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Mainstreaming the Marginalized:

Perspectives in Humanities, Commerce and Science

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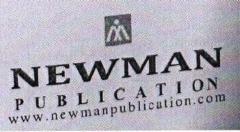
Mainstreaming the Marginalized:

Perspectives in Humanities, Commerce and Science

Book – 1 (English)

Editors

Dr. Kalyan Gangarde Dr. Shamrao Waghmare



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The Reflection of Ambedkarite Movement in Aravind Malagatti's Government Brahmana

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Introduction:

The Ambedkarite movement is a broader social programme of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. It has been developed to assert the process of democratization against the oppressive and exploitative structure of Brahmanism and Capitalism against the oppressed community especially the Dalits or untouchables who have been exploited economically, socially and politically for centuries by Hindu Society. Before the emergence of the Ambedkarite movement, Dalits dared not to tell their humiliation and exploitation in public, but Dr. Ambedkar's revolutionary ideas increased the confidence and self esteem among the Dalits and made them courageous to rebel against exploitative structure of the Hindu community. Hence, Dr. Ambedkar's ideology is at the roots of Dalit movement and its main objective is to create society free from suffering, injustice and inequality. It is in the works of Dalit literature, especially in Dalit autobiographies, we get the voice of this movement. The Ambedkarite movement provided a platform for Dalit writers to expose and explain the contemporary social conditions of untouchables in India. As a result, the several writers came forward to present their suffering in various forms like poetry, short stories, novels, life-sketches, dramas, autobiographies, memoires etc., but the most prominent and significant discourse of their resistance is autobiography.

Dalit Autobiography:

Autobiography is generally regarded as the story of writer's life. It represents more about private, social, public, political and moral life of a writer. However, Dalit autobiography is confined to the authors' private or social life or hardships faced by them. It is the reflection of sufferings and wounded psyche of the whole Dalit community. Dalit writers give more importance to the community rather than individual emotions. They interpret repulsive experiences of exclusion of an individual and their community. For instance, Daya Pawar's Baluta (1978), Baby Kamble's Prisons we Broke (2008), Aravind Malagatti's

Government Brahmana, (2007), Sharankumar Limbale's The Outeane Planila Pawar's The Weave of My Life (2008) are some some which spit S Government Brahmana, (2007).

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(2003), Urmila Pawar's The Weave of My Life (2008) are some of the against existing the sound of the against existing the sound of the sound (2003), Urmila Pawar's The fire against existing the main purpose of these autobiographies is to real best examples of Dant autobest examples of these autobiographies is to reflect the best examples of these autobest examples of Dant auto-Hindu norms. The main purpose the anguish of the whole community and quest for self identity and to reflect the anguish of the whole community among the non Dalits. They are the anguish of the whole common the non Dalits. They are socion which fabricate awareness in the minds of bring about an attitudinal change are socional historical narratives which fabricate awareness in the minds of reader historical narratives of untouchables and their struggle against historical narratives. about the existence of untouchables and their struggle against hunger about the existence oppression, humiliation, discrimination and poverty, deprivation, oppression, humiliation, discrimination and case poverty, deprivation, opposition of and cause violence prevalent in contemporary Hindu society. In one of his interviews, Malagatti himself confessed: "Autobiography of a dalitis not an individuals 'private' life story. It reflects the collective experience of the whole community. That becomes the history of the downtrodden". In fact, much of contemporary Dalit literature is autobiographical, even as they reflect the various aspects of Ambedkarite movement in different context. Under the impact of Ambedkarite ideology, not only Dalit autobiographies but also the different Dalit Organizations are protesting against the caste system injustice and disparity which are prevalent in Hindu society. The present paper aims to discuss Aravind Malagatti's Government Brahmana in the light of Ambedkarite Movement

Aravind Malagatti's Ambedkarite ideology:

The main object of Ambedkarite ideology is to focus the fundamental human values like liberty, justice and equality and to raise a voice of protest against the unjust social order. We know that a human being is not born as a Dalit, or untouchable; it is the system that degrades them. Aravind Malagatti is a well-known Indian Dalit writer writing in Kannada. He has founded a number of Dalit organizations and has played an active role in the Dalit movement. His both creative and critical works explore humiliation, discrimination, and exclusion of Dalits from social, religious and economic activities. His Government Brahamana (1994), the first Dalit autobiography in Kannada, represents the plight and agony of the community through a series of episodes from the author's childhood and youth in a caste society. The autobiography illustrates the normative cruelty practiced by caste Hindu society on Dalits. It shows not only the physical and psychological indignities of Dalits but also the cheap condition of the Dalit women who are exploited to fulfill the lustful desires of the upper caste people. As the text Government Brahmana appears to be anticipated by Ambedkar's own autobiographical sketches in its structure and purpose, it is regarded as one of the landmarks of the Ambedkarite Movement.

Ambedkarite ideology in Government Brahmana:

Malagatti's Government Brahmana provides an interesting insight into an oppressed psyche. It is divided 22 chapters with two broad categories: firmly entrenched consciousness of the Dalit in the social set -up through his personal experience and the consciousness of a non- Dalit. While depicting the c firmly entrenched consciousness of the Dalit, Malagatti narrates the real life incidents in his own inimitable style. He gives a complete study of "Maali community" in Karnataka. The isolation, suppression and alienation that an individual faces in Maali community are recorded in minute details. The insult and injury faced by Dalits is portrayed within the reality of the situation. The details in the novel are completely trustworthy since the writer himself is a witness to the problems. Malagatti does not only lament but raises a voice against the unjust treatment shown towards Dalits. He makes a non-Dalit think about the condition of Dalit people. For example in Some of the chapters viz. "coins on the corpse and wedding feast" "cotton stolen and laddu eaten" "my colony and my study" and "so I became an expert barber" reflect the stark rural poverty and the feeling of want and deprivation in the tender hearts of children who live in the rural pockets of India where the living standards are often awful and painful. These incidents could happen anywhere, anytime to anybody who lives in the social quagmire of caste-ridden contemporary India. The chapter "My father's job and the August Fifteen" is a reflection of the symbolic paradox of freedom which sent diverse signals nation. "Okuli- an Eastman color film" takes a well deserved dig at the superstitions prevalent in rural India which result in many social perversities in to garb of tradition and custom. In short, Government Brahmana explores experiences of Dalits who are forced to face atrocities, humiliation, discrimination, and exclusion from social, religious and economic activities. He also explores the cheap condition of the Dalit women and also shows how they are forced to perform the sanctioned role and are exploited to fulfill the lustful desires of the upper caste people (Naik: 281).

Conclusion:

In fact, Government Brahamana is not an autobiography of one individual alone, though it is in that format. It is a vivid depiction of all the unfortunate oppressed people who are at the receiving end of a raw deal meted out to them by powerful people. The real life incidents are narrated in his own inimitable style. These incidents could happen anywhere, anytime to anybody in the caste-ridden society of contemporary India. The Ambedkarite movement raises voice against the exploitative structure of the Hindu community. The main objective

of Government Brahamana is to make the people aware of the fact and to raise a voice against the unjust treatment shown towards Dalits. So it is regarded as the representation of Ambedkarite movement,

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