Abstract

Understanding Indian Society - a study on the contributions of Prof. N.K Bose.

The thesis talks about the life and works of Nirmal Kumar Bose and especially the particular approach he lent to the study of social science in India. The nationalist background that helped Bose to develop the multi layered culture and civilization had been focused upon. Other than the nationalist backdrop, other influences, especially his familial conditions and the rich impact of his mentors had been studied in depth, to gauge the basis of Bose’s theory building and its application on the Indian scenario. Therefore his biography and the milieu, into which he grew up and scripted his works, had been studied to bring out the distinctiveness of his approach.

Then the researcher had gradually touched upon the distinct themes that it seemed were essential to understand the spirit and gravity of Bose’s analysis. The civilizational perspective that he drew up for studying the Indian reality, required a thorough analysis, for it brought out the kernel of his study. The researcher then spoke at length on the methodological trajectories. The objective was to show the rich combinations of methods that he had unobtrusively employed to study diverse themes of his discourse. The researcher tried expatiating on Bose’s theory of cultural diffusion and compared his approach with the later theorists. In this context she compared Bose’s approach of diffusion with structural functionalism as well. The researcher then proceeded to his more overt themes such as caste and its rippling effect on the other arenas of socio-political living. He tried rendering an economic character of caste and looked for its far-reaching nuances on the other communities in the society. The researcher tried comparing Bose’s works on caste with several other scholars like Dumont, Ambedkar, Dirks and so on. His deliberation on the tribal society also seemed alluring and was penned out by the researcher. His ideas on nation building also have been given due attention. Not just theoretical expatiations of the systems in place, but his virtuosity in scanning the system fastidiously, to bring out the existing anomalies were equally commendable. He suggested measures and policies wisely that would help reform the contemporary derailment that had taken place. He was thinking much ahead of his time therefore his prognosis of the likely situations ahead were reflections of his insightful and penetrating ideas about our society.