

A BRIEF REVIEW OF A.B SATHE'S LITERARY WORK

Anant Prabhakar Netake

Research Scholar
Institute of Advanced Studies in English,
Aundh, Pune (Maharashtra)

Prof. Kamalakar Baburao Gaikwad

Assistant Professor in English
A.C.Patil College of Engineering,
Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

Sathe was born in the village of Wategaon near Sangli in a family belonging to the Dalit community. Poverty has prevented Sathe from obtaining formal education. Despite lack of formal education, Sathe wrote in Marathi 35 novels, one among which was *Fakira* (1959). *Fakira* which is currently in its 19th edition received a state government award (1961). *Vaijanta* is the remarkable one.

There are 15 collections of Sathe's short stories. A large number of his short stories have been translated into many Indian and as many as 27 non- Indian languages. Besides novels and short stories, Sathe wrote a play, a *travelogue on Russia*, 12 Screenplays, and 10 Ballads-Powada (Marathi). Sathe wrote directly from his experiences in life, and his novels celebrate the fighting spirit in their characters who work against all odds in life.

Annabhau contributed tremendously towards social awakening during *India's Freedom Movement*, the *United Maharashtra Movement* and the *Goa Liberation Movement*.

Novels of A.B. Sathe

Racy Style, Lively Characterization, New Themes, Innovative Technique, Dramatic Treatment, of Conflict and Distinct Regional flavor are the salient features of A.B.Sathe's writing. Sathe wrote directly from his experiences in life, and his novels celebrate the fighting spirit in their character who works against all odds in life. Sathe wrote in Marathi 35 novels, among them most important novels are *Fakira*, *Vaijanta*, *Maakadicha Maal*, *Chikhalatil Kamal*, *Vaarnechaa Vagha*, *Master*, *Chitra*, *Ratna*, *Ranganga*, *Gulam*.

The protagonist of the A.B. Sathe's novel tries to come out of racial bondage. Anna Bhau's protagonists are helpful to all communities of the society. There is Marxist Ideology's impact on Sathe's writing. Female protagonist in Sathe's novels indicates his liberal thought towards women. *Vaijanta*, *Chikhalatil Kamal*, *Chitra*, *Mangla* are the examples of it. The novel has been used by Sathe as a weapon to establish a foundation of progressive, rational, feminist and aggressive manifestation in Marathi Literature. Sathe wrote 200 Songs and *Lavani* which are popular in the working class. His short stories are exclusively about the common man's misery.

It is the reason behind Annabhau's outstanding success as a writer. The common reader was his benchmark and thus his realistic writing became a part of the reader's lives.

Sathe's Novels can be categorized in Four Groups.

- 1) Revolutionary novels
- 2) Novels on women's problems
- 3) Novels on Love theme
- 4) Novels on village life

Short stories of A.B.Sathe

A.B.Sathe has written twenty collections of short stories. A large number of Sathe's short stories have been translated into many Indian and as many as 27 non- Indian languages. Sathe's short stories can be categorized in four groups.

- 1) Short Stories on Class Conflict.
- 2) Short Stories on Auto Biographical Element.
- 3) Short Stories on Guilty or Culprit people's life.
- 4) Short Stories on Love Theme.

A.B.Sathe Art of Narration

The art of narrative in A.B.Sathe's novel *Fakira* shows a skillful organization of the various tools of narration, e.g. Point of View, Focus, Atmosphere, Characterization etc, as also imagery. The novel *Fakira* shows how the downtrodden community participated in freedom fighting movement in their own way. During the pre-independent India the downtrodden, middle class community lived in inhuman conditions and was subjected to the worst kind of humiliation, sometimes on trifles and sometimes without any cause whatsoever. Sathe has skillfully portrayed in the novel *Fakira* how downtrodden community suffered from both side one from social discrimination and another from injustices of the British Government.

Sathe's language of narration is generally plain and simple. But on occasions there are images and symbols, some of them recurrent, charged with deep emotion. Indianness is also there in both speech and atmosphere. There is also poet and singer in him, it can be seen his characters. Most of Sathe's work of art is on similar thinking.

The novel *Fakira* narrates Fakira's life who is an outcast. His sufferings and number of humiliations in the course of his life. A novel also depicts Fakira's fighting spirit against the British Government and its injustices. Fakira's story is inspired by the author's childhood memories. The author feels pride on Fakira's challenge to the British Government.

A.B.Sathe's Art of Characterization.

A.B.Sathe is distinguished for his superb characterization where he shows his debt and intimate craftsmanship in delineating real life like characters in his all work of art. According to A.B.Sathe his characters are reflections of the real people he has known during his life. Sathe's primary job as a novelist is to "interpret the truth" by characters who represent "the realism of life". To look at them is to look at life. To know them is to know the truth. A.B.Sathe is a very brand new writer in drawing his characters from the very lower strata of society about whom no Maharashtrian Marathi novelist before him cared to pick up and make the substance of his novel.

Sathe belongs to realist tradition in fiction. He is a minute observer of human characters. Sathe portrays the positive and negative side of life as realistically as possible by drawing simple and noble human beings.

Women Characters portrayed by A.B.Sathe.

Sathe's early works are dominated by the male point of view. New education which has been instrumental in bringing significant changes in the middle class life style, this change is to be conserved slightly in the latter novels and short stories of Sathe. The early novels amply illustrate the traditional image of women silently suffering and sacrificing. Their courage lies in meek or at times cheerful way of facing poverty or calamity. Sathe has written few novels on women's problems and the novels have women protagonist, e.g. *Chitraa*, *Vaijanta*, *Chandan*, *Chikhalatil Kamal*, *Phulphakharu*, *Aavadi*, *Ratna*. All these novels have women protagonists. It is a kind of Marxist Ideological impact on author's mind.

Feminist Aspect in A.B.Sathe's Literary work

Sathe can be first feminist writer in Marathi Literature. He dared to launch women protagonist in his novels. It is a kind of adventure he did. The women protagonist novels are *Chitraa*, *Vaijanta*, *Chandan*, *Chikhalatil Kamal*, *Phulphakharu*, *Tilaa Lavite Mi Raktachaa*, *Aavadi* and *Ratna*.

He has crafted both kinds of women who are feminine and feminist. When we go through his work of art, it creates the life like picture of contemporary Maharashtra women. His women protagonists have fighting spirits, who fight against Britishers and old culture and tradition. His Women protagonists dismantle the patriarchy domination. These women characters (Dalit Women) are thus double victimized. They have to experience the burnt the social repression both for being a woman and a dalit woman.

References:

- Sathe A.B., *Fakira* (1959) Twenty Seven Editions, Suresh Agency, Pune.
Korde Bajrang (1999), *Anna Bhau Sathe, Makers of Indian Literature*, Sahitya academy.
Gurav Baburao (1999), *Anna Bhau Sathe: Samajvichar Ani Sahitya Vivechan*, Lokvadmay Gruha Mumbai.
Awad Miland (2010), *Life and Work of Annabhau Sathe (A Marxist- Ambedkar Mosaic)*, Gaur Publisher.