

CHAPTER- II

The chapter-II deals with the life, works and philosophy of two distinguished woman novelist of Hindi and Assamese literature; viz, Usha Priyamvada of Hindi and Anuradha Sarma Pujari of Assamese literature.

2.1: USHA PRIYAMVADA :-

Usha Priyamvada is one of the bright stars of the Hindi novel sky. There are no innumerable mature and praiseworthy women writers in Hindi and yet there is no dearth of such writers. Hindi novel literature has been blooming and flourishing with creative writers like Priyamvada, in whose writing, the love, kindness and Sacrifice of women are reflected. Priyamvadajee, influences the readers as a powerful novelist and a famous story writer. Her writings are with a broad scope, original and enriched with literary values. She was famous as a novelist and story writer during the sixth decade of the twentieth Century.

The attempt to visualise the total mental sorrows and pain of a woman life in modern society by Usha Priyamvada is quite praiseworthy. She expressed one of the important problems of our present society by materializing the mental agony and deficiencies of a woman. All her writings are related to the relationship between a man

and a woman and their mental struggle and distress. Being a woman she could go deep into the woman mentality and successfully depict the minute disputes that existed in women and Indian sacrament.

“उन्हे उप-यासों में अ-नास्था, संत्रास और भय दीजता जो देज-ने से पता चलता है जि लेजिजा अस्तित्व वादी दर्शन से प्रभावित है...”¹

[Considering the distrust, terror and fear psychosis in her novels it can be assumed that she was influenced by existentialist philosophy].

She brought forward a new awareness in the novel during the post sixties and made place for herself among women writers.

नारी के अ-तर्म-न जा स्पर्श कर उसकी मानसिजता एवं दुंज्जा जो वाजी प्रदान कर

महिला लेजिजाओं ने आज के समाज की एज महत्वपूर्ण समस्या को उजाकर दिया है...²

[Materializing the mental agony and deficiencies of women's mind, She expressed one of the important problems of the present day society. The name of Usha Priyamvada is especially mentionable in this connection].

2.1.1. Birth & Education :

Ushajee was born on 24th December, 1931, at Kanpur. She had her primary education there and completed her Master degree in

English literature from the Allahabad University. She received her Ph. D degree from the same University. After doing services in the Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi and the Allahabad University, She joined as Fulbright scholar in the Blemington Indian University for post doctoral studies. Afterwards joined the Viskasin University at Madison in the South Asiatic Department as a Professor. In 2002, she retired from her services and has been busy in studies and writing since then.

2.1.2.Philosophy of life:-

The joining of women novelists in Hindi Literature after independence is a remarkable incident. The modern women novelist began to depict the condition of struggle led personal life in the background of contemporary social, economic and religions values of life and the changing values. In they established a modern value of life where they rejected the traditional customs.

Among the women novelists after independence, the joining of Usha Priyamvada although limited in number of writings is quit noteworthy for the high literary values of her writing. Usha Priyamvada is quite liberal although her view point is a modern one. Almost all her characters in her novels are women for her studies of western literature and nearness to it, her women characters are quite free and bold.

There is a tendency to mould life in accordance with the domestic, social, political and religious conditions of the post independence period and at the same time a clear picture of changes taking place in the life of an Indian woman, who began to rise under such circumstances in social, psychological and economic changes and struggles.

Ushajee is a writer who keeps herself away from male counterparts. In the centre of her novels whether she is the Sushma of the Pachpan Khambhe Lal Deewaren or She be the Radhika of the Rukogi Nahin Radhika or She might be the Anu of the Shesh Yatra or the Wana of Antaervanshi, there are the anguish of women, vigilance about their own selves, economic dependency, individual freedom and the changes in their thought and outlook.

2.1.3.Literacy Specialty in the Writings of Usha

Priyamvada:-

In the novels of Priyamvadajee, a picture of deep emotional sensibility of urban families is found. She has shown her capability of realization of reality in depicting solitude of modern life, boredom, terrorism, impatience, independent thinking and revolt against traditions and customs. The reality of the modern age is that while the material happiness and facilities are increasing the mental happiness is

decreasing. The dejection, boredom, loneliness and suffocation of the modern age got their exposition in the writings of novelist Usha Priyamvada in an emotional style.

2.1.4. Published works:-

Novels:- Pachpan Khambhe Lal Deewaren (1964), Rukogi Nahin Radhika (1984), Shesh Yatra (1984), Antervanshi (2000) and Bhaya Kabir Udas (2007) etc.

Collection of short stories:- Jindegi Aur Gulab ke phul, Kitana Bada Juth, Ek koi Dusra , Mere Priya Kahaniya, Sampurn Kahaniya, and Shunya Aban Anya Rachnaye

Translation of Hindi Stories into English:- Hindi Kahaniyan (Eng. Tr.) Mira Bai, Surdas (in English).³

2.1.5. Brief introduction to Usha Priyamvada's novels :-

In all her five novels, Ushajee tried to present the problems of women before the society by keeping a woman in the central place.

In her first novel "Pachpan Khambhe Lal Deewaren" there is a heart rendering story of a woman, who could not get married due to domestic and economic reasons and as a spinster Sushma stands against all problems of life with boldness. In no circumstances, she is found to be weak. In the same manner Radhika of Rokogi nahin Radhika (Usha

Priyamvada 2nd novel) also went a step further and like Sushma, she left her house without caring for her father and the family. She decided to win over life and after certain ups and down, she married Manish and led a happy conjugal life.

In the third novel the Sesh Yatra of Usha Priyamvada, she has adopted a new line of writing. It can be regarded as a powerful document of the tragic life of a woman. There is an artistic attempt in this novel; to depict the struggles of an insignificant common girl through the heroine, Anu. In this novel she exposed the upper middle class society of Indians living abroad with all their internal conflicts. Anu, the heroine, was definitely broken down after the divorce from her husband. But the breaking down was made a life force for her and source of encouragement. Later she married for the second time and thereby she trampled down the age long institution of marriage.

Wana is another heroine of the Antervanshi, who is found to be at the top of Priyamvada's heroines – Sushma, Radhika and Anu. Of these heroines she is the boldest one. Sushma, Radhika and Anu were literate and were very conscious from the beginning, but Wana took such a big decision after her initial schooling that gave a new shape to her development of Character and to her freedom of personality and existence.

In her “Bhaya Kabir Udas”, Priyamvada very skillfully depicted the disappointments, desires and indifference of her heroine Yamon. She has kept her heroine Yamon firm even while she was ill.

2.1.6.Priyamvada’s world of Short-stories:-

Usha Priyamvada is a story writer with the knowledge of modernity. Her understanding is quite new and at the same time her language is comparatively controlled. She did never tell the tale of a weak woman nor she took the emotional truth as truth but she apprised the loneliness, helplessness, defeat and hopelessness in particular circumstances. In Usha Priyamvada’s collection of short stories- “Jindegi Aur Gulab Ka Phul”; all stories related to the impression and experiences of Indian woman life.

Major part of the stories collected in the “kitna Bora Juth” are written under American or European environment; and the stories of which the environment is Indian, primary characters are women, who have their relationship with Europe or America. Therefore, the voice of modernity in these is much stronger.

In the story “Sambandh” there is a picture of disappointment of Indian women. The heroin here attempted illegal connections outside conjugal relationship after her marriage. But her Indian mentality of moral life compelled her to commit suicide.

All the heroines of stories like- the Chadni Barf Par, the Kitna Bara Juth, the Swikrity, the Jaale, the Murti etc. are in the situation of uneasiness and of breaking delusions. In all these stories there is a conflict of the old and the new values. The picture is always a picture of making and unmaking of human relationship.

Changes and progress go side by side. For progress, change is a must. For the sake of progress of our society, new values are a must. This voice has been reflected in the writings of Usha Priyamvada.

Among the woman writers of the post –seventh decade, the place of Usha Priyamvada is quite important.

“ उ-जी ज्हानियाँ जे पीछे एज विचार, एज इमेज, एज अ-नुभव या अ-नुभूति जे एज बीज जरूर होती है। यही बीज ज्हानियों जे विषय ब-नाता है। प्रचलित जामियाँ और जा-नी हुई ज्मजोरियों से जृतियों जे, ज्थाजार जी भावुज्ता जे विवेज से जोड़ती हुई उबार ले जाने में उषा प्रियवंदा जी विशेषता छिपी हुई है...”⁴

[At the background of all her stories, there is definitely a foetus of a thought, an image, a realization and an emotion. That very foetus becomes the subject matter of her story. The peculiarity of Usha Priyamvada was to release the ideas of a novelist from the traditional wrong ideals and known weakness and relate them with the conscience].

In her novels, the plots are very powerful and there is no artistic deficiency in them. There is a picture of feeling of own existence and individual freedom from the isolation created by boredom of unusual life, terror and irritating life. The present city life is responsible for the boredom and isolation of individuals as shown in the modern literature. Nowadays an individual feels lonely even when he is with the people and feels like out of gear. An individual kept himself confined in his own boundary with the hope of freedom. Therefore, it is natural that influence of all these incidents would fall over literature of the day.⁵

All the female characters of Usha Priyamvada are of the middle-class families and they reflect her ideas of cultural consciousness and identity and freedom of woman. Ushajee made these characters living in the shape of her own perception. She reflected the discrepancies, troubles, terrors and internal struggles of womanhood of today through the characters. In the Pachpan khambhe Lal Deewarin, the minute picture of the suffocation, disasters and the internal struggles of the women- mind has been depicted. This novel can be regarded as the powerful realistic expression of the thoughts of middle class society.

The heroines of Ushajee are selfdependent, proud, intelligent and well placed in economic field. In spite of all these they are troubled by loneliness.⁶

Usha Priyamvada is influenced by the consciousness of the age. In materializing the philosophy of her life, the environmental of trine and

influence and experience of the present age played an important part. Whatever she has written and whatever she comes to know was nothing but the status of women in the society. She had the detailed knowledge of the incessant injustice to and inequality of women in the society. In her opinion, a distinction is made between a girl and a boy right from their childhood, for which a man begins to think himself superior to a woman and a woman has the inferiority complex.

The writing of Usha Priyamvada are the practical evidence of her personality, as it is a fact that there is a reflection of one's personality in his or her writing. According to Hudson: " Each great artist brings forth a new essence; and this essence being none other than himself."⁷

Another feature of Ushajee's writings that a woman has the capacity to fight for her rights in different fields of the struggle same contemporary life. To her writing is an inseparable part of her life, which is also unavoidable for her, 'she had no doubt about her own capacity in creating something. According to her creation is easy and a natural process'. She remarked :” सृजना ज़िया मेरे अ-तर म-न में बराबर चलती रहती हैं, उसज्ी अभित्यक्ति चाहे क्लास में दिये ज्ये लेक्चर में हो या लम्बे पात्रो या-नाटबूज में...⁸

[The act of creation has been smoothly going in my heart, whether it is expressed through my writings or my lectures or my characters or even through my notebooks.]

In her writings there are self realization and search for self. To study the social situation through modern view is one of the quality of Usha Priyamvada's Creativity

2.2: ANURADHA SARMA PUJARI :-

Anuradha Sarma Pujari is a significant and luminous presence in the domain of contemporary Assamese literature. With her first novel, Hriday Ek Bigyapan, She raised such significant questions about Assamese modern life that it immediately ensured her permanent position in the realm of Assamese literature. With her first novel she has been able to raise such questions which no other writer in Assam did until then.

2.2.1. Birth and Education:

Anuradha Sarma Pujari was born on February, 13th, 1964 at Jorhat and had her schooling there. She completed her Master degree in Sociology in the year 1987; after that she had her education in Journalism in the Birla Institute of Liberal, Arts and Management Science, Kolkata. In addition to these she did the course for

commercial Art and computer Graphics, under the Paschim Banga Bolchabi Kendra, Statistics and cultural Department.⁹

Pujarijee began her service life at the Academy of Fine Arts as a lecturer and after a short period she returned to Assam and joined as the editor of the Sadin, a weekly newspaper published from Guwahati. She also shoulders the responsibility of another monthly magazine – the Satsari as the editor now.

2.2.2 Philosophy of life:-

The philosophy of life of Anuradha Sarma Pujari has been reflected in her writings. Her view point towards life, values of life and towards the ideals of life all are clearly expressed in her novels: आजतज मैं ने जो दुछ भी लिजा है वह मेरी अप-नी जीव-न अभिज्ञता पर आश्रित है..... मेरे साहित्य, मेरे जीव-न दर्श-न और जीव-न आदर्श जो ही प्रति-निधित्व ज रती है...¹⁰

[Whatever is written by me till now is dependent on any experience and is representing my literature, my philosophy of life and my ideals of life.]

The plots and subject matters of her novels are born out of present day world. All the heroines of her novels are with personalities of their own. The basic attraction of her writings is establishing of

modern values of life; which represents the new view points towards social and domestic traditions. Pujarijee herself believed that to make a successful life, dreams and hopes in the heart, firm determination and high class ideals are indispensable. All these are reflected in her characters. Therefore none of her characters are found to be shaken under any circumstance. It is clear for them as to what should be achieved in their lives.

2.2.3. Literary Specialty:

The selection of plots by Anuradha Sarma Pujari is such that no other novelist has made so far and at the same time it is a new one. She has shown a deep realistic attitude in depicting revolt against tradition of hankering after recognition, an independent thinking and firm determination to achieve the aims of life.

2.2.4. Publications works:

Novels: Hriday Ek Bigyapan,(1998), Ejan Ishwarar Sandhanat (1998), Kanchan (2001), Sahabpurar Borosun (2003), Boragi Nadir Ghat (2004), Naharar Niribili Chan (2000), Rag Anurag (2007), Son Harinar Chenkur, Mereng, Nil prajapati (2013), Jalchabi (2014) etc.

Note: She won the award “Kumar kishor Bota” in 2003 from the Assam Sahitya Sabha for the novel Sahab Purar Borosun.¹¹

Short Stories: Basantar Gan , Ajon Asamajik Kabir Biography,

Ketherinar Saite Eta Nirjan Dupariya bandhu,

No Man's land

Autobiography : Dairy, Kalikatar Chithi, Atograph,

Others:- Alap Chinta Alap Gadya, Samayar Pristha, Priya manuh

Priya Katha¹²

2.2.5. A brief introduction to Anuradha Sarma Pujari's

novels:

Anuradha Sharma Pujari published eleven novels till 2014. She has exposed the inner mind of women in her novels and had tried of introduce it to the society.

The first novel penned by Anuradha Sarma Pujari is the Hriday Ek Bigyapan, Published in 1998, the subject matter of this novel is quite new and uncommon for Assamese people. She has introduced certain basic questions relating to life here. Bhaswati is the heroine of the novel. Although Bhaswati never had any great aspiration for life yet, she wanted to achieve an identity for her. She attracted the outward world towards her. She was a creative director of an advertisement agency. But she was not attracted towards the artificiality of the advertising world. The plot goes forwards with how Bhaswati stands to her world without compromising with her own ideals.

Afterwards in the same year, 1998, her second novel “Ejan Iswarar Sandhanat” (In search of God) was published. Here she depicted in a very lively manner the troubles with modern life style and the ending and struggle of minute emotion of the people. Manbari, Trisha and Krishna of this novel were such female characters that they won struggles in life in different environments. In the same novel “Ajan Iswarar Sandhanat” there is a another story named “Nirbasita Galpa”. Here there is a woman Nomita in the central figure, who controls her world in a planned way. But her husband, who was under the influence of bad friends, went on wrong path. Nomita works through her own ideals but her husband Shekhar wanted a life of luxury. Nomita was working in a college while her husband in a school and as such her income is more than that of her husband. As a result Sekhar had inferiority complex in his mind. When Sekhar made his life tarnished with his evil deeds, she came to his rescue, but she could not forgive him.

The Kanchan, published in the year 2001, was Anuradha’s third novel. This novel is something like an autobiography of a girl named Kanchan. Here in this novel Anuradha Sharma Pujari depicts the picture of the life story of a girl Kanchan by name, who was a working girl. The story of Kanchan, her character illustrates the story of every working woman. The novel wanted to attract the attention of the society to the fact that each and every woman who is exploited is regarded as

a commodity by the society. The novel Kanchan is written only to show how much a woman is ill treated and how she faces such situations.

In 2003 her another novel—“Sahebpur Boroshun” was published. In this novel Varsha is a powerful woman character. Varsha was shining with her thoughts her view point on life and dangers to her existence and how she tackled them. When she found that her existence was going to be in danger at the hands of her foreign betrothed due to his foreign way of explaining the things. She broke her relationship with him. After that she became a member of a self-help organization and became a social servant independently. Varsha believed that she could not become one like her sister or her mother, who could submit only to one man or one family for the whole life.

The man-woman relationship got a new form in Anuradhajees’ – “Boragi Nadir Ghat” (2004). It is a story of Mrs Khanna. In this novel she narrates about such a relationship which is not bound by any binding or which does not bear any name recognized by the society. The writer believes it to be a “Mature mental relationship”.

Afterwards one important novel of Anuradhajee, viz, “Naharar Niribili Chan”- was published, Bhaswati was the main character of this novel. Bhaswati lives in the boarding of the Dibrugarh University of which she was a student. The whole novel is a life story of the students living in the hostel. Bhaswati joined with all students in their weal and woe and gained new experiences.

Then come her novel – the Raag Anuraag, where Sita was the main character. Sita was shown to be firm and with mature thoughts. In addition to these Pujarijee published another novels like the Mereng, the Son Harinar Chekur, the Jalchabi etc., wherein one can find the reflections of modern life and society. She has her own style and singleness. Her novels are quite unique.

2.2.6 The short- stories of Anuradha Sarma Pujari :-

Anuradha Sarma Pujari is a successful story writer in the same manner she exalts in novel writing in her short stories, she introduced short stories related to various fields of life.

The social inequalities, problems of domestic life, love and hatred among wives and husbands, indifferences of town life, discrepancies of modern life style, etc., are very successfully portrayed in the stories of Pujarijee. In all her stories, she sings the song of life.

Anuradha Sarma Pujari is a remarkable and popular name among the women writers of Assamese literature. Reality is xeposed in her writings. Her attractive and popular plot construction, individual style of writings, use of easy and simple language made her one of the most popular novelists of the present times.

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