થાય તેવી પરિસ્થિતિ ઊભી થઈ ગઈ છે. ક્યાંક ઘર માટેના હપતાઓ ભરવાની પણ મુશ્કેલી ઊભી થઈ છે. વેપાર-ઉદ્યોગ બંધ થયા છે. નોકરીઓમાંથી લોકો છૂટા થયા છે. હોટેલ ઉદ્યોગ, પ્રવાસન ઉદ્યોગ, થિયેટર, ટ્રાવેલ્સ ઉદ્યોગ, એરલાઈન્સ વગેરે ઉદ્યોગો પર પણ માઠી અસર થઈ છે અને જેની સમગ્ર અસર દેશ પર પણ જોવા મળે છે. ભારત ખેતીપ્રધાન દેશ છે. ખેતીને ખૂબ જ માઠી અસર લોકડાઉનથી થઈ છે. આયાત-નિકાસની નીતિમાં ફેરફાર થવાથી એની સીધી અસર ઉદ્યોગો પર થઈ છે. અર્થતંત્રને બેઠું કરવા માટે સરકારે 20 લાખ કરોડનું પેકેજ જાહેર કર્યું છે.

### કૌટુંબિક અસરો

કોરોના મહામારીની અસર ભારતીય કુટુંબો પર પણ થઈ છે. લોકડાઉનને કારણે લોકો સાદું જીવન જીવતાં શીખ્યાં છે. ઓછી અને નજીવી વસ્તુઓથી જીવનનિર્વાહ ચલાવી લેતા થયા છે. પોતાના પરિવારના સભ્યો સાથે સમય પસાર કરવાની તક મળી છે. પારિવારિક સંબંધોમાં સુધારો જોવા મળે છે. ઘરનાં રોજિંદાં કામકાજમાં એકબીજાને

મદદ કરતા થયા છે. ક્યાંક કુટુંબથી ઘણા લાંબા સમયથી અલગ થયેલા લોકો પણ છે જેમ કે કામઘંધા કે નોકરી માટે બહારગામ ગયા હોય અને અચાનક લોકડાઉન થયું તેવા લોકો ત્યાં ને ત્યાં ફસાઈ ગયા અને પોતાના પરિવારથી અલગ થઈ ગયા. હોસ્ટેલમાં રહીને ભણતાં વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પણ પોતાના પરિવારથી લાંબો સમય અલગ રહ્યાં. કુટુંબની સાથે સાથે આડોશપાડોશના સંબંધોમાં પણ સુધારો થયો હોય તેવું જોવા મળે છે. લોકોમાં મદદની ભાવના વધી ગઈ છે.

કોરોના મહામારીને કારણે સમગ્ર વિશ્વમાં પર્યાવરણ પર સારી અસર જોવા મળી છે. વાતાવરણમાં ઓક્સિજનનું પ્રમાણ વધ્યું છે. હવા શુદ્ધ થઈ છે. નદીઓનાં પાણી શુદ્ધ કરવા માટે સરકાર દ્વારા કરોડો રૂપિયા ખર્ચવામાં આવ્યા પણ અત્યારે લોકડાઉનના કારણે નદીઓનાં પાણી શુદ્ધ થયાં છે, અકસ્માત ઘટ્યા છે, આ ઉપરાંત ઓછી વસ્તુઓથી ચલાવી લેવું, ફરવા ન જવું, હોટેલમાં જમવા ન જવું, મૂવી જોવા ન જવું, ખરીદી બંધ કરવી, વગેરેને પરિણામે ખર્ચમાં ઘટાડો થતાં લોકોની આર્થિક બચત પણ જોવા મળે છે. પેટ્રોલ-ડીઝલનો વપરાશ ઓછો થયો, જેથી રાષ્ટ્રીય સંપત્તિમાં પણ બચત થઈ છે. કુદરત પર એક સારી અસર આપણને જોવા મળી છે. સમાજશાસ્ત્રમાં રોબર્ટ મર્ટને કાર્યાત્મક વિશ્લેષણ આપ્યું છે. જો આપણે કોરોના મહામારીને એટલે કે આપત્તિને અવસરમાં ફેરવીએ તો સમાજ માટે જરૂર ઉપયોગી થશે.

સંદર્ભસૂચિ

વર્તમાન પત્ર

મેગેઝિન

સોશિયલ મીડિયા

સમાજશાસ્ત્રમાં થયેલા જુદા-જુદા વેબિનાર

## સ્વાસ્થ્યનું સમાજશાસ્ત્ર

ડિક્શનરી ઓફ મેડિકલ સોશિયોલોજી પ્રમાણે

**ઔ**ષધિય સમાજશાસ્ત્ર એ જુદાં જુદાં સ્વાસ્થ્ય સંગઠનો જેવાં કે હોસ્પિટલ, ડોક્ટર, નર્સો, તેમજ જુદી જુદી સંસ્થાઓ જે આરોગ્ય સાથે સંકળાયેલી છે તેના સમાજશાસ્ત્રીય પરિપ્રેક્ષ્યથી અભ્યાસ કરવામાં આવે છે. તે જ રીતે ઔષધીય સમાજશાસ્ત્રનો સંબંધ માનવીની શારીરિક ખામીઓ, રોગોના નિદાન અને નિવારણ માટેની ઉપયોગી પદ્ધતિ તથા જ્ઞાન વગેરેની તપાસ કરે છે. સાથે-સાથે રોગી અને તેમની સાથે સંકળાયેલી જુદી જુદી સંસ્થાઓ, સંગઠનો તેમજ જ્ઞાન વગેરે ઉપર સામાજિક-સાંસ્કૃતિક અસરોને તપાસવાનો પ્રયત્ન ઔષધીય સમાજશાસ્ત્રમાં કરવામાં આવે છે.

વર્તમાનકાળમાં કોરોના વાઈરસના આક્રમણથી વિશ્વ આખું હતપ્રભ છે. એક અદૃશ્ય દુશ્મન આખી દુનિયા પર કાળો કેર વર્તાવી રહ્યો છે. બીમાર અને મોતને ભેટતા માનવીઓના આંકડા લખાય અને છપાય ત્યાં સુધીમાં તો એ આંકડો ક્યાંયનો ક્યાંય સુધી પહોંચી જતો હોય છે. યુરોપ, અમેરિકા, સ્પેન, ઓસ્ટ્રેલિયા જેવા સમૃદ્ધ દેશો ભયભીત છે. પ્રજા હજી ઘરોમાં કેદ છે. ઇટાલી, સ્પેન, ફ્રાન્સ કે જર્મની જેવા દેશોમાં તો કબ્રસ્તાનોમાં પણ હવે જગ્યા નથી. હજારો પરિવારોએ તેમનાં સ્વજનો ગુમાવ્યાં છે. ઠેર ઠેર આકંઠ છે. કોણ કોને છાનું રાખે?

અત્યાર સુધીમાં સ્વાઈન ફ્લૂ, સ્પેનિશ ફ્લૂ, ડેન્ગ્યુ, પ્લેગ, નોવાહ વાઈરસ, ઈબોલા, બર્ડ ફ્લૂ, મેલેરિયા કે કોરોના વાઈરસ જેવી બીમારીઓ માટે જીવજંતુઓને જવાબદાર ઠેરવવામાં આવે છે. પરંતુ હકીકત એ છે કે, આ પ્રાણીઓ, પક્ષીઓ કે ચામાચીડિયા ખુદ આ બીમારીઓના સર્જક નથી. તેઓ ભયાનક રોગ કે વાઈરસ ફેલાવનાર માત્ર વાહક છે. પરંતુ જીવજંતુઓનો ઉપયોગ જીવાણુ શાસ્ત્ર બનાવવાનો ઉપયોગ કરવામાં આવે તો જવાબદાર કોણ? માનવી જ ગંદાં ખાબોચિયાં ભરી દઈ મચ્છરો માટે આદર્શ વાતાવરણ પેદા કરે તો જવાબદારી કોની? આ બધી જ આપત્તિઓ કુદરતી નહીં પરંતુ માનવસર્જિત છે. ભૂકંપ, અતિવૃષ્ટિ, અનાવૃષ્ટિ કે ભીષણ ગરમી એ કુદરતી આપત્તિઓ છે, બીમારી નહીં. પાછલાં વર્ષોનો ઇતિહાસ જોતાં લાગે છે કે માનવી જ પોતાના વિનાશની વ્યવસ્થા ગોઠવી રહ્યો છે. કુદરતે અપાર ધનધાન્ય અને શાકભાજી કે ફળો આપેલાં છે. છતાં દુનિયાના કેટલાક દેશો ખાવા માટે જીવજંતુ ઉછેરે તો તેમાં વાંક કોનો?

એ જે હોય તે, પણ કોરોનાની મહામારી પૂરી થયા બાદ દુનિયા જેવી હતી તેવી હવે નહીં હોય. ૨૦૨૦ એ પૃથ્વીવાસીઓ માટે મોટામાં મોટા સબકનું વર્ષ હશે.

૨૦૨૧ સુધીમાં કોરોના ખતમ થઈ જાય તો પણ હવે દુનિયા પહેલાંના જેવી નહિ હોય. સમજદાર દેશો હવે માનવસંહારનાં શસ્ત્રોના બદલે માનવીનો જીવ બચાવવાનાં ઔષધો પર વધુ ધ્યાન આપશે. સમજદાર દેશો સંરક્ષણ બજેટની સાથેસાથે લોકોના સ્વાસ્થ્ય બજેટ પાછળ વધુ નાણાં ફાળવશે. અનેક દેશોમાં હવે વધુ તબીબો અને નર્સો તૈયાર થાય તે તરફ વધુ ધ્યાન અપાશે.

કોરોના મહામારીના કારણે સમગ્ર વિશ્વનું અર્થતંત્ર ખોટકાઈ જશે. વિશ્વમાં કોરોના વાઈરસનો ઉપદ્રવ મટી જાય તો પણ બીજાં એકબે વર્ષ સુધી સહેલાણીઓ ઈટાલી, ફ્રાન્સ, જર્મની, સ્પેન, અમેરિકા જવાનું ટાળશે. જેના કારણે હોટેલ ઉદ્યોગને મોટો ફટકો પડશે. કર્મચારીઓને છૂટા કરવામાં આવશે. વિદેશોમાં આવ-જા કરતી એરલાઈન્સ ઉતારુઓના અભાવે વિમાનોને ગ્રાઉન્ડેડ કરી દેશે અને હજારો વિમાન કર્મચારીઓ નોકરીઓ ગુમાવશે. મોટી ફેક્ટરીઓમાં બનતો માલ ખરીદવાના લોકો પાસે પૈસા જ નહિ હોય. સિનેમાઘરો ચાલુ થશે તો પણ સામાજિક અંતર જાળવવા લોકો મહિનાઓ સુધી સિનેમાઘરોમાં જશે નહીં.

ગરીબી અને બેરોજગારી વિશ્વમાં ભૂખમરો અને હતાશા લાવશે. બેકારીના કારણે આપઘાતની સંખ્યા વધી શકે છે. ડિપ્રેશનના કેસો વધી શકે છે. લોકો મનોચિકિત્સકો અને માનસિક રોગોના નિષ્ણાત તબીબોની સલાહ અને સારવાર લેતા હશે.

કોરોનાની સૌથી મોટી અસર ગરીબ-મધ્યમ વર્ગના પરિવારોને આર્થિક રીતે તબાહ કરી દીધા છે, તેનું કારણ એ છે કે, હજુ બજારમાં લોકોની ઓછી અવરજવર રહી છે, જેના લીધે છૂટક ધંધા પડી ભાંગ્યા છે. વેપાર-ધંધા વિના ઘર ચલાવવું અઘરું બન્યું છે, ત્યારે ગરીબ-મધ્યમ પરિવારો તો દાગીના ગીરવે મૂકીને વ્યાજે નાણાં લેવા મજબૂર બન્યા છે. લોકડાઉન બાદ વ્યાજે નાણાં લેનારની સંખ્યામાં ૨૫ ટકાનો વધારો થયો છે. એર ઈન્ડિયાએ કેટલાય કર્મચારીઓને પાંચ વર્ષ સુધી વગર પગારે ઘરે બેસાડી દીધા છે. તેવી જ રીતે હાલના સંજોગોમાં સુરતમાં કોરોનાના કેસો વધતાં ડાયમન્ડ ઉદ્યોગ પર ભારે અસર પડી છે.

કોરોનાની મહામારીના ચારેતરફ જામેલા માહોલ વચ્ચે માનસિક તનાવ અનુભવતા હોય અને કાલ્પનિક ભયથી પીડાતા હોય તેવા લોકો માટે મ્યુનિ. દ્વારા ‘કોરોના સાંત્વના’ નામની નવી ૧૧૦૦ નંબરની હેલ્પ લાઈન શરૂ કરવામાં આવી છે. ચોવીસ કલાક સેવા કરી રહેલા ડોક્ટરો અને નર્સો પણ માનસિક તાણ અનુભવી રહ્યાં છે. કોરોનાના ખતરાને ધ્યાને રાખીએ તો દેશમાં ૧૩૦૦થી વધારે ડોક્ટરોને ચેપ લાગી ચૂક્યો છે.

પોતાની નજર સમક્ષ જ લોકોને મોતને ભેટતા જોઈ લોકો ઈશ્વરનું શરણ લેતા થઈ જશે. મંદિર, ચર્ચ, ગુરુદ્વારા કે મસ્જિદમાં જનારાઓની સંખ્યા વધશે.



અને છેલ્લે શિક્ષણજગતની કલ, આજ ઔર કલ

કોરોનાને કારણે હાલની પરિસ્થિતિ ખૂબ ખરાબ છે. ભવિષ્યની કોઈને ખબર નથી. વૈશ્વિક ફલક ઉપર હાલ જે પરિસ્થિતિ જોવા મળી રહી છે તેનાથી અનેકવિધ ક્ષેત્રને માઠી અસરનો સામનો કરવો પડી રહ્યો છે. હાલ શિક્ષણક્ષેત્રમાં પણ આ જ પ્રશ્નો સામે આવ્યા છે. એક તરફ શિક્ષણકાર્ય બંધ છે તો બીજી તરફ વિદ્યાર્થીઓને ઓનલાઈન શિક્ષણ આપવામાં આવી રહ્યું છે. હાલની શિક્ષણપ્રણાલીને જોઈને વાત સ્પષ્ટ થઈ છે કે વિદ્યાર્થીઓના ભવિષ્યનું શું? જે રીતે વિદ્યાર્થીઓને ઓનલાઈન શિક્ષણ આપવામાં આવી રહ્યું છે ત્યારે બાળકોમાં અભ્યાસ પ્રત્યે રુચિ રહે છે કે કેમ? તેનું નિરીક્ષણ કોણ કરે છે? ઓનલાઈન એજ્યુકેશન કલાસરૂમનો પર્યાય ન બની શકે.

## મહામારી અને માનસિક સ્વાસ્થ્ય

કુદરતે આપેલી અમૂલ્ય વિરાસતોના સદુપયોગ અને દુરુપયોગથી માનવી સફળતા અને વિકાસની હરણફાળ ભરી રહ્યો હતો, હજુ થોડા સમય પહેલાં જ માનવી પોતાની આધુનિક સફળતાઓ તરફ આગળ વધી રહ્યો હતો, ન્યુક્લિયર સાયન્સ (અણુ વિજ્ઞાન) ના ક્ષેત્રે નવીન પરીક્ષણ થઈ રહ્યા હતા. તેવા જ સમયમાં અચાનક સમગ્ર વિશ્વમાં કોરોના વાઈરસની ગંભીર મહામારી ફાટી નીકળી છે જેને આપણે કોવિડ-19 તરીકે ઓળખીએ છીએ. સમગ્ર વિશ્વ આજે ભીષણ રોગગ્રસ્ત - મહામારીમાંથી પસાર થઈ રહ્યું છે. ગામ હોય, શહેર હોય કે દેશ તમામ તંત્રો અને યંત્રોની ગતિ થંભી ગઈ છે. સમગ્ર વિશ્વના નાગરિકો સમાચારની હેડલાઈન્સ જોઈ રહ્યા છે અને સ્તબ્ધ થઈ પ્રશ્નો ઉઠાવી રહ્યા છે. “હવે પછી શું થશે?” ઘણા લોકો માટે કોરોના વાઈરસની મૂંઝવણને નિયંત્રિત કરવી મુશ્કેલ છે. એમને કદાચ ખબર નથી કે આ વાઈરસ આપણી ઉપર કેવી રીતે અસર કરશે અથવા જોખમ કેવી રીતે આવી શકે છે. અને તેવા લોકો સતત ભય અને ગભરાટમાં પોતાના જીવનને અને આસપાસના જીવનને વધુ ભયજનક બનાવે છે. કોરોના વાઈરસ એક પ્રકારનો વાઈરસ જ છે જેના સંક્રમણથી વ્યક્તિનું મૃત્યુ થઈ શકે છે, આ વાઈરસની કોઈ દવા કે પ્રતિરોધક રસી હજુ સુધી ઉપલબ્ધ નથી, અને સરકાર દ્વારા લેવાતાં કઠિન પરંતુ જરૂરી પગલાંથી થયેલી અસર હોય કે સતત કોરોના વાઈરસના ડરાવનારા સમાચાર આ તમામ બાબતો માનવીના માનસિક સ્વાસ્થ્ય ઉપર પણ ખૂબ જ નિષેધાત્મક અસર કરી રહી છે.

કોરોના વાઈરસથી વ્યક્તિના શારીરિક સ્વાસ્થ્ય પર તો અસર થાય છે જ. પરંતુ સાથે હવે તેની માનસિક અસરો પણ સામે આવી રહી છે. જેમ કે, વાઈરસની ગંભીરતા, વધતા જતા કેસોની સંખ્યા, સતત ફેલાતું સંક્રમણ, વધતા જતા મૃત્યુદરના આંકડાથી આજે વ્યક્તિની આસપાસ એક જ વિષય રહી ગયો છે ‘કોરોના’. આ કોવિડ-19 વાઈરસથી વ્યક્તિમાં ચિંતા, ભય, ડિપ્રેશન, એકલતા, ઓ.સી.ડી, જેવી માનસિક બીમારીઓ જોવા મળી રહી છે, અને ક્યારેક આ પરિસ્થિતિનો સામનો ના કરી શકવાથી વ્યક્તિને જીવન ટૂંકાવું પડે તેવા બનાવ પણ સામે આવી રહ્યા છે. વ્યક્તિ સતત ચિંતા અને ભયમાં જીવન જીવી રહ્યો છે. આ બીમારી મને તો નહીં થઈ જાય ને?, મારો પરિવાર તો સુરક્ષિત રહેશે ને?, મને કે પરિવારમાં કોઈને આ બીમારી થઈ જશે તો શું કરીશ?, જેવા અસંખ્ય પ્રશ્નોથી વ્યક્તિ સતત ચિંતા અને ભયના વાતાવરણમાં જીવન જીવી રહ્યા છે. વાઈરસના સતત વધતા જતા ભયજનક સ્વરૂપ સામે વ્યક્તિ પોતાની જાતને લાચાર અને નિઃસહાય અનુભવે છે. આ અનુભવ વ્યક્તિમાં માનસિક હતાશા-નિરાશા જન્માવે

છે. આ મહામારીના સંક્રમણથી બચવા સરકાર દ્વારા સોશિયલ ડિસ્ટન્સિંગ (સામાજિક દૂરી), લોકડાઉન જેવાં કઠિન પરંતુ અતિ આવશ્યક પગલાં લેવામાં આવ્યાં છે. જ્યારે આ વાઈરસનો હજુ સુધી કોઈ ઉકેલ મળ્યો નથી ત્યાં સુધી દેશના તમામ નાગરિકોને સરકાર દ્વારા પોતપોતાના ઘરમાં જ રહેવા અપીલ કરાઈ છે. અનિશ્ચિત સમય સુધી આવી પરિસ્થિતિમાં રહેવાથી વ્યક્તિના માનસ ઉપર ખૂબ ઊંડી અસર પડે છે. વ્યક્તિ એકલતા અનુભવે છે, સતત એકના એક માહોલમાં રહેવાથી વ્યક્તિની સર્જનાત્મક શક્તિ ઉપર વિપરીત અસર થાય છે. આ ઉપરાંત ઘરની બહાર જઈ શકતા ના હોવાથી વ્યક્તિની આર્થિક સ્થિતિ ઉપર અસર થાય છે. આર્થિક મંદીના કારણે વ્યક્તિ પરિવારનું ભરણપોષણ કરી શકતો નથી. અને અંતે આવી પરિસ્થિતિમાં ઘણા પરિવારોના સામૂહિક આત્મહત્યાના બનાવ સામે આવ્યા છે. પરંતુ શું આ માનસિક સમસ્યાઓનું કોઈ સમાધાન નથી?

આપણે ઈચ્છીએ તો આ માનસિક સમસ્યાઓનું નિરાકરણ લાવી શકીએ છીએ. આપણે પોતાના ખુદનું અને આપણી આસપાસના તમામ લોકોના માનસિક સ્વાસ્થ્ય જાળવી રાખવામાં મદદરૂપ થઈ શકીએ છીએ. સામાન્ય ચિંતા-ભયની પરિસ્થિતિમાં વ્યક્તિએ ચિંતા કે ભયનાં સાચાં કારણો શોધવાં જોઈએ, ચિંતા અને ભયની ઘટનાની વાસ્તવિકતા સ્વીકારીને ચિંતા ભયની પરિસ્થિતિનું નિવારણ કરવા માટે વિચારવું જોઈએ. મતલબ વ્યક્તિ એ પ્રોબ્લમ ઓરિએન્ટેડ થિંકિંગમાંથી બહાર નીકળીને સોલ્યુશન ઓરિએન્ટેડ થિંકિંગ વિકસાવવી જોઈએ. આસપાસમાંથી મળતી માહિતી સ્વીકાર્યા પહેલાં કે અન્ય સુધી પહોંચાડતાં પહેલાં તેની ખરાઈ કરી લેવી જોઈએ. જે પણ માહિતીની સચ્ચાઈ કે ગંભીરતાની વાસ્તવિકતાનો સ્વીકાર કરો, સમસ્યાથી દૂર ભાગવા કરતાં દૃઢતાપૂર્વક તેનો સામનો કરો. હતાશા, નિરાશા કે ઉદાસીનતા સામે પોતાની અંદર રહેલી સર્જનાત્મક શક્તિને વિકસાવો. પોતાનું રોજિંદું જીવન જાળવી રાખવા પ્રયાસ કરો, આજે મળેલા અમૂલ્ય સમયનો સદુપયોગ કરો. પોતાની સવારની દિનચર્યામાં યોગ, પ્રાણાયામ, હળવી કસરતોથી દિવસની શરૂઆત કરો. પરિવાર સાથે પ્રેમ અને હૂંફથી સમય પસાર કરો. પોતાના સ્વાસ્થ્યને અનુકૂળ હોય તેવો આહાર લેવો. વારંવાર હાથ ધોવા જરૂરી છે પરંતુ આ આદાત તીવ્ર બનીને ઓ.સી.ડીનું સ્વરૂપ ધારણ ન કરી લે તેની પણ કાળજી રાખવી. કોઈ પણ કારણથી માનસિક સ્વાસ્થ્ય વધારે જોખમરૂપ લાગે તો માનસિક સ્વાસ્થ્યના નિષ્ણાત મનોચિકિત્સક(સાઈકોલોજિસ્ટ), કાઉન્સેલરની મદદ લેવી જરૂરી છે. કોઈ પણ નકારાત્મક પગલું ભરવાનો વિચાર આવે તે પહેલાં પરિસ્થિતિને સુધારવી આપણા હાથમાં છે.

પરિવર્તન સૃષ્ટિનો નિયમ છે, આજે સમય વિકટ છે, પરંતુ આ સમય પણ વીતી જશે. આવતીકાલે ફરી આપણે તમામ આ મહામારીમાંથી બહાર નીકળીને સ્વસ્થ જીવન શરૂ કરીશું, પરંતુ ત્યાં સુધી આપણે પોતાને અને આપણી આસપાસના જીવનનું શારીરિક અને માનસિક સ્વાસ્થ્ય જાળવી રાખવું આપણી જવાબદારી છે.

## ભારતના સ્વાતંત્ર્યસંગ્રામમાં સ્ત્રીઓનો ફાળો

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**અ** પણ જાણીએ છીએ એ પ્રમાણે આપણા ભારતમાં પ્રાચીન સમયમાં સ્ત્રીઓનો દરજ્જો જે છે એ ભારતીય સમાજમાં ઊંચો ગણવામાં આવતો હતો.

“નારી તું નારાયણી”, “દીકરી ઘરની લક્ષ્મી”, વગેરે જેવાં વાક્યોથી સ્ત્રીજાતિને નવાજવામાં આવી હતી પરંતુ પ્રાચીન સમય પછી ભારતીય સમાજમાં એક એવા સમયનું વંટોળ આવ્યું જ્યાં સ્ત્રીઓની સ્થિતિ કથળતી ગઈ. એ સમયે સમાજમાં સ્ત્રીઓનો દરજ્જો નિમ્ન ગણવામાં આવતો હતો.

પુરુષપ્રધાન સમાજમાં સ્ત્રીઓનું અસ્તિત્વ છે જ નહિ એ પ્રમાણે સમાજમાં તેમની ગણના કરવામાં આવતી હતી. સ્ત્રીઓએ ઘરમાં ચાર દીવાલોમાં રહીને પોતાનું જીવન પસાર કરવાનું. જે ભારતીય સમાજમાં “નારી તું નારાયણી”, દીકરીની તુલના લક્ષ્મી સાથે કરવામાં આવતી હતી. તે સમાજમાં એવી સંકુચિત માનસિકતાનું વંટોળ આવ્યો કે સમાજમાં “દીકરીને સાપનો ભારો એવી માનસિકતા સમાજમાં વિકસતી ગઈ. પરંતુ પશ્ચિમી શિક્ષણના પરિણામે ભારતમાં અનેક સુધારકો થઈ ગયા, જેમના પ્રયત્નોને પરિણામે ધીમે ધીમે સમાજમાં પરિવર્તન આવવા લાગ્યું. ગાંધીયુગીન વાતાવરણ પણ સ્ત્રીઓની સમાજમાં સ્થિતિ સુધારવા અને સ્વાતંત્ર્યસેનામાં ભાગ લેવામાં પણ અગત્યનું છે.

સામાજિક પરિવર્તનને પરિણામે જે સ્ત્રીઓ માત્ર ઘરની ચાર દીવાલોમાં રહીને પોતાનું જીવન પસાર કરવું એવી સંકુચિત માનસિકતામાંથી બહાર આવીને જાહેર જીવનમાં સહભાગી બનીને આઝાદીની લડતમાં પુરુષની સમોવડી બનીને કાર્યરત બની આઝાદીની લડતમાં મહત્ત્વની ભૂમિકા ભજવી.

ભારત દેશને આઝાદી માત્ર પુરુષો દ્વારા નહીં પરંતુ તેમાં સ્ત્રીઓનું પણ એટલું જ પ્રત્યક્ષ અથવા પરોક્ષ રીતે મહત્ત્વનું પ્રદાન રહેલું છે. આઝાદીની લડતમાં સહભાગી બનીને આધુનિક ભારતના નિર્માણમાં અગ્રેસર બની છે. જેમાંની કેટલીક સ્ત્રીઓ નીચે પ્રમાણે છે.

### (1) કસ્તુરબા

કસ્તુરબાની ઓળખ માત્ર ગાંધીજીનાં પત્ની તરીકે સીમિત કરી દેવામાં આવી હતી. ગાંધીજીએ એક નેતા તરીકે દેશને આઝાદી અપાવી તેમાં પ્રત્યક્ષ અથવા પરોક્ષ રીતે કસ્તુરબાના ત્યાગ ને બલિદાનનું પરિણામે છે. કસ્તુરબાએ આઝાદીની લડતમાં એક સ્ત્રીનેતા તરીકે પોતાની આગવી ઓળખ બતાવી. કસ્તુરબાની આગેવાની તળે વિદેશી

માલ સામે પિકેટિંગ, ધારાસભાની ચૂંટણીનો બહિષ્કાર જેવા સત્યાગ્રહોમાં ભાગ લઈ આઝાદી આપવવામાં મહત્વની ભૂમિકા રહી છે.

## (2) હંસાબેન મહેતા

હંસાબેન મહેતાએ પાર્લામેન્ટરી સેક્રેટરી તરીકે કામ કરનાર સ્ત્રી અને સ્વાતંત્ર્ય સંગ્રામમાં પણ અગત્યનો ભાગ ભજવ્યો હતો. હંસાબેન મહેતા મુંબઈ હરિજન સેવા સંઘનાં ઉપપ્રમુખ અને ભગિની સમાજપત્રિકાનાં તંત્રીપદે રહ્યાં હતાં. 1930ની અસહકારની પ્રવૃત્તિમાં સક્રિય ભાગ લઈ તેમણે દેશ માટે 3 માસ તેઓ કારાવાસમાં રહ્યાં હતાં.

1940-41 સત્યાગ્રહની ફરી લડતમાં જોડાયા જેના પરિણામે 5 માસની ચરવડા જેલમાં સજા ભોગવી હતી.

## (3) ઉષાબેન મહેતા

ઉષા મહેતા એ એવી સ્ત્રી છે કે એમના હૃદયમાં સતત દેશપ્રેમનું વલણ વહ્યા કરે, તે ક્યારેય સુકાય એમ નહોતું.

ઉષાબેનનો જન્મ 25 મી માર્ચ 1920ના રોજ ઓલપાડ તાલુકાના સરસ ગામમાં થયો હતો. ઉષાબેન 1930ના મીઠા સત્યાગ્રહ વખતે વાનરસેનામાં જોડાયેલાં અને ત્યારથી તેમણે ગાંધીજીના કહેવાથી ખાદી અપનાવી હતી.

8 મી ઓગસ્ટે મુંબઈના ગોવાલિયા ટેન્ક તરીકે ઓળખાતા મેદાનમાં ભારત કોંગ્રેસ મહાસમિતિનું અધિવેશન ભરાયેલું ત્યારે સેવિકા હતાં. સમાજવાદી રામમનોહર લોહિયાને રેડિયો સ્ટેશન સ્થાપવાનો વિચાર આવ્યો. ભારત છોડો યુદ્ધનું એલાન કરવાનું વિચારીયું. તે વખતે સારા વક્તા તરીકે ઉષાબેનનું નામ જાણીતું હતું. રેડિયો ઉપર ઉષાબેન દ્વારા 13 મી ઓગસ્ટ 1942ના દિવસે અંગ્રેજોની હકૂમત વગર ની વાણી “ ચહ કોંગ્રેસ રેડિયો હે” એવી વાણી સાંભળવા મળી.

અંગ્રેજોથી બચવા દરરોજ પ્રસારણનું સ્થળ બદલતા. ઉષાબેન રોજ રાત્રે કોંગ્રેસ રેડિયો પરથી હિન્દ છોડોની ગર્જના કરતાં હતાં. ત્રણ મહિના પછી અંગ્રેજ સરકાર ને આ રેડિયો અંગેની માહિતી મળતાં ઉષાબેન અને તેમના સાથીની ધરપકડ કરવામાં આવી અને ઉષાબેનને 4 વર્ષની કેદની સજા કરવામાં આવી.

GANDHI AND WOMEN ખ્યાત નામ છે. તેમનાં લખાણો અને જીવનમાં પણ દેશપ્રેમ દર્શાઈ આવે છે.

## (4) વિજ્યાલક્ષ્મી પંડિત

વિજ્યાલક્ષ્મી પંડિતએ પણ સ્વતંત્રતા અપાવવામાં મહત્વનો ભાગ ભજવ્યો હતો. ગાંધીજી સાથે વિજ્યાલક્ષ્મી પંડિત ને વૈચારિક મતભેદો હતા છતાંય અંગ્રેજોને ભારતમાંથી હાંકી કાઢવાની વાત ઉપર ગાંધીજી સાથે સહમત થયાં હતાં. 1942માં ક્વિટ ઈન્ડિયા

ચળવળ સામે વિજ્યાલક્ષ્મીના પતિનું અવસાન થયું હતું. સમગ્ર પરિવારની જવાબદારી તેમની ઉપર આવી હતી. તેમને પુત્ર ન હોવાથી પતિની મિલકત માગી નહોતી.

વિજ્યાલક્ષ્મી પંડિતે અખિલ ભારતીય મહિલામંડળની સ્થાપના કરી તેનાં અધ્યક્ષ તરીકે 2 વર્ષ કામગીરી કરી. સ્વતંત્રતા આંદોલને પરિણામે 1932માં તેઓ પ્રથમ જેલયાત્રા એ ગયા અને 1942માં છેલ્લી છેલ્લી જેલની સજા ભોગવી બહાર આવ્યાં હતાં.

1947માં દેશ આઝાદ થયો ત્યારે વિજ્યાલક્ષ્મી ભારતના રશિયા ખાતેના રાજદૂત બનીને મોસ્કો ગયા અને 1953માં પ્રથમ મહિલા સચુક્ત રાસ્ટ્ર સંઘના અધ્યક્ષ બન્યા.

આમ, આ સ્ત્રીઓએ ભારતના સ્વાતંત્ર્ય સંગ્રામમાં ગાંધીજી સાથે સહભાગી બની અગત્યની ભૂમિકા ભજવી હતી.

આવી બીજી ઘણી સ્ત્રીઓ છે જેમણે સ્વતંત્રતાની લડતમાં પુરુષની સમોવડી બની સ્વાતંત્ર્ય અપાવવામાં પ્રત્યક્ષ અથવા પરોક્ષ રીતે પોતાની ભૂમિકા અદા કરી હતી.

હજુ ઘણી સ્ત્રીઓ એવી છે કે જેમણે ભારતમાં સ્વતંત્રતાની ચળવળમાં સક્રિય ભૂમિકા ભજવી હતી. પરંતુ ઇતિહાસના પાને તેમનો ઉલ્લેખ નથી. પણ ઉલ્લેખ ન હોવાથી તેમણે કરેલાં કાર્યો નું મૂલ્ય ઓછું ન આંકી શકાય. એટલે ભારતને સ્વતંત્રતા અપાવવામાં જેટલી અગત્યની ભૂમિકા પુરુષોની રહી એટલી જ સ્ત્રીઓની પણ રહેલી છે.

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## कबीर के काव्य में मानवतावाद

संत कवियों में सबसे अधिक प्रभावशाली व्यक्तित्व महात्मा कबीर का ही था। कबीर ही एक ऐसे कवि थे, जिनके व्यक्तित्व में प्रतिभा, बुद्धि और काव्यशक्ति का सुभग समन्वय देखा जा सकता है। समाज के निम्नवर्ग में जन्म लेकर भी जिन्होंने अपनी प्रतिभा और काव्य से समग्र समाज को हिला कर रख दिया। अशिक्षित होते हुए भी एक सशक्त महाकवि, समाजसुधारक और महान नेता के रूप में कोटिकोटि जनता के हृदय को प्रभावित करनेवाले एकमात्र कवि कबीर ही हैं।

कबीर के काव्यसाहित्य पर तत्कालीन विभिन्न स्रोतों का जो प्रभाव पड़ा, वें इस प्रकार है -

भिन संप्रदाय, नाथ संप्रदाय, इस्लाम (सूफी) धर्म, वैष्णव भक्ति आदि।

परंतु उपर्युक्त सारे प्रभावों के बावजूद न तो कबीर मज़हबी कट्टर थे, न किसी एक रूढ़ि में विश्वास करनेवाले। कबीर के काव्य में उनकी विवेकबुद्धि स्पष्ट रूप से झलकती है। सांसारिक अनुभवों के आधार पर सत्य-असत्य की परख और सहज में आस्था रखनेवाला मानवतावादी व्यक्तित्व की कबीर को सच्चा दृष्टा बनाता है।

कबीर के काव्य में मानवतावादी दृष्टि का चरण उत्कर्ष व्याक स्तर पर हैं। उन्होंने भक्त को परजन हिताय बनाकर समष्टि के हितमें प्रस्तुत करते हुए मानवतावाद का परिचय दिया है। अपने जुलाहे के व्यवसाय को कबीरने छोटे-बड़े के भेद को दूर करने का माध्यम बनाया था। इस पर से पता चलता है कि मनुष्य-मनुष्य के बीच का अंतर मात्र धर्म, जाति, या वर्ण के आधार पर ही नहीं होता, बल्कि व्यवसाय भी छोटे-मोटे के भेद को बढ़ाता है। ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि सामाजिक भेद दूर करने के लिए ही कबीर आजीवन इस जुलाहे के धन्धे के साथ जुड़े रहे।

कबीरने मानवतावाद की स्थापना के लिए सहिष्णुता, परदुःखकारता, सुसंगति, प्रेममहिमा, संयम और सदाचार जैसे सदगुणों का प्रतिपादन किया। कबीर का जीवन मानो जनता और मानवता के लिए ही समर्पित था। कबीर के काव्य में जगत के सभी जीवों के प्रति प्रेम और समर्पण के उच्च भाव देखे जा सकते हैं। संसार के जीवों के लिए अपना अस्तित्व समर्पित करनेवाले कबीरने वास्तव में समता और एकता की स्थापना है।

सुखिया सब संसार है, खावै अरू सोवे,

दुखिया दास कबीर है, जागै अरू रोतै।

कबीरकाव्यमें सैद्धांतिक पक्ष से भी बलवत्तर उनकी व्यावहारिक विचारधारा है, जिसमें

स्थान-स्थान पर मानवता को स्वीकार किया गया है। कबीर के युगमें धर्म और संप्रदायिक नाम पर अनेक प्रकार के दुराचार और अत्याचार हो रहे थे। धर्म का स्वरूप, पूजा के विधि-विधान, कर्म-कांड, अंधविश्वास, रूढ़िचुस्तता के कारण जब मानव मानव के बीच वैमनस्य पैदा हुआ, घृणा और नफरत, स्वार्थ और ईर्ष्या पनपने लगी, तब मानवतावादी कबीर का हृदय हिल उठा और उन्होंने अपनी रचनाओं में धर्म के व्यावहारिक स्वरूप को स्पष्ट करने का प्रयास करते हुए छुआछूत, मूर्तिपूजा, तीर्थ, उपवास जैसे बाह्याडंबर का विरोध करने के साथ साथ मुसलमानों की नमाज़, जीव-हत्या आदि की भी भर्त्सना की है।

“जो तू बाँभन बाँभनी जाया,  
तो आनबाट दै क्यों नहिं आया।  
जो तू तुरक तुरकनी जाया,  
तो भीतर खतना क्यों न कराया।”

“साधो देखो जग बौराना।

साँचि कहाँ तो मानर धातै झूठे जग पतियाना।

हिन्दु कहत है राम हमारा, मुसलमान रहिमाना।

आपस में दोउ लड़े मरतु हैं, मरम कोई नहिं जाना।”

इस प्रकार कबीरने दोनों धर्मों की बुराइयों का खंडन निष्पक्ष रूप में करते हुए मानवधर्म को ही सबसे ऊँचा और श्रेयस्कर माना है। मानवता से भरी हुई कबीर की मान्यता थी कि मानव मानव समान है। धर्म, संप्रदाय, जाति या वर्ण से मनुष्य मनुष्य से भिन्न नहीं हो सकता। सभी में एक ही परमतत्त्व व्याप्त है। प्रकृति भी सभी के लिए समान है तो फिर इस प्रकार की संकुचितता और संकीर्णता क्यों?

“एक बूंद एक मल-मूतर एक चाम एक गुदा

एक ज्योति तैं सब ऊपजा, कौन ब्राह्मन कौन सूदा।।”

कबीर की मानवतावादी दृष्टि ही उन्हें जातिवाद, धर्मवाद और वर्णवाद पर निष्ठापूर्वक कठोर बनाती है। हिन्दी साहित्य के अन्य किसी सन्त या भक्त कवि में इतना साहस और स्पष्टवादिता दृष्टिगोचर नहीं होते। कबीर की मानवता प्रत्येक मनुष्य की आत्मा की समता और एकता की स्थापना करने की द्योतक है।

कबीर की मानवतावादी दृष्टिने उन्हें कहीं कहीं अखंड या कठोर जरूर बनाया है, परंतु उनके कठोर स्तर में भी सामाजिक कलंक को निर्मूल करने की स्पष्ट घोषणा है। इसी कारण कबीर एक भक्त होने के साथ साथ सच्चे समाज सुधारक भी थे। फिर भी उन्होंने न तो समाज-सुधारक की भाँति कोरे उपदेश दिए न ही अपना दर्शन लोगों पर जबरदस्ती थोपने का प्रयास किया, बल्कि कबीर ने किसी भी जातिवाद से अलिस रहकर प्रजा को एकता, समता, सहिष्णुता और उदारता के पाठ अपने अनुभवों के आधार पर पढ़ाकर एक



स्वच्छ एवम् संपूर्ण समाज की रचना करने का प्रयास किया। जिसे समाज ने प्यार, श्रद्धा और विनम्रता से अपनाया, यही कबीर के मानवतावाद की विजय है। समाज सुधार के लिए कबीरने प्रेम पर अधिक बल देते हुए कहा -

“जा घट प्रेम न संचरै सो घट जानू मसान।

जैसे खाल लोहार की, साँस लेत बिनू प्रान।।”

“ढाई अच्छर प्रेम का, पढ़ै सो पंडित होय।”

सामाजिक सुधार तथा मानव-मानव के बीच की खाई को पाटने के लिए वे प्रेम को अनिवार्य मानते हैं।

वास्तव में कबीरने समाज में व्याप्त दुःख, निराशा एवं कुंठा का जो स्वरूप देखा उसी के कारण वे मानवमात्र की पीड़ा और दुःख को दूर करने की दिशा में उन्मुख हुए। दूसरे शब्दों में कहें तो कबीर मानवजाति को दुःख से परित्राण दिलाने के लिए दृढ-संकल्प एवं कटिबद्ध थे।

“निज वैरी निह कामता, साईं सेती नेह।

विषिया सूं न्यारा रहे, सन्तन का अंग एह।।”

कबीरने जब अपनी रचनाओं में मानवतावाद की स्थापना करनी चाही, तब तब कठोर साधना, धर्माडम्बर, कुरिवाज, रूढिचुस्तता, संकीर्णता, अंधविश्वास आदि सामाजिक झूठी मान्यताओं और कुप्रथा का विरोध करते हुए तटस्थ भाव से अपने विचारों को जन-जन तक पहुँचाकर सामाजिक समता और जनकल्याणकी भावना को उजागर किया। परिणामस्वरूप कबीरजी की वाणी और सन्देश समाज के प्रत्येक वर्ग, जाति और धर्म के मनुष्यों के बीच प्रवाहित हुई।

कबीरने धर्म के सत स्वरूप का खंडन भी किया है। मुख्यतः उन्होंने गुरुभक्ति, ईश्वर-स्मरण, संसार की नश्वरता, सुसंगति, संयम और सदाचार, परमार्थ आदि सद्गुणों एवं सद्वृत्तियों का प्रतिपादन विधेयात्मक रूप में किया है।

“सतगुरु की महिमा अनन्त, अनन्त किया उपकार।

लोचन अनन्त उघाडिया, अनन्त दिखावण हार।।”

“झुटै सुख को सुख कहै, मानत है मन मोंद।

जगत चबैना काल का कछु मुख में कछु गोद।।”

“कबीरा संगत साधकी, ज्यों गंधी की बास।

जो कुछ गंधी दे नहीं, तो भी बास सुवास।।”

“कबीर सुता क्या करै, गुण गोविन्द के गाई।  
तेरे सिर पर जम खड़ा, खरच कदै का खाई॥”

“सरवर, तरहवर संतजन, चौथे बरसे मेह।  
परमारथ के कारण ही चारों धरि है देह॥”

इस प्रकार हम देखते हैं कि कबीर ने धर्म के पवित्र रूप की प्रतिष्ठा के द्वारा ही समस्त मानवजाति को सही अर्थ में दिशानिर्देश दिया। कबीर ने प्रायः जिन विचारों का प्रतिपादन किया है वे उनकी अनुमति, अनुभवों से समन्वित तथा उच्च भावनाओं से परिपूर्ण हैं।

कबीरदास वास्तव में अपूर्व प्रतिभासम्पन्न कवि थे। उन्होंने अपनी सशक्त, तीखी और करारी भाषा में जो कुछ भी कहा वह मानवतावाद से ओतप्रोत है। कबीर मात्र समाजसुधारक ही नहीं बल्कि मानवप्रेमी और मानवतावादी एक ऐसे महापुरुष थे जिन्होंने नर में ही नारायण की अनुभूति की थी। कबीरजी की रचनाएँ मनुष्य को सही पथ दिखाने में अत्यंत सक्षम हैं।

उनके काव्य में भाव, विचार, तथ्य, कल्पना, भाषा और अलंकार का सुभग समन्वय दिखाई देता है। अक्षरज्ञान से सर्वथा शून्य होते हुए भी कबीर भाव, विचार और साधना के जिस ऊँचे स्तर तक पहुँचे वह अद्भुत है। स्वानुभूतियों की जो मार्मिक व्यंजना कबीर में है, यह अन्य किसी भी कवि में प्राप्त नहीं होती, इसी कारण आज भी कबीरजी की रचनाएँ प्रासंगिक प्रतीत होती हैं।

युगीन परिस्थितियों की पृष्ठभूमि में कबीर का जो स्वरूप सामने आता है वह है युगद्रष्टा और जननायक कवि का। कबीर का लक्ष्य शुद्ध कविता की रचना करना नहीं था, कविता को उन्होंने अपने भावों तथा विचारों को जनता तक पहुँचाने का माध्यम बनाया था। इसी कारण उनका काव्य सन्देशप्रधान है।

समग्रतः कहा जा सकता है कि जीवन के विविध क्षेत्रों – धर्म, समाज और नीति में कबीरने अपने युग का नेतृत्व किया है। डॉ. रामकुमार वर्माने कबीर की महानता के संदर्भ में कहा है - “ऐसी स्वतंत्र प्रवृत्तिवाला कलाकार किसी साहित्य-क्षेत्र में नहीं पाया गया।”

## राजेन्द्र यादव के उपन्यासों में धार्मिक रूढ़िवादिता

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**भा**रतीय समाजव्यवस्था धर्म पर आधारित है। भारतीय लोग धर्म को अधिक महत्त्व देते हैं। इसी कारण समाजव्यवस्था सुव्यवस्थित सम्पन्न बन गई है। धर्म के आधार पर समाज का विकास हो रहा है। भारतीय लोगों का धर्म पर विश्वास है, इससे धर्म की ताकत बढ़ रही है। प्राचीन काल से भारत में धर्म का स्थान महत्त्वपूर्ण है। हमारा अतीत धार्मिक दृष्टि से गौरवमय रहा है और उनके नियम शाश्वत नियमों की भांति समाज में मान्य रहे हैं।

आजादी के बाद ग्रामों का विकास करने की दृष्टि से भारत सरकार ने प्रयोग किया है। सरकारी योजनाओं और औद्योगिकीकरण से ग्रामों को सुधारने और योजनाओं का विकास की दृष्टि से प्रयत्न किया है। नई चेतना और जागृति से ग्रामों का चित्र बदल गया। लेकिन परंपरा से जो रूढ़िगत मान्यताएँ हैं उसे ग्रामीण भोले-भाले लोगों ने छोड़ा नहीं। उसका पालन अंधविश्वास से आज भी करते हैं। ग्रामीण लोगों के जीवन में इससे अनेक समस्याएँ निर्माण होती हैं।

राजेन्द्र यादव के उपन्यासों में धार्मिक रूढ़ियों की घोर भर्त्सना है। धर्म के नाम पर अपनी स्वार्थ सिद्ध करने वाले महंतों और पूजारियों पर करारा व्यंग किया गया है।

धर्म पर विश्वास करने वाले लोग कायर और भीरु हो गये हैं। वे ईश्वर के नाम पर अनेक दुष्कर्म करते हुए दिखाई देते हैं। रूढ़िवादी धार्मिक संस्कार केवल ढकोसला मात्र रह गये हैं। कर्म में विश्वास करने वाला प्रत्येक व्यक्ति आज धर्म का विद्रोही हो गया है। क्योंकि जिंदगी जीने के लिए मानव को खुद संघर्ष करना पड़ता है। मन्दिरों में भगवान की मूर्तियाँ के सामने नाक रगड़ने से पेट की आग शांत नहीं होगी। राम-नाम का जप करने मात्र से भूख शांत नहीं होती। धार्मिक रूढ़ियों में बंधे हुए लोग आज भी उन्हें त्यागने से डरते हैं उनकी दृष्टि में मंदिर जाना पूजा-पाठ करना, धर्म में प्रवृत्त होना है किन्तु राजेन्द्र यादव के पात्र उसका विरोध करते हैं। शायद इसीलिए शिरीष के हिन्दु धर्म संबंधी विचार सूनकर समर अपनी चोटी कटवा लेता है। समर की दृष्टि में हिन्दु धर्म भले ही सर्वश्रेष्ठ हो किन्तु शिरीष के शब्दों में समर के पूछने पर “आप अपने हिन्दु धर्म को संसार का सर्वश्रेष्ठ धर्म नहीं मानते हैं” शिरीष कहता है – “आपकी इस संघवाली भाषा को अरब सागर के पार कोई नहीं जानता। दुनिया ‘एटम’ और हाईड्रोजन बम बनाती है और अपनी गोबर संस्कृति के लिए रोते हैं। ईसाइयों को आप चाहे जितनी गालियाँ दे के वे लोगों का धर्म बदलते हैं मगर वे ही हैं जो अनजान लोगों के बीच लाखों मुसीबतें सहकर जाते हैं। अपनी जिंदगी

धर्म के नाम पर अर्पित कर देते हैं।” इस प्रकार धर्म के विकृत रूप पर व्यंग किया गया। साधु-संतों को आश्रय देने वाले हिन्दुओं की घोर भर्त्सना राजेन्द्र यादव ने की है। शिरीष के शब्दों में “आपके यहां विश्व कल्याण की बात करते-करते अगर किसी को जोश आ भी गया तो हिमालय में तपस्या करने भाग खड़ा होता है। पैसा हुआ तो साधुओं के पालने के लिए मंदिरों में जागीरें लगा देता है। गरीब हुआ तो सिर घुटाकर दूध-मलाई खाने लगता है। आपका धर्म सबसे ज्यादा अवैज्ञानिक धर्म है। आदमी की बुद्धि के सारे विकास को भूलकर जो धर्म अव्यवहारिक बातों को जीवन का लक्ष्य बताता रहें, संसार के सारे ज्ञान-विज्ञान को वेदों में खोजता रहे, वह सचमुच दयनीय है।

‘अनदेखे अनजान फुल’ की निन्नी व्रत-उपवास इत्यादि इसीलिए करती है जिससे वह अपनी कुरूपता का निवारण कर सकें। मिथकों पर भी उसका मन आसानी से विश्वास कर लेता है। उसने सुना था कि “शिवजी बड़े भोले हैं और पार्वती जी को उस जैसी अनाथ, असहाय, दुःखी लड़की पर दया आ जाय तो काम बन जाय। वह रातदिन पार्वती की पूजा करती, उपवास रखती।

ये सारे विचार संस्कारग्रस्त मनःस्थिति के ही कारण उभरने वाले हैं। निन्नि जिस निम्न मध्यवर्गीय परिवार में पली-बढ़ी है, वहां पूजा-पाठ, व्रत-उपवास आदि जीवन का अहम हिस्सा है। मगर जैसे-जैसे व्यक्ति ज्ञानार्जन करता है, वैसे-वैसे इस सारे ढकोसलों को वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण से देखने और परखने का नजरिया उसे मिल पाता है। यहां निन्नी को भी पता चलता है कि पूजा पाठ से उसका रंग निखरनेवाला नहीं है। यदि ठीक होगा भी तो केवल दवा लेने के या उससे सम्बन्धित वैद्यकीय की गोलियां लेने से। उसे इस बात के लिए खेद होता है कि हमारे इस देश ने अबतक ऐसी दवाओं की खोज नहीं की है। “हमारा यह देश भी तो कम्बख्त इतना पिछड़ा हुआ है कि जो चीजें पश्चिम में सो साल पुरानी हो जाती हैं वे यहां नयी होकर आती हैं।

‘शह और मात’ की सुजाता अपने कालेज में खेले जानेवाले नाटक की सफलता पर महालक्ष्मी के मंदिर जाकर सवा रूपये का प्रसाद चढ़ाना चाहती है। “अगर सब संभव हो जाय तो महालक्ष्मी पर सवा रूपये का प्रसाद चढ़ाउंगी...”

‘कुलटा’ की मिसेज रुद्रा समझती है कि मिसेज तेजपाल - जो बांझ है - अपनी बच्ची को ले जाकर कोई जादू-टोना न करा दे।

‘मंत्रविद्’ का तारकदत्त कलकत्ता में कालीघाट जाकर पूजारी से प्रसाद ले लेता है, अपने अशुभ ग्रह को दूर करवाने के लिए मंत्रित सुपारी को लेकर सुरजीत की बांह में बांधना चाहता है। पढ़ा-लिखा होकर भी तरकदत्त इन अंध-विश्वासों को मानता है।

समर के दोस्त दिवाकर को ईंटर की परीक्षा देने के बाद यह डर रहता है कि वह पास होगा या नहीं। अतः वह रोज मंदिर जाता है। जब समर उससे पूछता है कि वह ईंटर के बाद

क्या करने वाला है, तब उसका जवाब होता है - “अरे यार, पास तो हो जाय पहले, फिर कुछ सोचें भी। अगर कहीं फेल हो गये तो एक साल की पिसाई और हो जाएगी। रोज मंदिर में दर्शन करने जाना और दुनियाभर के सगुन बनाना बेकार चला जाएगा। यह सिर्फ अकेले दिवाकर का कथन नहीं, बल्कि पूरी युवा पीढ़ी का कथन है, जो आत्मविश्वास की कमी के बोझ तले दबी पड़ी है। ऐसे में भगवान ही उनके लिए कर्ता-धर्ता है। यहां उत्तर में समर का कथन भी उल्लेखनीय है - “भाड में जाय फस्ट डिविजन, बस पास हो जाय तो जाकर हनुमान जी को सवा रूपये का प्रसाद चढायेंगे।”

इस प्रकार यहां मध्यवर्ग की युवा पीढ़ी की मतलबी श्रद्धा-भक्ति का परिचय मिलता है। इतना ही नहीं, जब समर को पता चलता है कि अब तक वह अपनी पत्नी के साथ घोर अन्याय कर रहा है और इस बात का एहसास होते ही वह तुरन्त मंदिर जाकर भगवान से प्रार्थना करता है - “मुझे दंड दो भगवान मुझे दंड दो, मैंने एक निरिह अबला पर घोर अत्याचार किए हैं। उसे नारकीय यातनाएं दी जाती हैं और मैं चुपचाप देखता रहा। कहां चली गई थी मेरी आंखें? ठीक है मैं तो लडका था, लेकिन इन अम्मा बाबूजी को आखिर हो क्या गया था? एक प्रकार से यह भी समर में स्थिर आस्था का ही प्रतिक है।

समर मंदिरों के पूजारियों से घृणा करते हैं क्योंकि जिस मनःशांति के लिए वह मंदिर जाया करता था वह उसे प्राप्त नहीं हुई। पूजारियों की क्रूर प्रवृत्ति ने उसे मंदिर से विमुख कर दिया। एक दिन “कमिज पायजामा पहने एक निहायत ही कमजोर, मरा भिनकता - सा पंजाबी मंदिर में आया था और प्रसाद मांग रहा था। पूजारी ने बारह बरगद के नीचे जलती धूनी की लकड़ी से उसे कुत्ते की तरह जैसे मार भगाया। मंदिर में मेरा वह अन्तिम दिन था। धार्मिक रूढ़ियों के प्रति धृणा असंतोष का भाव लेखक में दिखाई देता है। समर प्राचीन पीढ़ी के लोगों के संसर्ग में पालित-पोषित हुआ है। इसलिए उसे अपने विचारों को बदलने में समय तो लगता ही है। अपने शीर के बालों की चोटी को कटवाकर उसने मृत मान्यताओं को अस्वीकार किया है। किंतु घरवालों के डर से टोपी लगा लेना चाहता है। उसे डर है कि घरवाले कहेंगे - “जेन्टलमेन बनने चले हैं। फैशन के पीछे पागल है अपना धरम-कर्म, कुछ रहा ही नहीं। किन्तु शिरीष के प्रभाव से वे धार्मिक रूढ़ियों का विरोध करने लगे।

प्रभा के द्वारा पंडित जी द्वारा पूजित गणेशजी के पूतले से बर्तन मांज देने पर धार्मिक विश्वासों से जुड़े समर के परिवार में बवंडर आ गया। घर में उठने वाले तुफान से त्रस्त समर ने प्रभा को चांटा मारकर अपनी रूढ़िबद्धता का प्रदर्शन किया। वह कहने लगा - “अपनी संस्कृति और पूज्य देवों की अवज्ञा हम किसी भी किंमत पर नहीं सह सकते। यद्यपि सत्यार्थ प्रकाश जैसी पुस्तकें पढ़ने से उसका विश्वास दुनियाभर के देवी-देवताओं पर नहीं रहा था और अपने इस दुष्कर्म पर वह निरन्तर स्वयं को कोसता रहा।

सारांश :

अतः राजेन्द्र यादव ने उपन्यासों में चित्रित पात्रों द्वारा ये बताया गया है कि आज भी हम विज्ञान के युग में जी रहे हैं, लेकिन फिर भी हमारी परंपराएँ हमें इतनी छूट नहीं देती कि हम सब-कुछ नया ग्रहण कर लें। मनुष्य विकास चाहता है, लेकिन वह दृढ़ता से नहीं चलवा रहा है। उसके सामने नवीन-प्राचीन, वैज्ञानिक-अवैज्ञानिक आदि पहलू हैं, जिनके आधार पर वह अपना रास्ता अपनायेगा। दोनों किनारों से सामंजस्य करते हुए एक नयी राह बनाने की चाहत वास्तव में तर्क, बुद्धि व विज्ञान से ही आ सकती है। आवश्यकता है गली-सड़ी रूढ़ियाँ को ठोकर मारने की तथा आधुनिक संस्कृति को अपनाने की आधुनिक यंत्र की भौतिकवादी परंपराओं, स्वच्छ आध्यात्मिक विज्ञान-बौद्धिकता तथा मानवीयता के उदर से पैदा होने वाले तत्त्वों के साथ सामंजस्य करते हुए एक नयी चेतना की, नई संस्कृति के सृजन से ही विश्व सांस्कृतिक धरातल पर अपनी पहचान रख पायेंगे।

## आचार्य परशुराम चतुर्वेदी के साहित्य में वेद और उपनिषद की महिमा

हिन्दी साहित्य के धुरन्धर विद्वान आचार्य परशुराम चतुर्वेदीने अपने ग्रंथ 'संत साहित्य के प्रेरणा-स्रोत' में वेद और उपनिषद की महिमा का चित्रण किया है। वेद और उपनिषद आ. परशुराम चतुर्वेदीजी के प्रेरणा स्रोत रहे हैं, उन्होंने बाह्य प्रेरणा एवं अन्तः प्रेरणा की समीक्षा प्रस्तुत की है। आ. चतुर्वेदीजीने 'वेद-उपनिषद' के जरिए गुरुतत्त्व, नामतत्त्व, नाम-साधना भगवन्नाम, श्रम-स्पंदनो आदि विभिन्न पक्षों का विशद विवेचन किया है।

आ. परशुराम चतुर्वेदीने अपने ग्रंथ 'संत साहित्य के प्रेरणा स्रोत' में 'केनोपनिषद' को ध्यान में रखते हुए परमतत्त्व की महिमा का गान किया है जैसे - 'न का चक्षुर्गच्छति न वाग्गच्छति न मनो न विद्यो न विद्यो न विजानीमो यथैतदुनशिमयादन्येदेव तदिदिवादयो अविदितादधि।' अर्थात् "न तो उस तक चक्षुरिन्द्रिय की गति है, न वहाँ तक हमारी वाणी ही पहुँच सकती है और न मन का प्रवेश ही हो पाता है, हम उसे नहीं जानते और वह विदित हो जाने पर भी भिन्न हैं।" "वाणी वहाँ से उसे बिना उपलब्ध किए ही, मन के साथ वापस आ जाती है।" कहते हैं कि किसी समय वाष्कलि ने बाध्व नामक ऋषि से प्रश्न किया था कि ब्रह्म क्या है जिसके उत्तर में उन्होंने मौन धारण कर लिया था। पहली बार प्रश्न करने पर जब उत्तर न मिला तो वाष्कलि ने समझा कि ऋषि ने कदाचित सुना न होगा। किन्तु फिर पूछने पर भी उन्होंने जब उसकी और तीव्र दृष्टि से देखा तो उसे भय हुआ कि कहीं उसने अप्रसन्न तो नहीं कर दिया। इस बार ऋषि ने उससे झुंझलाकर उत्तर दिया, "मैं बतला तो रहा हूँ कि वह उपशांत था मौन रूप हैं, तुम में समझ भी तो हो।" 'कठोपनिषद' में इसीलिए एक स्थल यों भी कह दिया गया है - "वह है कह देने के अतिरिक्त अन्य किस प्रकार विदित हो सकता है।" "अस्तीनि ब्रुवतो न्यत्र कथं तदुपलभ्यते।" (2-6-92) और तैत्तिरीयोपनिषद की एक पंक्ति 'अस्ति ब्रह्माति चेद्वेद। सन्तमेन ततो विदुः।' से यह भी प्रतीत होता है कि 'यदि कोई ऐसा मानता है कि ब्रह्मा है' तो श्रमवेत्ता उसे ही सत् समझ लेते हैं। उपनिषदों में इस प्रकार की उक्ति मिलती है - "सदैव सोभ्येदम आसीत्" अर्थात् हे सौम्य, आरम्भ में वह एकमात्र अद्वितीय सत् ही था और उसी को स्वामी शंकराचार्य ने अस्तित्व मात्र का बोधक होने के अतिरिक्त सूक्ष्म, निर्विशेष, सर्वगत, एक, निरंजन, निरवपव और विज्ञानस्वरूप भी बतलाया है।

कबीरजी ने परम तत्त्व की बातें प्राचीन उपनिषद साहित्य में से ही बताई है - "वह बिना किसी वर्ण का है, एकमात्र है, अखंड है और अविनाशी है तथा सभी के घट-घट में

व्यास है। उसकी न तो कोई तोल है न उसका कोई मूल्य है, न उसकी कोई माप है, न उसकी गिनती का ही कोई ज्ञान हो सकता है, वह न तो भारी है, न हलका है, उसे कोई परख नहीं सकता।” इसी प्रकार वे अन्यत्र भी कहते हैं कि, “वह अलख निरंजन, निरंकार, शून्य तथा स्थूल से भिन्न है।”

‘ईशावास्य’ के एक मन्त्र में कहा गया है कि - “तदेजति तन्नैजति तद्दूरे तदन्तिके। तदन्तरस्यसर्वस्य तदु सर्वस्यास्य बह्यतः।।” अर्थात् “वह चलता है, नहीं भी चलता है, दूर है और निकट भी है, वह सभी के भीतर वर्तमान है और वही सबके बाहर भी दिखाई पड़ रहा है।”

इस प्रकार ‘कठोपनिषद्’ में आता है कि - “आसीनो व्रजति शयानो याति सर्वतः।” अर्थात् “वह बैठा हुआ ही दूरतक चला जाता है और सोते रहने पर भी सभी ओर पहुँच जाता है।”

‘ईशावास्योपनिषद्’ की प्रथम पंक्ति की केवल एक व्याख्या मात्र है, जिस में यह कहा गया है - “ईशावास्यमिदं सर्वं यत्किञ्च जगत्या जगत्।” अर्थात् “यह सभी कुछ ईश द्वारा व्यास है और जो कुछ भी वहीं है।”

कबीरजी ने परम तत्त्व के विषय में कहा है जो ‘मुण्डकोपनिषद्’ में बताया गया है।

“बृहच्च तद्दिव्यमचिन्त्यरूपं सूक्ष्माच्च तत्सूक्ष्मतरं विजाति।

दूरात्सुदूरे तदिहान्ति के च, परपत्स्विहैव निहितं गृहायाम।”

अर्थात् “वह तत्त्व बृहत् है, दिव्य है, अचिन्त्य रूप है, सूक्ष्म से भी सूक्ष्मतर है, दूर से भी सुदूर है और निकट भी है। अनुभव करने वालों के लिए वह गुहा में निहित है।”

### जीवात्मा और जगत

परमात्म तत्त्व के विषय में इस प्रकार कह देने पर भी हमारे सामने यह प्रश्न रह जाता है - फिर उसका जीवात्मा अथवा जड़-जगत् से भी क्या सम्बन्ध है? यदि केवल वही एकमात्र है तो इन पदार्थों की भिन्नता की प्रतीति क्यों हो जाया करती है? ‘संत साहित्य के प्रेरणा-स्रोत’ के अन्तर्गत ऐसे प्रश्नों के भी उत्तर मिलते हैं और उनका भी कुछ न कुछ सम्बन्ध प्राचीन ग्रन्थों वाली परम्परा से जान पड़ता है।

### ब्रह्मानुभूति

परमतत्त्वरूपी ब्रह्म के ज्ञान की स्थिति कैसी होती है अथवा आत्मानुभव का रहस्य क्या है, इस बात पर भी आचार्य परशुराम चतुर्वेदीजी ने अपने ग्रंथ ‘संत साहित्य के प्रेरणा-स्रोत’ वेद-उपनिषद् के आधार पर चित्रित किया है। ब्रह्मज्ञान के बारे में आ. चतुर्वेदीजी ने ऋग्वेद तथा मुण्डकोपनिषद् में से लिया है कि - “तद्विपणोः परमं पदं सदा पश्यन्ति सूरयः।” - ऋग्वेद (122/20) तथा “यत्तद्देश्यमग्राह्यमगोष्ठमर्बजमक्षुं श्रोत्रं तद्पाणिपादं नित्यं विभुं सर्वगतं सुसूक्ष्मद्वयं तद्भूतयोनिं परिपश्यन्ति धीराः” मुण्डकोपनिषद् (1/6)



अर्थात् “ब्रह्मज्ञान का हो जाना उसके अनुभव से अभिप्रेत है, क्योंकि यह विषय ऐसा है जिसका कोई ब्रह्म परिचय सम्भव ही नहीं है।”

### वैदिक साधना

वैदिक साहित्य को पढ़ने से पता चलता है कि उसकी रचना के समय वाले भारतीय अधिकतर यज्ञों का अनुष्ठान करते थे। वैदिक साहित्य का एक बहुत बड़ा अंश उनकी इन्हीं दो प्रकार की साधनाओं के विस्तृत वर्णनों से भरा पड़ा है। प्राकृतिक वस्तुओं को वैदिक साहित्य में देवोपम भाव से चित्रित किया गया है।

‘ऋग्वेद’ में बताया गया है कि, “मुनयो वातरशना पिशङ्ग बसते मला।” – ऋग्वेद (10/136/2)

कुछ लोग और भी थे जिन्हें यज्ञ, देव-पूजन व पितृपूजन क प्रथाओं में कोई आस्था नहीं थी। ऐसे लोगों के लिए कहा गया है कि वे प्रायः वायु के आधार पर अपना जीवन व्यतीत करते थे, मटमैले वस्त्रादि धारण करते थे और मननशील थे।

‘अथर्ववेद’ में बताया गया है कि - “कुछ लोगों का किसी प्रकार की तपश्चर्या और श्रमपर्वक साधना कर के मृत्यु पर विजय प्राप्त कर लेना उनका उद्देश्य था।” “येनातरम्भूतकृचोति मृत्युं यमन्वविन्दन्तपसा श्रमेण।”

### नैतिक निष्ठा

वैदिक साहित्य में नैतिक आधार पर आचरण को महत्त्व देनेवालों के भी एक वर्ग का पता चलता है। ऐसे लोग यह समझते थे कि प्रत्येक मनुष्य को अपने किए का ही अच्छा या बुरा फल भोगना पड़ता है, इस में देवों का कोई हाथ नहीं यदि हम चाहें तो अपने धर्म तथा सदाचरण के बल पर उन्हें अपने-अपने स्थान से डिगा भी सकते हैं। ‘मुण्डकोपनिषद्’ में बताया गया है कि इस सदाचरण के लिए निवृत्तिमार्ग की आवश्यकता नहीं, प्रत्युत गृहस्थाश्रम की दिशा में रहकर भी हम उसकी साधना कर सकते हैं। “जो इसके अनुसार रहकर संतानोत्पत्ति करते हैं तथा तप एवं संयम के साथ जीवन-पापन करते हैं और सत्य को अपना नैतिक आधार मानकर चलते हैं, वे ही वास्तव में ब्रह्मलोक के अधिकारी हैं।” अथवा सत्य, सुकृत एवं सदाचरण को ही परम धर्म की आधारशिला कह सकते हैं।

### योग साधना

‘मुण्डकोपनिषद्’ में कहा गया है - “वह आत्मा सदा सत्य से, तप से, सम्यग् ज्ञान से तथा ब्रह्मचर्य द्वारा प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। वह शरीर के भीतर ज्योतिः स्वरूप है और शुभ्र है जिसे दोषरहित यति लोग देखा करते हैं।”

जैसे - “सत्येन लभ्यस्तपसा तोष आत्मा, सम्यग्ज्ञानेन ब्रह्मचर्येण नित्यम्

अन्तः शरीरे ज्योतिर्मयो हि शुभ्रो ये पश्यन्ति यतपः क्षीणदोषाः॥”

-मुण्डकोपनिषद् (3/1/5)

इसी प्रकार श्वेताश्वर उपनिषद में उन पदार्थों के नाम लिए गए हैं जिन्हें ब्रह्म की अभिव्यक्ति के पहले योगाभ्यास करनेवाले देखा करते हैं। उनमें “कुहरे, धूम, सूर्य, वायु, अग्नि, विद्युत, स्फटिक मणि तथा चन्द्रमा के नाम लिए गये हैं।”

### **भक्ति भावना**

भक्ति-साधना भी बहुत प्राचीन है और इसकी ओर किए गए कुछ संकेत वैदिक साहित्य तक में उपलब्ध हैं। ‘मुण्डकोपनिषद’ में एक स्थल पर आता है - “इस आत्मा को न तो हम उपदेशों द्वारा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, न बुद्धि द्वारा उपलब्ध कर सकते हैं और न बहुत अध्ययन से ही। जिस किसी पर इसकी कृपा हो जाती है उसीके प्रति यह (परमात्मा) अपने को प्रकट करता है।”

इस प्रकार आचार्य परशुराम चतुर्वेदीजीने अपने ग्रंथ ‘संत साहित्य के प्रेरणा-स्रोत’ में वेद और उपनिषद की महिमा को चित्रित किया है।

## Biological gynocentric study of the dark holds no terrors by Shashi Deshpande

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In order to live a fully human life we [women] require not only control of our bodies, we must touch the unity and resonance of our physicality, the corporeal ground of our intelligence (Rich : 1976, 21).

The opinion of the gynocritics is that women are different from men biologically and so they have a different set of biological experiences. Therefore it is important and useful to study the biological imagery in women's writing. Female body is under patriarchal domination. Beyond the male gaze, a woman's body is considered as a possession, to be used, abused or traded. The gynocritics believe that woman's body and its associated experiences are the source of immense energy and power for women writers.

Violence against women is a worldwide social phenomenon which is not new. It has been inflicted in one form or another. There are various forms of violence against women. Threats and insults are examples of psychological abuse. Hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, bruising, breaking bones, throwing things and using weapons are obvious examples of physical abuse. Being forced to do or watch something sexual without the woman's consent or to have pain inflicted on a woman during sex can constitute sexual abuse. Social abuse occurs most frequently in a domestic situation where a woman is kept totally dependent on her partner and isolated from the support of others. A woman who is prevented from seeking employment or who is not allowed to have a bank account or keep any of her income suffers financial abuse. Having no control of money keeps a woman totally dependent and at the whims of others for even her basic needs. One of the leading psychologists Rehana Ghadially rightly observes: [Though] violence against women is often seen as an assault against her body...

more importantly it is a negation of her integrity and personhood (Ghadially : 1988, 149 ).

Shashi Deshpande's novels primarily explore the experiences of the oppression of Indian women in the domestic arena. She portrayed Indian middle class women and her struggle for identity. Shashi Deshpande has realistically described the violence against women in various forms. Because of her body, a woman has to suffer a lot and Shashi Deshpande has clearly mentioned various types of physical harassment and how her female protagonists come out as an individual from this harassment.

The Dark Holds No Terrors (1980), Shashi Deshpande's first published novel, is the story of Sarita and Manu who have had love marriage. They had met in college where Sarita had been attracted to Manu's confident manner and he had represented to her the Prince charming who would catapult her into a world that was very different from the limited one she had inhabited with her parents. However, after their marriage, the situation has changed. Manu has remained only a college lecturer earning an unspectacular salary, while the ambitious Sarita becomes a successful doctor with a highly lucrative practice and so Manu begins to suffer from feelings of inferiority and cannot prevent her from surging ahead in her profession.

In the prologue to her novel, a nightmarish experience is described where the female body is forcibly taken possession of by a man. As the protagonist notices:

The hands become a body. Thrusting upon me....Blank, set and rigid, it was a face I had never seen. A man I did not know (Deshpande : 1980, 11).

The man's body upon a female body with his strong hands taking possession and plucking the innocence has to be a stranger, as this male body does not need a name. The very act is disastrous as the woman has been silenced. Silence becomes the reality for the woman as words are strangled and the body subjugated. Thus, from the very beginning,

Shashi Deshpande has underlined the fact that the female body is a site of forced occupation in which the master has the will and freedom to use and abuse it. The title itself is ironic. Although the dark holds all the terror, it is called *The Dark Holds No Terrors* as at the last the protagonist comes out of this darkness.

*The Dark Holds No Terrors* (1980) seeks to discuss the male ego which refuses to accept a secondary position in marriage. In fact, it is the story of Sarita who becomes the victim of her husband Manohar's sadistic torture through physical and sexual violence. Her harassed situation is expressed in a very touching, realistic and heart piercing manner:

...it was a monstrous invasion of my body. I tried to move, twisting my body, wriggling under the weight that pinned it down. It was impossible. It was pinioned to a position of an abject surrender of myself. I began, in sheer helplessness, to make small whimpering sounds, piteous cries. The small pains merged all at once into one large one. And still the body above mine, hard and tense, went on with its rhythmic movements. The hands continued their quest for new areas of pain. Now the horror of what was happening to me was lost in a fierce desire to end it. I could not, would not, beat it. I began to fight back helplessly, savagely (Deshpande : 1980, 11 -12).

The very beginning of the novel describes the terrifying nightly ordeal of Sarita which focuses upon her humiliation also on the sexual power politics between man and woman. Every night Manu seduces Sarita to the position of a slave, supine and defenseless before a mighty conqueror. It also reflects the master – slave relationship that the husband may inflict upon her during intercourse. The relationship between Sarita and Manu exemplified the result of a social role – reversal. In the character of Manu, Shashi Deshpande depicts how power and success are inextricably linked with male sexuality in patriarchy. Manu is a typical patriarchal character, so it is not surprising that the role reversal affects him deeply.

Conventionally, the husband is the bread winner of the house, but here according to one journalist, Saru is the winner of the bread and butter both which challenges Manu's male ego. Manu feels himself inferior to her and so being weak natured, he adopts the most violent way of asserting his superiority over Sarita. By raping her every night, he tries to reclaim his masculine power over her body.

It is really painful that though she is a popular lady doctor by profession she has to bear such pain and unendurable agony. In the day, she is a popular doctor and at night, she is a woman for whom love and romance are illusions. The physical assaults that Saru receives from her husband can be said to be the height of her tragic life. As she says that she is a woman who has burnt her boats. She is sailing alone in the abyss. She cannot turn back to her parents. She cannot even think of it. Her husband has been assaulting her. She has no one to turn to. The reactions against her dirty physical experiences are that she even hates the word 'love'. For her, all that is physical is filthy. Her femininity being brutally crushed, she loses forever the dreams of sentiment and passion. As she utters "Love ? Romance? Both I knew too well, were illusions and not relevant to my life" (Deshpande : 1980, 133) .

For her, "sex was a dirty word" (120). It is really disgusting for her that the person who provided a paradise of sex and love, now turns a monstrous sadist inflicting human torture on his wife. Manu's purpose, though expressed in the subconscious, is to 'punish' her for taking the 'male role' and to assert his superiority and power through physical violence. In the views of M. Jaggor "Rape is typically an act performed by men and its social meaning is to degrade and 'feminize the victim' (Jaggor : 1983, 263). After each such terrified incident, Sarita remains helpless against Manu's greater strength. She always feels terrorized into submission when she utters:

[A]t home, sitting in the same room with him, watching the familiar gaze come over his eyes, the mask like rigidity come over her face; at night, waiting for the terror to strike, she becomes just a terrified

animal. Thinking of how she could do nothing against his maniac strength. Of her panic that made her incapable or resisting ... Signs and portents she had become clever at understanding. His silence. A heavy dull brooding silence, following immediately after a spurt of gaiety ... ( Deshpande : 1980, 99 ).

Saru, an intelligent and independent woman endures repeated rape because of shock. The regular violation of her body by the man whom she once loved and the hypocrisy maintained by him makes Saru dislike everything about him. In fact, Saru's sexuality is killed with marital rape. The horrendous and suffocating act of violence – a violence that is played out night after night in the marital bed – is sourced to an imbalanced power between husband and wife. Through this [Saru – Manu ] relationship, Shashi Deshpande raises the question of marital rape which the Indian tradition does not recognize. She shows that rape within the marriage becomes the ultimate means by which the husband subjugates his wife.

Unable to face the reality that he is a failure in life, Manu lets his wounded male pride manifest itself in the form of sexual sadism “the hurting hands, the savage teeth, the monstrous assault of a horribly familiar body” (102). Bed is the only place where he can assert his animal power over her body. Manu becomes a mean, loathsome fellow when he basks in her glory by day.

When a woman is more intelligent, enterprising, attractive and successful in her career, her husband is most likely to develop an inferiority complex. As a man, he finds it painful to live with it. To suppress it, he pretends to be superior and tries to demonstrate his physical strength by beating or abusing his wife. Husbands cannot accept their wives earning more than themselves. Though these prejudices are changing, the rate of change is so slow that women under these circumstances are mentally and economically suffering great deal.

Generally, sex is supposed to be a pleasurable activity. But when the same act of sexual encounter becomes aggressive, sadistic and

enforced, it reverses to wordless language of grief and silent suffering. For the Indian woman, it is often a common experience. Even the taboos surrounding any discussion of sex also make it impossible for her to speak about the sexual act even with her husband. Sarita, in spite of being an educated woman, finds such a dilemma.

In the Indian family set up, the man is the dominant factor. He exercises his authority and superiority by inflicting physical abuse and having brutal sex with the wife who is, after all, his slave. She may be a reputed person in the society, she may earn more money than he does, yet, within the four walls of the house, he makes it very clear as to who the real master is.

And if she tries to establish her own identity, we can see that there arises a crisis in woman's life which culminates in her self realization. The woman seems to be bearing the yoke more with resignation and not with dedication and love. This may be so because there is no expression of true love and affection from her counterpart, the husband. The give and take of familial life is almost absent in Saru's life.

Saru's humiliated married life leads her to extra – marital relationship with Boozie and Padmakar Rao. She wants to fulfill her unsatisfied desires through extra – marital relations. Boozie, her teacher, has given her so much money for opening a new consulting room. Although, Saru's social and financial status grows, there is no peace for her at her home. Generally, economic independence brings fulfillment to a woman but in the case of Saru, her economic independence brings no fulfillment to her.

Another extra – marital relation was with Padmakar Rao who was her class mate in the medical college whom she meets years later as a medical practitioner. But this relationship is neither soothing nor comforting to her. Connecting on Saru's relationship with the two men, Kamini Dinesh remarks :

In *The Dark Holds No Terrors* also there are other men but the relationship gives no solace. On the other hand, the homosexual Boozie



and the frustrated Padma bring to Saru the disillusioning realization that there can be no happiness or fulfillment in this relationship. There cannot be an escape route from the tension of married life. The woman seeking a crutch has finally to fall aches on herself (Dinesh : 1995, 200).

Within the Indian context, Saru is a representative of those innumerable faceless, nameless Indian women for whom sexual joy is a distinctly masculine preserve. The first stirring of sexual desire for a woman is seen as tantamount to cultural and societal *hara – kiri*. In the urban Indian context, through her protagonist, Deshpande makes larger statements about the fundamental constituents of sexual attraction. Sarita gets fed up with her humiliated life and runs away to her parental home for relief. But her stay at her Baba's house gives her chance to rethink about her married life and when she returns, she returns as a new woman.

The issue of menstruation is another important theme discussed by Shashi Deshpande in her novels. It is generally ignored by male writers. Women writers write about the normal household circumstances about the female vulnerability and menstrual blood. These issues are important to a woman and it is in itself a radical attack on the silence in society and a journey towards independence, understanding and self – assurance.

In *The Dark Holds No Terror* (1980), for Sarita, the onset of biological changes like menstruation is unbearable. She prays god that it should not happen to her any more and save her from being ashamed of her forever. The process of training the girl child for her feminine roles begins in early childhood. It is intensified from the moment of her attaining puberty. Shashi Deshpande chooses to focus on the traumatic nature of the girl's this experience and its psychologically demoralizing effect upon the young girl. All Shashi Deshpande's protagonists have difficulty in accepting their budding femininity. They feel that the menstrual cycle experienced by girls is a terrible curse upon them as it makes the end of the freedom of childhood and the spontaneity that

girls have experienced in their father's household. For Sarita:

It was torture, not just the three days when I couldn't enter the kitchen or the puja room. Not just the sleeping on a straw mat covered with a thin sheet. Not just the feeling of being as pariah, with my special cup and plate by my side in which I was served from a distance, for my touch was ... pollution. A kind of shame ... ( Deshpande : 1980, 62 ).

Saru is filled with the sense of shame at her monthly ordeal, praying desperately for a miracle to put an end to it. She resents the traditional practice in her orthodox home where she is treated like a pariah during those three days when she is made to sleep on a straw mat with a special cup and a plate by her side in which she is served from a distance as her touch would mean pollution. Without the sympathetic support of her mother, she is left in the crucial time of puberty and adolescence. The rejection by the mother during these impressionable years leads Saru's psychological insecurity. The first experience of menstruation is horrible for her and the mother is there to frighten her with the fact that she would bleed for years and years. The mother does not let her enter the kitchen and puja room also.

Saru grows up hating her womanhood that consists the feelings of impure and ashamed of one's sexuality and living with the sole purpose of getting married. But her studying of anatomy and physiology makes her to accept her womanhood rather than detest it.

Even in the later life, Sarita, though she becomes a doctor, cannot free herself from the revulsion towards her sexuality acquired in childhood and refers to herself as a "dark, damp, smelly hole" (29). As a child, unable to bear the traumatic repressions that accompany puberty, she has tried to repudiate her femininity: "I don't want to be a [woman]" (62). The social norms laid down for puberty, makes the young girl feel unclean, unwanted, untouchable and devalued. Still in remote villages and even among educated people, a woman is considered unholy during the menstruation period. The same issue is discussed in many of her novels.

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## “Aurobindo’s Savitri, an Existing Paradigm of the Struggle of the earth-soul”

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### Abstract

Savitri is a divine holy spiritual of a very high order. It reveals the over mind effect and impact of supremacy. As an epic “Savitri” is an iconic figure. The indigenous story of Savitri and Satyavan come to light in “The Mahabharata” as well as in “The Puranas”. It is related with the life and penance of king Aswapathy who is childless, the birth of Savitri, her marriage with Satyavan, Satyavan’s death and Savitri’s victory over death. Savitri is the ultimate epitome of creation of the Divine- The Mother.

**KeyWords: spiritual, epic, symbol, supremacy, divine, death.**

“Aurobindo’s Savitri, an Existing Paradigm of the Struggle of the earth-soul” Sri Aurobindo was a man of multifaceted intellectual and an accomplished artist. He was a rishi, the prophet of the life Divine, the fiery revolutionary and nationalist, the illustrious scholar, the interpreter of the Vedas, the matchless teacher of Internal Yoga and prose writer par excellence. Many of his contemporaries saw in him the potentiality and the capability of the ideal superior man.

Savitri, Sir Aurobindo’s jewel and the greatest epic in Indian English Literature carries an appellation ‘A Legend and a Symbol’. The genuine story becomes visible in the “Mahabharata” as well as in the “Puranas.” The story deals with the life and self mortification of king Aswapathy who is childless. For 18 years, the king undergoes stirness and rigidity, offers religious offering to the fire, worships Goddess Gayatri and at last in her breath taking form grants him a blessing that a daughter will be born to him. Being a gift from the Divine Mother, she is aptly named Savitri. She is no other than a part or a fragment of Goddess Gayatri herself an embodiment in bodily form. When she grows, she

matures into a matchless glowing and dazzling beauty. Young Princes find it arduous to seek her hand. King Aswapathy apprises her “seek a husband choose for yourself.”

Savitri travels all over the country, but nowhere she discovers a luminary match. Finally she set foot in a forest where she meets Satyavan, a great virtuous and brave prince, who was in exile. Satyavan is the son of a blind king Dyumatsena, who was deprived of his kingdom and was thrown out into the forest. Both the King and the Queen had lost their vision and their only son Satyavan nourishes and pamper them in the forest.

Going back home she tells her father of finding her choice as she sees in Satyavan her prospective accomplice. Narad, the great divine sage, who beforehand know the future, is present with Savitri’s parents in the palace. When Savitri informs of her choice to her parents, they are very happy but Sage Narad is shocked. He candidly and blatantly predicts the approaching catastrophe that awaited the bride groom—that Satyavan would die one year after his marriage with Savitri. The king is very upset and appeals his daughter to drop off the idea of marrying Satyavan. Savitri firmly stand by to her choice. Finally, she gets married to Satyavan.

Savitri and Satyavan live happily. She lives the devoted, strict and stern life of a hermitess. Her courteous and cordial behaviour gives pleasure to everyone in and around the hermitage. But Savitri does not have inner peace as she always recollects the dire apocalypse of Sage Narad. One year passed and at last the fateful day approaches. Satyavan goes to the forest to bring wood for the sacrificial fire and Savitri go with him. They reach a peculiar spot well known to Satyavan to cut the woods. After cutting some woods, he moans and grumbles of a severe headache. She places his head on her bosom and he is dead. She can see in her paranormal sight, when Yama the God of Death emerges there and takes clasp of Satyavan’s soul. Silently she follows Yama, even on the other side of Vaitarini River that set apart

earth from the higher worlds of light. Yama requests her to return back but she does not. Amazed by the strong bonding of her love, and at the same time whole heartedly wanting to get rid of her, Yama bestows her a series of blessings, the last of which is the reviving of her husband's life.

The parabolic analysis of Savitri is numerous. It not only represents but stresses on the virtue of connubial loyalty. Sri Aurobindo saw in this story a superstitious entrée of a great and significant occurrence of the Aryan race in an earlier age- an earlier Yuga, a forgotten cycle of human survival. He seeks to reopen it and make it apt and appropriate to the needs of the rebirth soul of humanity. Taking the indication from the meanings of the names and the internal connotations of the characters of the story he craves up as a varied and multifarious vision which heads to an amazing and astounding occurrence. This poem is the progressing cosmos itself with the Divine himself as its ascending and onward compelling endeavour. It is an expedition from a beginning less to the endless.

Sri Aurobindo himself writes about the suggestive key of the fable of Satyavan and Savitri: 'The story of Satyavan and Savitri is narrated and described in the Mahabharata as a story of spousal love overcoming death. But this saga is, as shown by the countless attributes of the human anecdote, one of the bountiful figurative parables of the Vedic cycle.' Savitri "is the Divine expression, daughter of the Sun, Goddess of the supreme Truth who comes down and is born to save." She is the all-encouraging, all-expressing, all-accomplishing Divine Grace which comes in the human form. Savitri, the embodiment of the Divine mother is nonetheless a limited human being in her appearance. Her external superficial human reactions do not belie the hidden and underlying divine nature; she is the precious golden fruit of Aswapathy's Sadhana. As an incarnation of the Divine, she is committed to know herself thoroughly and apprehend her strength entirely and to be in eagerness to try out for the coming experiment. She rejects all the desires and

allurements and at last she understands her inner divinity. She sees in a wink the whole span of her earthly mission.

Savitri's tussle with Yama, the Lord of Death, is seemingly the scuffle of a woman and a wife. Her encounter represents victory of Love and Truth over Death and benightedness. Obviously in the course of her, unpleasant experience, she has to pass through the representation of earth's 'everlasting night' over coming the impacts and intensities of evil, pain, death, self-indulgence, cynicism and all exhibitions of enticements offered to her by Yama. Yama wants to be acquainted with her real recognition:

*"Who then art thou hiding in human guise?  
Reveal thy power, lay bare thy spirit's force,  
Then will I give back to thee Satyavan."* [Book 10, canto 4, p.664]

Savitri guesses her celestial appearance:

*"A mighty transformation came on her...  
In a flaming moment of apocalypse over  
The incarnation thrust aside its veil  
Eternity looked into the eyes of Death."* [Book 10, canto , p.664]

This is the Climatic significance when Love overpowers Death and Light overthrows Night. It is a remarkable and splendid moment, moment of the down of the immortal which is ever lasting:

*"His body was eaten by light, his spirit devoured."* [Book 10, canto 4, p.664]

*At last he knew defeat inevitable....  
In the dream twilight of that symbol world  
The dire universal shadow disappeared  
Vanishing into void from which it came.* [147.34] [Book 10, canto 4, p.664]

*And Satyavan and Savitri were alone"* [Book 10, canto 4, p.664]

Savitri selects terrene life to heavenly and blissful eloquence or Eden, the promised Land. Earth will be the place of her attempt to try hard the field of her perception and recognitions. Savitri's only mission is:

*"To bring God down to the world on earth we came*

*To change the earthly life to life divine."* [Book XI, canto 1, p.692]

Aswapathy, Savitri's human father, is the Lord of the Horse. He is also the Lord of Tapsya, the strenuous and vigorous power of spiritual venture that support us to arise from the temporal to the eternal stratum. To Sri Aurobindo, he is no mere childless king's expectations and longings increase. He is "the aspiring human soul down the utopia of progression in his search for the truth of himself of the world and of God." He is an absolute and perfect human being, bestowed and enriched with noblest expectations and notions who conquers crudeness and incomprehension, discovers his self, over powers and overcomes all that is evil and dark and ultimately intermingles his self with self remarkable and extraordinary. He is the muscly and strong device of steering the world into Life Divine. Aswapathy strives no longer for himself but for all, for a universal attainment and new, origination. Savitri is the precious golden fruit of his Sadhana the apogee of his spiritual accomplishment. He is:

*"A voyager upon uncharted routes*

*Fronting the viewless danger of the unknown*

*Adventuring across enormous realms*

*He broke into another Space and Time."* [Book 1, canto V, p.626]

Expressing an opinion on the parabolic significance of Aswapathy and Savitri, K.R.S. Iyengar writes:

*"If Aswapathy is aspiration, Savitri is both*

*the Response and the Resulting transformation*

*-atonce the individual transformation of*

*an elected person and the promise of*

*total transformation of earth and earth nature."* [Iyengar, 1984]

As Mr. Purani Points it,

*"Aswapathy maintains throughout the*

*position of the witness, Savitri carries*

*out the Divine dynamism. Aswapathy*



*sees the vision of the  
Supreme, Savitri brings down  
The fire.' And both Aswapathy  
and Savitri, in their aspiration  
and transforming Spiritual action,  
strive not for themselves alone but  
for all, for a general liberation,  
a universal realization and a  
Splendorous new creation."* [Purani,1970]

Sri Aurobindo retains the Mahabharata story unmarred but skilfully modifies it into a existing representation of the scuffle of the earth-soul in its forward stride.

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Prof. Gargi Gohel

## Orwell as propagandist of Communism and Socialism as reflected through 'Animal Farm'

.....

George Orwell wrote *Animal Farm* to warn of the dangers of a totalitarian regime in the practical application of communist ideology. His novella reflects his experience of, and response to, momentous events occurring in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century. It is a acknowledgement of the extent to which totalitarian leaders rely on the manipulation of thoughts and actions in order to maintain power across the class boundaries. In this essay, Orwell's political and personal standpoints are examined and the book is analysed from a Marxist and socialist perspective. Whereas *Animal Farm* was written to reflect the terrible experience of Orwell and many of his contemporaries, its message is in many ways limited by his efforts to adhere to a parody of the events in Soviet Russia. Attention is given to the role of propaganda and Squealer, the chief propagandist in *Animal Farm*. Although Squealer does not wield power overtly in the way that Napoleon does, he is pivotal in the maintenance of a cowed population. Further, and more importantly from the point of view of the Marxist criticism of Orwell's novella, the Author is found wanting in his depiction of the working classes and his ability to champion those upon whom he in actual fact looked down.

Keywords: Animal farm, Marxism, Orwell, Socialism, Communism, Propaganda, Manipulation

It is impossible to appreciate Orwell's work fully without understanding his political views, yet students often misunderstand them. Many are surprised to learn that, although he was an out – spoken anti – communist, he was also an ardent socialist all his life.

The failure to distinguish between socialism and communism

causes the confusion. Socialism refers generally to any economic system based on the ownership of goods and property collectively (by all or a large part of society) rather than by individuals. The idea was described at least as early as Plato's Republic (fourth century B.C.) and was practiced by the early Christians. In its modern forms, those developed from the 1830s on, socialism preaches government ownership of goods and control of their production, and distribution. It does not usually insist on the abolition of private property, though it seeks to regulate this in so far as it affects public interests. Many variations of socialist beliefs and practice exist.

Communism is a specific form of socialism, developed from principles laid down by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the Communist Manifesto (1847) and *Das Kapital* (1867-94). Although recent decades have seen some variations arise in its methods and politics, it always seeks the abolition of private property. And it advocates, at least in theory, the wresting of ownership, production and control of goods by violent revolution. Socialists, on the other hand, seek to obtain the means of production by legal and relatively peaceful means.

Socialism has a long and respected tradition in Great Britain and many parts of Europe, where it has attracted the allegiance of many thinkers and artists, as well as politicians, for well over a century. In mild forms, it is often the policy of legitimate political parties and democratically elected governments.

Since about the 1890s, many of Great Britain's intelligentsia has been socialists; indeed, during the 1940s socialism was almost the norm in many artistic circles. Surely, they thought, there must be a better way of organizing a world that was suffering the after – math of World War I, growing industrialization, the great Depression (and several smaller, earlier ones), the rise of fascism and the bitter Spanish Civil War. There was much disagreement about specifics, however, and great theoretical battles were waged among the literary adherents of various schools of thought.

One problem for these Western socialists was how to react to communism as it was evolving in Soviet Russia after the Revolution of 1917. It was, at that time, the only government in the world based on completely socialistic principles, and many socialists elsewhere felt they had to give it some support, even if they disagreed with part of its theoretical basis. As history unfolded, Soviet propaganda, secrecy and isolation made it difficult for others even to know what was going on in Russia. Rumours drifted out, but they were just that – rumours. It is difficult for us to realize today that until the 1950s the world did not know the truth about the outrages committed by Stalin or the shape communism had taken. And, when the Soviet Union entered World War II on the Allied side, many people thought that it might be better not to know, or that communism's opposition to fascism was so important as to be worth ignoring other facts of the theory and its practice.

Orwell disagreed, as he showed in writing *Animal Farm* and then *1984*. But he had been disagreeing with many other socialists for much of his adult life. Even before he wrote these books, much of his writing, especially his essays and newspaper articles, had involved criticism of socialism as well as advocacy of it.

Early on, he had insisted that it was necessary for socialism to separate itself from Utopian idealism, arguing that although socialism was the only hope of the world, it could not claim to make society perfect. He had also directed much criticism at the socialist British Labour Party, claiming that it preached not genuine socialism, which should be concerned with the welfare of all people, but only the advancement of members of British labour unions. In addition, he advocated the setting up of a United States of Europe, which he said, by including about half the skilled workers of the then – industrialized world under a socialist government, world spread socialist politics throughout the rest of the world by example.

Orwell's anti – communism also appeared early. During the 1930s he admitted only suspicions, pointing out how difficult it was to discover

the truth about what was going on in Soviet Russia. For example, he pointed out that evidence and statistics suggested its people were simultaneously the hungriest and the best fed the most advanced and the most backward, the happiest and the most miserable people in the world. By 1941, however, when many others were passing the cleverness of Stalin's foreign policy in its wavering between alliance and enmity toward Germany, he said the policy would eventually be recognized as opportunistic and stupid. When *Animal Farm* appeared in 1945 (it was written in 1943), Orwell had no intension of deceiving anyone with its allegory. And, by 1948, he wrote openly, in *The Observer*, of the communist experiment as a lost revolution:

Please as they were, the Russian communists necessarily developed into a permanent ruling caste.....recruited not by birth but by adoption. Since they could not risk the growth of opposition, and since they silenced criticism, they often made avoidable mistakes; then, because they could not admit that their mistakes were their own, they had to find scapegoats, sometimes on an enormous scale.

In short, throughout his adult life and work, George Orwell remained a fiercely honest man, even with himself. Though he well understood the dangers of socialism, he remained committed to the socialist solution to the political and social problems of the world. He believed that if people understood the dangers, they could avoid them. He knew that socialism meant organization of industry as well as of people, which meant the necessity for further growth of the machine – dependent civilization that he had criticized in *The Road to Wigan Pier* and in *Coming Up for Air*, and that this meant the further destruction of the old country way of life which he loved. He was, however, willing to sacrifice even this if all men could be guaranteed a decent standard of living. He was emphatic that improving man's physical conditions would not solve all man's problems; he believed that the most serious of these problems were not physical but rather spiritual and psychological. But he believed that these more serious problems could not be dealt with

until man had conquered his material difficulties – through socialism.

The chief theoretical conflict for Orwell was caused by his awareness of individual human differences, which interfere with the abstract group philosophy of socialism. He was himself a sincere and courageous individualist, and he feared the loss of individual freedom that he knew socialism involved. He was honest enough, despite this awareness, to admit that he saw no answer other than socialism to the world's horrible material problems.

Orwell is often praised for his contribution to making people aware of the dangers of communism. Yet his greatest contribution may turn out to be the lesson he taught about the importance of individual, so easily threatened by any form of dictatorship. This lesson taught not only by his writings, but by the example of his own person, proud, honest, free, and compassionate no matter what his economic and political beliefs.

No one would dispute that Orwell sought out and criticised injustice wherever he found it and indeed if he found fault with them, seemed often to turn on that and those whom he professed to support with criticism at least as harsh as that which he turned on those he condemned (Orwell, p.xii). Orwell was a man who wrote with such honesty and forthrightness, that people could not help but believe him and feel that his words described and sympathized with their situation (Menard 2003). He would doubtless be dismayed concerning the fact that his words were changed posthumously and ironically in the hands of the CIA. They changed the ending of the book, which sympathised with the communism and rewrote an ending in which a second revolution takes place and the pigs are overthrown, In so doing, the narrative became a symbol of something in which Orwell did not believe, namely that of successful revolution. He gave the impression of being passionate, but inconsistent, exemplified by such instances as him clearly changing his opinion concerning whether socialism could be democratic, or needed perforce to be revolutionary and his about

face concerning whether or not war was an acceptable alternative for Imperial Britain against the Germans (Menard, 2003).

The fact that he, according to Trilling (Menard, 2003) extolled and adhered to the virtues of what he believed to be his station and even came to love things material, belays the image that he wished to cultivate of a salt of the earth socialist. With all this in mind, it is clear that he was such a contradiction that it is hard to see that he truly championed any cause, let alone, given his background and his attitude towards the unintelligent and ill-educated, the working classes.

George Orwell has provided excellent subject matter for the application of Marxist criticism. A possible continuation of this study would be to broaden the analysis to include more of Orwell's body of work. In so doing the examination of his background and personality can be usefully applied to an evaluation of, for example his attempt to live as one of the poor in Down and out in London and Paris.

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Dr. Sangeeta Pushkar Ghate

## A study of COVID-19 : impact on the Global Economy

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### **Abstract**

**H**ow did a health crisis translate to an economic crisis? Why did the spread of the coronavirus bring the global economy to its knees? The answer lies in two methods by which coronavirus stifled economic activities. First, the spread of the virus encouraged social distancing which led to the shutdown of financial markets, corporate offices, businesses and events. Second, the exponential rate at which the virus was spreading, and the heightened uncertainty about how bad the situation could get, led to flight to safety in consumption and investment among consumers, investors and international trade partners. We focus on the period from the start of 2020 through March when the coronavirus began spreading into other countries and markets. We draw on real-world observations in assessing the restrictive measures, monetary policy measures, fiscal policy measures and the public health measures that were adopted during the period. We empirically examine the impact of social distancing policies on economic activities and stock market indices. The findings reveal that the increasing number of lockdown days, monetary policy decisions and international travel restrictions severely affected the level of economic activities and the closing, opening, lowest and highest stock price of major stock market indices. In contrast, the imposed restriction on internal movement and higher fiscal policy spending had a positive impact on the level of economic activities, although the increasing number of confirmed coronavirus cases did not have a significant effect on the level of economic activities.

### **1. Introduction**

In 2019, there was anxiety about the impact of a US-China trade

war, the US presidential elections and Brexit on the World Economy. On account of these, the IMF had predicted moderated global growth of 3.4 percent. But COVID-19 – the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a novel strain of coronavirus from the SARS species – changed the outlook unexpectedly. Due to fear and uncertainty, and to rational assessment that firms' profits are likely to be lower due to the impact of COVID-19, global stock markets erased about US\$6 trillion in wealth in one week from 24th to 28th of February. The S&P 500 index lost over \$5 trillion in value in the same week in the US while the S&P 500's largest 10 companies experienced a combined loss of over \$1.4 trillion,<sup>1</sup> although some of these were recovered in the subsequent week. Some of the loss in value was due to rational assessment by investors that firms' profits would decline due to the impact of the coronavirus.

The International Air Transportation Association (IATA) stated that the air travel industry would lose US\$113 billion if the COVID-19 outbreak was not quickly contained<sup>2</sup>. The IMF downgraded its growth projection for the global economy as the COVID-19 outbreak threw its earlier projection into serious doubt. The tourism industry was affected as the travel opportunities for Chinese tourists, who usually spend billions annually, were severely curtailed. There were increased flight cancellations, cancelled hotel bookings and cancelled local and international events worth over \$200billion. The flow of goods through global supply chains vastly reduced significantly given that China was the world's largest manufacturer and exporter, and the Chinese government ordered the closure of major factories in the country. Countries like Iran, Italy and France issued stay-at-home nationwide policies to control the spread of the virus, which had already caused multiple deaths and was putting pressure on the national public healthcare infrastructure. Such stay-at-home policies planted the seeds of recession in developed countries, and there was a general consensus among economists that the coronavirus pandemic would

plunged the world into a global recession (Financial Times, 2020).<sup>3</sup> The International Monetary Fund in March stated that it expected a global recession that would be at least as bad as the 2007-8 global financial crisis followed by a recovery in 2021. (Georgieva, 2020)<sup>4</sup>

The literature on the cause of recessions is vast (see Jagannathan et al, 2013; Stiglitz, 2010; Gaiotti, 2013; Bezemer, 2011; Mian and Sufi, 2010; Bentolila et al, 2018; Bagliano and Morana, 2012). But the cause of the 2020 global recession was novel in modern history. The coronavirus triggered a new type of recession that was different from the past triggers of a recession. For instance, the Asian debt crisis of 1997 was caused by the collapse of the Thai baht in July 1997, which created panic that caused a region-wide financial crisis and economic recession in Asia (Radelet and Sachs, 1998). The 2008 global financial crisis, which translated to a recession, was caused by loose monetary policy which created a bubble, followed by subprime mortgages, weak regulatory structures, and high leverage in the banking sector (Allen and Carletti, 2010). The 2016 recession in Nigeria was caused by the fall in the price of crude oil, balance of payment deficit, adoption of a fixed-float exchange rate regime, an increase in the pump price of petrol, activities of pipeline vandals and infrastructure weaknesses. The 2010 recession in Greece was caused by the after-effect of the global financial crisis, structural weaknesses in the Greek economy, and lack of monetary policy flexibility as a member of the Eurozone (Rady, 2012).

In this paper, we show how the coronavirus outbreak led to spillovers into major sectors of the global economy, and how fast policy response by several governments either triggered and prolonged the recession while trying to save the lives of citizens..

The discussion in this paper contributes to the financial crisis literature (Allen and Carletti, 2010; Jagannathan et al, 2013; Mian and Sufi, 2010; Stiglitz, 2010; Ozili, 2020). This paper contributes to the literature by showing that non-financial factors and/or non-

economic factors can trigger both a financial and economic meltdown in unprecedented ways. The implication for financial stability is that future stress testing of the resilience of the financial system should take into account human health factors as an important element in their stress testing exercises.

The rest of the paper is structured in the following way. Section 2 discusses the global spillovers. Section 3 shows the various fast policy responses adopted in several countries. Section 4 analyses some of the policies. And the last section concludes.

## **2. Spread of COVID-19 (already known as coronavirus)**

Real-time data on the spread of the coronavirus (or covid-19 disease) was collected from Worldometer. The data shows that the US had the highest number of infected individuals, followed by China, Italy and Iran as at 23rd of April 2020. 5

### **2. Global Spillover**

Initially, the perception was that the COVID-19 pandemic would be localized in China only. It later spread across the world through the movement of people. The economic pain became severe as people were asked to stay at home, and the severity was felt in various sectors of the economy with travel bans affecting the aviation industry, sporting event cancellations affecting the sports industry, the prohibition of mass gatherings affecting the events and entertainment industries (Horowitz, 2020; Elliot, 2020).

There are parallels between the COVID-19 crisis and the events of 2007-2008: as in 2020, many people in the earlier recession assumed the impacts would largely be localized (in that case based on an assumption that the subprime mortgage crisis would be a relatively minor problem affecting only the US, but ultimately affecting the global financial system) (Elliot, 2020). The sudden economic disruption caused by COVID-19 is not only destructive but also has spillover implications because it created demand and supply shocks in almost every area of human endeavor (El-Erian, 2020)<sup>7</sup>

## **2.1. Spillover to the travel industry**

The coronavirus outbreak led the governments of many countries to impose restrictions on non-essential travel to countries affected by COVID-19, indefinitely suspending tourism travel, work visas and immigrant visas. Some countries placed a complete travel ban on all forms of inward or outward travel, shutting down all airports in the country. At the height of the coronavirus pandemic, most airplanes flew almost empty due to mass passenger cancellations. The travel restrictions imposed by governments subsequently led to the reduction in the demand for all forms of travel which forced some airlines to temporarily suspend operations such as Air Baltic, LOT Polish Airlines, La Compagnie, and Scandinavian Airlines. Such travel restrictions cost the tourism industry alone a loss of over \$200 billion globally, excluding other loss of revenue for tourism travel, and were forecast to cost the aviation industry a total loss of \$113 billion according to IATA.<sup>8</sup> US airlines sought a \$50bn bailout fund for the US Airline industry alone.<sup>9</sup> The GTBA reported that the business travel sector would lose \$820 billion in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>10</sup>

## **2.2. Spillover to the hospitality industry**

Restaurant businesses have been affected during the pandemic mainly through the government-announced 'stay-at-home policy' and 'social distancing' movement restriction imposed by the 5 in many countries. This led to rapid shutdowns in cities and states to control the spread of the coronavirus, which threw many restaurants and hotels across the country into sudden shock. Hotels across the world witnessed booking cancellations worth billions of dollars, and the hotel industry sought a \$150bn bailout.<sup>11</sup> Restaurant executives laid off staff as they shut down their businesses temporarily. Many customers stayed at home, preferring to eat cooked meals at home. Some restaurant executives criticized the government for imposing the stay-at-home and social distancing policy which destroyed many small restaurants and pub businesses in small cities. They argued

that governments' announcement of stay-at home policies or social distancing policies was

an indirect way of telling people not to come to the pubs, hotels and restaurants, which was a way of silently destroying the hospitality industry during the pandemic.<sup>12</sup> Multiple hotels in the US, UK and in some European counties announced the temporary suspension of normal operations which puts the estimated loss of jobs to 24.3 million globally, and 3.9 million in the US alone<sup>13</sup> due to the decline in hotel occupancy during the pandemic period. The economic impact of the pandemic on the hotel industry was more severe than the 9/11 and 2008 recessions combined.

### **2.3. Spillover to the sports industry**

The sports industry was severely affected during the coronavirus outbreak. In the football segment, major European football leagues in England and Scotland announced the immediate suspension of football matches for 6 weeks until 30th April. The Turkish super league was the last major European league to suspend its matches. In Formula One, the Monaco Grand Prix was cancelled. The Tokyo Summer Olympic and Paralympic games were also postponed. In the hockey segment, the 2020 hockey games in England was postponed. England's FIH Pro League games scheduled for 2nd to 3rd and 16th to 17th May were postponed. In rugby games, the Pro14 final scheduled for 20th June at the Cardiff City Stadium was cancelled. The major league rugby (MLR) was cancelled for the remainder of the 2020 season. In the baseball segment, all major baseball league season games were called off in Mexico and Puerto Rico. The Motorsport game in Portugal was postponed after the Portuguese government declared a state of emergency and suspended all sporting events in the country. In the snooker segment, the World snooker championship to be held in Sheffield from 18th April to 4th May, was postponed. In the swimming segment, the 2020 European Aquatics Championship scheduled for 11th to 24th in Hungary was postponed until August. In the golf

segment, the PGA tour was rescheduled for 10th to 13th September 2020. The resulting loss in revenue to the sponsors and organizers of the cancelled games ran into billions of dollars.

## **2.4. Spillover to oil-dependent countries**

### **2.4.1. The oil price war: a contributing factor**

Early in 2020, the price of oil fell due to the oil price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia. The coronavirus pandemic worsened the situation through the reduction in the demand for oil. The imposed travel restrictions during the pandemic, which led to a reduction in the movement of people and goods, resulted in a fall in demand for aviation fuel, coal and other energy products, which subsequently led to a fall in oil price due to low demand. The coronavirus crisis also affected a wide range of energy markets such as the coal, gas and renewable energy markets, but its impact on oil markets was more severe because it stopped the movement of people and goods, which led to a drastic decline in the demand for transport fuels. When Saudi Arabia later supplied excess oil to the world, the market was flooded with too much oil, exceeding demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequently leading to a fall in oil price.

### **2.4.2. Loss of oil revenue to oil-dependent countries**

The effect of the pandemic on oil-dependent countries was severe. The global decline in oil price combined with the low demand for oil products in the international market led to a significant shortfall in oil revenue to oil-dependent countries, which increased current account deficits and worsened the balance of payment position of many oil-dependent countries such as Venezuela, Angola and Nigeria. These countries also faced increasing pressure on their foreign exchange reserves, which subsequently led to the devaluation of local currencies against the dollar. Countries like Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa experienced a reduction in the price of petrol in the local gas stations. National budgets were also affected. The sustained decline in global oil price due to the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the current national

budget became outdated for most oil-dependent countries, and had to be revised because it did not reflect the current economic reality since the budget was priced at a higher oil price from 2019. Consequently, the national budget of some oil-dependent countries ran into massive deficits which forced some countries to either (i) seek foreign loan from the IMF, World Bank and other lenders to fund their budget deficits, or (ii) create a new budget that was priced using the current low oil price in the global market.

## **2.5. Spillover to import-dependent countries**

Many import-dependent countries were severely affected during the coronavirus pandemic. Many countries imported their essential commodities from major exporting countries like China, India and Japan, and depend largely on these countries for the consumption of essential commodities. The reduction in goods flowing through the global supply chain, and substantial reliance on China for imported goods, led to shortages of supplies to import-dependent countries as China shut down many of its export factories. This led to increases in the price of the remaining stock of imported supplies already in import-dependent country, which also triggered inflationary pressures on the price of basic commodities despite the general low demand for imports due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was difficult to find alternative imports after China's shut-down because many countries had partially or fully closed their borders which stifled international trade at the time.

## **2.6. Spillover to the financial sector: Banks and Fintech**

The macroeconomic slowdown led to a rise in nonperforming loans in the banking sector by 250 basis points. Private sector banks had the highest exposure to credit risk during the outbreak.<sup>14</sup> Nonperforming loans arose from loans issued to small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), airlines, hotels, tour operators, restaurants, retail, construction and real estate businesses. During the pandemic, there was a general decline in the volume of bank transactions, a decline in card payments and a fall in the use of ATM cash machines worldwide. This led to



fewer fees collected by banks which negatively affected banks' profit. FinTech businesses were also affected. Some FinTech businesses witnessed very low patronage by consumers leading to loss of revenue and profits, which negatively affected the equity investment of venture capitalists that funded existing and new FinTech firms. This made many venture capitalists begin to hoard new equity which led to the drying up of financing for some FinTech businesses. On the other hand, the lockdowns due to the coronavirus outbreak resulted in higher demand for some sorts of online services such as online shopping.

## **2.7. Spillover to financial markets**

The most visible outcome of the COVID-19 crisis on financial markets was the effect in the global stock market. Global stock markets lost \$6 trillion in value over six days from 23 to 28 February, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. Between February 20 and March 19, the S&P 500 index fell by 28% (from 3,373 to 2,409), the FTSE 250 index fell by 41.3% (from 21,866 to 12,830), and the Nikkei fell by 29% (from 23,479 to 16,552). In the same period, large international banks witnessed a plunge in their share price, for example, Citigroup's share price fell by 49% (from US\$78.22 to US\$39.64), JP Morgan Chase's share price fell by 38% (from US\$137.49 to US\$85.30), and Barclays' share price fell by 52% (from £181.32 to £86.45). Although the oil price war, in which Russia and Saudi Arabia were driving down oil price by increasing oil production, played a role in the fall in stock markets indices, the subsequent fall in stock market indices in March was mainly due to investors' flight to safety during the coronavirus pandemic.

## **3. Fast Policy Response**

### **3.1. General policy response**

The policy measures introduced by policy makers around the world to cope with the coronavirus-induced global recession can be divided into four categories: (i) monetary measures, (ii) fiscal measures, (iii) public health measures, and (iv) human control measures.

Monetary policy measures include Granting (i) regulatory forbearance to banks, and (ii) principal or interest moratorium to debtors affected by COVID-19

Other measures include the central banks' provision of liquidity to financial (bond and equity) markets, Central banks' purchase of bonds and securities that were plunging in value rapidly

Lowering interest rates by Central banks and ensuring Sustained flow of credit to banks, SMSEs, public health sector, individuals and essential businesses

Fiscal measures include Governments approving a large federal stimulus package for sectors and industries most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Provision of income support for individuals, Social welfare payments to support each household

Public health measure include Public quarantine, Border quarantine, Issuing a stay-at-home policy and Social distancing policy

Human control measures include temporary release of prisoners from overcrowded prisons, Shut-down of air, land and sea borders, Shutdown of schools, Using the military to enforce a coronavirus stay-at-home lockdown and Travel ban. it also included Visa denial and suspension

#### **4. A difficult decision**

This section identifies and analyses the policies.

Policy makers in government and Central banks were faced with two major decisions, which is to: 'save the people before saving the economy', or 'save the economy before saving the people'. One choice had to be made because it was difficult to achieve both at the same time. You cannot save the people and the economy at the same time because to save the people (who are also economic agents) during the outbreak you have to tell them to stay at home in order to control the spread of coronavirus which means economic activities will have to stop or reduce significantly, which will trigger an economic slowdown. Policy makers in many countries felt it was better to save the people

before saving the economy, and as a result, the economy was allowed to suffer in some countries.

#### **4.1. Contradictory and conflicting policy response**

During the coronavirus pandemic, many of the fast policy responses were insufficient even though the policies were formulated with good intentions. Monetary policy, for instance, helped to calm financial markets but it did not stop the recession. Central banks responded to the coronavirus outbreak by changing monetary policy variables such as lowering interest rates and increasing money (or credit) supply to crucial sectors of the economy. But monetary policy alone could not induce demand when there was a general flight to safety among consumers and investors – not many people were buying anything or making new investments. It became clear to many economists that monetary policy is not a vaccine, it cannot cure a recession. The expansionary monetary policies adopted in many countries during the outbreak encouraged economic activities but economic agents were unable to engage in economic activities because governments had imposed social distancing restrictions amid fear of contacting the coronavirus during the outbreak. The central bankers were ‘expecting’ particular outcomes and wanted to shift the needle in that direction as much as they could, but in reality their best efforts wouldn’t achieve all that much.

#### **4.2. Using broad fiscal expenditure and sector priority**

Some countries used a broad federal fiscal stimulus (or bail-out) package to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on the economy during the outbreak. Determining which sectors will receive part of the stimulus package and which sectors will not receive the stimulus package became a political issue in some countries like the UK and US as it stirred up debates as to whether the government considered the entertainment sector, hospitality sector and the circular economy to be less important and insignificant to the economy and ineligible to receive some funding from the federal stimulus package compared to

the banking sector, manufacturing, education, pharmaceutical and the aviation sectors which were considered to be significant contributors to the economy. Some members of excluded sectors protested because they felt that the government did not consider other sectors as significant contributors to the economy.

Policies such as the ‘stay-at-home policy’ and the ‘social distancing policy’ severely damaged the incomes of restaurants, pub, shops and hotels in many locations, in some cases resulting in them closing down. It destroyed many businesses in the hospitality industry in ways that were not anticipated, and the government failed to take responsibility for the failure of small and large businesses that did not survive the coronavirus outbreak due to the government-imposed social distancing policy and lockdown restrictions. It was either the social distancing policy was implemented too early or the policy was taken to the extreme by citizens and travelers who were afraid to patronize such businesses for fear of contracting the COVID-19 disease.<sup>24</sup>

## **5. Conclusion: Don’t waste the coronavirus crisis**

This paper analysed the coronavirus outbreak and the spillover to the global economy which triggered the global recession in 2020. Policy makers in many countries were under pressure to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. As a result, many governments made fast policy decisions that had far-reaching positive and negative effects on their respective economy – many countries plunged into a recession. Social distancing policies and lockdown restrictions were imposed in many countries, and there have been arguments that such social policies can trigger a recession. Our findings in section 5 showed that a 30-day social distancing policy or lockdown restriction hurts the economy through a reduction in the level of general economic activities and through its negative effect on stock prices.

Lawmakers in many countries supported an extended social distancing policy, damning the consequences of social distancing on the economy. The recession that followed, which many countries

experienced, was a reflection of the difficult choice that policy makers had to make in choosing whether to save the economy before saving the people or to save the people before saving the economy; many countries chose the latter. There were criticisms that the policies were too fast, premature or insufficient, and that the policies contradicted one another in some areas, for instance, the accommodative monetary policy encouraged economic agents to engage in economic activities while the lockdowns and social-distancing (stay-at-home) policy prevented economic activities from taking place.

On the bright side, the coronavirus-induced public health crisis created an opportunity for many governments to make lasting reforms in the public health sector. Countries like the UK and Spain repaired their public health care system, and fixed other shortcomings in public infrastructure such as the transition to online education, transportation systems and the disease detection systems in public hospitals. Some governments also used the crisis as an opportunity to fix the economic system and the financial system with the planned federal stimulus package.

The study has some limitations. The main limitation of this research paper is the short period of analysis due to limited dataset. A longer study period may capture the socioeconomic consequences of government policies during the coronavirus crisis. Also, as future events unfold, there could be spillovers to other sectors that we did not analyse in this study. Future studies on spillovers could be extended to two directions. First, future studies can examine the impact on government policy on the informal economy. Second, it would be important to explore how banks and financial institutions react to economic policy developments during the coronavirus crisis.

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## NEW CONCEPTS

### Just - in - time Approach (JIT)

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION :

In the field of commerce, as in other areas, a number of new ideas and new techniques are being implemented and many researches are still being conducted. Just-in-time (JIT) is a similar new idea being introduced in the manufacturing field. It is based on demand-oriented purchasing and demand-oriented production, instead of purchasing and production in anticipation of demand. Japan holds a dominant place among countries which have come up as highly developed industrial countries within a short time. Japan has presented a number of novel ideas and techniques in the field of industry. Just-in-time is a similar novel approach put forward by Japan. Toyota company of Japan developed this concept in 1950 and then many Japanese companies adopted it. In the USA the concept was accepted by companies during 1980's.

Traditionally it is believed that in any business enterprise, the reserve stock or buffer stock will (i) reduce the risk of stock being run-out (ii) reduce the risk of failure of supplier to supply materials and parts in time (iii) obtain benefits of large-scale purchasing and (iv) avoid the problem of anticipated price rise.

It is however, believed in modern inventory management that the surplus or reserve inventory will (i) create risk of obsolescence (ii) increase the risk of quality deterioration and (iii) increase the cost of stores maintenance. Centering around this philosophy, just-in-time approach advocates zero inventory or no buffer stock and manufacturing at the time it is needed. It suggests that at each stage of manufacturing process there should be no stock of work in process. but the raw materials, work-in-process and component parts must be available exactly at the time they are needed. For example, if 250 kgs of work-in-process is required

in Process III tomorrow morning. then production is so planned that 250 kg. goods are ready in Process II at the end of the previous day, so that required goods are available to process III in the next morning. The main theme of JIT is that materials or parts are available in the exact quantity required and just at the time they are needed.

A number of seminars, discussions and researches are being conducted in industrial field in various countries of the world. The aim of JIT is to present and complete production system by making continuous improvements and removing all types of wastes. Its use does not require the use of modern machineries, but can be utilised with any type of machinery. Even the size or type of industry is not of any significance. In industrially developed countries just-in-time approach has been successfully implemented in a variety of industries of various sizes.

## **2. DEFINITION OF JUST-IN-TIME :**

It is believed that JIT is not a collection of techniques but is a separate independent philosophy, an approach on the basis of their thinking and experience, some of which are given below.

- (1) Schonberger defines JIT as philosophy “to produce and deliver finished goods just in time to be sold, sub-assemblies just-in-time to be assembled into finished goods, fabricated parts just-in-time to go into sub-assemblies and purchased materials just-in-time to be transformed into fabricated parts”.
- (2) According to Monden, JIT is “a production system to produce the kind of units needed, at the time needed and in quantities needed”.
- (3) Hoeffler writes, “JIT is a system in combination of purchasing, inventory control and production management functions”.
- (4) Voss says that JIT is “production methodology which aims to improve overall productivity through the elimination of waste and which leads to improved quality”.

## **3. CHARACTERISTICS OF JIT :**

From the above discussion and definition of JIT, the following characteristics of JIT can be derived :

- (1) 'Pull' system or 'Making to Order' System : It advocates demand oriented purchases and production. This philosophy is based on the belief that there should be no unnecessary production. The production should be made on the basis of orders received and raw materials and parts must be purchased only when required for production purposes. This is known as 'stockless production'. All types of production and purchases are made only on the basis of order, while quality must not be overlooked.
- (2) Small Lot-size Production or Frequent Production Runs : This philosophy emphasises purchasing and production just at the time they are needed. As a result, production is carried on small lot sizes, leading to frequent production runs, instead of production on large scale. This process goes on continuously. Due to small lot-size production, it is possible to produce a variety of products and the requirements of customers are promptly met.
- (3) Minimum Set-up Time : It is generally believed that large scale production leads to economies of production. However it is the experience of Japanese companies that productivity can be improved even with small size production runs. Of course, it will take more time to produce the same amount of goods. and so emphasis is laid on reduction in set-up time and also transfer time for goods to be moved from one department to another. In the auto industry in the USA the set-up time and transfer time was around 6 hours, while in Japanese industries it used to be around 6 minutes. The American engineers were busy in increasing the speed of production, while Japanese engineers were all the time trying to reduce the set-up time and transfer time. This time can be reduced by co-ordination of proper organisation set-up, equipment and training of workers. This leads to reduction in total cost. An American company took six months to implement the JIT programme successfully, but it could reduce the timing of three different stages of production as follows :

<i>In the first stage from 20 minutes to</i>	<i>2 seconds</i>
<i>In the second stage from 2.5 hours to</i>	<i>2.5 minutes</i>
<i>In the third stage from 6 hours to</i>	<i>1.7 minutes</i>

- (4) Steps to Reduce Process Time : Under JIT, emphasis is laid on reducing process time in order to reduce the total production time. Of course, the time for each process is fixed. But it is possible to reduce it with time and motion studies. Alongwith the decrease in process time, the costs connected with the process are also reduced.
- (5) Use of Kanban System : Kanban card is a requisition card under JIT for raw materials, parts and work-in-process used by various departments sent to previous departments. In conventional production system, the department which requires raw materials or component part sends a materials requisition slip to the stores department on the basis of which the latter supplies required materials. Similarly in JIT Kanban card is used, under which the department sends it to the previous just when it is needed, This card system is the 'core' of JIT system. There are two systems (1) Single Kanban Card and (2) Two Kanban Card System, Most of the companies use only one card system. In the absence of Kanban Card, the previous department would not supply necessary materials nor the next department will accept it.
- (6) Planned Material Handling System : Alongwith the use of Kanban card system, the use of planned material handling system is indispensable. Material handling must be scientific in order to avoid the waste of time. The material handling must be so arranged that good move from one department to the next department when it is needed by the latter.
- (7) Planned Production System : The system of producing goods only when it is needed is a very delicate task and would fail, if there is no proper production planning and delivery dates to customers could not be observed. Hence, production has to be so planned, on the basis of past experience and anticipated future changes that

goods can be supplied to customers on due dates, even though the production is not carefully planned.

- (8) Use of Manufacturing Cells : Under traditional system of production, emphasis is laid on specialization. Every product, before being completed, has to pass through different process departments e.g. a part will have to pass through firstly the lathe department, then it has to move to welding section, then to grinding section and so on. This entails great waste of time and process time increases. In JIT system, every production department is made self sufficient, which contains all types of machines like lathe machine, welding machine, grinding machine etc. so that the parts have not to move from one department to another. Every department is an independent manufacturing cell, and each product comes out of that cell completely finished.

Every worker is generally skilled in doing a particular job, but in case of JIT they must be able to do all types of work in his department, A lathe worker must be able to do welding work or grinding work too. This arrangement help in reducing the travel time of the product.

- (9) Adoption of Total Quality Management : Total Quality Management is a concept which tries to maintain required level of quality in every aspect of business. It controls every element of production process and every activity of business. In fact JIT and total quality management go hand in hand. The percentage of rejection in American companies is 2% while it is hardly 0.001% with Japanese companies, which is the result of total quality management.

- (10) Regular Suppliers' Deliveries : If suppliers do not supply materials and parts in time, the company would be required to maintain large stock of materials. JIT aims at avoiding this situation. This approach emphasises not low prices of materials or quantity discount, but regular supplies. An arrangement should be made with the suppliers that the materials are supplied by them as and when the are needed.

- (11) Elimination of Root Causes of defective production : There is not scope of defective production under JIT, due to constant supervision, planned production and emphasis on total quality control. Yet however. If any defective goods are produced at any stage of production, all concerned are informed about it by that section and the whole organisation promptly begins efforts to trace the defect, so that within a short time, the defect is removed and production is made normal.

#### **4. OBJECTIVES OF JUST-IN-TIME :**

The main objective of JIT is to minimise inventory and to reach the level of zero-inventory, if possible, However, the objectives of JIT may be enumerated in detail as under.

- (1) Reduction in inventory Levels : In traditional system, various levels of inventory are maintained. But JIT approach advocates reduction in these levels and the ultimate aim is zero inventory. Alongwith the decrease in inventory levels, the clerical work and costs are also reduced.
- (2) Meet the Requirements Immediately : Production is carried on to meet the internal and external requirement. But it is done according to requirement and only at the time when it is required. Hence, due to no previous engagements in other production, the current production is done speedily and with better quality. As a result, internal as well as external demands are met quite satisfactorily.
- (3) Reduction in Waiting time and Wastage : In traditional system, the second process has to wait till the first process completes the work. this delay increases the cost of the second process. Besides, in case of defective production, the production of next process is delayed till it is corrected. While the JIT aims at reducing such time to the minimum.
- (4) Total Reliability in Supplies : This approach heavily depends upon the total reliability of supplies of raw materials, parts and work in process. This is because there is not buffer stock of inventories

and if the supply is not made in time by suppliers or by previous department, the production process is held up.

- (5) Optimum Use of Facilities : In this age of cut-throat competition the increase in selling price is not an easy option. The only option for the manufacturer to raise the profit is to reduce the cost. Only optimum and efficient use of resources would be helpful in this direction. It is possible to do so in JIT approach, which is utilised as a tool for cost reduction.
- (6) Resolving production obstacles : As just discussed, in the case of defective production, further production is held up. While, under such situation, the whole staff is engaged in tracing the faults and further production is started within no time. This increases the speed of production and quality is cared for.
- (7) Demand-based Purchase and Production : So far in conventional production system, production is done in anticipation of demand. Purchases are made to meet the future requirements and production is done on the assumption that there will be demand in future. This requires larger working capital. JIT aims at reducing the requirements of working capital, as purchases are made only when required and production is done only when required.
- (8) Material Requirement Planning (MRP) : Under JIT material levels are minimum or nil, but in order to carry on production as planned, it resorts to planning the requirements of materials for future production, This is known as MRP-I.
- (9) Use of 3 Rs : This approach is utilised for getting production of Right quantity, at Right time and of Right quality. The aim of producing any product is to give maximum satisfaction to consumers, which can be achieved with these R's.

## **6. METHODOLOGY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF JIT :**

- (1) Inventory Management : Emphasis in JIT is on inventory reduction, Under traditional production system, various stock levels are fixed for materials, work, in progress and finished goods. However,

this would work smoothly during boom period when there is good demand. Once, depression sets in, the carrying costs of such inventory which eats into the profit, becomes clean. JIT therefore, advocates production when actually needed and in quantities needed. It is not based on purchase or production in anticipation of demand, but is concerned with actual requirements only.

(2) Changes in Manufacturing Set-up :

**(i) Production in Small Lot-size :** JIT approach believers in production in small lots. If production is on large scale, fluctuations at any stage will create great variations in the requirements in the previous stages and disrupt the whole process. Small lot sizes can quickly ease the situation. Of course, small lot-size production is little costlier, but the costs can be controlled if following pre conditions are fulfilled \_ (1) There should be reduction in number of set-up times. (2) Raw materials must be available promptly even without holding excessive inventory. (3) There should be guaranteed machine availability and reliability. (4) There should be easy and rapid availability of tools and fixtures. (5) The incoming materials must be having zero-defects. (6) The flow of production must be smooth. (7) Inventory must be reduced, to the minimum, keeping in view the risk of running out of stock. (8) The whole unit must be responsive.

**(ii) Production Layout :** The layout for production does not follow processes but follows product. Hence, there is continuous flow of production. Under, traditional production layout, many problems are to be faced like transportation waste, stock of work in progress, problem of co-ordination and scheduling, duplication of work of materials handling, long lead times, difficulty in tracing sources of quality problem, control problem, low opportunity for standardization etc. The main change under JIT is the management of factory environment and restructuring of production department into work cells. In fact, this is product layout as against process layout. The production flow is through these manufacturing



cell and not through functional departments like lathe, welding, grinding etc. Much of the time is saved in JIT by avoiding cross transportation. General-purpose machine are preferred under JIT to special purpose machines located at one place only.

**(iii) Flexible Production :** JIT believes in flexible manufacturing system. For this, it advocates use of work cells and minimum set-up times. This also reduces lead times and low inventory of finished goods is needed. As one author has put it “This new manufacturing technology has revolutionised the ‘batch production’ to ‘customerised mass production’ at low cost. This flexibility leads to reduction in set-up time.

(iv) Process Time Reduction : JIT approach believes that process time is not constant. It can be reduced if proper steps are taken, some of the steps to reduce the process time are (i) Product design may be changed, when a goal of process time must be set. This should be achieved. (2) When products are to be disassembled for repairs. The timing for disassembling must be preset (3) The process must be clearly defined. (4) The mfg. engineers should have clear procedure to cover each process in each work cell.

(v) Separations of Value-added Functions : JIT separates value added function from non-value added functions. Non-value added functions are those which do not directly add value to the product like maintenance, transportation and other similar overheads. Even direct labour cost is treated as overhead. Even direct labour cost is treated as overhead and that too a fixed cost in the short run. It thus identifies the matters where improvements should be made.

**(vi) Removal of Uncertainties :** JIT tries to remove uncertainties like probable shortage of raw materials, shortage of skilled labour, capital shortage, quality of goods, changes in customer preferences, technological changes, inability to forecast demand etc. It constantly strives to introduce improvements and remove costly non-value adding assets. Instead of expensive control

system, it tries to introduce manufacturing flexibility and quality improvements. They reduce the response time required to adopt to market changes and also reduce costs. JIT facilitates three aspects of capital improvement viz. (i) Identification of areas where improvements are possible (ii) Estimate of benefit, system wise (iii) Follow-up of performance improvement.

**(vii) Simplification of Processes :** Simplification of products and their designs is an important feature of JIT. The Variety of components required for redesign is also limited. The production process remains simplified even in case of redesign of the product. As there are independent manufacturing cells where all required machining is done. the production flow remains smooth and co-ordination is achieved.

**(viii) Material Handling System :** Under JIT, the material handling system should ensure that the parts required by work centers are promptly delivered in the exact quantities required. In order that efficient material handling system becomes an integral part of JIT, it must (i) have the capacity to handle the volume requirements of production (ii) It must be flexible to handle even different products. (iii) It must have the capacity to meet future expansion (iv) It must be reliable.

**(ix) Cellular Manufacturing :** As there are independent mfg. cells, the production batches are small, leading to minimum of idle time between cells. Secondly, the work-in-progress remains to the minimum as production is in small batches.

**(x) Appropriate automation :** In order that production flow remained smooth, the machinery should be simple and automation must be low cost. That are exactly the features of JIT. Of course, as the process of continuous improvement progresses, more powerful and automated machine are introduced, but they must be always appropriate to the requirements of the whole system.

(3) Multi-function Workers : In traditional system of production, worker

are specialised. e.g. a lathe worker will not work for welding, a welder will not work on lathe machine and so on. Under JIT, the situation is quite contrary. The workers are multi-function in the sense that they are expected to work on various types of jobs. They may not be highly skilled. They must possess all types of skill to work on various machines in the same production cell.

- (4) Total Quality Control : JIT emphasis not quality control but total quality management. It requires defect free parts and work in progress at all stages of production. Every one in the organisation must be conscious of quality and must strive for defect-free functioning there are quality circles of even workers.
- (5) Continuous Improvement : JIT philosophy contends that there is no end to the search of excellence. There is a continuous search for improvement. For this, there is first, problem identification, then improvement and then evaluation of the steps taken. But the cycle does not stop here. Again there is a second round of problem identification, improvement and evaluation. Thus there is no end to the search for improvement. It goes on and on.

### **Continuous improvement cycle**

- (6) Employee Participation : Every body must participate in problem solving in the whole enterprise. Before the top management takes decisions, all concerned employees must be asked to give ideas for possible solutions. If everyone take part in problem - solving and are encouraged to give their ideas, there would be not problem or opposition in the implementation of decision. This would promote better morale among workers, product improvement and better communication.
- (7) Preventive Maintenance : As the smooth flow of production is a key to JIT approach, the effective maintenance of machinery and equipment is an essential pre-condition. Total preventive maintenance is valuable to JIT as it is needed to reduce set up time, to ensure smooth flow of production and for continuous improvement in work process.

- (8) Levelled Production : Under traditional system, there is a fixed level of production. There is a high level of inventory at every stage to meet internal and external requirements. But under JIT there would be no such inventory that is, no high level of inventory but productions is a levelled one without stocks and yet no order is lost or no supply delivery date is missed.
- (9) House-keeping : A good house wife will keep here house clean, orderly and tidy. So also the factory house-keeping is one of the features of JIT. Clarity, cleanliness, orderliness and tidiness are required in a factory for continuous flow of production, for better maintenance and for problem recognition.
- (10) Supply Management : If production is going to be demand oriented, the supply of raw materials and parts must be regular and continuous. Agreement with suppliers is a pre-requested of JIT. Here short-term benefits like quantity discount etc. are replaced by long-term relations with suppliers. The suppliers must ensure the uninterrupted supply according to the production schedule of the company and of required quality. Supply management must include (1) long-term purchase contract with suppliers. (2) Supply of monthly forecast to suppliers for a rolling period of six month. (3) A firm commitment from suppliers for the supply of materials for next month of production. (4) An agreement with the suppliers for changing delivery dates.

Secondly, the number of suppliers must be minimum and suppliers selected must be reasonably close to the factory.

- (11) Design for Manufacture : Design of manufacture is a factor which contributes to the success of JIT, simplification, standardization, reduction of process stages, improvement of quality, reduction of inventory etc. are achieved only if the design of product is appropriate. On the basis of feedback of improved design, further improvement can be introduced.
- (12) Standardisation : Standardisation is not meant for making every

product the same. It is introduced to simplify processes so that they become controllable. Standardisation helps the enterprise to make production flow smooth.

(13) **Process Capability** : It is a statistical technique. It is meant to see that process continues to satisfy design requirements continuously. It provides a basis for continuous process improvement. It studies, collects and analyses data for accuracy of parts, stock levels, defects, missing components and delivery times. On the basis of this data, the averages and standard deviation are determined. Then tolerances are fixed within which variation from average are allowed. Under JIT, the aim is to minimise tolerances.

(14) **Reduction of set-up Time** : One of the features of JIT reduction in set-up time. It leads to shorter lead times and reduced inventories. It advocates small lot production and frequent production runs. It has the advantage of very small level of inventory of material and work in progress. However, due to small lot size production and frequent production runs, the number of set-ups is excessive and much time may be spent in setting up machines. Set-up time includes (i) Preparation and finishing. The first part is getting parts, fixtures and tools ready, delivering them to the machine, while finishing includes removing old work, cleaning maintenance etc. This takes almost 30% of set-up time. (ii) Mounting and removal of tools and fitting take nearly 20% of the set-up time. It includes measuring, adjustment set to ensure correct positioning, speed, temperature etc. (iii) Trial runs and adjustments are done to see that the machine is now correctly set up to ensure smooth running for the new production run. This requires 50% of the set-up time.

Analysing these components of set-up time, attempts are made to reduce set up time as much as practicable.

(15) **Kanban** : Kanban card system is a signal for materials to move in its production process from one stage to another. It is one of the best known elements of JIT. The inventory management emphasizes

demand based purchases and pull system of production. The pull system indicates that work in progress and components are not built by the department unless specifically requested by the succeeding department. This approach keeps men and machines continuously working and reduces idle time. The workers use idle time in maintenance work which reduces overheads. Similarly, as inventory is reduced to the minimum, the clerical work of maintaining inventory and its accounting work are reduced. The work in progress inventory is reduced from weeks to days and even to hours under JIT. Production is in anticipation of demand in 'Push' system and inventory accumulates on large scale, while under 'Pull' system, production is based on demand and so hardly there is any inventory. But under certain circumstances, it may not be possible to use it. The following basic rules must be remembered to make effective use of Kanban system.

*(1) The downstream process should get required parts from upstream process on the basis of Kanban card only. (2) The workers at upstream level must produce only on the basis of instruction on Kanban card. (3) If there is no Kanban, there should be no production and if there is not Kanban card, there should be no issue of materials. (4) If in the goods going from upstream to downstream there is any defect in parts, they must be stopped and defects must be traced and corrected. (5) In order to link processes move closely, there should be reduction in Kanban cards. (6) Without Kanban no withdrawal of parts should be allowed. (7) Parts issued to the next process must be exactly the same as mentioned on the Kanban card. (8) Kanban travelling card must always be attached to the product being moved. (9) The quantity of parts to be produced by the previous department must be exactly as mentioned on Kanban. (10) The Kanban should be processed on every work centre in the order in which they arrive.*

## **7. OBSTACLES TO SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF JIT :**

(1) Problems with Suppliers : The main basis of JIT approach is the regular supply of materials and parts of required quality, in required

quantity. But in practice, this is not always so. The suppliers who are to be few, do not always supply goods in time. Delivery of right number and quality of components at the right time is often problematic. The suppliers are not benefitted by the use of JIT and even the company is not faithful to the suppliers.

- (2) Accounting System in appropriate : Whenever a new technique is introduced, the present cost accounting system must adjust itself to the new system. But generally it fails to provide suitable tools with which to measure the full benefits of the new technique. It is necessary for JIT to make certain changes in traditional cost accounting techniques. It must be more direct.
- (3) Wage Payment Systems : JIT emphasizes group payment system of wages, as the small manufacturing cells are a part of JIT. But most of the wage payment systems reward individual performance. However, the JIT rewards groups on the basis of their performance in quality, quantity, regularity etc. as a team. However, the efficient workers oppose such group wages plans.
- (4) Not Useful for Non-repetitive Manufacturing : The use of JIT originated in mass production automobile industry, where mfg. processes were repetitive. Small batch producers do not adopt it, as being not appropriate to their size of production. This is however not true. Such techniques as reduction in set-up times. etc. are suited to any size of industry, rather it is more appropriate for small batch producers. Even the techniques like total quality management can be adopted by any manufacturing enterprise.
- (5) Lack of Top Management Support : Generally top management is interested in present market conditions and short term gains. Hence, long-term planning is neglected.

JIT is a new technique and it takes a long time for it to yield results. In the initial stages the results may be irregular. Hence, it becomes necessary to motivate management to adopt JIT. This can be done through visits to other companies, seminars or workshops or even with

help of articles in magazines etc.

- (6) Lack of Communication : Due to implementation of new approach, there is bound to be difference of opinion among various departments, leading to conflicts. Of course, this limitations can be avoided with proper co-ordination and co-operation among department like purchases, production, engineering etc.
- (7) Low product Quality from Suppliers : It was found through surveys, that the suppliers do not have enough knowledge and experience of supplier management. They believe that a certain tolerance limit in goods supplied is allowable. However, JIT requires zero-defect materials. Of course, certain steps taken by manufacturing company like quality certificate, plant audit, training of suppliers in respect of zero-defect materials, involvement of suppliers at the design stage of product can considerably improve the situation.
- (8) Industrial Relation : The traditional industrial relation need to be changed and cordial relations must be evolved in the new atmosphere. The old systems like work councils etc. are not of much use in JIT. The workers have to be constantly conscious about quality and timely production.
- (9) High Costs : No new system can be cost free and so is also JIT. or course JIT involves considerably low investment as compared to other computer based technologies. But JIT also involves costs which must be compared with benefits. The cost re-arranging the organisation structure, reallocation of work, training of employees etc. must be compared with benefits. Cost-benefit analysis must be undertaken before introducing JIT.
- (10) Lack of Employee Readiness and Support : It is the experience that workers are not prepared to give up traditional systems and adopt the new ones. They fear that unemployment would result. This creates mental stress and leads to depression. However, the workers may be given an effective long-run training in JIT, they must be explained the objectives and benefits of JIT.



- (11) Lack of Support from Carrier Companies : The transport or Carrier companies which carry goods from suppliers to the company may not co-operate. They do not work sincerely, honestly and regularly. Hence, the production is interrupted. In order to solve this problem, the number of carrier companies should be reduced to the minimum, agreements must be made with them for regular supply of goods, transactions must be mostly computer-based and payment to them must be prompt.
- (12) Lack of Engineering Support : In many companies we find that design department does not co-operate with purchasing and production department. Hence, the new philosophy cannot be implemented. This short coming can be removed by developing co-ordination and co-operation among various departments.

The above obstacles are inherent in the JIT approach but are man made and can be overcome by careful planning.

#### **8. BENEFITS OF JIT :**

The general impression is that JIT is a system of inventory management and production planning. However this is a narrow concept. In fact, it is a system which organises all activities and functions and achieves the objectives of cost reduction and appropriate quality. Some of the benefits of JIT may be enumerated as follows :

- (1) Reduction in Unproductive Investments : In case of traditional production management, there is enough inventory of raw materials, work-in-progress and parts. This involves considerable investment. JIT believes in minimum inventory at all stages and so it avoids unproductive investment in inventory, raising the profitability.
- (2) Maintaining High Quality : The aim of JIT is not only cost reduction but also maintaining high quality of finished goods. In fact, JIT believes in zero-defect production. Hence it can satisfy both its external and internal customers.
- (3) Reduction in Costs : All types of cost connected with inventory of raw materials, work in progress and component parts are reduced

to the minimum under JIT, as the core of JIT system is to reduce inventory to the minimum.

- (4) Immediate Solution of the Problem : The main feature of JIT is that if any problem arises at any stage of production, it is not treated as a problem of that particular department only, but is considered as a problem of the whole organisation. All personnel from all departments gather and put their heads together in solving the problem and a solution is found within a short time.
- (5) Prompt Delivery to Customers : As the production is properly planned and materials are available at right time in right quantity, there is no interruption in production and prompt delivery to customers is made possible.
- (6) Total Quality Management : JIT advocates not only quality control of goods produced, but total quality management. This covers not only production area, but finance, marketing and all other functional areas are covered, leading to amazing results.
- (7) New Designs : The dynamic JIT approach, in its search for zero inventory management, tries to introduce new arrangements and even new design of products, leading to increased sales.
- (8) Immediate Report from Bottom Level : As production is in small lot sizes, any problem that arises is reported promptly from lower level to top managements, so that corrective steps are taken promptly and further waste is prevented.
- (9) Optimum Use of Resources : The optimum use of productive resources is possible under JIT, and natural resources are spared for future generations. Even the costly modern machines involving investments of center of rupees are used optimally under JIT.
- (10) Good Relations with Supplies : Good relation with suppliers is one of the features of JIT. Both parties get benefited due to development of both formal and informal relations with suppliers.
- (11) Appropriate Layout : Proper layout machines, other facilities various departments etc. is essential under JIT. This considerably

facilities production flow.

- (12) Inter-department Co-ordination : Success of any business enterprise depends upon co-operation and co-ordination of all departments. Co-ordination of marketing, purchasing, design and production departments will help in this direction.
- (13) Increased Productivity : Increased productivity is the result of such factors as flexible work force, decrease in work of inspection and verification reduction in process time and timely availability of materials and tools, which are all integral parts of JIT. Even workers achieve multi-function skill, which also raises productivity.
- (14) Flexibility : JIT approach is flexible in following respects (i) changes in accordance with change in product demand. (ii) change in product-mix. (iii) use of alternative materials. Flexibility begets many benefits.

## **9. IMPACT OF JIT ON MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING :**

As JIT is a developing philosophy, its effects on management accountancy has still not been determined. But its effects on following aspects of M.A. can be enumerated.

- (1) Planning : As JIT production system is flexible, the long-term planning process does not become crucial to production. Planning is adjusted on the basis of monthly reports of production. The long-term effects are given more importance than short term profits.
- (2) Budgeting : The budgeting process becomes simple and clear, as JIT aims at few levels of management and continuous improvement. This is also due to the fact that work cells have become cost centers and they have mostly fixed costs, including labour.
- (3) Controlling : The process of control under JIT becomes speedy and effective. The variance. under traditional system, are found out long after they occur. While under JIT, they are beneficial even from the initial stage, where they indicate opportunities for improvement. JIT creates an atmosphere in which there is a constant search for improvement. This reduces the possibility of variances and need for control.

- (4) Decision-making : JIT affects decision-making in a number of ways. Once JIT is adopted, capital budgeting system becomes less important. Secondly, there is a constant urge for improvement among employees making decision-making easier for management. The adoption of value analysis, which analyses the use of alternative materials and design is decision-making by engineers. Finally, many of the functions of co-ordination and maintenance are shifted to the production unit and hence amount of arbitrary allocation of overhead is reduced.
- (5) Simplifications of Pricing Issues : Under JIT while determining prices, only materials and overhead cost are relevant, as direct labour is treated as fixed costs. It controls the direct production cost effectively. This would make the task of determining prices easy. It identifies non-value added assets and activities as overheads.
- (6) Simplification of Accounting Procedures : The JIT system differs from traditional system in that direct labour is generally treated as a fixed period cost. Secondly work in progress inventory is the minimum and is constant, which does not require evaluation at different stages. These changes would make the accounting system simpler, relatively accurate and timely. The simplification of accounting procedures will free the accountant for other roles.

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Dr. Manish Chudasma

## University a Partner in Economic Development

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*IGNITED MINDS OF THE YOUTH IS THE MOST POWERFUL  
RESOURCES ON THE EARTH, ABOVE THE EARTH AND UNDER  
THE EARTH.*

A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, Former President of India

**T**echnology is the non- linear tool available to humanity, which can affect fundamental changes in the ground rules of economic competitiveness. Science is linked to technology through applications. Technology is linked to economy and environment through manufacture of Knowledge products. Economy and environment are linked to technology. Which promotes prosperity to the society. We have to use innovation to generate high value added products for becoming a global player. The foundation of academic research is creativity.

### **Research Teaching Research :**

University education in India in the Present century will be in a competitive environment Where research and teaching are to be the focus. India has number of IITS, IISCS and many Universities having arts and Science College, Professional Colleges and Commerce and humanities. The students have many choices of Colleges, Courses and Programmes of learning depending Upon their aptitude. In this environment Universities have to work for Promoting research teaching research.

### **GOOD TEACHING EMANATES FROM RESEARCH**

The teachers love for research and their experience in research are vital for the growth of the institution. Any University is judged by the level and extent of the research work it accomplishes. This sets

in a regenerative cycle of excellence. Experience of research leads to quality teaching and quality teaching imparted to the young in turn enriches the research.

### **Dimensions of knowledge Society and Economic Development:**

In the Knowledge economy the objective of a Society changes from fulfilling the basic needs of all- round development to empowerment. The education System will be promoted by Creative, interactive self learning formal and informal education with focus on values, merit and quality. The workers instead of being Skilled or semi-skilled will be knowledgeable, self-empowered and flexibly skilled. The type of work instead of being structured and hardware driven will be less structured and software driven. Management style will emphasize more on delegation rather than giving Command. Impact on environment and ecology will be Strikingly less compared to industrial economy. Finally the economy will mostly be driven by knowledge and knowledge driven institutions and industries. The emphasis in knowledge Society will be on sustainable development.

### **Integrated Action For Developed India:**

We have the mission of transforming India in to a developed nation. We have

identified five areas where India has a Core Competence for integrated action.

*(1) Agriculture and food processing*

*(2) Reliable and Quality Electric power, Surface transport and Infrastructure for all parts of the Country.*

*(3) Education and Healthcare.*

*(4) Information and Communication Technology.*

*(5) Self-reliance in critical technologies.*

These five areas are closely inter-related and if progressed in a Co- ordinate way, will lead to food economic and national Security.

### **Distinctive Profile of India by 2025:**

- (1) A Nation where the rural and Urban divide has reduced to a thin line.*
- (2) A Nation where there is an equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water.*
- (3) A Nation where education with value system is not denied to any meritorious candidates because of societal or economic discrimination.*
- (4) A Nation where agriculture, industry and service sector work together in symphony.*
- (5) A NATION WHICH IS THE BEST DESTINATION FOR THE MOST TALENTED SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS AND INVESTORS.*
- (6) A Nation where the best of Health Care is available to all.*
- (7) A Nation where the governance is responsive, transparent and Corruption free.*
- (8) A Nation where poverty has been totally eradicated, illiteracy removed and crimes against women and Children are absent and none in the Society feels alienated.*
- (9) A Nation that is prosperous, healthy, secure, devoid of terrorism, peaceful and happy and Continues with a sustainable growth path.*
- (10) A Nation that is one of the best places to live in and is proud of its leadership.*

## National research foundation

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As per framework New Education Policy, 2019, there is more focus on Research and Innovation. Main purpose of NRF is for research and innovation in all branches in Higher Education and also focus on funding, monitoring and assistance.

In this era of Natural changes occurs to make big changes and challenges around the world. So India will develop research activities but not require Intellectual, environmental. For Research and Innovation investment in India is comparatively lower than other European countries since 2008 to 2014. This figures also affects its researchers, it is just 15 in India, while in other European countries nearly minimum 400. As per World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data, India registered nearly 45000 patent applications, out of which 70% were by non-resident Indians, this data shows very weak in past times as compare as other countries.

The general tasks that India needs to address today, such as access for all its peoples to clean drinking water and sanitation, value education and healthcare, improved transportation, air quality, energy, and infrastructure, will require the execution of approaches and solutions that are informed by top-notch science and technology and are also entrenched in a deep understanding of the social sciences and humanities and the various socio-cultural proportions of the nation. Facing and addressing these tasks will require high quality interdisciplinary research across fields that must be done in India and cannot simply be introduced; the ability to conduct one's own research also enables a country to much more easily significance and adapt related research from abroad.

The role of the government is more vital for Research and Innovation with economic development of the nation. Past circumstances of India



for research was very limited, but now in this era, very much important for Research and Innovation is strongly built up.

Some of the restriction for the lack of Research and Innovation in present times are as below:

*A. Deficiency of funding issue is a major role for Research and Innovation.*

*B. Research and Innovation are required for time bound and support from their nearest for this activity but its hard to spent much time.*

*C. Most of the students/researchers do not have funding, managing and conducting research and also state universities /HEIs have to provide only academic stand to the students and post of the students have apply their own way for research activity where no proper direction is there.*

NRF will focus on all limitation for Research and Innovation in India, and to get more results from Research and Innovation.

The key actions of the NRF will be to:

- \* Fund competitive, peer-reviewed grant proposals of all types and across all disciplines;
- \* Seed, grow, and facilitate research at academic institutions, particularly at universities and HEIs where research is currently in a nascent stage, through mentoring of such institutions by renowned research scholars across the country, hiring excellent young research students and faculty and strengthening and recognising existing high quality programmes at such institutions;
- \* Act as a liason between researchers and pertinent branches of government as well as industry, so that research scholars are continuously made aware of the most urgent national research issues of the day, and so that policymakers are continuously made aware of the latest research breakthroughs; this would allow inventions to be brought into policy and/or execution in an ideal fashion;
- \* Recognise outstanding research and progress achieved via NRF funding/mentoring across subjects, through prizes and special seminars recognising the work of the researchers.

Today, regrettably, no organised mechanism exists to address

these important matters regarding research in an inconsistent fashion. This is quite the goal of a new and inclusive NRF.

**Formation of a National Research Foundation:** A new NRF will be setup through an Act of Parliament, as an autonomous body of the Government of India, to fund, mentor, incentivise, and build capacity for quality research across the country in all disciplines, mostly at universities and colleges, both public and private. Proper infrastructure and a trained staff will be provided to enable it to fulfil its task.

**Opportunity of work:** The NRF will consist of four major divisions - Sciences; Technology; Social Sciences; and Arts and Humanities - with the provision to add extra divisions (e.g. health, agriculture, environmental issues), whenever it may be resolute to be helpful by the Governing Council of the NRF.

The NRF will competitively fund research in all disciplines across the academic landscape - from subjects such as Medicine, Agriculture, Artificial Intelligence, and Nanoscience to Education, Sociology, Art History, and Literature. The NRF may on event recognize areas of research that are of special position to the country and prioritise funding to them, but it will consider and fund outstanding proposals in all areas. The NRF will not directly fund defence-related or other sensitive strategic research.

In addition to directly funding outstanding research proposals, the NRF will also help seed centres of research in select disciplines at various universities, through providing institutional funding, bringing in research mentors as well as postdoctoral and doctoral students to grow an ecosystem for research at institutions where it currently does not exist or is limited.

The NRF, through its Governing Board, will also act as a liaison between researchers and the government, helping to ensure that the most urgent national issues of the day (e.g. clean water, sanitation, energy) are well-studied by researchers, and that the latest research breakthroughs are implemented for the public good through policy in an efficient manner.

Finally, the NRF will recognise outstanding research progress (especially research funded by the NRF), through NRF Prizes and through the organisation of national seminars on truly transformative research and successful seeding / growth of research at higher educational institutions.

All proposals funded, together with amounts of annual funding, annual updates on progress, and final results achieved (all explained also in layperson terms) will be publicly displayed on the NRF website.

**Funding for the National Research Foundation:** The NRF will be given an annual grant of 20,000 crores and will be conferred with the autonomy to set its own finances, governance rules, and statutes. Given the imperative to increase research and innovation

**Types of proposals:** Proposals of various types will be allowed, including:

- I. Research projects to be steered by a single principal investigator;
- II. Combined grants for inter and intra-institutional projects;
- III. Primary capacity building by a mentor researcher and mentee institution;
- IV. Primary building to push institutions that are already conducting research into a higher orbit;
- V. Well-envisioned groups and sessions that are likely to move forward research in the nation;
- VI. Research facilities of national and international position;
- VII. Larger and longer period projects/facilities of national position or motivation.

The NRF will consider funding larger national and international projects, in particular those that help build research, teaching, and other capacities at universities or that have a direct impact on society or fundamental knowledge in other ways.

International research collaborations will be encouraged and maintained by the NRF, specifically in areas where India does not yet have enough research strength on its own. In particular, special

efforts and special schemes will be made to strengthen international collaboration that leverages the Indian diaspora, which is seen as an vital asset for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the country.

The NRF will not only provide funds but, as part of Primary building, applicants from institutions where research is only in nascent stages, but who submit research proposals of the level that could potentially be funded by the NRF, will be assisted by one or more mentors at the NRF - who will be specifically commissioned by the NRF for this purpose - to help bring the writing of the research applications up to the quality levels required by the NRF, before the application is put through the official review process of Subject Committees.

Researchers of the above type that are funded will also be similarly mentored and supported as needed, to conduct research and to deliver on the desired outcomes. Retired scientists, social scientists and researchers in other disciplines will be called upon to serve as mentors. They will be compensated and appropriately incentivised to contribute. A large, trained, group of experts will be needed to take up this enormous but important task.

The NRF will institute a system of awards for truly successful research taking place in the nation, and in specific for research funded by the NRF. The awards will be given across divisions and subjects, and in a number of categories, e.g. for postdoctoral fellows and young untenured faculty, and for institutions (and the people involved) for effective exertions in seeding and growing research where it was earlier restricted.

The NRF will also organise national seminars and public lectures on outstanding research to inspire the award-winning researchers as well as other scholars and members of the public to get involved in the important issues that the research addresses.

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## Impact of Women on the Board of Directors under the Companies Act, 2013

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### **Abstract**

In this article, I examine the significant provisions that are incorporated into the Companies Act of 2013 to deal with the conventional under representation of women in the corporate arena. I conducts an in depth study of the provision to section 149(1) of Companies Act of 2013 which mandates the inclusion of at least one woman director on the Board of Directors. It is also a sign of women Empowerment. AS in India there is less scope of women in corporate sector by this provision women get there place in corporate sector.

### **Introduction**

The conventional Indian society constantly prevented women from entering the public domain and they were given an inferior position in the society. Gender bias which is a result of illiteracy and absolute insensitivity in a predominantly patriarchal society, together with the sheer convenience of male supremacy, always ensured that the condition of women, even among the sophisticated, remained pitiable. One causative factor of women's unequal status was their absence from leadership positions so with the help of this provision government can help women's to get corporate place

Legal requirement of women Director

As per second Proviso to Section 149(1) read with Rule 3 of The Companies (Appointment and Qualification of directors) Rules, 2014

The following classes of companies are required to appoint at least one Woman Director-

- (i) *Every listed company;*
- (ii) *Every other public company having –*
  - (a) *paid-up share capital of 100 crore rupees or more; or*

*(b) Turnover of 300 crore rupees or more.*

For appointment of Women Director, paid up share capital or turnover, as the case may be, as on the last date of latest audited financial statements has to be taken into account.

### **Time Frame for appointment**

The Companies which were incorporated under The Companies Act 1956 and companies which were covered by Section 149 (1) were provided with the time limit to comply with such provisions within a period of 6 months from the date of its incorporation. Further as per interpretation other existing Companies were required to appoint Women Director within a period of 1 year as mentioned under Section 149(2).

### **Intermittent Vacancy**

In case of any intermittent vacancy of woman director the same has to be filled-up by the Board at the earliest but not later than immediate next Board meeting or three months from the date of such vacancy whichever is later.

### **Duties and Liabilities:**

The following duties and liabilities have been imposed on the Women directors of companies, by the Companies Act of 2013: —

- A director of a company shall act in accordance with the Articles of Association (AOA) of the company.
- A director of the company shall act in good faith, in order to promote the objects of the company, for the benefits of the company as a whole, and in the best interests of the stakeholders of the company.
- A director of a company shall exercise the duties with due and reasonable care, skill and diligence and shall exercise independent judgment.
- A director of a company shall not involve in a situation in which she may have a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interest of the company.
- A director of a company shall not achieve or attempt to achieve

any undue gain or advantage either to herself or to her relatives, partners, or associates and if such director is found guilty of making any undue gain, she shall be liable to pay an amount equal to that gain to the company.

- A director of a company shall not assign her office and any assignment so made shall be void.

### **Alternative Director**

In case of absence of a Woman Director for a period of not less than three months, the board must appoint an alternative director to ensure the smooth functioning of the company. The alternative director shall leave the firm after the return of the woman Director. In case of more than one woman director, it is optional for the company to appoint an alternative director.

### **Term of Women Director**

A woman director can hold the position of Director until her next Annual General Meeting from the date of appointment. She is also entitled to seek for reappointment at the general meeting. The tenure of women director is liable to retirement by rotation similar to other directors. Like any other director, a Woman Director can also tender her resignation any time before the expiry of her term by giving a notice to the company.

### **Conclusion**

The provision for women directors to be on corporate Board of Directors in the prescribed class or classes of companies is a progressive step and has set the agenda of gender diversity representation in momentum. While the current statistics in India is not very encouraging, a change in the scenario is already seen with the coming into force of the new Act.

Gender bias has deterred many companies to induct women directors on their Board. Now with the new Act requiring compulsory appointment of at least one woman director, companies will have to search for good woman directors within the time frame allowed. There

are about 6000 listed companies on the stock exchanges and it will create a demand for woman directors Let us hope that each competent women found will stretch themselves to represent as many companies as possible to meet the requirements.

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## Use of ICT in higher education

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### Introduction

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are referred to as the varied collection of technological kit and possessions which are made use of to communicate. They are also made usage of to generate, distribute, collect information. ICT is a force that has changed many characteristics of the way we live. Information and Communication Technologies consist of the hardware, software, networks, and media for collection, storage, processing, transmission and presentation of information as well as related services. ICTs can be divided into two parts, Information and Communication Infrastructure (ICI) which refers to physical telecommunications systems and networks and the services that use those and Information Technology (IT) that refers to the hardware and software of information collection, storage, processing, and presentation. Information technology can be simply defined as the communication of human and machine which under human's control gathers data and spreads information.

The main objective of such a system is to provide information to its user. To achieve this, data must be evaluated, analysed and processed to produce meaningful and useful information. In the field of education, information technology is widely used. Higher education systems have grown exponentially in the last five eras to meet the demands of quality education for all. This aspect has further grewenergy due to swift advancements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The last two decades have viewed the inclusion of progresses in ICTs in higher education systems around the world. The speedy development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), particularly the Internet, is one of the most captivatingmarvels characterizing the Information Age. ICT powers our access to information, enables new

forms of communication, and serves many on-line services in the scopes of commerce, culture, entertainment and education. ICTs also allow for the creation of digital resources like digital libraries where the students, teachers and professionals can access research material and course material from any place at any time. Such amenities allow the networking of academics and researchers and hence allocation of scholarly material and leads to quality improvement in teaching and learning. Ensuring universal service and access to information and communication technology is a top national objective in many countries. Allocation of knowledge, which is one of the foundations of learning, is among the most fundamental social achievements of human beings. Building strong relationships with students is something that frequently explains why faculty takes preference in the challenge of working at a small university. The concept of affecting the traditional classroom of desks, notebooks, pencils, and blackboard to an online forum of computers, software, and internet intimidates many teachers who are accustomed to the face-to-face interaction of the traditional classroom. In view of ICT, education can be classified in three main categories:

A) E-Learning or Electronic Learning is a general term used to refer to computer-enhanced learning. It is also known as online learning. Distance education provided the base for e-learning's development. It overcomes timing, attendance and travel difficulties.

E-learning has the following advantages-

- Eliminating time and geographical hurdles in education for learners as well as teachers.
- Boosted group teamwork made possible via ICT.
- New educational approaches can be used.
- It offers the blend of education while balancing family and work life.
- It enhances the international measurement of educational services.

B) Mixed Learning Blended Learning is the combination of multiple approaches to learning.

Online Collaborative Learning involves interaction between

learners and faculty members through the web; this interaction can occur in one of the following modes: Synchronous interaction: Synchronous, means 'at the same time', it involves interacting with a faculty member and other learners via the web in real time using technologies such as virtual classrooms.

Asynchronous means 'un-even time'; it enables learners to interact with their colleagues and faculty member at their own convenience, such as interacting through email.

C) Distance Learning In order to increase the access to higher education and improving its reach to the remotest parts of the country, contribution of open and distance learning facilities is on the increase. It is a type of education, where students work on their own at home or at the office and communicate with faculty and other students via e-mail, electronic forums, videoconferencing, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of computer-based communication. It is also known as open learning.

Most distance learning programs include a computer based training system and communications tools to produce a vital classroom. Because the Internet and World Wide Web are accessible from virtually all computer platforms, they serve as the foundation for many distance learning systems. Need For the Study To create ICT-enabled teaching and learning environments, it is also necessary to provide ICT training for teachers. Teachers need to know about ICT and about what ICT can provide. They also need to be able to critically evaluate and discriminate what (technological) resource to use and whether one should be used at all. They need to be able to understand conceptually and in pedagogically appropriate ways, how, where and why to use computer related technologies. Thus, it is clear that teachers need competencies for successful instructional use of ICT. Today's generation may be able to enjoy better educational facilities if, the technologies behind the concept of Information and Communication Technology are appropriately integrated in the educational process.

**Importance of ICT in Various Fields of Higher Education** The application of ICTs as a tool for effective enhancement of learning, teaching and education management covers the entire spectrum of education from early childhood development, primary, secondary to higher education. Technology is about the ways things are done; the processes, tools and techniques that alter human activity. ICT is about the new ways in which people can communicate, inquire, make decisions and solve problems.

ICTs can improve the quality of Higher Education in a number of ways: By augmenting student enthusiasm and commitment, by making possible the acquirement of fundamental skills and by improving teacher training.

Tools of ICT commonly used in higher education are Audio equipments, Video equipments, Audio-visual gadgets, Projection tools , ICTs are also tools which enable and bring about transformation which, when used properly, can encourage the shift an environment which is learner-centred. ICTs which can be in the form of videos, television and also computer multi -media software, that merges sound, transcripts and multicoloured moving imagery, can be made use of so as to make available stimulating, thought provoking and reliable content that will keep the student interested in the learning process.

Higher education plays a pivotal role in the development of a country, as it is viewed as a powerful means to build knowledge based society. In India, higher education imparted by universities is facing challenges in terms of Access, Equity and Quality. The Indian Higher Education System has established itself as the largest system in the world in terms of number of institutions. The main governing body at the tertiary level is the University Grants Commission, which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps to coordinate between the centre and the state.

ICT in Research Applications of ICTs are particularly controlling and undisputable in higher education's research function.

- Communication links make it possible for research teams to be spread across the world instead of concentrated in a single institution.

- The combination of communications and Digital /Elibraries is equalizing access to academic resources, greatly enriching research possibilities for smaller institutions and those outside the big cities.

- Another important dimension of ICTs in research is the use of online full text databases and online research libraries/virtual libraries which are the direct outcome of the growth in telecommunications networks and technology. These databases and libraries provide researchers with online access to the contents of hundreds of thousands of books from major publishing houses, research reports, and peerreviewed articles in electric journals.

- The application of ICTs in academic research has grown steadily in the past 10 to 15 years in both developing and developed countries, although there are wide variations in usage both within and between countries and regions.

- The most straightforward use of ICTs in research is in data processing. The unprecedented growth in bandwidth and computing power provide opportunities for analyzing/processing huge amounts of data and performing complex computations on them in a manner that is extremely fast, accurate and reliable. Computer data processing not only frees researchers from the cumbersome task of manually analyzing data but more importantly facilitates quick and accurate analysis of huge amounts of data. ICT in Teaching - Learning ICT contributes significantly to the classroom teaching - learning process as it helps the teacher to motivate the learners and to make the teaching- learning process more dynamic. ICT can help the teachers to evaluate the learners progress. It renews the learners' enthusiasm because it develops the ability of self-learning. It makes learning experience more effective through its various products. The learners can interact with the teachers, peers, and experts on various issues outside the classroom. It is too early to say whether the role of ICTs

in the teaching function of higher education is truly transformative, or whether it is simply a repackaging of previous pedagogy. ICTs are a potentially powerful tool for extending educational opportunities, both formal and non-formal, to previously underserved constituencies—scattered and rural populations, groups traditionally excluded from education due to cultural or social reasons such as ethnic minorities, girls and women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, as well as all others who for reasons of cost or because of time constraints are unable to enroll on campus. ICTs make possible asynchronous learning, or learning characterized by a time lag between the delivery of instruction and its reception by learners. Online course materials, for example, may be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Teachers and learners no longer have to rely solely on printed books and other materials in physical media housed in libraries (and available in limited quantities) for their educational needs. With the Internet and the World Wide Web, a wealth of learning materials in almost every subject and in a variety of media can now be accessed from anywhere at any time of the day and by an unlimited number of people. Effectiveness, cost, equity, and sustainability are four broad intertwined issues which must be addressed when considering the overall impact of the use of ICTs in education. The educational effectiveness of ICTs depends on how they are used and for what purpose. The growth of mass higher education has made large classes an endemic feature of several courses at higher education institutions. Large class sizes make it difficult for teachers to employ interactive teaching strategies or to gain insight into the difficulties experienced by students. Large classes pose problems for all students but students who are under-prepared are particularly affected. It is in these contexts that provide useful opportunities for educational technologies. ICT in Administration/Management of Higher Education ICTs are used for -Admissions, student flow, personnel, staff development, Storage and analysis of data, Policy making, Curriculum preparation, Keeping record, Online courses, Online admission, Online

Examination, Online payment, Online publishing of results etc.

### **Benefits of ICT:**

- It motivates learners through hands-on activity, visual representations and improved modes of presentation;
- Provides in depth understanding of the subject matter.
- Equalizes individual differences and has particularly dramatic effects for students with special needs;
- Facilitates self-pacing with increased capacities to deal with individual learning styles as students can work at the pace and intensity suitable to their needs;
- Encourages use of peer coaching and peer reviews;
- Develops communication skills and awareness of different audiences;
- Has impact on resource-based learning and access to real world information through the Web;
- Encourages independent learning and individual preferences for process, layout, style and format;
- Gives students more control;
- Allows students to produce high quality multimedia products;
- Changes teacher practices, planning tools and assessment rubrics;
- Higher-quality of education and new-ways of interaction.
- High quality, cost effective professional development in the workplace,
- Developing of a new learning culture,
- Sharing of costs and of training time with the employees,

### **Conclusion**

The increasing use of information and communication technologies has brought changes to teaching and learning at all levels of higher education systems leading to quality enhancements. Traditional forms of teaching and learning are increasingly being converted to online and virtual environments. There are endless possibilities with the integration

of ICT in the education system. ICT enabled education will ultimately lead to the democratization of education. A new era of education has been started which necessarily demands a new role of teacher, pupils and education system. In the era of ICT, it will be very difficult for India to cross the digital divide, if concerted efforts are not made to promote ICT education. One of the strategies to be adopted in this regard is the production of teachers who have developed competencies for the successful instructional use of ICT in education. Those teachers are called 21st century teachers who will possess the technological, pedagogical, and social competencies in them and they will shape the personality of their pupils on constructivist level. Thus ICT refers to the integration of computing technology and communication. It allows us to get information and to communicate with each other or to have an effect on the environment using electronic or digital equipment.

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## Research process

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### INTRODUCTION :

Generally Research is understood to follow a certain structural process. Though step order may vary depending on the subject matter and researcher.

The following steps are usually part of most formal research, both basic and applied :

- \* *Formation of the topic* \* *Gathering of data*
- \* *Hypothesis* \* *Analysis of data*
- \* *Conceptual definitions* \* *Test, revising of hypothesis*
- \* *Operational definitions* \* *Conclusion, interaction in necessary*

Research process consists of series of actions or steps necessary to effectively carry out research and the desired sequencing of these steps. The chart indicates that the research process consists of a number of closely related activities, as shown through I to VII. But activities overlap continuously rather than following a strictly prescribed sequence. At times the first step determine the nature of the last step to be undertaken. It subsequent procedures have not been taken into account in the early stages serious difficulties may arise. Which may even prevent the completion of the study. One should remember that the various step involved in a research process are not mutually exclusive, nor they are separate and distinct.

### RESEARCH PROCESS :

Where, (F) = Feed back

(Helps in controlling the sub-system to which it is transmitted

(FF) = Feed Forward

(Serves the vital function of providing criteria for evaluations

However, the following order concerning various steps provides a useful procedural guideline regarding the research process :

- (1) Formulating the research problem.
- (2) Extensive literature survey,
- (3) Developing the hypothesis.
- (4) Preparing the research design.
- (5) Determining the sample design.

#### **(1) Formulating the Research Problem :**

There are two types of research problems viz, those which relate with states of nature and those which relate to relationships between variables. At the very outset the researcher must single out the problem he wants to study, i.e. he must decide the general area of interest or aspect of a subject matter that he would like to inquire into. Initially the problem may be stated in a broad general way and then the ambiguities, if any relating to the problem be resolved. Then the feasibility of a particular solution has to be considered before a working formulation of the problem can be set up. The formulation of a general topic into a specific research problems, thus, constitutes the first step in a scientific enquiry. Essentially two steps are involved in formulating the research problem, viz, understanding the problem thoroughly and rephrasing the same into meaningful terms from an analytical point of view.

The best way of understanding the problem is to discuss, it with one's own colleagues or with those having some expertise in the matter. In an academic institution the researcher can seek the help from a guide who is usually an experienced man has several research problems in mind. Often, the guide puts forth the problem in general terms and it is up to the researcher to narrow it down and phrase the problem in operational terms. In private business units or in governmental organisations the problem is usually earmarked by the administrative agencies with whom the researcher can discuss how the problem originally came about and what considerations are involved in its possible solutions. The researcher must at the same time examine all available literature to get himself acquainted with the

selected problem. He may review two types of literature the conceptual literature concerning the concepts and theories, and the empirical literature consisting of studies made earlier which are similar to the one proposed. The basic outcome of this review will be the knowledge as to what data and other materials are available for operational purposes which will enable the researcher to specify his own research problem in a meaningful context.

After this the researcher rephrases the problem into analytical or operational terms i.e. to put the problem in as specific terms as possible. This task of formulating, or defining, or research problem is a step of greatest importance in the entire research process. The problem to be investigated must be defined unambiguously for that will help discriminating relevant data from irrelevant ones. Care must however, be taken to verify the objectivity and validity of the background facts concerning the problem. Professor W.A. Neisvabger correctly states that the statement of the objective is of basic importance because it determines the data which are to be collected the characteristics of the data which are relevant. relations which are to be explored. The choice of techniques to be used in these explorations and the form of the final report. If there are certain pertinent terms. the same should be clearly defined along with the task of formulating the problem. In fact, formulation of the problem often follows a sequential pattern where a number of formulations are setup, each formulation more specific than the preceding one, each one phrased in more analytical terms, and each more realistic in terms of the available data and resources.

## **(2) Extensive Literature Survey :**

Once the problem is formulated, a brief summary of it should be written down. It is compulsory for a research worker writing a thesis for a Ph.D. degree to write a synopsis of the topic and submit it to the necessary committee or the Research Board for approval. At this juncture the researcher should undertake extensive literature survey connected with the problem. For this purpose undertake extensive literature survey

connected with the problem. For this purpose undertake extensive literature survey connected with the problem. For this purpose undertake extensive literature survey connected with the problem. For this purpose undertake extensive literature survey connected with the problem. for this purpose undertake extensive literature survey connected with the problem. For this purpose abstracting and indexing journals and published or unpublished bibliographic are first place to go to. Academic journals conference proceeding government report books etc. must be tapped depending on the nature of the problem. In this process should be remembered that one source will lead to another. The, earlier studies if a which are similar to the study in hand should be carefully studied. A good library be great help to the researcher at this page.

### **(3) Development of Working Hypothesis :**

After extensive literature survey researcher should state in clear terms the working hypothesis or hypotheses. Working hypothesis is tentative assumption made in order to draw out and test its logical empirical consequence. As such the manner in which research hypotheses are developing is particularly important since they provide the focal point for research. They all affect the manner in which tests must be conducted in the analysis. In most types research, the development of working hypothesis plays the important role. Hypothesis should be very specific and limited to the piece of research in hand because it has be tasted. The role of the hypothesis is to guide the researched by demining the are of research and to keep him on the right track. It sharpens his thinking and focus attention on the more important facts of the problem. It also indicates the type of das required and the type of methods of data analysis to be used. How does one go above developing working hypothesis ? The answer is using the following approach:

(a) Discussions with colleagues and experts about the problem, its origin at objectives in seeking a solution.

(b) Examination of data and records, if available, concerning the

problem for possible trends peculiarities and other clues;

(c) Review of similar studies in the area or of the studies on similar problems and

(d) Exploratory personal investigation which involves original field interview on a limited scale with interested parties and individuals with a view to secure greater insight into the practical aspects of the problem.

Thus, working hypotheses arise as a result of a priori thinking about the subject examination of the available data and material including related studies and the counsel of expert and interested parties. Working hypotheses are more useful when stated in precise and clearly defined terms. It may as well be remembered that occasionally we may encounter a problem. Where we do not need working hypotheses, specially in the case of exploratory or formulative researches which do not aim at testing the hypothesis. But as a general rule specification of working hypotheses, is another basic step of the research process in most research problems.

#### **(4) Preparing the Research Design :**

Research design can be thought of as the structure of research - it is the "glue" that holds all of the elements in a research project together. We often describe a design using a concise notation that enables us to summarize a complex design structure efficiently. The preparation of such a design facilitates research to be as efficient as possible yielding maximal information.

In other words, the function of research design is to provide for the collection of relevant evidence with minimal expenditure of effort, time and money. But how all these can be achieved depends mainly on the research purpose. Research purposes may be grouped into four categories viz, (1) Exploration (2) Description (3) Diagnosis, and (4) Experimentation. A flexible research design which provides opportunity for considering many different aspects of a problem is considered appropriate if the purpose of the research study is that of exploration. But when the purpose happens to be an accurate description of a

situation or of an association between variables, the suitable design will be one that minimises bias and maximises the reliability of the data collected and analysed.

There are several research design, Such as experimental and nonexperimental hypothesis testing. Experimental designs can be either informal designs (such as before and after without control after only with control, before and after with control) or formal designs (such as completely randomised design, randomised block design, latin square design, simple and complex factorial designs) out of which the researcher must select one for his own project.

The preparation of the research design, appropriate for a particular research problem involves usually the considerations of the following \_

- (1) The means of obtaining the information.
- (2) The availability and skills of the researcher and his staff (if any).
- (3) Explanation of the way in which selected means of obtaining information will be organised and reasoning leading to the selection.
- (4) The time available for research and
- (5) The cost factor relating to research, ie. the finance available for the purpose.

#### **(5) Determining Samples Design :**

All the, items under consideration in any field of inquiry constitute of “Universe” or “population”. A complete enumeration of all the items in the ‘Population’ is known as a census inquiry. It can be presumed that in such an inquiry when all the items are covered no element of chance is left and highest accuracy is obtained. But in practice this may not be true. Even the slightest element of bias in such an inquiry will get larger and larger as the number of observation inceases. Moreover there is no way of checking the element of bias or its extept except through a resurvey or use of sample checks. Besides, this type of inquiry involves a great deal of time, money and energy. Not only this, census inquiry is not possible in practice under many circumstance for instance, blood testing is done only on sample basis.

Hence, quite often we select only a few items from the universe for our study purposes. The researcher must decide the way of selecting a sample or what is popularly known as the sample design. In other words, a sample design is a definite plan determined before any data are actually collected for obtaining a sample from a given population. Thus the plan to select 12 of a city's 200 drug stores in a certain way constitutes a sample design. Sample can be either probability samples or non probability samples with probability samples each element has a known probability of being included in the sample but the non probability sample do not allow the researcher to determine this probability. Probability samples are those based on simple random sampling systematic sampling stratified sampling cluster/area sampling whereas non probability samples are those based on conveniences sampling judgment sampling and quoto sampling techniques. A brief mention of the important sample designs are as follows.

(i) Deliberate Sampling : Deliberate sampling is also known as purposive or non Probability or non probability sampling. This sampling method involves purposive or deliberate selection of particular units of the universe for constituting a sample which represent the universe. When population elements are selected for inclusion in the sample based on the ease of access, it can be called convenience sampling. If a researcher wishes to secure data from, say gasoline buyers, he may select a fixed number of petrol stations and may conduct interviews of these stations. This would be an example of convenience sample of gasoline buyers. At times such a procedure may give very biased results particularly when the population is not homogenous. On the other hand in judgment sampling the researcher's judgment is used for selecting items which he considers as representative of the population. For example a judgment sample of college student might be taken to secure reactions to a new method of teaching. Judgement sampling is used quite frequently the qualitative research where the desire happens to be to develop hypotheses rather than to generalise to larger populations.

(ii) Simple Random Sampling : This type of sampling is also known as chance sampling or probability sampling where each and every item in the population has an equal chance of inclusion in the sample and each one of the possible samples in case of finite universe, has the same probability of being selected.

(iii) Systematic Sampling : In some instances the most practical way of sampling is to select every 15th name on a list, every 10th house on one side of a street and so on sampling of this type is known as systematic sampling. An element of randomness is usually introduced into this kind of sampling by using random numbers to pick up the unit with which to start. This procedure is useful when sampling frame is available in the form of a list. In such a design the selection process starts by picking some random point in the list and then every  $n$ th element is selected until the desired number is secured.

(iv) Stratified Sampling : If the population from which a sample is to be drawn does not constitute a homogeneous group, then stratified sampling techniques is applied so as to obtain a representative sample. In this technique, the population is stratified into a number of non overlapping sub-populations or strata and sample items are selected from each stratum. If the items selected from each stratum is based on simple random sampling the entire procedure, first stratification and then simple random sampling, is known as stratified random sampling.

(v) Quota Sampling : In stratified sampling the cost of taking random samples from individual strata is often so expensive that interviewers are simply given quota to be filled from different strata. The actual selection of items for sample being left to the interviewer's judgment. This is called quota sampling. The size of the quota for each stratum is generally proportionate to the size of that stratum in the population. Quota sampling is thus an important form of non probability sampling. Quota samples generally happen to be judgment samples rather than random samples.

(vi) Cluster Sampling : Cluster sampling involves grouping the



population and then selecting the groups or the clusters rather than individual elements for inclusion in the sample. Suppose some departmental store wishes to sample its credit card holders. It has issued its cards to 15000 customers. The sample size is to be kept say 450. for cluster sampling this list of 15000 card holders could be formed into 100 clusters of 150 card holder each. Three clusters might then be selected for a sample randomly. The sample size must often be larger than the simple random sample to ensure the same level of accuracy because is cluster sampling procedural potential for order bias and other sources of error is usually accentuated. The clustering approach can however make the sampling procedure relatively easier and increase the efficiency of field work, specially in the case of personal interviews.

(vii) Area Sampling : Area sampling is quite close to cluster sampling and is often talked about when the total geographical area of interest happens to be big one Under area sampling we first divide the total area in to a number of smaller non overlapping areas. generally called geographical clusters. then a number of these as smaller areas are randomly selected and all units in these small areas are included the sample. Area sampling is specially helpful “here we don’t have the list of population concerned. It also makes the field interviewing more efficient since interviewer can do many interviews at each location.

(viii) Multi-stage Sampling : This is a further development of the idea of cluster sampling. This technique is meant for big inquiries. Extending to considerably large geographical area like an entire country. Under multi stage sampling the first stage may be to selected large primary sampling units such as stated, then districts, then towns and finally certain families within towns. If the technique of random sampling is applied at all stages the sampling procedure is described as multistage random sampling.

(ix) Sequential Sampling : This is somewhat a complex sample design where the ultimate size of the sample is not fixed in advance

but is determined according to mathematical decisions on the basis of information yielded as survey progresses. This design is usually adopted under acceptance. Sampling plan in the context of statistical quality control. In practice, several of the methods of sampling described above may well be used in the same study in which case it can be called mixed sampling.

### **CONCLUSION :**

The goal of the research process is to produce new knowledge, which takes three main forms, although, as previously discussed, the boundaries between them may be fuzzy.

- \* Exploratory research, which structures and identifies new problems.

- \* Constructive research which develops solution to a problem.

- \* Empirical research, which tests the feasibility of a solution using empirical evidence. Research can also fall into two distinct types :

- \* Primary research.

- \* Secondary research.

In social sciences and later in other disciplines, the following two research methods can be applied, depending on the properties of the subject matter and on the objective of the research :

- \* Qualitative research

- \* Quantitative research.

Research is often conducted the hourglass model structure of research - The hourglass model starts with a broad spectrum for research, focusing in on the required information through the methodology of the project (like the neck of the hourglass) then expands the research in the form discussion and results.

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## Target Costing : A Tool for Effective Economic Reforms in Global Scenario

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### Introduction

India was committed to a highly protective industrial and foreign trade regime since 1951 due to socialistic policy of governance. The protective regime controlled not only entry into industry and capacity expansion but also technology, output mix and import content. Import control and tariff provided high protection to the domestic industry. Industry suffered the ills of low productivity, obsolete technology and processes. Long lead times and high inventories lead to inefficiencies, and high cost which was passed on to the customers by way of price increases. Shortage, scarcity and premium ruled the roost ushering virtually no or little investment in technology and in upgrading processes, which resulted in inferior quality in all sectors.

### **The effect of economic reforms**

The economic reforms brought a sea change in the industrial environment with intense domestic competitive pressures and entry of global players. This forced the organizations to rethink their competitive strategies as inefficiencies could not be passed on as price increases to customers as in the past. The immediate need was to focus on inefficiencies in all areas and cut costs to retain / reduce selling price (which was often the case) to maintain market share and healthy bottom line. The competition both from domestic and global players became cut throat, with quality driven up and costs pushed down. All this supported with the latest technology products and performance. The customer cry was 'Value for Money' and the investors focused for leap in 'Shareholder Wealth'. Industry was pushed to the wall, which compelled them to intensify all over the cost cutting effort and also to critically focus on managing costs effectively. To implement market

- driven management policies across the organization, measurement and cost control systems must be designed to motivate the desired consumer - oriented behavior. Thus strategies that determine the direction of product innovation have become more crucial to corporate management today than ever before. In this situation therefore, target - costing system (Japanese) has been identified as the system, which helps managers to push forward this badly needed strategy. The increasing popularity of the system as opposed to “cost plus” (Western), has influenced my study in this subject.

### **Objectives**

To study the usefulness of Target Costing technique in profit planning in competitive market.

### **Sample Design:**

Researcher has selected sample of 56 manufacturing companies for study representing 23 different types of industries consisting of Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Metals, FMCG, Automobiles, Electronics, Textiles, Paints etc.

### **Statement of Hypotheses**

Profit planning can be made effective with Target Costing.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Product Development Strategy**

The greatest value of target costing lies in its ability to bring the challenge of the marketplace back through the chain of production to product designers. Target costing ensures that development teams will bring profitable products to market not only with the right level of quality and functionality but also with, appropriate prices for the targeted customer segments. It is discipline that harmonizes the labour of disparate participants in the development effort, from designers and manufacturing engineers to market researchers and suppliers. Target costing ensures that success with the customers will yield economic success for the company. Target costing is not a mere costing technique it is a comprehensive strategic profit management system

since it provides opportunities for substantial growth in profits when applied throughout the value chain.

**Target Costing used globally**

Target costing, was developed in Japan in 1965. Japanese firms including Toyota, Nissan, Sony, Matsushita, Daihatsu, Canon, Olympus Optical, Komatsu, Topcon, and Isuzu, have adopted target costing to achieve global economic success. Tani et al (1994) in their study found that 60.6% from the sample of 180 listed Japanese manufacturing companies use target costing to compete globally. In United States Boeing, Caterpillar, Rockwell, Eastman Kodak, Texas Instruments, Mercedes Benz, Daimler Chrysler, and Continental Teves (an automotive brake supplier) are leaders in implementing the target costing process. The study by Chenball and Langfield-Smith (1998) found that among 78 large Australian manufacturing companies, 38% claim to use target costing to gain competitive advantage. Dekker & Smidt survey study among Dutch listed manufacturing companies found 22 of the 32 responding companies using target costing practice to launch profitable products. Thus target costing technique has been successfully used by companies all over the world for cost reduction and profit planning.

Of the fifty six companies surveyed, fifty one companies responded 'yes' to the question do you recognize the need for target costing. Amongst these fifty one companies, forty seven companies responded that they had actually used this technique

Concentrating on these forty seven companies, that have adopted target costing technique, responses to the question 'How has target costing benefited your company? Please rank in order of preference where 1= Extremely Important was analysed.

Table - 1 Bivariate table showing preference for “Decrease in Cost” and “Increase in Profit”

X/Y	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
1		*32	2					34
2	9							9
3				1				1
4	2							2
5								
6			1					1
7								
Total	11	32	3	1				47

X=Preference for adoption in Target Costing for Decrease in Cost

Y = Preference for adoption in Target Costing for Increase in Profit

\*32 in cell (X=1,Y=2) indicates thirty two of the forty seven companies adopting Target Costing gave 1st Preference to decrease in cost and 2nd preference to increase in profit.

Table 2 Marginal Table for Preference in Increase in Profit (Y)

Preference for Increase in Profit (Y)	Number of Companies	Percentage Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1	11	23.4	23.4
2	32	68.09	91.49
3	3	6.38	97.87
4	1	2.13	100
5	-	-	100
6	-	-	100
7	-	-	100
Total	47	100	

Almost 23.40% of the companies using target costing stated that the purpose was for increase in profit which by implementing the technique was achieved. As there is very little difference between the first and second preference, as decrease in cost leads to increase in

profits the cumulative preference is 91.49%, shows that target costing is an effective tool for increase in profit and therefore profit planning.

To find the association between X and Y Karl Pearson Co-efficient of Mean Square Contingency {C} is used

Computation of C

$$C = \sqrt{\text{CHI-SQUARE} / [\text{N} + \text{CJ-JJ-SQUARE}]}$$

where  $\text{CHI-SQUARE} = \chi^2 / E - N$

Maximum permissible value of C is 0.9258.

Table 3 Tables of 'O' {Observed Frequencies}

X/Y	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
1		*32	2					34
2	■9							9
3				1				1
4	2							2
5								
6			1					1
7								
Total	11	32	3	1				47

Table 4 Table of E (Expected Frequencies)

X/Y	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1		23.15	2.17				
2	2.11						
3				0.02			
4	0.47						
5							
6			0.06				
7							

E for {i,j}th cell = [(ith Row total) x (jth Column total)] / Grand Total

CHI - SQUARE = 112.6425

C = 0.8399

The calculated value is closer to Theoretical C, this shows strong positive association between two attributes X and Y

Thus it proves the hypotheses that target costing is a technique for

cost reduction and profit planning.

## **Conclusion**

Although target costing in its simplest form is merely a calculation - target price minus margin, today's competitive environment makes target costing an indispensable, strategic management technique. It can be successfully integrated into new product development and portfolio management process to provide the firm with economic and strategic benefits. A key element to consider is the benefit of abandoning projects which will not be economically viable in today's competitive markets and focusing typically limited resources on those opportunities which will provide adequate returns to the company. Target Costing provides guidance on how to create sustainable competitive advantage for a firm. Old ways of costing blunt a firm's ability to compete effectively and hinder their ability to focus on world class performance. The effort has its cost, but the cost of not making the effort is greater.

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## An overview of Forensic Accounting

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### Introduction

The term 'forensic' refers to the application of professional, technical, or scientific knowledge for criminal investigations. It also includes the application of such knowledge for legal proceedings. Forensic accounting is the application of accounting skills to determine whether there has been fraud or embezzlement. We also call it forensic audit, forensic auditing, financial forensics, or forensic accountancy. It is the use of accounting skills to analyze financial data for use in legal proceedings. Forensic accounting includes, for example, examining a company's financial statements.

### Meaning of Forensic Accounting

Forensic accounting utilizes accounting, auditing and investigative skills to conduct an examination into the finances of an individual or business. Forensic accounting provides an accounting analysis suitable to be used in legal proceedings. Forensic accountants are trained to look beyond the numbers and deal with the business reality of a situation. Forensic accounting is frequently used in fraud and embezzlement cases to explain the nature of a financial crime in court.

### Definitions of Forensic Accounting

•As per ForensicAccounting.com "The integration of accounting, auditing and investigative skills yields the specialty known as Forensic Accounting."

As per Webster Dictionary, Forensic Accounting "Belonging to, used in or suitable to courts of judicature or to public discussion and debate".

According to Zia (2010) "The science that deals with the relation and application of finance, accounting, tax and auditing knowledge to analyze, investigate, inquire, test and examine matters in civil law,

criminal law and jurisprudence in an attempt to obtain the truth from which to render an expert opinion”.

What does Forensic Accounting cover?

The two major aspects within forensic accounting practices are:

1. Litigation support services. A forensic accounting expert measures the damages experienced by the parties implicated in legal disputes and can aid in settling conflicts, even before it reaches the courtroom. In the event that a conflict reaches the courtroom, the forensic accounting professional could give evidence as an expert witness.
2. Investigative/fact-finding services. A forensic accountant must determine whether illegal matters such as employee felony, securities embezzlement (including tampering and distortion of financial accounts), identity theft and insurance racket have taken place.

### **The scope of Forensic Accounting**

Look for evidence of unusual development in the accounting and financial systems.

Design accounting processes for verifying important premises and data. A forensic accounting orientation also calls for skills in identifying possible fraud.

Perform audit type processes on a routine schedule in order to reduce transaction processing risks.

Cover a broad range of businesses and locations that require customary or continuous surveillance of all transaction processing systems.

### **Importance of Forensic Accounting**

Assessing working transactions for compliance with basic operating processes and agreement.

Performing thorough scrutiny and examination of financial payment dealings in the accounting system to decide if they are standard or beyond company policy.

Assessing standard ledger and financial reporting system

transactions for likely unlawful tampering or falsification of information or accounts and its consequences on the ensuing financial accounts.

Analyzing warranty requests or returns for practices of fraudulence or misuse.

Assisting in estimating the economic damages and the ensuing insurance demands that arise from catastrophes such as fires or other natural setbacks.

Affirming business rating in consolidations and accomplishments.

### **Forensic Accountants**

Although the focus is fundamentally on accounting concerns, the function of a forensic accountant may also cover a more generic investigation including collection of evidence.

Almost every accounting firm in the country today has forensic accounting sections. Within these sections, there may be sub-differentiations; for instance, some forensic accounting experts may specialize in insurance applications, personal injury declarations, fraudulence, construction or royalty audits.

Forensic accountants may also offer their services in retrieving profits from crime and in relation to appropriation proceedings relevant to definite or assumed proceeds of crime or dubious transfer of funds. Unique only to India, there is a specific species of forensic accountants known as Certified Forensic Accounting Professionals.

### **Forensic Accounting in India**

Given the nature and types of fraud in India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has compulsorily made forensic accounting audit mandatory for all banks within the country. The establishment of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in India has become the turning point for forensic accountants in the country. The indications of the growing demand for the field are:

The growing list of online criminal offences

Breakdown of regulators to trace and detect cyber-security frauds

The long chain of co-operative banks going bust

The Difference between Forensic Accounting and Forensic Auditing:

The primary difference between forensic audits and accounting lies in the purpose of the audit.

A forensic accounting assignment relates to Frauds Against the Business. This issue may involve employee fraud or a dispute with a vendor or customer.

On the other hand, forensic auditing related to Frauds for the business. Forensic audits relate directly to financial statement frauds whereas forensic accounting requires investigative techniques and technology. The auditor's report must meet the standards for presentation in court.

Forensic Accounting assignments are complex in nature. Forensic Accountants answer the questions such as who perpetrated the fraud? what was the modus operandi ? and what were the fraud losses?

On the other hand forensic auditors are engaged to check the trail of money. Source of funds to utilization, forensic auditors answer the questions such as motives of the businesses behind the fraud.

### **Tools and Techniques used for the purpose of Forensic Accounting**

1. Theory of Relative Size Factor (RSF): The relative size factor test is an effective test for detecting errors. This test highlights all the possible fluctuation. It measures the ratio of largest number to the second largest number in the given set. Higher the difference indicates higher chances of occurrence of fraud and error.
2. Computer Assisted Auditing Tools (CAATs): Computer-assisted audit techniques (CAATs) is an automated tool to perform audit process.

CAAT are used by the auditors to perform various auditing procedures such as:

- Testing details of transactions and balances,
- Identifying inconsistencies or significant fluctuations,
- Testing general as well as application control of computer systems.
- Sampling programs to extract data for audit testing, and

Redoing calculations performed by accounting systems

3. Benford's Law: It is a mathematical tool, and is one of the various ways to determine whether variable under study is a case of unintentional errors (mistakes) or fraud. Once the variable or field of financial importance is decided, the left most digit of variable under study extracted and summarized for entire population. The summarization is done by classifying the first digit field and calculating its observed count percentage. Then Benford's set is applied. A parametric test called the Z-test is carried out to measure the significance of variance between the two populations, i.e. Benford's percentage numbers for first digit and observed percentage of first digit for a particular level of confidence. If the data confirms to the percentage of Benford's law, it means that the data is Benford's set, i.e. there is 68% (almost 2/3rd) chance of no error or fraud. The first digit may not always be the only relevant field. Benford's Law gives the expected patterns of the digits in the numbers in tabulated data. Benford has given separate sets for 2nd, 3rd, ..., and for last digit as well.

4. Data Mining: Techniques: It is a set of assisted techniques designed to automatically mine large volumes of data for new, hidden or unexpected information or patterns. Data mining techniques are categorized in three ways:

Discovery: It helps in discovering the usual knowledge without predefined hypothesis.

Predictive modeling: In this model patterns are discovered from the database to predict the outcomes.

Deviation and Link analysis: In this model unusual items are detected. Link discovery has emerged recently for detecting a suspicious pattern. It mostly uses deterministic graphical techniques, Bayesian probabilistic casual networks. This method involves "Pattern matching" algorithm to 'extract' any rare or suspicious cases.

5. Ratio Analysis: Data analysis ratios for key numeric fields are also a useful technique used by forensic accountants to detect the frauds.

The following three ratios are commonly used to do data ratio analysis to report on the fraud health by identifying possible symptoms of fraud

The ratio of the highest value to the lowest value (max/min);

The ratio of the highest value to the second highest value (max/max2);

The ratio of the current year to the previous year Using ratio analysis, a financial expert studies relationships between specified costs and some measure of production, such as units sold, dollars of sales or direct labor hours.

### **Conclusion**

Forensic accounting provides an accounting analysis suitable to be used in legal proceedings. To conclude Forensic accounting as a discipline is an interesting area and can be highly useful to both the investigator and the society. Investigators act as sniffer dogs but if disclosure is transparent and authentic then the chances of frauds would reduce. It investigates and collects evidence of frauds that will be placed in the hands of the judicial authority.

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## Study of relationship between management accounting and financial accounting

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### **Abstract**

**A**ccounting is the language of business in terms of the monetary figures. Accounting is the tool of communication to communicating various business information to the decision centres and other users within an organisation and outside the organisation. It also provides information to permit informed judgements and decision to the users of the information.

This paper will throw light on the concept and the evolution of Financial accounting and Management accounting. In this paper we will also study the relationship between the two major branches of accounting i.e. Financial accounting and Management accounting.

Here we will clarify the major difference between financial accounting and management accounting. How management accounting is differing from the financial accounting and why management accounting is important till today for taking various decisions for the management of an organisation. With this it also studies the integration of financial reporting & Management accounting.

**Key Words: Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, Business organisation, Decision making.**

### **Introduction:**

Accounting is the process of recording, classifying, summarizing and interpretation of business transactions and communicating those to the decision centres and other users within an organisation and outside the organisation. So it is truly said that Accounting is the language of business which is indispensable for any form of business organisation irrespective to the nature and size. Accounting is a system meant for measuring business activities, processing of information into reports



and making the findings available to decision-makers. Thus the principal function of accounting is to communicating information to permit informed judgements and decision by the users of the information. As we all know that in the business world future is unpredictable as well as uncertain the risk pertaining to the business is very high thus the decision involved with business is too sensitive matter which needs more focus and calculated study. Hence, decision making plays a key role in day-to-day operation of the business. But then the process of decision making is much more complex. Taking a right decision at a right time largely depends on obtaining the right information at a right time. At this point for taking right decision Business organisations relaying more and more on the internal sources of information and on the people who are able to provide right and accurate information. The documents, which communicate these findings about the performance of an organisation in monetary terms, are called financial statements.

Here it should be noted that the term Accounting does not only meant by Financial accounting only, it also includes the various other branches of accounting like Cost accounting, Management accounting, Human resource accounting, Tax accounting, Depreciation accounting, Social accounting and so on. With this extended scope of accounting has to be considered as a significant tool even for non-trading & non-profit organisations.

### **Brief History & Concept of Management Accounting & Financial Accounting**

#### **Financial Accounting:**

Accounting, as defined by American Institute of Certified Public accountants (AICA), is “an art of recording, classifying, summarising in a significant manner and in terms of money, transactions and events, which are in part at least of financial character and interpreting the results thereof.”

Modern accounting is not an overnight result of a sudden change in any event. It has reached the present stage through an evolutionary

process of thousands of years. Since the beginning of the human civilization practice of accounting has been going on and it is still continuing with the moderation and development in its concepts and formats. Based on the various historical data and historical evolution of the financial accounting it can be chronically classified into 4 stages i.e. (i) Emergent stage (from a primitive age to 1494 AD), (ii) Pre-analytic Stage (1495-1799), (iii) Developmental/ Analytical stage (1800-1950), (iv) Modern stage (1951 onward).

The period of the gradual development of accounting system after 1950 is known as modern period. This period is immersing after 2nd World War when the production system has been changed to a great extent. This brings remarkable development in the field of science and technology. with the result of technological changes notable changes were also seen in industry and commerce and these influenced the economic and social life tremendously.

Traditional accounting could only supply information related to the owners and managing body for taking effective decision for the daily activities of an organisation. With the changing circumstances in the field of commerce and economics traditional system of accounting were unable to meet the demands of various interested parties of the society. People from various classes of the society became interested parties of business organization directly or indirectly. For this reasons, various attempts were made to update accounting system.

### **Management Accounting:**

According to the definition given by the Management Accounting Team of the Anglo- American Council "Management accounting is the presentation of accounting information in such a way as to assist management in the creation of policy and in the day-to-day operations of an undertaking".

From the above information it is clear that the Management Accounting is concerned and deals with the various financial and non-financial information useful for management to their decision making.

Evolution of management accounting has a very different views and beliefs. Many believe that it developed during the period of the industrial Revolution and on the other hand, with the time span management realized that the information demanded by the investor-owners was also useful for managing the firm's affairs and resources. Since then management started using financial accounting as a tool of decision making. Management accounting means accounting designed for the management, i.e., accounting which provides necessary information to the management for discharging its functions. Its main aim is to assist the management to perform their duties to take decision and day to day business functions effectively. It is basically concerned with presentation of accounting information in a manner which can assist the management in the creation of policy and in the day-to-day operations of an undertaking.

### **Relationship between Management Accounting & Financial Accounting:**

The relationship between Management accounting and Financial accounting is very complex. On the one hand management accounting provides data on the cost, inventory etc. which is essential for taking various future decision at managerial level. It is also used to support financial reporting and, in this sense are subordinated to financial reporting (Richrrdson,2002). Management accountant and financial accountant shares a common knowledge based on the basic level of accounting information. On the other hand, management accountants have been urged to act as internal consultants within organizations focusing on strategic initiatives and performance measurement/ management rather than routine costing processes (Russell et al., 1999). There is also a well-recognized tension between the information needed for stewardship versus investment decision-making (Beyer et al., 2010). Management accounting focuses on the stewardship or implementation aspects of management actions while financial accounting focuses on the investment uses of information. Management

accounting is thus simultaneously a profession that supports financial reporting while attempting to develop beyond this narrow scope.

Complicating the relationship is the idea financial reporting should provide insights into the metrics to the shareholders that managers use to run the business. Some have suggested that financial statements are “too late, too aggregated and too distorted” (Johnson and Kaplan, 1991) to be used to run organizations.

There was a change in the focus of financial accounting that reinforced the divergence of perspectives. Initially financial reports were intended as “general purpose” documents for multiple stockholders. On the other side management must be mindful about multiple stakeholders and management accountant provides data to support this broader perspective on the long success of an organisation. The increasingly distinct sets of stakeholders that are the focus of financial reporting and management accounting, respectively, encourages a divergence of practice in each area (Ball, 2004).

### **Difference between Management Accounting & Financial Accounting:**

- Accounting information within the organisation is provided by the Management Accounting while the Financial Accounting provides information for those who are outsider stake holders such as shareholders, Debenture holders etc.
- Financial Accounting is compulsory and required by the law where as Management Accounting is not having any such requirement.
- Management accounting is concerned with some particular cost centres or a product only while the financial accounting covers an entire organisational activities.
- Information obtained and reports prepared under the management accounting are useful to those within the organisation. Reports can be generated for any period of time such as daily, weekly or monthly. Reports are considered to be “future looking” and have forecasting value to those within the company.

- Financial reports are primarily used by the outside stakeholders of the company or an organisation. So financial reports are usually having combination of historically factual & predictive value for those who wish to make financial decision or an investment in a company.
- Management Accounting is the branch of Accounting that deals primarily with confidential financial reports for the exclusive use of top management within an organization. These reports are prepared utilizing scientific and statistical methods to arrive at certain monetary values which are then used for decision making. Such reports may include:

Sales Forecasting reports

Budget analysis & Comparative analysis

Feasibility studies

Merger & Consolidation reports etc.

Financial accounting on the other hand concentrates on preparation of financial reports including basic reporting requirement of profitability, liquidity, solvency and stability. These types of report can be easily accessed by the internal as well as external users such as shareholders, bank, creditors etc.

### **Integrating Financial Reporting & Management Accounting:**

Single system of reporting in accounting is very useful, accurate & has deep roots for both to stakeholders and managerial decision-making. It is based on the three considerations. First, in equity-focused economies, the claim is made that managers should always act in the best interests of shareholders, i.e. their decision should focus on maximizing shareholder value. Financial statements provide a mean by which shareholders monitor management and are often used to build compensations systems intended to align management interests with those of shareholders. But more than this, it is argued that shareholders should be able to see the information on which managers make their decision in order to differentiated between good/poor decision, i.e. to separate skill from luck. This emphasized that the information system

used by management should be more clear, detailed and real time version of the information should be provided to shareholders and not an information system based on a different logic of practice.

With this logic the new question arises in front of the financial accounting standard setters to move away from “arbitrary” standard and to adopt those practices and standard that have proven to be “value relevant”. The concept of risk draws attention to possible future outcomes and contingencies for the organization and whether or not the organization can withstand shocks (business resiliency), react constructively to challenges (contingency planning), and innovate to meet new challenges (innovativeness). The financial statements with their traditional backward perspective have been inadequate to provide insights into this aspect of corporate performance.

Recent experiment in corporate reporting such as sustainability reporting and related reports on corporate social responsibility, environmental and social impact & intellectual capital begin to provide more useful data on these dimensions but, with an assumption that management is developing information system to support business flexibility and investors would find disclosure of this information value relevant. This argument for integration suggest that the merger of management accounting & financial accounting as technologies of practices is most likely in publicly listed companies operating within strong shareholder rights jurisdictions.

### **Conclusion:**

In this paper, we examine relationship between two different branches of accounting i.e. Management accounting and Financial accounting. We situated our understanding of the relationship between these two branches by comparing them and evaluating the similarities and differences between these two branches.

In doing so, we can understand that though there is huge difference between concept, uses, users of Management accounting and Financial accounting and these two have its own methods and rules but they are

dependent on each other less or more. Management accounting is depended on financial accounting. Management accounting is unable to give accurate result and information to the management without using the data and information obtained by financial accounting. On the other hand, financial accounting sometimes also needs the data and information related to management accounting to increase the profitability of an organisation and run a business organisation efficiently.

It is suggested that most significant opportunities reside in a better understanding of the concept of the various branches of accounting, its uses, and study of interdependency as well as inter relationship between any two or more branches of accounting. Through this types of study, we can understand accounting to the great extent and can use organisational resources to make different developmental programmes of an organisation.

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## “Sport specific applications of echnology most noticeably /notably in the area of equipment”

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### Introduction

In this Olympic year it is appropriate to consider the roles that sport play in our societies. While the natural focus of attention associated with an Olympiad is on “the elite” of sport, we as administrators in the profession cannot lose sight of the fact that sport is truly an activity for everyone in society. Thus it is also appropriate that the focus of this conference is on sport and social inclusion which is really what SPORT FOR ALL should be all about.

There was a time when technology and equipment had very little impact on sport, even in the Olympics. As you may recall, the athletes who participated in ancient Olympic Games did so in the nude using implements such as discii that were both “off the rack” and shared among the competitors. So it is safe to say in this instance, there was no real advantage that accrued to any participant as a result of the application of “technology” in-so-far as equipment or personal gear was concerned.

But it is equally safe to say that in the Olympics of the modern era, technology applied to sport has played an important role both in training and in competition. This has manifested itself in a variety of ways that range from the creation of new sports, to facilities used to accommodate them, to the equipment used by the athletes in competition to the training support used by teams to prepare the athletes for competition. Moreover, the processes employed in the adoption of technology and technological methods to enhance sport and recreation have accelerated with each successive Olympiad. These advances in technology, as with all other walks of life, have had a marked impact in most aspects of sports.

## Sport Specific Applications

when we say technology, what exactly do we mean? There are several definitions from the dictionary, but I picked only two to illustrate the scope and impact of technology on the human race. These are:

*The application of science or a technical method of achieving an intended purpose.*

An even broader definition is

*Technology is the totality of the means employed to provide the objects necessary for human sustenance and comfort.*

As you can see, there is a lot of latitude when we start talking about how technology affects sport or even more narrowly, sports equipment.

### **The development of new sports both recreational and competitive.**

These changes reflect a natural evolution in sports as well as generational shifts that are more pronounced. In the latter instance, there are new multi-sport competitions such as the “X-Games,” which include events such as mountain biking, in-line roller skating, roller boarding, boogie boarding and snow boarding. The X-Games are, incidentally, named after the 15 to 30 year old demographic group called “Generation X” who make up the largest participant group for these sports which have sprung up to compete for sponsorship and media space with older, more established events.

A very good example of this process is the introduction of snow boarding in the Nagano Olympiad. At one time, snow boarding was banned from most ski resorts because of a perceived conflict on the part of resort managers between the snow board enthusiasts and the more traditional skier. This antipathy stemmed from both the free-wheeling way in which the snow boards are used on the slopes and a perceived cultural clash between the two sets of resort patrons. Now most ski resorts could not survive or remain economically viable without the revenue generated by snow boarders.

Which brings us to facility design. The application of technology in sport facility design has yielded real changes in terms of athlete

use, spectator comfort and usable life span. Example of these changes include: Equipment which makes competition judging and compiling results more accurate. Further, technological applications such as photo-finish timing devices tied in with communications technology for in-stadium displays such as scoreboards and broadcasting make the events more enjoyable for the spectators.

Technological changes have resulted in facilities that are more cost efficient to operate resulting in the freeing up of scarce financial resources for programs which would have otherwise been expended for operating costs such as utilities. Among these advances are lighting options that extends the useable hours of facility operation or computerized HVAC controls that gain operating efficiency as well as increasing both athlete and spectator comfort.

technological change frequently results in better building finishes that extend the life of the facility, are safer for the participants and are less costly to maintain. Most notable in this area are finishes such as sports flooring and playing surfaces.

These developments are not limited to the upper end of the sports hierarchy. Compared to the extremely high cost of traditional television broadcast, the comparatively low cost of this technology will bring to sports fans events that could never before be seen broadcast on traditional media. A simple example of how this can occur is an annual sailboat race across the Gulf of Mexico from Mobile to Tampico. Last summer the skipper of a local boat participating in the event took photos with a digital camera of the race activities and the participants every four hours and uplinked them by a satellite phone to his own Website. Thus friends in the community, or anyone else in the world who stumbled into the Web address, could participate in this event as they never could before. Sports events of a distinctly local flavor without the mass appeal that make them economical for television broadcast can so be distributed to anyone with an interest. The Web is not constrained by the limited availability of broadcast channels and

high production costs. And while bandwidth is currently an issue for the web, this will resolve itself in the near future with the introduction of broadband technologies.

A good example of this is trend is that of Worldsport.com. This internet presence has succeeded in tying together all 88 members of the General Association of International Sport Federations which represent all of the sports played in the Olympics. Worldsport.com not only hosts the federations individual Webpages, but also provides general technological support through activities such as promotional information and marketing, administrative information for athletes and administrators in secure areas of their sites, educational programming such as certification, logistical support such as a global e – mail communication system and the list could go on and on.

### **Conclusion**

the Sport Specific Applications of IT to sports management has dramatically changed the way that we do business. Thinking through how we can use this kind of equipment and these tools greatly enhances outcomes. The bottom line is that these IT tools are rapidly becoming a necessity for the sports administrator at whatever level in the sports hierarchy they are working. They are a powerful force for social inclusion in sport and recreational activity and for the profession as a whole.

## Cloud Computing

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### Introduction:

With the augmentation of data, the organizations need to provide better and faster secured data access to customers. Cloud computing came as a godfather of the new generation of data analysis and data access through the network. This new way of distributing and using data solved many of data problems. It reduces the time required to procure heavy resources and boot new server instances in minutes, permitting one to rapidly scale limit, both all over, as ones necessity changes.

### Definition:

The term cloud means network or the internet. It is a technology that uses remote servers on the network to store, manage, and access data online instead of local drives. The data can be anything such as files, photos, documents, sounds, videos and many more.

Following that we can do using cloud computing:

- \* Developing new applications and services
- \* Storage, back up, and recovery of data
- \* Hosting blogs and websites
- \* Delivery of software on demand
- \* Analysis of data
- \* Streaming videos and audios

### Why Cloud Computing?

- \* Small as well as large IT organization, follow the traditional methods to provide the IT infrastructure. That implies for any IT organization, we need a Server Room that is the fundamental need of organizations.
- \* In that server room, there should be a database server, mail server, networking, firewalls, routers, modem, switches, QPS (Query Per Second means how much queries or load will be handled by the server),

configurable system, high net speed, and the maintenance engineers.

- \* To establish such IT framework, we need to spend lots of money. To conquer all these problems and to diminish the IT framework cost, Cloud Computing comes into existence.

### **History of Cloud Computing:**

Before emerging the cloud computing, there was Client/Server computing which is fundamentally a centralized storage in which all the software applications, all the information and all the controls are resided on the server side. If any user wants to access specific information or run a program on his/her computer, he/she need to connect the computer to the server and then gain appropriate access, and then he/she can do his/her business. Then after, distributed computing came into market, where all the computers are networked together and share their resources when needed. Based on above processing, there was developed of distributed computing ideas that later executed.

In 1999, Salesforce.com began delivering of applications to users using a basic website. The applications were delivered to enterprises over the Internet, and this way the dream of computing sold as utility came true.

In 2002, Amazon began Amazon Web Services, offering types of services like storage, computation and even human intelligence. In 2009, Google Apps additionally began to give cloud computing enterprise applications.

Obviously, all the big players are present in the cloud computing evolution, some were prior, and some were later. In 2009, Microsoft launched Windows Azure, and organizations like Oracle and HP have all joined them. It proves that today, cloud computing has become mainstream.

### **How does cloud computing work:**

Assume that you are an executive at a very big company. Your specific responsibility is to make sure that all of your employees have the right hardware and software they require to do their jobs.

To purchase computers for every employee is not enough. You also have to buy software as well as software licenses and then give these softwares to your employees as they require. Whenever you hire a new employee, you need to purchase more software or make sure your current software license offers another user. It is so stressful that you have to spend very much money.

But, there might be another option for executives like you. So, instead of installing a suite of software for each computer, you simply need to load one application. That application will permit the employees to log-in into a Web-based design which hosts all the programs for the user that is required for his/her job. Remote servers owned by another organization and that will run everything from e-mail to word processing to complex data analysis programs. It is known as cloud computing, and it could change the whole computer industry.

In a cloud computing system, there are significant workload shift. Local computers have no longer to do all the heavy lifting with regards to run applications. But cloud computing can deal with much heavy load easily and automatically. Hardware and software demands on the user's side deduction. The thing that the user's computer requires to be able to run is the cloud computing interface software of the system, which can be as basic as a Web browser and the cloud's network deals with the rest.

### **Advantages of Cloud Computing:**

As we all know that Cloud computing is drifting innovation. Almost every organization turned their administrations on the cloud to raise the organization development. Here, we are going to discuss some important advantages of Cloud Computing:

#### **Agility**

The cloud works in a distributed computing environment. It shares assets among clients and works very fast.

#### **High accessibility**

Cloud gives easy access to store information anywhere, anytime in the whole world, using an internet. An internet cloud infrastructure

increases organization productivity and efficiency by guaranteeing that our data is always accessible.

### **Device and Location Independence**

Cloud computing gives the users to access systems using a web browser regardless of their location or which device they use. As infrastructure is provided by a third-party and accessed via the Internet, users can connect from any location.

### **Maintenance**

Maintenance of cloud computing applications is easier, since they do not need to be installed on every client's PC and can be accessed from different locations. In this way, it decreases the expense too.

### **Low Cost**

By using this technology, the cost will be reduced because to get the services of cloud computing, IT organization need not to set its own framework and according to utilization of resources.

### **Services in the pay-per-use model**

Cloud computing offers Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to the clients to access services on the cloud and pays the charges according to the use of administration.

### **Unlimited storage capacity**

Cloud offers us a large amount of storing capacity for storing our important data such as documents, images, audio, video and all other type of files in one place.

### **Data security**

Data security is probably one of the greatest benefit of cloud computing. Cloud offers many advanced features related to security and guarantees that information is safely put away and taken care of.

### **Disadvantages of Cloud Computing:**

A list of the disadvantage of cloud computing is mentioned below

#### **Internet Connectivity**

As you know, in cloud computing, every data is stored on the cloud, and we access these data through the cloud by using the internet



connection. If you do not have good internet connectivity, you cannot access these data. However, we have no any other way to access data from the cloud.

### **Vendor lock-in**

Vendor lock-in is biggest disadvantage of cloud computing. Organizations may face problems when transferring their services from one vendor to other. As different vendors provide different platforms, that can create difficulty in moving from one cloud to another.

### **Limited Control**

As we all know, cloud infrastructure is completely owned, managed, and monitored by the service provider, so the cloud users have less control over the function and execution of services within a cloud infrastructure.

### **Security**

Despite the fact that cloud specialist organizations execute the best security principles to store significant data. But, before adopting cloud technology, you should be aware that you will be sending all your organization's sensitive information to a third party, i.e., a cloud computing service provider. While sending the data on the cloud, there may be a chance that your organization's information is hacked by Hackers.

### **Cloud Computing Architecture:**

Now a days, cloud computing technology is used by both small and large companies to store the information in cloud and access it from anywhere at any time using the internet connection.

Cloud computing architecture is a combination of service-oriented architecture and event-driven architecture.

Cloud computing architecture has following two parts

Front End, Back End

### **Front End**

The front end is used by the client. It contains client-side interfaces and applications that are necessary to access the cloud computing platforms. The front end includes web servers (including Chrome, Firefox,

internet explorer, etc.), thin & fat clients, tablets, and mobile phones.

### **Back End**

The back end is utilized by the service provider. It deals with all the resources that are required to provide cloud computing services. It incorporate a huge amount of data storage, security mechanism, virtual machines, deploying models, servers, traffic control mechanisms, etc.

Cloud computing distributes the file system that spreads over numerous hard disks and machines. Data is never stored in one place only and in case one unit do not work the other will take over automatically. The user disk space is allocated on distributed file system and another important component is algorithm for resource allocation. Cloud computing is a strong distributed environment and it heavily relies on strong algorithm.

### **Services of Cloud Computing:**

A Cloud Services deals with which type of service you access according to the client's requirement.

Cloud computing offers following three types of services:

i. Software as a Service (SaaS) – It is known as cloud application services. Generally, SaaS applications run directly through the web browser means we do not have to download and install these applications.

*Example: Google Apps, Salesforce Dropbox, Slack, Hubspot, Cisco WebEx.*

ii. Platform as a Service (PaaS) – It is known as cloud platform services. It is a bit similar to SaaS, but the difference is that PaaS gives a platform for software creation, but using SaaS, we can access software over the internet without the need of any platform.

*Example: Windows Azure, Force.com, Magento Commerce Cloud, OpenShift.*

iii. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) – It is known as cloud infrastructure services. It is responsible for managing applications data, middleware, and runtime environments.

*Example: Amazon Web Services (AWS) EC2, Google Compute Engine (GCE), Cisco Metapod.*

### **Cloud Computing Applications:**

Cloud service providers provide numerous applications in the field of art, business, data storage and backup services, education, entertainment, management, social networking, etc.

### **Types of Cloud**

There are the following 4 types of clouds according to the organization's needs.

- \* Public Cloud      \* Private Cloud
- \* Hybrid Cloud      \* Community Cloud

### **Public Cloud**

Public cloud is open for all to store and access information via the Internet using the pay-per-usage method. In public cloud, computing resources are managed and operated by the Cloud Service Provider (CSP).

*Example: Amazon elastic compute cloud (EC2), IBM SmartCloud Enterprise, Microsoft, Google App Engine, Windows Azure Services Platform.*

### **Private Cloud**

Private cloud is also known as an internal cloud or corporate cloud. It is used by organizations to build and manage their own data centres internally or by the third party. It can be deployed using Open source tools such as Openstack and Eucalyptus.

Based on the location and management, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) divide private cloud into the following two parts-

- \* On-premise private cloud
- \* Outsourced private cloud

*Example: -Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)*

### **Hybrid Cloud**

Hybrid Cloud is a combination of the public cloud and the private

cloud. Hybrid cloud is partially secure because the services which are running on the public cloud can be accessed by anyone, while the services which are running on a private cloud can be accessed only by the organization's users.

*Example: Google Application Suite (Gmail, Google Apps, and Google Drive), Office 365 (MS Office on the Web and One Drive), Amazon Web Services.*

### **Community Cloud**

Community cloud allows systems and services to be accessible by a group of several organizations to share the information between the organization and a specific community. It is owned, managed, and operated by one or more organizations in the community, a third party, or a combination of them.

*Example: Health Care community cloud*

### **Future**

Businesses nowadays are looking for innovative approaches to grow and accomplish their business goals. With the assistance of cloud computing, this business will continue to grow in the future. Cloud computing is powerful and expansive and will keep to grow in the future and will give many benefits. Cloud computing is very cost-effective and companies can use it for their growth. The future of cloud computing is very bright and will give all benefits to both the host and the customer. One should remember that the owner of the company should be familiar with the most recent development taking place in Cloud technology.

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## Hygiene and sanitation

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### Personal health

To make a person healthy, it is necessary to have a vision of healthy learning. Every human should be mentally and physically. Only then can he serve the country and society well.

### Personal Health takes care of these points

#### 1) Physical health

India is hot country. Where people get sweat due to heat, the skin quickly becomes dirty and deodorant. The dust settles on the body and closes the pores of the skin and stops the body from excreting internal substances. This causes the lungs to work more. Due to the formation of scum on the body, internal bacteria can also be grown in it and different germs of the skin can grow and various diseases of the skin such as whip, pimples, itching.

It is very important to keep the skin healthy. Bathing is very important to keep the skin clean. Bathing with hot water is very important in winter. Before taking bath it is also necessary to clean the teeth regularly and cleaning of the nails and nails is also necessary. Always wear clean clothes.

For cleaning inside the body take care of this points

#### 1) Neti

Neti is used to cleanse the upper part of the throat.

The upper part of the nostril combines several rivers on the plexus of the brain. The policy purifies them and they become active. Neti makes the couple clean by removing the action phlegm. Eye light grows, cures diseases of throat, particles, cancer.

Due to this, diseases like cold, cold, nasal bone etc. can be cured.

#### A) Sutra Neti

Early morning, after doing the burning, sitting on the legs and

keeping the neck high, the tone of the nasal is going on and soaking the cotton yarn in the nose inside slowly. When the front part of the throat comes to the throat, hold it with both the hands of the index finger of the right hand and the middle of the policy with the middle hand and keep the hands up and down Then, keeping the policy the same, drink some water in the mouth and then do gharsan and then rinse the phlegm and take the mouth out slowly.

## **B) Jala neti**

It is doing after sutra neti. Put the knuckle in which it is breathing, and put it in the lotte. Keep the mouth open so that the breath can be inhaled. Raise the glass up so that the water can go into the ring. Dhar went from one nose to another. Some light hot water should be added after adding salt to the glass. After this action, remove all the drops of water from the nose.

## **2) Dhauti**

which form the yogic system of body cleansing techniques. By doing the dhauti action, the entire phlegm of the stomach comes out. There are benefits from diseases like cough, asthma, breath, headache, gas. Soaking 3 inch and 7 meter long muslin cloth in salt water and putting it in the mouth slowly swallowed like animals and came out. It should be practiced slowly. Swallow a fitted bandage on the 1st day and slowly increase it.

## **3) Vasti Kriya (Anima)**

The mall has sewage in the large intestine. Stools in the rectum produce a disorder. For this, feces are expelled by Enema A once a month. It provides benefits to gas, indigestion, constipation and stomach diseases.

## **4) Nauli**

The exercise is claimed to serve the cleaning of the abdominal region - digestive organs, small intestine and is based on a massage of the internal belly organs by a circular movement of the abdominal muscles. Abdominal obesity decreases. Liver, spleen glands are affected.

## **Introduction to major diseases**

### **1) Thiamine deficiency**

It is also called Beriberi diseases. This disease occurs due to deficiency of vitamin B. This causes pain in the muscles and causes flatulence. Its treatment is a good and balanced diet so that vitamin B is in proper quantity.

### **2) Diabetes**

This disease is caused by worsening of picas. Due to lack of insulin, the sugar in the food is not digested and is excreted through urine in the blood.

Its treatment is balanced diet, walking and medicine.

### **3) Anemia**

It is also called lack of blood. Anemia is caused by a lack of blood in the body. There is a deficiency of hemoglobin in red blood particles. It is found more in women and children. There is weakness, dizziness, feeling of heat etc. in it. Its treatment should be vitamin B12, iron, milk, fruits.

### **4) Allergies**

If the medicine is sensitive for a particular person, then eating it causes many diseases such as walking, pimping, becoming dag, etc. Its treatment is to stop the use of that chemical and consume vitamin C.

### **5) Malaria**

It is also called plasmodium infection. It is caused by the bite of a female unflashy mosquito. Its germs destroy red blood particles. Simons of malaria, You have to experience loss motion, weakness, vomiting, etc. For the treatment of this, quinine should be taken and sleeping under mosquito nets.

### **6) Cholera**

The disease spreads due to drinking dirty water, use of rotten fruits, vegetables and food. Its treatment is to be vaccinated, clean and clean food and water, cleanliness of house, intake of pure water etc.

### **7) Polio**

It is also called poliomyelitis. It spreads through the virus which makes the spinal cord, gala, and teeth useless. In this, the leg dies. It spreads more in children. Children should be given polio medication. It is necessary to get vaccinated for prevention.

### **8) Measles**

It is also called rubella ( Khasra). Red rash comes out in it. Fast comes hungry. The eye becomes red. It spreads with the virus. It should be relaxed and light food should be taken.

### **9) Plague**

It is caused by the bite of the flea that is found on the mice. It causes rapid hunger and mistake in joints. Treatment for this should be given to the mice by getting out of the house or dying of plague injection.

### **10) Corona:-**

It is also called Covid-19.

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate illness and recover without hospitalization.

Most common symptoms of it's:-

fever, dry cough, tiredness

Treatment for this maintain 6ft social distance each person.