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ASPIRATIONS AND REALITIES IN NANDESWAR DAIMARY'S "*CHALLENGE*" & JANIL KUMAR BRAHMA'S "*DUMPHAONI PHITHA*"

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ABSTRACT

The short story writers of Boro Literature have tried to explore the life of simple living village people with their inner wishes. Nandeswar Daimary and Janil Kumar Brahma both delved deep into the subjects and became liberal to present the picture of one's wishes in the characters. The present paper tries to focus on the inner workings of man.

Key words : Aspirations, Self, Daoharu, Dumphao, characters

INTRODUCTION

Among the genres of Bodo Written Literature, the writers of Bodo Short Stories are able to express the vibrant ways of life and thoughts of grass root people. Chittaranjan Mochahari's '*Phwimal Mijing*' published in the book form in the year 1970 paved the way of Boro Short Story as a popular genre of Bodo Literature. Nilkamal Brahma also popularized himself as one of the best short story writers in Bodo Literature by his excellent creation "*Hagra Gwdwni Mwi*" in 1972 which made an impressive impact upon the readers. The writers present their stories with a new outlook and their language and style are appealing.

Nandeswar Daimary, a contemporary short story writer of Bodo Literature focuses on the situation of the Bodos in the present time. He was awarded Someswari Brahma Literary Award for his excellent work "*Boxing*" in 1995 which brought laurels to his literary career. Daimary's main concern is to deliver his message to his generation. With this end in view he expresses his ideas through the mouth of his characters. The form of the story seems the form of a confession, for that is how it is told, now speaking of what happened yesterday and then returning to the present and even speculating about the future. Daimary also shows the warmth of human relationship in the story.

Janil Kumar Brahma, a distinguished writer of award winning book "*Dumphaoni Phitha*"

tries to highlight the situations and changes occurred in the Bodo society. He inspired the writers of his community to create newness in their writings for the society. It is obvious that the present story illumines the inner aspirations and struggle of a woman for freedom and own identity to lead a better life in the society they are confronted with. The characters emotions and passions are the result of their own sufferings highly visualized in a broad day light. These expressions and reactions are common and life like but show the aftermath of the situation and some hints as to what will happen next.

NANDESWAR DAIMARY'S "CHALLENGE"

It is quite distinctive that Daoharu and Bwisagu are studies in contrast and they constitute the central pair of the story. They are both parents but their attitudes are pales apart . While Daoharu is a self conscious father and a dreamer of dreams , Bwisagu is a plain prudent man of the world with a strong common sense. In the beginning of the story Daimary shows how Daoharu played the role of a conscious father performing all his duties to fulfill the dream of his own . Daimary has remained very truthful in presenting the characters in the situations which are not really desirable in one's life to survive. Daoharu is broad minded and liberal in outlook and knows how to deal with a situation. He is fully conscious of the dreadful realities of life without education.

In "Challenge" Daimary presents a world where Daoharu is a practical man who lives with no illusions about either life or education but understands life deeply from his own experiences. As the story progresses Daoharu's unheroic actions become reasonable when he sees that he can survive by the deeds of his own. A man of strong will power Daoharu tried to fulfill his dream and found in Lincoln a rich potential . Daoharu had a good dream.

It's the only dream he had chosen for his son. He watches that his son's very presence imparts a certain pleasantness to his mind. His sense of pride arose when he sent his son Lincoln to an English medium school. Daoharu has been forseeing a magnificent future for Lincoln and he clinged to his optimistic faith till the very end , even though Lincoln himself had become disillusioned. As a parent to provide higher education to his son , it was a matter of great risk for future and Daoharu could probably able to face any new challenges in life. He expected to serve his son routinely and eternally. He was the real soldier to fight against the battle of education which definitely would signify his son's future existence on earth :

"He was all set on a war footing . It was as if he was ready for battle. It was a battle to educate his son . A battle to live."

However Daoharu was a student of Hagramari Bodo medium school and he had never accepted seriously the outcomes of education in his student life. He did everything as he has been instructed by his will and the situation was so grim that he repeatedly failed in exam. He never realized his misdeeds and misbehaves which he intentionally did when he was at school. Daoharu's behavior from his childhood has been presented quite typical and it is quite difficult to judge him properly . A slight change in his temperament and expressions can be seen in latter days. It was Daoharu's own negligence to learn his subjects and his father's negligence worked upon his mind unconsciously perhaps and did leave its mark.

Daoharu tried to boost up his confidence and convinced himself to achieve his goal according to his wishes. He wanted his son Lincoln to become a great man in life. A deep sense of love and duty to his own son , Daoharu provided all sorts of essential things to his son. The security and needs of good life was gradually arose in the minds of Daoharu. He has an intense consciousness that the life he had built for himself was without form and inner meaning. As a student Daoharu never thought the fruits of knowledge and now as a father he realized the possible ways of fulfilling his son's dreams. His utter

helplessness came into light when he believed that his only son Lincoln would be able to turn everything possible and lead a meaningful life in future. He had a great interest in knowing English language which has created positive and practical approach in the psyche of Daoharu. Because of his unvarying obstacles and reluctance for studies, he could not give proper justice to Godly gifted skills and now he confessed that he has been suffered a lot and faced abundant difficulties in his life. He gathered new ideas from his own life and perhaps it was the new character of Daoharu which grew out of his own experiences. Daoharu is lost but in different way, for he has never allowed himself to turn his face toward defeat. Being a failure in his student life he wanted his son to achieve the great heights of success. The ladder of success that he built for his son was not so an easy one but he was so firm in his decision that he would be able to taste the sweetness of life. He believed that a challenge is a challenge and he had the possible outcomes of fighting any new challenge which he could leave for his son :

“A battle which he was a student never fought, now as a father he was willing to fight. Faced with such a challenge, he was never tired nor could he dream of ever grating tired in this venture. Perhaps, he learnt it from his own life. He grew from experiences.”

Daimary silently conjures up the entire scene which is remarkable for harsh reality in his mind's eye. Daoharu, a very simple living person was a highly ambitious father who provided best means of education by sending his son Lincoln to an English medium school in spite of all his hardships he had in his life. Bwisagu, a friend of Daoharu in his school days could perceive the change in Daoharu's life by the arrival of Lincoln, a student of Bwisagu. Daoharu lionized his son Lincoln and kept telling him that he had a great future before him. Have faith and courage on himself, Daoharu resolved to send his son to an English medium school like other parents of his community. A hard task for his son and for his own satisfaction that he never separated from him. Daoharu's decision to send his son in an English medium school was a brave decision as Daoharu believed that the village environment was not upto the mark and it has been changing the mindset of the community people.

The theatre of human survival against one's will is a comment on the inevitability of the presence of one's doings. Preference has been given on an English medium schoolboy showing negligence on the importance of own language schools. Daoharu felt the importance of education as he had bitter experience of neglecting education in his school days. He realized that education is the best food of life and only educated one can survive in a society.

“Challenge” deals with Daoharu's journey of life from his childhood and presents his typical perception of placing his wishes in the life of his son. Daoharu in his initial days of life could not categorise his streams of life but now his own perceptions and approaches of looking towards a bright future of his son provide a better concern in this regard. One can easily understand that it is the result of a parents over caring love which has been started to inculcate in his psychology. This approach is not the result of a day experience but a psychological conflict that rightly paves the way to raise many questions in due course of time. Daoharu who is full of pride for sending his son to an English medium school also gets disillusioned about the opportunities of English medium school in future. He is solely responsible for his decisions and destiny. He expressed himself in a quite touching way. It is Bwisagu who makes Daoharu realize that one's own language is the best language in the world. In Bwisagu's opinion :

“I cannot neglect my language. It is the duty of teachers like us to think about the development of our language.”

Daoharu starts analyzing each and everything coming towards him. He dares to fight against his fate and seems stubborn as far as his will is concerned. He did not have any scope to understand the shades of life but support and encourage his son because he has been suffering a lot in all streams of the society. He bears everything silently because he was helpless. In his short story Daimary intends to present a simple human situation in the most simple way. He took up the current social issues as the subject

matter of his short stories . It is seen that the short story “Challenge” exposes the synthetic appearances of love and education . The characters’ perceptions are distinct and vibrant in the time of needs.

JANIL KUMAR BRAHMA’S “DUMPHAONI PHITHA”

In “*Dumphaoni Phitha*” Janil Kumar Brahma’s concern with the nature of mankind and its consequences was represented through the character of Dumphao. He portrays the character of Dumphao as a woman of strong feeling and understanding and thinks herself unprotected amidst the realities of life. She made to appear a victim of her circumstances but tries to live life like others.

Dumphao , the protagonist of “*Dumphaoni Phitha*” is an image of sensitive feminine soul who is deprived of pleasure and happiness in life . She bestows certain qualities of mind and heart which are quite relevant in search of alternate moods of hopes and despair. Her simplicity and honesty is so touching which asserts her attainment of an outlook of life. Her will power was not only strong but also a source of inspiration for all the womenfolk of her society. She becomes a symbolic equivalent of the modern house wife who is longing for a better life than before :

“What do I do ? Dumphao married the person who was destined for her. I married a private school teacher from our village three years ago. My husband does not have any land or property. He is very poor. I wish you happiness. There is no need for you to think about us.”

A very simple girl and a matriculate as her education is concerned Dumphao and her family live a very happy life without bread and butter. Somen master, Dumphao’s husband who likes to serve his own people wholeheartedly is totally unaware about the happenings around him. He rather ignores to settle the wishes of his family members and remains firm in his words. The words of Somen master remains the sign of his ultimate observation of life :

“Dumphao, everyone’s luck is not the same. If you had luck like Gaodang and Sarala you wouldn’t have married me and then you needn’t have to wade in sorrow with me . I am poor not because I want to be.”

A victimized self at home and a humble man in society Somen master tries to convince his mind to adjust with the situation which compel him to do so. The acceptance of his thoughts deprived him for fulfilling all the dreams of Dumphao . The sensitive words of Somen master provide a room for everyone to think for a while :

“But what have I given to community ? You have seen Dumphao , how now a days everyone wants their community to prosper. All communities are progressing . Only we Bodos are lagging behind. Will our community survive if we sit back and say we are poor .”

Man’s awareness of his responsibility for his sudden and crucial decisions underlines the depth of everyman’s feelings , choices and wishes to survive in the society. It is perhaps true that Dumphao is ready to participate in the mirth and merriment of life and keeps herself busy in search of alternate moods of hopes and despair. Having such thinking and ideology in mind in today’s scenario is the symbol of new woman who endeavors to discover herself in the increasingly demanded needs of the society.

Dumphao experiences an awakening . She realizes that she has an identity of her own and she is not a neglected self. Her urge to free herself from the shackles of a conventional life exhibits her clear vision of life. Her realization to achieve the ladder of success explores her deep faith on herself, a new ray of hope for a new shining day :

“She made up her mind to help her husband in every step of life . If women from other communities could thrive trading in items like betel nut and tea why can’t the Bodo women ? I am also human, thought Dumphao.”

She initiated a new journey of selling Phithas (rice cake) in the Samthaibari market. This positive approach was undertaken for colouring an imagination with the touch of reality. This revolutionary step made Dumphao to realize her own potentialities and strive to develop them. A major part of the story focuses on her struggle for surviving which has changed her mind set , her self perception and her will for fulfilling her aspirations.

CONCLUSION :

In “*Challenge*” a battle is being fought vigorously by both Daoharu and Bwisagu. Both the characters present a valid case from the opposite angle. Daoharu feels like ashamed of his own negligences and the plight he has experienced was intolerable. Daimary’s characters fight a battle of ideas with the help of logic and argument. On the other hand “*Dumphao’s Phitha*” reveals her urge to march from self alienation and discovers herself a new woman in an ordinary mundane life. This bold and inspiring step of Dumphao highlights the depth of one’s inner wishes to come out with the help of challenging experience. The characters of both these writers are deeply sensitive but their yearning for a better and meaningful life can never be justified by reason.

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