

Radhika Mohan Bhagawati's State Transport: An Explanatory Discussion

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Abstract - Drama, Poem, Novel, Story are among those that often come to our mind while discussing about literature short stories also played a major role in the development of literature. The short stories of Radhika Mohan Bhagawati has provided a new front to Assamese literature. Bhagawati's 'Nioti' state transport and some other stories reflected on the suffering of middle class of the society.

Index Terms - development, literature, society.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

Radhika Mohan Bhagawati was among one of Assam. This story reflects on the issues of daily life living standard of lower section of the society on their lives. Hence keeping as these in mind to enlighten the readers about the contributions of Radhika Mohan Bhagawati via short stories, this topic is chosen.

METHODOLOGY OF DISCUSSION

An analytical and descriptive way is followed for the preparation of the subject matter. The short story state transport is chosen for the views of the story in a socio-cultural form. Help from various books is taken.

INTRODUCTION

While looking for the Assamese literature, we cannot ignore the great contributions of the prominent Assamese author Radhika Mohan Bhagawati. One of her golden stories is "State Transport" like "Nioti" [Nioti], "State Transport" etc. are mainly focused on the lower middle section of the society. The struggles of the lower middle-class people and the gap of wealth between their dreams and reality are the major things that Radhika Mohan Bhagawati highlighted in his stories. Through pen he clarified the

inner pain of such of the society that the rich people doesn't leave any stone unturned in digging the path of success for lower section of the society so called "Middle Class" and "Poor People".

In this regard, "State Transport" is a prominent story which focuses on the above-mentioned subjects. The storyline of the story is simple but the way Radhika Mohan Bhagawati presented. It is tremendous and remarkable.¹

The protagonist of the story "State Transport" is a teacher with twelve years of his teaching career. A short incident of his life is mentioned in this story. He lived along with his eight-member family of two sons, four daughters and wife.

They received a letter from in-laws mentioning marriage invitation. Reena's (Sister-in-law) marriage was dated on 19th of October. They were invited a week earlier. But they were not provided a means of transport from them in laws. Instead they were suggested to catch up state transport as it is better and cheap now a days.

The above-mentioned incident was the sudden and shocking begging of the story and we can infer that it directly focuses on state transport. The story does not mention the lifestyle of the teacher only it does concentrate on the situation of the teacher the letter from father-in-law. After reading the letter the protagonist realised himself in a terrorise position. Being the elder son-in-law. It was his responsibility to activity coordinate the whole marriage swiftly. But was it possible for a middle-class man as like him whose salary was only the source of income to raise up his own family. While putting the letter down he began to realise the expenses he will have to pay for. He was thinking of saving his income but suddenly he began worrying. He picked up the letter to read it once more but he failed to gather the courage for reading it one again. When he handed over the letter to

his family, they began to react so normal All stared discussing about dresses, gifts and many more things. Sons demanded shirts, daughters demanded dresses and ornaments. Being elder sister of the bride, his wife planned to gift some expensive things in order to build her self-respect.

From the above incident, the author mentioned the life of a middle-class teacher and challenges faced. Though the marriage may not be a big deal for rich people, but it is a great matter of concern for lower class people. Both mentally and economically it ruined them.

Meanwhile the teacher also faces some challenges while looking for state transport buses. Discrimination in ticket booking, conflicts regarding seats are some among them. Those challenges are among which the lower-class people face every day. The society only rewards those people who do not understand the feeling of lower-class people. In this way, humanity among us is at the peak of destruction.

Even if the teacher was facing such situations, they reached their in-laws. A rich family with good name and fame greatly shown up their excellent arrangements. The marriage hall seems to be like a fair to him. Everyone is busy, some are busy in designing the hall, some in their branded designer dresses. In other word there was a situation of pomp and gaiety in the whole surrounding. Every blow of wind gives enthusiastic vibe for every worker in the hall. There was no place for sadness. The teacher has not saw any morning celebration as this beforehand. The house itself appears like a bride. There was great excitement and joy among everyone. Several clothes were also purchased for all the family members and relatives. The protagonist found difficult to cope up with the enthusiastic environment. After leaving his family in his fathers-in-law house he headed back to his own house, he found out his mother seriously ill. He called up the village doctor for her treatment. Directionless tensions buried the teacher. In the story it is expressed in the following sentences.

“As I left the home, a new reason of restlessness arose out of scarcity. An apocalypse in ideas followed afterward. Marriages, in-laws, but conductors, human civilization, state transport, scarcity, violence, discriminatin-all of these seemed to have lost in the objects of the apocalypse, one by one.”

-State Transport

With these sentences the author concluded the story. The author Radhika Mohan Bhagawati, at the end left the readers of the story in dilemma. Every reader is now eager to know future of the story.

The subject matter of the story is simple, but the way author presented it is awesome and suspenseful. The story focuses on today's handicap society. 'Honesty is the best policy' wean know about it but in today's life it does not build a true dignity among people. In order to earner money, now -a-days people use shortcuts though it may be illegal. One with lot of money built their name and fame among people. But the people who is earning money with honesty are not recognized in the society. In this way, the path of success and lifestyle of a honest man is full of obstacles that are created by law mashers and middleman of the society. Most of the law breakers are the law makers of the society. Even the own family of the teacher started demanding most of the costly things for the marriages. Economic crisis becomes a disease for every middle-class family. Mental pressure, depressions etc. become the friends of these people. The character of the teacher is the main stream of the story that respect son the situation of most pf the lower class people Honest people in our society face hundreds of people who make their way to make money illegally. Sometimes facing all these problems, the protagonist plans to quit government job and make money by illegal deeds. This is how some situations can change mindset of people.

The story also mentions about the mental condition of the teacher after marrying a higher middle class gitl and also how his own classmate has become a D.S.P officer though he was only 10th standard pass.

“State Transport” shows us that, how hard it is for a lower middle class was to feed his family. After a daylong hard work, they somehow managed their livelihood. They often fail to give their wife beautiful clothes, ornaments. Their children started comparing their way of living with their rich friends which differ greatly and blamed their parents for that. The whole world is under the blanket of discrimination. Most of the facilities available are for richer section of the society. Form collecting the bus tickets are preferred who have some high rank in the society or some relatives and friends' conductors, drivers or even some high rank officers. The conditions of public transport buses are also not good, but no initiatives are taken from the government side to improve them. "No

smoking" board is just hanged up there but no one rarest. our world is adversely affected by these factors which imbalances the functioning of society. rich get rich are and poor become poor etc. as a result.

CONCLUSION

Radhika Mohan Bhagowati "State Transport" was itself a class. It started and ended up all of a sudden. the story really pointed out some real issues we get to know among us. It was a story full of suspense. The story was like comparing a hard worker with his/her unfulfilled desires and goals. They were not able to fulfill their wishes due to some other sections of the society. The lack of humanity among people left the poor starve for longer. Every person in a society plays an important role. Instead of helping each other some of them keep snatching away every opportunities of hard workers. This is the true reason why hard workers among us are left unemployed.

There is no short cut to success. But now a days it became only the way to make money. They disrespected and unfollow rules that they were suggested. It's a true example of buying success with money. In a society, every people have their own responsibilities but still they should respect and understood each other. They should find a better solution to dismiss mis deadS. Awarness among people can change a society to better and save every hard worker from crisis.

FOOT NOTE:

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