

History of Kendrapara: A Study on Literary Evidence

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Introduction

It is natural for all of us to develop an interest to know about any society and about its culture. We are curious to know as to how its social fabric is weaved and cultural ethos is maintained down the ages. Kendrapara a place is complex and plural in nature. Its social mosaic comprises many races, language groups, religions faiths and castes. The uniqueness of its culture lies in her wonderful power of accommodation and synthesis. In mythological texts like Mahabharat, Tulasipurana, Tulasikhetra, Mahatmya it is identified with various names like Tulasikhetra, Brahmakhetra, Guptakhetra and Kandarapalli or Kendrapalli means (cluster of village)^[1].

Any systematic and holistic assessment of Oriya literature conventionally starts from pre-Sarala age (10th to 14th C.AD). Which is generally taken as the beginning phase of a long evolutionary growth. During the period of 14th century AD a number of devotional songs and Khanda Kabya was written upon Baladevjew and his Mahima^[2]. Prominent poet during this time was Bipramaduri das the Great disciple of sri Chaitanya. She composed "Tulasi Khetra Mahatmaya". Besides, him the great saint poet Jagannath Das and Sarala Das has culminated into a form of Gyanamishra Bhakti cult in his region. During the later part of 17th century Sadhucharan Das who was taking born the poetic name as Kabisurya Sadanada Brahma and established a matha at kendrapara. He used to compose nine bodies of Ramaleela and many voluminous poetic works like Jugala Rasamruta Lahari and Chaura Chintamani etc^[3].

In early parts of 18th century art, literature, song and religion grown up in Kendrapara under the patronage of Badakota Zamindar, like zamindar Govinda Jena, Sadasiva Jena and then Radhasyama Narendra^[4]. This place was famous to such literary importance that various poets and saints started visiting the place. The Great poets and Abimanyu Samnata Simhara was so much love with this place and got married to daughter of zamindar Govinda Jena. However the Vaishnavism cult continued its dominance in the field of literature till the arrival of

the great sage Arikshita Das to the region. This great sage carried the " Abadutta cult" with him. His great poetic works are like Mahmadala Gita, Padmakalpagita which came up carrying the message of new poetic tradition. Except him saint Madhu Das of Kantia math composed Kali Bhagabata Fagu Das of Naaupala Math a composed Nama Brahma Gita and Shyamaghan Das of Koruamatha composed a series of Spiritual song^[5].

Among the traditional literature the important poets were Vaisya Sadasiva who wrote Ramaleela, Rangadhar Narendra who has written Bichitra Ramayan, Ramasankar Roy, completed writing about Raja Parikshita, Trinisena Badha and Gopal Das's writing are Kansa Vadha and Rukmini Vibha etc^[6]. He produced more than to Gitinatyas which give him the status of a Ganakabi among his contemporaries. Then Mirzuzir Beg wrote Babrubahana, Sitabanabasa, Jarasandha Badha, GovindasurDeo's Sakhi Gopal, Rasaleela, Manabhanjana etc. Another one was Dola Govinda Mangaraj he had written Bali Badh, Kumudini, Nilachala etc are very popular Bhagabat Prasad nath also contributed a lot. His Writing is Sadhaba jhia, Kanaka, Puspa, Udbodhana Chamu etc^[7].

Nationalist Literature

With the set of National Renaissance a kind of patriotic and nationalistic literature started blooming in and around the region. Among them Ananda Chandra Jena composed his revolutionary poem "Dukhini Kanika" in 1922, Karma Veera Gouri Sabkara(1838-1917) of Asureswar who was published Utkal Dipika in 1866. Radhanath Roy also contributed alot for this work^[8]. Madhusudan and Radhanath Roy and two others of Kendrapara has taken initiatives for this pallikabi Nadakisore Bal who was also a student of Kendrapara high school composed Nirjharini, Charulata, Nareekabi, Kuntala Kumari who was married to K.P. Brahmahari at Nasidipur of Kendrapara and composed many poems Chintamani, conveying the message of revolution and reawakening. Her novels were like Kalibabu, Natundi which also contained the message of social reform. The Nationalistic trend has been shouldered on by prafulla Das

(Rajkanika) who has become famous for his noted creations like Bharatara Sasastra, Mukati Sangram, Raktasnata, Kalapanira, Agnisikha, Agniyuga Purana and many others^[9].

Modern contemporary Literature

In Modern contemporary times diversified forms of literature both in style and spirit have started blooming in this region. Not only poetry, many others aspects of literature like Drama, short story, children's literature like Drama, shot story, children's literature, New paper, weekly and journals also have started flourishing in the area enriching oriya literature as well as contributing to Indian literature in many ways. These literary creations broadly contain the spirit of romantic realism, socialist realism, and existentialism^[10].

Poetry

Among the notable poetic persons Sitakanta Mohapatra was one of them. His Adivasi Kabita, Sabdara Akasa and Sesanama are important. He also created the wooden sword stay is in no where forgive the world etc in English language. For this he has been awarded the highest literary awarded of the nation, like Gyanapitha Award, Central Sahitya Accademy Award and Sarala Award^[11]. His poetic fragrance was spread to different countries of the world gaining wide international acclaim. Dipika Mishra is another one whose writings are Sunyatara Sosa, Dhulira Sinhasana, Nisidha Hrada and many other notable works which developed to the field of literature^[12]. He also achieved the award of Sahitya Academy, Gramika Award and Bisuba Award etc. Apart from them KabiPrasad Mohapatra who wrote Anurakta, Ayodhya patha and Abhisapta Aparajita etc^[13]. Brahmananda Das, Saroj Mohanty, Ashutosh Parida, Bhagaban Mohapatra, Aparna Mohanty, Satrughana Panda, Hemant Rout, Ananta Kisora Jena^[14] and many others are thing to bring literature to a height of glory till now in Kendrapara soil.

Novels

There are a number of novel written in the district who have contributed to the stock of Oriya novels. Some important novelist is Chandramani Das, Kanduri Chandra Das, Gopinath Behera, Sukadev Sahoo, Bishun Prasad Bahalia, Prshallad Nath, Surendra Pallai and others^[15]. Among their writings Bhulkahara, Kuanrikanya, Lanjatara, Jete aapana sete para, Nebajanna, Jharafula, Milana Patha, Sagrika and Papa Darparna are famous among Odia people^[16].

Children Literature

The important persons of Kendrapara who have contributed towards growth of Children

literature are Banamali Brahmachari, Dhaneswar Samal, Pitambar Pradhan, Suresh Swain, Niranjankar and others.

The region has also a recognizable contribution to the field of publication of news paper and Magasines. The Magazine of student was being published from this region in 1986, Kuteer another Magazine was published in 1916. Other prominent old magazine was Madhu. Apart from old new magazines many weeklies which have come in to light in modern contemporary times are Gujab, Isha, Balaya, Paraga, Agnee Bina, Swadhikara, Baladevjew express, Indradhanu, Kharasrota and many others^[17].

Discussion

In this way this Coastal District Kendrapara has been contributing to the growth of Oriya literature as well as Indian literature. The district of Kendrapara has been now also popular as a land of poets, writers, critiques and other creative personalities in the field of literary, art and religion. A number of literature organizations are evolved in different parts of the district to breed up the literary talents of the land.

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