

SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL LIFE THROUGH LITERATURE**Dr. Swati Singh**

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Abstract - After renaissance the definition of development has been changes. Therefore not only physical changes but mental changes have also taken place. We have been developing since then. Conversely the social, political problems have been raised more and more. Today we cannot able to face the hardship, adverseness of life. Because we never focus on the issues of our personal life. So literature can play a vital role to make our children mentally strong. This paper tells the importance of literature in human life.

Ashisha, a beautiful girl, very talented, frank, soft spoken, always gets a good rank in the class. She is liked by everyone because of her demeanour. She gets very good life partner. She is very happy go lucky girl. But as she reaches her laws house, she finds that the situation is totally different. She is criticised for what she was selected earlier. She becomes very nervous and starts lose her vigour. However she tries to cope up the situation. She tries to make everyone satisfy but the more she tries, the more she suffers. Finally she fails in her life and she has to go back to her parents.

Ashisha is an emotional girl. She is nurtured in a very soft atmosphere. But she is untouched by another face of coin. She does not have an idea of practical life. And as she is come across with unexpected situations, she becomes panic and takes wrong decisions continuously. The very unfortunate situation is, she has to leave her home. She even does not aware about her rights and emotional maturity.

Now we see the recent case where Sushant Singh Rajput, a Bollywood actor, becomes alone in the second overpopulated country. He loses his all hope and take a pathetic decision of his life. He could not see the bright part of his life. As he achieved a lot within very short span. He got affected by others attitude and comments.

So many examples are around us. Actually what happened now, our modern generation is not exposed with practical life. They all understand that the materialistic world is the source of happiness. If it is reality then an iPad could have been the remedy of all problems. But as a human beings have to know our limits. We cannot trap a world into our fist. (As Dhuru Bhai Ambani said – *Kar lo duniayn muthhi me*).

Actually we are not being exposed with good stuff. We are untouched with the practical life. Here our education system is also responsible. It is a need of hour to revise the syllabus and immediately the good stuff of literature should be incorporated. Along with it is an urgent need to read scriptures. Our children should know the importance of prayer. They should know the significance of devotion, dedication, sacrifice etc. For which all scripture should be the part of syllabus.

I remember Khushwant Singh's grandmother, in the *The Portrait of a Lady* written by Khushwant Singh himself

In which when Khushwant Singh grandmother ask him whether he is taught music or not? And when he denies, she becomes annoyed. The lessons of human life cannot be found in physics, chemistry and other subjects. He has beautifully portrayed his grandmother when he says wrinkles make my grandmother more beautiful. He talks inner beauty.

Similarly Shashi Tharoor in his one of the newspaper article written Why Some Engineers Become Terrorist clearly said that we don't have aesthetic sense. That is why we cannot be able to enjoy the nature. An engineer can be a good solver, rational and logical being but sometimes, he is failed in his personal life. He is failed in emotional plain. A great engineer, doctor, actor, successful entrepreneur becomes fail in his personal life. Because they don't know the real enjoyment of life. They prefer to sit in a club, pub or mall because artificial atmosphere attracts them. And after sometime when they become suffocated, their life become

boring. The beauty of river, animals, tress, sky, earth, and planets can be realised in the poems, prose, novels, drama. Literature mirrors every aspect of life. It torches the black side also through historical writing.

So it is the need of hour to see the solution of life in the poems, novels, drama, essays, articles etc. Because now world has shrunk. Now we have to face lots of challenges. In this global world where every now and then we have to face cut throat competition. Every hour we have to prove yourself and whenever we fail, we become nervous. And we start taking wrong decisions. Or sometime we try to escape the situation. And harm ourselves. Reason is we don't have tolerance power, we have habit of praising, we never learn sacrifice, defeat, dedication, loss etc. So much so that we need to have much enlighten, a spark or epiphany. These all stuff will be found in literature including songs, movies, videos, documentary. Everything come under this umbrella. And this way we can make our life easier and happier. Here technology also plays very important role. It is very easy to us to understand the philosophy of life through audio-visual mode. As we know that the practical life is totally different from theoretical life or we can say that the school of life is very important part of our life.

So what is the solution? How can we make our children stronger and happier? Where he will be able to face the unexpected situations. We all know that life is not bed of roses but full of unexpected situations. So we have to face some happenings, mishappenings in our life. We have to be ready to face different kind of situations. And if we have good stuff in our mind, we definitely will be able to face any situation easily and calmly. Literature keeps our moral high. It boosts our mind A line of song can change our whole life.

A thought of nonviolence makes Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Mahatma Whenever we talk about great persons, we always glorify their life, their past. We become impressed when we listen that a person is thorough with Mahabharat, Geeta, Quran or Bible. And immediately it leads an impression that the person has very much gravity because he reads literature. The noticeable thing is it is not necessary to read epic always. Even a small motivational story can change our life.

Here is a short story which is discussed by Vivekananda in his one of the speeches. He says that there is a pride of lions is chasing to herd of sheep. And one of the lioness is pregnant. So she gives birth of a baby on the way but that baby mixes with the sheep group and he starts behaving like them. He starts behaving cowardly. One day the lioness goes to find her baby. Fortunately baby, cub, was drinking water in a pond. Lioness clutches her baby between the teeth and brings it to her cave where she says that I am your mother but cub says no ... no they will kill us. She asks who? She says lions. Then mother makes the baby realise that he are lion's child. She says you are a cub. She is very fearful. Then mother says shout. Then she gradually learns shouting. This way she gains his confidence.

Very motivating story in which messages are very clear that we human being have impossible possibilities inside us but we never explore our personality. So we have to have confidence we have to meditate, focussed. A lot of energy we find in this story which is very important for our life.

Sailing to Byzantium is another example which should read by everyone. In which author is going to Byzantium because he could not learn any art in his whole life. He spent his whole life in clubs and pubs. Now he has become older. So he realises that he should learn an art. By which he can spend his time in productive work.

Another amazing thing is John Milton, he has written celebrated works after his blindness. He had become blind at the age of 48 and then had written his beautiful works *On His Blindness*, a world famous sonnet. Here he thanks God because now we will be more prayerful after blindness. *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained* another creations, he has written after his blindness.

In current situation, we can see that many have just wasted their time in frustration or depression. But on the other hand many have used their lockdown time very nicely. They used it positively.

Shakespeare had also faced the pandemic in his time. But it is said that he couldn't leave his home since two years along with his family members. And within two years he

produced such a beautiful stuff for the people. We have to take out the solution ourselves. And literature makes us creative, productive and useful.

So these all are the inspirational things which boost our moral. Along with English literature, Hindi Sahitya is also very very rich. We should read Premchand, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, Dinkar, Neeraj, Hariwansh Rai Bacchan and so many authors. Here if I don't discuss this beautiful poetry by Sohan Lal Dwivedi, Koshish karne walon ki kabhi har nahin Hoti (Our efforts never go waste)

The whole poetry gives lots of motivation. Each and every word is like a glucose, bournvita, gives us tremendous energy. It is not necessary to read epics or famous authors. Even any small author can change our life, give us lot of motivation. The thing is what we understand and how much sincere we are. If we read sincerely, if we imbibe the message religiously, we definitely will be in situation to handle any issue in our life. We know that even 24 hours are not same. How can we expect the same in our whole life. As earth is revolving around the sun and itself. 24 hours are divided into day, night, dawn, dusk and so many things. And that is why situation changes after every certain period of time. The whole universe is divided into 12 directions. So we are not independent. Rather we have to depend on so many factors.

"The only **constant** in life is **change**"- **Heraclitus**. We all face **changes** every day – whether it is a simple **change** in the weather, our schedule or expected **change** of seasons. **Change** affects us all and we each deal with **change** differently. This only **constant** in life, the only thing we can be sure will happen. So how we will be ready to accept the changes? When we have good stuff in our mind. Awareness, alertness, realization help us to accept the changes. In *The Old Man and the Sea* by Hemingway, a story of Santiago. In which he talks about Santiyago, an 84 years man and his struggle in the sea. Finally one he catches a big shark. The messages is we can start our life at any age. As *age is just a number*.

There is a beautiful story of Tulsidas how he became a epiphany. One day Anant from Badri came to Ratnavali with news from her parents. Tulsidas was not in, and she had to leave for her father's house. She left without informing her husband, leaving just a note behind. Tulsidas rushed to visit her at night, bearing a heavy rain and a storm, at his father-in-law's house in Badri. It's said he crossed the river clinging on to a corpse, and climbed up to the floor where Ratnavali stayed clinging to a snake. This produced a sense of shame in Buddhimati. She said to Tulsidas,

"My body is but a network of flesh and bones. If you would develop for Lord Ráma, even half the love that you have for my filthy body, you would certainly cross the ocean of Samsára (the materialistic world) and attain immortality and eternal bliss". These words pierced Tulsidas' heart like an arrow. He did not stay there even for a moment. He abandoned home and became an ascetic. He had spent fourteen years in pilgrimage to various sacred places of India.

The Rámáyana. He was now called Tulsidas. His fame spread far and wide. Tulsidas was married to Buddhimati (also known as Ratnavali), daughter of Dinabandhu Pathak from the village of Badri. Their son's name was Tarak. Tulsidas was passionately attached to his wife. He could not bear even a day's separation from her. One day Anant from Badri came to Ratnavali with news from her parents. Tulsidas was not in, and she had to leave for her father's house.

She left without informing her husband, leaving just a note behind. Tulsidas rushed to visit her at night, bearing a heavy rain and a storm, at his father-in-law's house in Badri. It's said he crossed the river clinging on to a corpse, and climbed up to the floor where Ratnavali stayed clinging to a snake. This produced a sense of shame in Buddhimati. She said to Tulsidas, "My body is but a network of flesh and bones. If you would develop for Lord Ráma, even half the love that you have for my filthy body, you would certainly cross the ocean of Samsára (the materialistic world) and attain immortality and eternal bliss".

These words pierced Tulsidas' heart like an arrow. He did not stay there even for a moment. He abandoned home and became an ascetic. He had spent fourteen years in pilgrimage to various sacred places of India. In this technical world, there is cut throat competition. We have to prove every day. Therefore sometime we become disappointed. A poem

written by Tanveer Ghazi Pakistan poet Tu khud ki Khoj mein nikal tu kisliye hatash hai (go, find yourself, why are you despondent? go, even time is looking for your existence.)

Shakespeare has beautifully written all the tragedies. In which message is the goodness become our flaws sometimes. All the four tragedies are full of disappointment, mental suffering and so many other themes. His one of the dramas *All is Well* poetry *The whole world is a stage* is the whole philosophy of life.

So finally I can say that for the practical life, we should read scriptures thoroughly, first of all. Where we will see a close look of the character of Sita, Ram, Lakshman, Hanuman, Jesus Christ etc These all are worshipped for their sacrifice, for their generousness, for devotion, dedication. They are worshipped for their struggle, their triumph and struggle. So read a good stuff on daily basis. This way, we will be in situation to handle our personal life easily and patiently.

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