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Aadhar PUBLICATIONS



20	Problems faced by Women employees at work place Mrs. Agrawal Nikita Kachrual	76
21	Present Scenario Of Women In Education System Dr. Vishal Parashram Varma, Dr. Varma Priya Parashramji	79
22	Development and Characteristics of Dystopian Literature Assit. Prof. Rinku Vaijanath Rukke	82
23	Representing Indian Freedom Struggle in English Literature Sangeeta Patil	85
24	Sexual Anxiety, Sexual Attitude and Attitude towards Sex Education among Under Graduate College Students. Dr. Shinde Vijaykumar Balbhim	87
25	Parliamentary Democracy in Indian Post – Independence Dr. (Mrs.) Alpana Vaidya	95
26	The Role of Health in Personality Development Dr. Sangita Mangesh Khadse	98
27	Contribution of Post-Independent Women Novelists in Indian English Literature: A Review Dr. Leena V. Phate	102
28	Reflection of Culture in Indian English Literature from Pre-Independence to Post-Independence Era Dr Archana Kiran Deshmukh	107
29	The Role of Health in Personality Development Dr. Subhash S. Dadhe	112

Representing Indian Freedom Struggle in English Literature Sangeeta Patil

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Abstract: literature is culture. Literature explores all the social, economic and political insights of the age. Literature effects on society as well as society effects on writings, especially the political changes during the independence of India are inevitable part of Indian English Literature, writers of this age used their refined sensibilities of liberation to awake their countrymen. The ideology, thought and writings of the great minds has sharpened the thought of freedom. Indian English Literature was actively engaged with history, political and social reforms of the era.

Key words: patriotism, satyagraha, swadeshi, freedom movement

Indian English Literature is influenced by the Indian freedom struggle. The patriotic, awareness of rights, effects of world war and popularity of democracy, belongingness of the mother land had made the struggle even more powerful. The political changes, radical, rational oneness and the thoughts of the national leader was strong rebel against the British government.

The national political leaders use their writings as powerful instrument. Rejection of Westempower and democratic concepts were highly influential on the public. The works of the great leaders and others inspired nationalism and patriotism among people. Rabindranath Tagore's poem 'Where the mind is without Fear' - talks about freedom for his Countrymen.

'Where the mind is led by thee into ever widening
Thought and action onto that heaven of freedom
My father, let my country awake'

Tagore works have the spirit of liberating from the colonization. He advocated for Swadeshi. He ignites the people on freedom. Tagore gifted 'National anthem' - for India. He was a seer and national builder; his songs have immense impact on freedom struggle. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was used literature to spread the message of patriotism. In 'Anand math' highlights the various patriotic acts and sacrifices. The common people left their homes to serve the nation.

M.K. Gandhi who is a Socio- political figure who brought the struggle in to the main stream and changed the overall directions of the struggle. He electrized the movement. His work 'Harijan' - through this he reached the people easily. His thoughts, writings, speech and various techniques used by him to bend the Britishers were attracted the common people. K S Venkatraman well known for his Gandhian theme in his novel. His work 'Murgan the Tiller' - talks on Gandhian policies on socio-economic matrices. The patriot dealt with civil disobedience movement respectively. In his work 'Kundan', the protagonist Raghu joins the satyagraha despite of the unwillingness of his mother towards it. Bhabhani Bhattacharya's- 'So Many Hungers' sets in the context of Bengal famine and the charterers are affected by the freedom struggle.

The pillars of Indian English Fiction Writers Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R K Narayan's novels set with the themes of independence struggle. Mulk Raj Anand's 'Untouchable' - is story of untouchability which was strongly existed and based on caste system. The hero of the novel "Bhaka" - the sweeper, represents the whole pariah cast, the vulnerable of the society. He finds relief when he hears Gandhi speech, which gives him hope for a better future. In the speech, Gandhi says that even as "we are asking for freedom from the grip of a foreign nation, we ourselves, for centuries, trampled underfoot millions of human beings without feeling the slightest remorse of our iniquity". In his others works, 'The Village. Across the Black Waters and The Sword and The Sickle' Anand explores ideology of freedom struggle.

In Raja Rao's 'Kanthapura', a village organizes passive resistance against the British. This novel is in the typical form of 'harikatha'. It represents rural India and the effect of freedom struggle on the people. The main character corner Moorthy, a Brahmin, symbolizes the Gandhian thoughts and actions, who advocates spinning wheel or Swadeshi mantra for the people. he breaks the chain of Brahminism by entering into sudra quarters. He begins to wear khaki and fight for untouchability thus