

Portrayal of Humane Problems in Mamoni Roysom Goswami's Short Stories

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Abstract:

Mamoni Roysom Goswami is a renowned face of Assamese literature and she is an internationally acclaimed author. The Jnyaanpeeth awardee has enriched, specifically, the Assamese short stories along with Assamese novels. We find the minute analysis of the various issues of human life along with the in-depth images of the human psyche in her stories. The main theme of her stories is women's struggle in the conservative structure of society. She portrays these complex issues of contemporary society and tries to show their severity of outcomes in front of the readers.

Keyword: literature, analysis, renowned, novels.

Introduction:

Mamoni Roysom Goswami is regarded as one of the prolific authors of Assamese literature. Goswami has earned her popularity chiefly as a novelist, who has enriched Assamese literature with her vast collection of short stories. Anthologies of short stories penned by her are: *Chinaki Morom* (1962), *Koina* (1966), *Hridoy Ek Nodir Naam* (1990) and *Mamoni Roysom Goswami Priyo Golpo* (1998). This acutely sensitive author, in her short stories, has painted the images of the Individual psyche with lots of compassion. Especially, along with the other angles, the images of the various problems of human lives have been clearly portrayed in her short stories. If we observe these stories from an economic, social, and familial point of view, these issues instantaneously catch the attention of the readers. In a detailed analysis of Goswami's short stories, the study of this particular angle is very important.

Purpose of study, Scope, and Methods:

The chief goal of this research paper is to minutely analyze the reflections of the in-depth problems of human lives in Goswami's short stories.

The periphery of this study is the analysis of some of the relevant and common subjects from Goswami's selected short stories.

The periphery of the research is limited to the woman-centric issues of life. While preparing this research paper, the analytical method has been applied.

Sources:

The main source of collecting materials of this study is *Mamoni Roysom Goswami Golpo Samagro*, a book edited by Hemanta Kumar Bharali and published by Banalata.

Discussion:

Women face lots of problems in every step of life in the patriarchal structure of Assam. Most of the time, their individual wishes are directed by the conventional norms of the family and society. As an outcome, every woman faces severe distress in life. Observing the nature of the issues or the subject matter, these problems can be analyzed from Social, psychological, economic, or familial perspectives. This research paper has been prepared through the observations thrown by these various angles.

Peon is an issue-centric story by Goswami. The author has drawn the picture of a psychological problem faced by a girl in this story. The narrator of this story is a woman. She decides to teach English to her cousin Damodar and his friend Mukul at home. There comes a situation when she cannot answer the questions instantly asked by the sharp-

minded Mukul. When Mukul proposes her for a romantic involvement, she gets extremely hurt but she finds no other option than tolerating it silently. Even in the later phases, she couldn't able to come out of the scratches of this incident. Yet, she couldn't disclose it to anybody. These kinds of incidents often occur in a woman's life which can bring severe outcomes to her life. But, she couldn't find any other way rather than falling prey to the mental conflict arisen out of these situations.

Goswami's another short story *Chohoror Dugoraki Mahila* is based on the familial issues. The different issues of the personal lives of two different women have been portrayed by Goswami in this short story. In the story, Anupama is a grief-stricken mother who has lost her son. She lost her son in an accident and leads a lonely life afterward, but, in the whole phase of her sorrow, she forgets that she has already crossed the age to attain motherhood again. When she realizes this finally, it paralyzes her mind with mental restlessness.

On the other hand, the other woman character Rupohi is suffering the ultimate distress of life where she has to sell her body for survival. But, she couldn't rescue herself even by surrendering her dignity to another man. She does so to escape from her immoral husband. In the end, she only gets immense sorrow in life.

Based on the lives of two economically deprived sisters, Goswami composed the short story *Sahojatri*. As these two sisters cross their age of puberty and approach towards their womanhood, they start facing the severity of circumstances in life. When they have started dreaming of their desired life partners, they start realizing the naked faces behind the masks of the men they are dealing with. Because, both their prospective partners are actually already married. These two men are trying to take undue advantage of these two poverty-stricken girls. Gradually, love turns out to be a market place for these two sisters.

Abha Gardeneror Abeli is another issue-centric short story by the author. Abha Gardener is infamous in the society as a prostitute. On one hand, a woman is painted as a prostitute to fill the hunger of a man and on the other hand, a woman is a matter of sanctity when she is caged between the four walls of a house to bear the offspring of a family. This whole shameless patriarchal duality has been portrayed through the character of Abha Gardener. Abha has to take this path due to her financial crises and the so-called gentlemen of the society take pleasure in her momentarily, by making her an object of their desires. But, she and her desire for an emotional bonding is a matter of laugh for these masked hypocrites of society. At last, she gets defeated by the harshness of the hypocritical society. Though she possesses a pride for her nation but this too a laughing stock for these so-called gentlemen in society. When she donates her gold necklace during the economic crisis of her nation, she again becomes the victim of people's wrath as the necklace turns out to be a fake one. Abha's distress is due to her poor economic condition. But, there also society doesn't spare her and pushes her towards severe mental instability. Thus, this realistic portrayal has made the story more approaching.

Devipeethor Tez is a story based on a social issue. How society suppresses individuals that have been portrayed in the story. Padmapriya is abandoned by her husband Dhaval because he finds some patches on her body which he suspects to be leprosy. She has been sent to her own home and people start ostracising her due to the disease. Even, small children are also not allowed to go near her. Among these severe circumstances, she starts losing her sanity. Here, the author is portraying a heart-wrenching picture of the brutality of society towards a woman.

Goswami's *Sanskar* is another widely acclaimed story. Here in the story, Damayanti is a poor Brahmin widow who embraces prostitution due to her poverty. She keeps close relationships with many men in the society. But, her mind is still caged in conservative Brahmanical ideologies and that's why she aborts Peetambor Mohajon's eagerly-awaited child in her womb. Here, we find two women in her. One is an economically deprived widow and another is the helpless victim who wants to establish herself amidst the conservative rituals of a Brahmanical society. In the above-mentioned story, initially, Damayanti wants to start a family with Peetambor Mohajon after conceiving his child but, the so-called caste barriers in the society do not allow her to do so. Thus, we see the in-depth analyses of a woman's struggle in society in Goswami's short stories. These problems are efficiently portrayed in her other stories like *Naangoth Chahor*, *Eeshworir Samsoy Aru Prem*, *Bhul Thikona*, *Sei Aandhar Pohararo Odhik* etc. These stories show the author's craftsmanship with the in-depth experiences of life.

Conclusion:

Goswami's short stories portray her in-depth experiences with life. They show women's struggle in society. Distressful time brings severity to life one after another. The economic severity becomes more stressful in a woman's life when the societal issues are added to that. Besides, mental instability leads to its severity when the familial problem

doesn't go well with her. Thus, it makes the life of a woman miserable and unbearable. So, the author is trying to bring some awareness through her writings in the society. These studies are important and relevant from the individual societal perspective, So that, these incidents never repeat in society.

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