

Literature: A Sustaining force of Knowledge Systems in Society -A Historical Overview

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Abstract:- Literature is a carrier of knowledge systems. It is an artistic form of human life. The literature is the true reflection of Society. All happenings in society are reflected in literature in one form or another. The word meaning of literature is the art of writing books in different forms like poetry, plays, stories, prose, and fiction etc. Literature is a sustaining force of cultures, traditions, beliefs and values etc. The realms of literature are always rich and varied. The literature broadens our perspectives on the world. It is one of the arts that allow us to move beyond the inevitable boundaries of our own lives and culture for sake of humanity. All happenings in society are reflected in literature in one form or another. Literature is a sustaining force of cultures, traditions, beliefs, values, inventions, discoveries in a society that constitute knowledge system. This paper is an attempt to examine such role of literature.

Keywords: Literature, Knowledge, Humanism, Culture, Transformation

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a gift of mankind. It is an effective device for communicating and preserving our culture, traditions and attitudes, inventions, discoveries, all kinds of thoughts that constitute knowledge system in a society. Literature is comprised of language, and language is a form of communication. Literature reflects predominant political and philosophical principles of the time in which it is written. Therefore literature is a historical reflection of the evolution of the knowledge systems through ages. It is a snapshot of a region within a given time. This knowledge system is not only used by societies to improve their dialogues with each other but also to understand the struggles and priorities of those who are different and how those struggles affect others. Literature performs the function of a mirror. As Mirror does, literature reflects social situations emerging out of social relations and social interactions that form new knowledge systems Each and every moment new knowledge systems takes its birth through social interaction. Literature acts as a dynamic for the spread of this knowledge systems. Therefore reading of literature is no doubt is reading of the knowledge systems of society itself. Literature reflects problems and prospects of our society. Literature takes its form from social situations and suggests solutions and thereby transforming society. Balancing and transforming the society is the primary function of literature. It is an agent for catalyzing social transformations. It inspires the people with positive thoughts and to fight against all social evils. History through ages proves it. Literature is a platform for upholding human values. Humanism is an essential ingredient of literature constitute essential ingredient of all knowledge systems throughout the world. During the period of Renaissance and reformation humanism played a vital role in transmitting

achievements of man in various domains of knowledge systems. Literature assumes many forms such as critical, satirical and philosophical, scientific and all of which are an attempt to find out a lasting solutions problems of society.

The literature is a transforming and sustaining force of society and role of literature is multi-dimensional. The literature offers a social transformation through. Progressive ideas and thought. Virtue and welfare of mankind is the dream of Literature. Literature understands the pulse of society. It projects the values of society which lay the foundation of literature. Literature performs a utilitarian function in society as it places an important role in livelihood of the people, socialization, fixing social status, class structure, and gender arguments. Literature is a channel through which class structure and gender arguments can be generated in social transformation.

Literature is a corrective force. Corrective function of literature makes our knowledge systems defect free. It brings to light human mistakes and suggests ways to correct them. It is in the form of discourse, debate, awareness programs, public speech, and legislations. It presents what people think, say and do in the society. Literature can identify and categorize human problems and suggest remedies to them. Literature is a paradoxical mixture of diversity and common purpose. It is capable of reshaping the culture of the land. Literature discusses seriously about the aesthetic and ethical dilemmas emerging out of social situations. It is a blend of social and political and cultural truth.

Literature is plays a key role in sustaining our environment. It contributes significantly to the understanding of environmental problems. Nature and literature have always shared a close relationship. Natural world and social world

are interwoven and inseparable. It describes beauty and power of the nature. It makes aware the people about the consequences of continuous and unscientific use of natural resources and human atrocities on environment reached its maximum and human actions are damaging the planet's basic life support system. This awareness creates a motivation among the people for protecting our environment and maintaining ecological balance. It brings to light a variety of living space issues ranging from housing to urban design but more recently encompassing macro level issues such as the impacts of deforestation, desertification resource depletion, pollution, global warming and climate change on human settlements and habitats, financial system disruption. It argues for social, environment and economic sustainability. It demands clean development mechanism and green growth. It analyses environmental situations and suggests possible solutions for the correction of the contemporary environmental situations. It prescribes ways of environmental protection through inspiring ideas and arguments. It is the reflection of human thoughts on environment. Such reflections in literature are labeled as Green Literature.

The literature guides and controls human actions. It helps man to adopt life styles that suit societal situations. It is a blend of natural and social sciences. It provides a theoretical platform for mass mobilizations against social hazards. It analyzes societal response to each problem. Role of literature is vital in developing a sense of responsibility and solidarity among countries and regimes. It stresses on social and ethical responsibilities of man and enterprises. Literature is a forum for discussion and prescribes solution for all burning issues of humanity.

Literature acts as a link for the people to connect with the past and absorb knowledge systems existed in the past society. Literature provides insight into the minds of other human beings. Literature helps us understand human nature through tragedy and romance, joy and sorrow, heroism and in moments of cowardice. Literature also allows us to question some of our most prominent beliefs and examine our lives, giving them deeper meaning. Literature provides people with the opportunity to relieve stress. There are many people great around us who enjoy reading of literature to reduce the amount of stress that they have in their life. Literature provides an opportunity for anyone to take a look into a life that is different from their own. It can be somewhat of an escape and will give the reader the chance to step out of their own lives while reading.

Literature makes and shapes human lives. When we trace the origin of every revolution for the betterment of the human world we find that literature only prepared the field for

revolution but also sowed the seeds of revolution. The slogan for French revolution – ‘Liberty, Equality and Fraternity’ has its roots in the literature. The process of democratization in the human history had been initiated by literature. Thus, literature is not the follower of tradition rather it is a pioneer, a torch bearer that shows the path to the society. Literature is the brain of humanity and it records and preserves the experience, knowledge, idea, for human race.

CONCLUSION

To conclude literature is a sustaining force of knowledge system in society. It is a source of dialogue, debate, exchange and innovation. It is a form of creativity which enhances transfer of culture and knowledge that are useful for coping with societal tasks. It paints life with a view to share human experiences, feelings, imaginations, observations, findings, predictions and suggestions for prevailing social realities. It creates the most convincing world as it is based on the ideal rather than the real. It is not only the mirror of the society but it acts like a prism in which diverse attitudes, experiences and thoughts of human world get refracted and can be perceived by the readers clearly. No doubt knowledge systems sustains through literature. It is literature that offers the chance to arrive at the point to understand the true meaning and worth of life.

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