



# Childhood Agony in Rudyard Kipling's Autobiography "Something of Myself": A Study

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**Abstract:** - Childhood is the most vital part of someone's life. A human being is considered to be a child from birth till the start of puberty, that is, the age span from birth to 13 years, in the average child. Childhood is the age duration from birth to puberty. Early childhood experiences from birth to age 8 affect the development of the brain's architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. A strong foundation helps children develop the skills they need to become well-functioning adults. Childhood trauma is considered to be a risk factor for developing anxiety as well as chronic pain. While chronic pain conditions vary significantly in severity, they often affect children's mental health, academic performance, and general quality of life. In the current paper, with help of Kipling's autobiography, it is systematically reviewed how Kipling as a child struggled mentally and physically during his childhood.

**Key words:**- trauma, childhood, puberty,

*Unhappy is he to whom the memories of childhood bring only fear and sadness.*

-H P Lovecraft

Autobiographies occupy an important place in English literature for various reasons. Autobiographies have an effective impact on literature worldwide. Through autobiographies, authors can express their own experiences and thoughts which are not possible to communicate with any other genre like poetry, drama, and novel. The reader comes to know the biographical facts and the inner self of the author through autobiographies. Writers communicated about their life as well as their worldwide views using this genre. In short, autobiography is "A non-fictional account of a person's life--usually a celebrity, an important historical figure, or a writer--written by that actual person". Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson described in their work *Woman Autobiography Theory*:

There was, however, deference between the autobiographic and the biographic text, which quickly come to mind: the first can never inscribe the death of speaking subject, the terminus of life, which theoretically the second can describe. (135)

Autobiographies give an opportunity to understand the circumstances of the person and the personality of the writer. The reader may have the opportunity to know the failure and success stories of the author and he comes to know the journey of how an ordinary man becomes an extraordinary man. The reader can form a psychological bond with the author and also, he will get inspiration from them. The term 'autobiography' was coined in 1809 by the nineteenth-century poet Robert Southey. But in the world of literature, it is said that the modern Western autobiography started from AD 398-400. John Bunyan's *Grace Abounding*, James Boswell's *The Life of Johnson*, Rousseau's *Confession*, *Dialogues*, and *Rivers*, William Wordsworth's *The Prelude*, and John Keats's *Endymion* are some of many works, where autobiographical elements were

applied, and applied elements encouraged and also invited a number of autobiographies in the history of world literature. The writings of Autobiographies in India are recent. But in many of the earlier works by Gautama Buddha, Kalidasa, Babur, and Jahangir autobiographical elements were represented. Mahatma Gandhi's *My Experiments with Truth*, Jawaharlal Nehru's *An Autobiography*, Srinivasa Sastri's *My First Meeting with Gokhale*, Vijayalakshmi Pandit's *So I Became a Minister*, Kamala Das' *My Story*, Dr. Radhakrishnan's *My Search for Truth*, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's *Wings or Fire: An Autobiography* and Rudyard Kipling's *Something of Myself* are some of the famous Indian Autobiographies. Dorrit Cohn "It now becomes clear that the referential nature of autobiography can only be theoretically secured by shift of emphasis from its content to its speaker. (31)"

Like a non-fictional account of a person's life--usually a celebrity, an important historical figure, or a writer--written by that actual person. His life's every important and memorable moments Kipling penned down in his verse or fiction. And Kipling did these all writing about his very touching and personal moments when he got these were his hidden and privet feelings. For instance, he wrote about his bitter experiences of his childhood when he was in England in his caretaker's home for primary education. To put it lightly, it was a traumatic experience for Kipling. His sorrow and pained of departing with his parents got double when he got torture at the hand of caretaker and her son. Later he wrote about his abuse in a short story named as *Ba Ba Black Sheep*. Kipling writes in his work *Writing on Writings*: "This only do for me, since I am a lonely man in my life, that I do not take the sickness for which for lack of understanding I should call love. (4)"

Kipling's autobiography *Something of Myself* offers an insight into the life and mind of seminal English poet and author, Rudyard Kipling, who strove to uphold the Victorian imperialist values of patriotism, duty, and obedience; yet simultaneously sympathized with outlaws and children. Richard Jaffa says: "He managed to combine the lightness and imagination required for children's stories with the darker work that marked his later years. He mixed his own experiences with his vivid imagination. (17)." This autobiography outlines his unhappy childhood years in the 'House of Desolation', with his caretaker. The chapters of autobiography include: "A Very Young Person", "The School Before Its Time", "Seven Year's Hard", "The Interregnum", "The Committee of Ways and Means", "South Africa", "The Very-Own House", "Working tools". Jan Montefiore says: "Randall Jarrell's 'on preparing to read Kipling' focuses on appreciating the qualities of Kipling's prose, while viewing his psychology as a man who 'never got over' the experiences of his childhood and youth. (9)"

The test of this edition is that of the first printing of *something of myself*; London, Macmillan, 1937. The book was reprinted several times during 1937, allowing opportunity for the correction of such mistakes as had been noticed by Mrs. Kipling and by others. In 1937 it was added as the final volume to the outward-bound edition in the United States (Scribner's 1897-38) in 1938, to the Sussex edition in England (Macmillan, 1937-38). There does not seem to be any alteration of the text after the date of the Sussex edition, but the number of changes between them and the first printing is considerable.

Kipling's autobiography "something of myself" includes eight chapters. These are "A Very Young Person", "The School Before Its Time", "Seven Year's Hard", "The Interregnum", "The Committee of Ways and Means", "South Africa", "The Very-Own House", "Working tools".

Dealing and analysing Kipling's autobiography is the better way to know his own inner feelings and pain during childhood. Every person has some good and bitter memories. Writers pen down these memories in their works. As it is considered that Kipling's most of the works are having autobiographical element; Kipling's works are reflection of his childhood agony, which we will know in his autobiography. This chapter is analysis of Kipling's autobiography 'Something of Myself'. Among eight chapters of autobiography starting two chapters have been taken for study and to know his childhood experiences. Both the chapters reflect Kipling's childhood.

### A Very Young Person

"Give me the first six years of a child's life and you can have the rest."

This very opening part dwells a deep psychology and of course author's sensitive mood at the very first part as the author seems very fond of his childhood, though it gives a clear idea of a mood of desolation, pain, negligence and struggle.

The autobiography begins and focuses on the events 17 years before, where Kipling regards himself as a gay and lucky child. John Lockwood Kipling, Kipling's parents Mr. Kipling and Alice Kipling moved to India after their marriage, there his father got a job as a professor in an Art school. Kipling's sister Alice was 3 years younger than him.

Kipling was brought up by Indian nannies and servants. He liked very much them he loved to go and see Indian nature and culture with them. He spent time with them by listening to stories and learning the native language and way of living. At the beginning of the autobiography, he quotes:

“This would be the memory of early morning walks of the Bombay fruit market with my ayah and later with my sister in her perambulator. Our ayah was a Portuguese Roman Catholic who would pray. I beside her at a wayside cross. Meeta, my Hindu bearer, would sometimes go into little Hindu temples where being below the age of caste, I held his hand and looked at the dimly seen friendly gods.” (3)

This paragraph clearly mentions Kipling's surrounding with local people, roaming around the Bombay market among local people. Meeta again, a Hindu caretaker introduces Kipling to Hindu culture where he gets families to Hindu gods. At the very beginning, Kipling shows a very healthy and blissful life. Terry Eagleton says:

“A photograph shows what were to become well-known Kipling features: a broad forehead and deeply cleft chin. He is asleep, guarded by his ayah, which caused his uncle Fred Macdonald to jest, ‘Dear me how dark Alice has’ become! Apart from his ayah, Rudyard’s favorite playmates were the family’s these dogs, who used to sit around, watching him intently, as he ate his meals in the relative cool of the veranda.”

He was cheerful, ecstatic and joyous in every manner with his parents in this British Indian society, every possible opportunity and exploring into various culture. But soon his advantageous and lively life is about to face a miserable and painful struggle in his life. It is stated in New York magazine: “Kipling’s India, which represented a happiness from which he had been unaccountably sundered when a child, was a world too remote and savage to seem real to forester, who did not seek revenge but a country of forgetfulness to distance him from his unhappy youth. (156)”

Kipling at a very early age sent to England in 1871, to live in a foster home in England to be educated under British system.

Arriving in England, he was put with Captain Pryse Agar Holloway and his wife Sarah, who boarded children of British nationals serving in India in their home at Southsea, Portsmouth. Here he was admitted to a school, but he was not adjustable there as he faced many abuses. Life at the foster home was not easy either.

Kipling not only faced cruelty and delinquency at the home of Mr. Holloway, but also by Mrs. Holloway son. Both of them cross-examined and trouble him causing severe anguish and tribulation. The torments he faced on his day’s activities and to save himself, Kipling started beguiling.

The most negative effect Kipling found of this harassment and tormentation is lacking of his eye-sight. He puts on glasses which was very rare thing in those days. Even he picked up some minor sin like telling lies to save him and keeping away himself in desolation.

Later he mockingly said, “this, I pressure is the foundation of my literary effort.” His only break come, when each Christmas he travelled to London to spend the holidays with his maternal aunt. Besides, he tried to find solace in literature. Reading was not encouraged by Mrs. Holloway who misleads and moved the furniture along the floor as he continued reading.

By 1876, eleven years old Kipling was almost on the verge of a nervous breakdown. The traumas caused in the desolated learning home brought Kipling to a devastating state. While at his aunt’s place he informed about his pathetic situation and luckily his mother was informed about his circumstances and in April 1877, she arrived in England to take him away from the foster home.

This barrenness and isolation at some point drags Kipling writing the semiautobiographical short story “Baa Baa Black sheep”, a story about a boy named punch and his sister Judy in which Kipling depicted his own childhood pain and suffering. Story deals with the unkind treatment that Kipling received between the ages of six and eleven in a foster home in Southsea likewise punch was miserably abused and driven to a point of murderous and suicidal desperation, he nearly blind at this time. The story published in 1888. This reflects his ordeal and disappointment throughout the time in Mrs. Holloway’s place. William B. Dillingham says: “He seems to have been drawn to such subjects because he knew that hellish environments exist as a fact of life and therefore should not be ignored and because he knew that sometimes shock is the most effective vehicle for revelation. A deep- seated and lingering intuition that all was not right with the around him haunted him from his childhood. (23)”

The memorable morning walks the author had in the shadows of Mahim woods were all his fortune he had before his six years. Kipling raised on Bombay Esplande meeting all the culture around-“Seeing the far going Arab Ships ; the perseea worshipping the son, their odd burial the exposed ; listening to stories and Indian nursery songs from Meeta, and finally meeting his parents with all ‘English-culture’.”

Thus, Kipling's very beginning years were splendid roaming around green spaces round the house of his father’s Art School filled with smells of paints and oils. This all come to an end when the author finds himself in a new place.



“Then came a new small house smelling of aridity and emptiness and a parting in the down with father and mother, who said that I must learn quickly to read and write so that they might send me letters and books.” (5)

This very introduction drew the author to a barrenness, solitude and emptiness when he enters Mr. Hollways house –who took children to educate whose parents were in India. In this house the only solace to the author was ‘The Captain’-Mrs. Hollway’s husband, who was quite kind to him, took him for long walks and leas ship named Alert (or Discovery) which returned from Arctic exploration. But all this ended up when the captain died and the Kipling returned to loneliness.

It was an establishment run with the full vigour of the Evangelical as revealed to the Woman. I had never heard of Hell, so I was introduced to it in all its terrors--I and whatever luckless little slavey might be in the house, whom severe rationing had led to steal food. Once I saw the Woman beat such a girl who picked up the kitchen poker and threatened retaliation. Myself I was regularly beaten. The Woman had an only son of twelve or thirteen as religious as she. I was a real joy to him, for when his mother had finished with me for the day, he (we slept in the same room) took me on and roasted the other side. (6)

This paragraph apparently exposes the childhood struggle that Kipling had. At the very break Kipling tracks down himself in such institution where children were treated like hell. The wretchedness of the lady and the hapless child beaten and condemn in the abode brings their existence to isolation. “Myself I was regularly beaten” and “I was a real joy to him, for when his mother had finished with me for the day, he took me on roasted the other side.”

Kipling abused and tortured by both mother and son mentally and physically all through the day from the very early time puts him in a mental conflict. The action of striving, scrambling and tussling with one’s upbringing, battling the situation around throws a deep impact in a growing up kid.

Kipling as a child bears some negativity as he finds it hard torture down to ask help from someone. Though as a child clearly accepts that his annoyers oppress him both mentally and physically, so this type of personality the child was growing turned down the requests as they are in difficult situation themselves.

Kipling clearly accepts, “if each contradiction set down as a lie and retailed at breakfast, life is not easy. I have known certain amount of bullying but this was calculated torture, s religious as well as scientific.”

Kipling's genuine acceptance to the situations was the consequence of the treatment by the lady of the house. He grew a negative personality linking a positivity to it- where he mention- “yet it made me give attention to the lies I soon found it necessary to tell; and this pressure, is the foundation of literary effort”.

So, Kipling was both in pain and fruitful. The barrenness surrounded him leads somewhere to his literary effort. The liking towards reading and all sorts of stories used to amaze him. The pain the child going through was so loud and his wounds bleeding inside found console in books and stories in them.

But my ignorance was my salvation. I was made to read without explanation, under the usual fear of punishment. And on a day that I remember it came to me that 'reading' was not 'the Cat lay on the Mat,' but a means to everything that would make me happy. So, I read all that came within my reach. As soon as my pleasure in this was known, deprivation from reading was added to my punishments. I then read by stealth and the more earnestly. (6)

The passion for reading clearly manifested with the dark cloud of ignorance, fear of punishment, deprivation and of course the consequences led all these- author’s secrecy towards his passionate reading habit.

But soon as this comes to Mrs. Holloway’s notice- this quality spent time was snatched away from the child. The child purely understood that his innocence and adolescence can only help. He can be rescued only if he goes with the flow. He has to see things as seen to him and the great barrier to his imagination was the ‘fear of punishment’. Soon Kipling found his love for reading, which meant the world to him. He used to read whatever was into his reach. Reading was the only satisfaction and delightfulness which comes to that dark world – he called ‘Hell’.

But long before he became the victim and dispossession towards his reading by the lady of the house Kipling was a bookworm. This suffering caused the author more purposeful and ardent to reading as he started to read furtively. A little while Kipling’s parents started to send him priceless volumes- all sort of books that he can read and enjoy. He mentions the books he reads with amazement and also inspired him to write one of his masterpieces, “The Jungle Book”.

Kipling’s some of memorable all-time favorite books include- a bound copy of ‘Aunt Judy’s Magazine’, ‘Tales at Tea-Time’, ‘The old Shikarri’, ‘Scotts’, ‘I climbed the dark brow of the Mighty Helvellyn’ and ‘Poems of A. Tennyson’.

He even says 'I owe more in circuitous ways to that tale I can tell. I knew it, as I know it still, almost by heart. Here was a history of real people and real things'. These were deep into author's rain as he moves by the stories close to his heart and dwells him for from the confinement. Thus, he even read and meant nothing but the words moved and pleased.

Some of the books become fruitful to Kipling that he mentions- 'The Hope of the Katzekopfs', 'Brown and Faf', 'Nine White Wolves'. The story of the books bore fruitful to the author which gave birth to 'The Jungle Book'.

But among all this composition, the childhood struggle of Kipling still resists and couldn't forget his solitary confinements and learn to be a lovely child with pretending nature solely to avoid strain and rough treatments.

Once, the biographer was taken him to Hollywell Street in Oxford town, where he met an old gentleman in a house of country near Havant. He found the family members bounteous, where he played in the sweet smelling medows and had wonderful lunch. In addition to his surprise he was put to Third-degree by the woman and her son.

After such a visit I was once put through the third degree by the Woman and her son, who asked me if I had told the old gentleman that I was much fonder of him than was the Woman's son. It must have been the tail-end of some sordid intrigue or other--the old gentleman being of kin to that unhappy pair--but it was beyond my comprehension. My sole concern had been a friendly pony in the paddock. My dazed attempts to clear myself were not accepted and, once again, the pleasure that I was seen to have taken was balanced by punishments and humiliation--above all humiliation. (8)

The third-degree treatment crosses the line into abuse. The author was abused emotionally. The child's self-image begins with how he perceives others. The old gentleman being kin of Mrs. Hallway shouldn't be liked much than the lady's son. Thus, there was a sordid deal which the child was unable to understand.

He just wanted to play and enjoy by himself thinking about the friendly pony in the paddock. His imagination was even not accepted, he was ceased to anticipate, develop and mirthful- and only humiliation and submissiveness was on his part.

The alter humiliation in author's part was so painful and debilitating that any advice for dealing with it may seem futile. The childhood days of Kipling were really hard to do anything but to wallow in his own distress. And the repeatedness was consistent. No choice but to accept the underworld ponderousness

Kipling puts an example where smiling or laughing was a crime and restricted.

I can but admire the infernal laborious ingenuity of it all. Exempli gratia. Coming out of church once I smiled. The Devil-Boy demanded why. I said I didn't know, which was child's truth. He replied that I must know. People didn't laugh for nothing. Heaven knows what explanation I put forward; but it was duly reported to the Woman as a 'lie.'

Result, afternoon upstairs with the Collect to learn. I learned most of the Collects that way and a great deal of the Bible. (9)

Author as a child have been insulted, his ego is bruised, pride is hurt, he has been felt powerless and diminished in every sort, been hurt, gone mad like hell and felt so unfair and foolish. He's been ridiculed, scorned, contempt in the hands of Mrs. Hallway's son. Even after three four years when the lady's son went into a bank job; on his return put down the boy (Kipling) to indignity and assaulted.

Once in a year the author finds console from his solitary confinement and that was each December with his aunt Georgie, wife of Sir Edward Burne Jones, at the Grange, North end road. Getting in aunt Georgie's house- ringing the open work iron bell pull on the gate drives the boy to cheerfulness.

All the desire and wanting hiding inside the boy comes to space at Grange. He enjoys to his fullest and played with his two cousins. Uncle Edward had a 'Golden voice' used to play with the boys but likely to save them from fighting. Perhaps Kipling rejoice in his childhood days in this little summer holidays in his aunt's house.

It was a jumble of delights and emotions culminating in being allowed to blow the big organ in the studio for the beloved Aunt, while the uncle worked, or 'Uncle Topsy' came in full of some business of picture-frames or stained glass or general denunciations. Then it was hard to keep the little lead weight on its string below the chalk mark, and if the organ ran out in squeals the beloved Aunt would be sorry. Never, never angry! (10)

Kipling as a child notices every change and other side of his existence in the "house of desolation" comparing to aunt's "house of civilization". He saw love, care, cheerfulness, consolation in every corner of his aunt Georgie's house, so he felt happy and gay. Playing with Morris and Margerate was world to him.

The doomsday is calling quite over the days of fortune.

But on a certain day--one tried to fend off the thought of it--the delicious dream would end, and one would return to the House of Desolation, and for the next two or three mornings there cry on waking up. Hence more punishments and cross-examinations. (11)

Kipling had to return to the never-ending afflictions and bear the agony in the house of gloominess. The more remembering of the happy time, the more exhaustive questioning and the more castigation follow. Asked by Aunt George- why he never disclosed what was happening to him, he replied:

Children tell little more than animals, for what comes to them they accept as eternally established. Also, badly-treated children have a clear notion of what they are likely to get if they betray the secrets of a prison-house before they are clear of it. (11)

The purity of a child is revealed. The mark of low self- esteem and low dignity puts a mark forever. "Shame is private, humiliation is public." The distinction between humiliation and shame is, one agrees with shame and one disagrees with humiliation. Kipling going through mortification was suffering an insult. A person who is insecure about their genuine stature is more prone to feel shame than to reveal others of his insult. This is because Kipling gave more credibility to what others think of him than what he thinks of himself. This result, to fragile the self-esteem. It sums up to be a never-ending torture and pain so he quotes "Justice to the woman I can say that I was adequately fed". And the side effects of all the years torture follows:

Nor was my life an unsuitable preparation for my future, in that it demanded constant wariness, the habit of observation, and attendance on moods and tempers; the noting of discrepancies between speech and action; a certain reserve of demeanour; and automatic suspicion of sudden favours. Brother Lippo Lippi, in his own harder case, as a boy discovered: --

Why, soul and sense of him grow sharp alike,

He learns the look of things, and none the less

For admonition.

So, it was with me. (11)

Kipling was quite confused while growing up. He finds his life in bad state and sees his future in a dissatisfactory adjustment. He was compromising in his life for survival. He finds life in the house crooked, concocted, where there is always fixed in judgment. His moods and moves are always being watched never to show his feelings and attitude; no freeness was given, always contradiction between expression and accomplishment and given a reserved way of looking into things and of course suspecting everything comes on child's way. Kipling quotes two lines from Browning's poem Fra Lippo Lippi as he similarize his state to it.

As lippo's statement about art are joined by his complaints about the monastic lifestyle. Lippo has not adopted this lifestyle by choice; rather his parent's every death left him an orphan with no choice but to join the monastery and the corrupt. Lippo is trapped between the ascetic ways of monastery and the corrupt, fleshy life of his patrons the Medics, who never provided him a wholly fulfilling existence. Like life of Kipling, as child was trapped, not by choice but among corrupted people. The prior lifestyle doesn't take basic human needs into account. Both Kipling literary effort and looking for freedom rings equally hollow, as it involves only a series of meaningless, hedonistic revels and shallow encounters.

Soon Kipling gets result of his struggles when he got poor eyesight which was rare those days. Thereafter he started to read in poor light and the problem persists and aggrandized which lead to poor result.

Among the punishment which Kipling got, he found the deprivation of reading as worst. Once he threw his report card not because he didn't want to be known but was caught and exposed by hanging placard written 'Liar' between the shoulders humiliating him in public.

My web of deceit was swiftly exposed--the Son spared time after banking-hours to help in the auto-cafe--and I was well beaten and sent to school through the streets of Southsea with the placard 'Liar' between my shoulders. In the long run these things, and many more of the like, drained me of any capacity for real, personal hate for the rest of my days. So close must any life-filling passion lie to its opposite. 'Who having known the Diamond will concern himself with glass?' (11-12)

Kipling was manipulated, beaten like any object, beguiled more and more as he found this more convincing. He was dead fired of this immorality and far gone from reality to take things in better way; only severe dislike, grudge, hostility follows in his heart and mind.

The child was disrespected; induced shame and violated in such a way that only venom of revenge horror and revulsion exists. Next after a serious ordeal followed. The mental health of the child disrupted where he felt anomalous and sheer strain. Aunt George heard of his traumatic condition and soon informed his parents; as a result, he was dismounted from that everlasting fire of the condemned abyss.

Departing from his sister was also painful and he regards it as a punishment only. For first few months returning from the penal institution, he ran wild – he was free from immoral restraint. His only glasses jog his memory to the past days.

He was heart and soul joyous living with his parents, listing to talk from gipsy and he was out of that forsaken place and was zestful. Then their family shifted to London in semi-rural Brompton road house. Here Kipling used to sleep so deep and waking with free head in the morning, wandering till daybreak, watching the sunset; playing nastily with Pluto-a pet toad brought from Epping Forest kept always in his pocket. And sometimes he stayed awake all night.

The ex-butler could not understand why I had stayed awake all night. I did not know then that such night wakings would be laid upon me through my life; or that my fortunate hour would be on the turn of sunrise, with a sou'-west breeze afoot. (13)

The night-waking remind him of the scornful days; the struggle was not ended up within the walls of the desolated house but was carried in his mind throughout. He reminds of the dark antiquity and dreamt of promising destiny.

Kipling's mother used to take him and his sister to the museum of old south Kensington, which was across the road. He finds everything fascinating over there from 'big Buddha with little door at his back' to 'towering dull- gilt ancient coaches' and 'Carven chariots in long dark corridors. There were music instruments, beryl and ivories, bowels of the great Glastonbury clock', mechanical models steel and silver- butted pistol, daggers and arqiebusshes, collection of the precious stones and big bluish book with manuscript of Dickens's novels.

These experiences and adventures draw vitality in author's heart and mind, he remembers the museum smell perpetually so he clearly states.

These experiences were a soaking in color and design with, above all, the proper Museum smell; and it stayed with me. By the end of that long holiday, I understood that my Mother had written verses, that my Father 'wrote things' also; that books and pictures were among the most important affairs in the world; that I could read as much as I chose and ask the meaning of things from any one I met. I had found out, too, that one could take pen and set down what one thought, and that nobody accused one of 'showing off' by so doing. I read a good deal; Sidonia the Sorceress; Emerson's poems; and Bret Harte's stories; and I learned all sorts of verses for the pleasure of repeating them to myself in bed. (13-14)

There was an end from the long holiday, or can be said 'passing out of the deep – long- dark tunnel of wretchedness'. Now he takes interest in his parent's works. The child was taken care, was capable to read as much as he can and whatever he loved to. He was liberal to disclose his senses, need not to fear anyone and again he expresses himself by jolting down words into paper. He was no more accused of "showing off". He reads verses and prose; take pleasure in them and remembers the long day heartily.

Thus, Kipling's childhood struggle in his work was primarily discussed where he moved from restlessness to serenity.

Next in the second chapter, "school before time", shifting to England and having comely days Kipling was sent to school at the far end of England. The dean of the institution was a lean, bearded, slow spoken and complex man whom Kipling called 'Uncle Crom'. Kipling's parents returning to India gave him confidence that this time he is in sound place and can live home free. Also given care taker to three of his aunt's line far end of Kensington high street in Addison Road, with lot of favorable circumstances like reading sample books, will receive harmony, unity, benevolence, humility and heart above all called 'civilization and nobility'.

Kipling even had a good taste for literature- reading as well as to pen down his thoughts. He discovered all the allegory, folk tales, legend, love etc. from which come his approach and tantalized him from the library books. The old thoughts of southsea were not allowing him to think positive of the new place. Elapsed ruined encounter no more permitting him to visualize of more fitting surrounding. This school near Bideford, Westward Ho was primarily established for cheap education of the promoted officers of the company who live in India which Kipling mark as 'cast school'. Around seventy percent of boys are born outside of England, whose father worked in the company, in the outside of country and are conceding in the school to follow their fathers in army.

Kipling was five years old when he joined the school and was given in the hands of Cromwell-Price to take care of who was from Hail bury. Kipling finds the food unhealthy but the head assured of nothing such.

Naturally, Westward Ho! was brutal enough, but, setting aside the foul speech that a boy ought to learn early and put behind him by his seventeenth year, it was clean with a cleanliness that I have never heard of in any other school. I remember no



cases of even suspected perversion, and am inclined to the theory that if masters did not suspect them, and show that they suspected, there would not be quite so many elsewhere. Talking things over with Cornell Price afterwards, he confessed that his one prophylactic against certain unclean microbes was to 'send us to bed dead tired.' Hence the wideness of our bounds, and his deaf ear towards our incessant riots and wars between the Houses. (15)

Five years old Kipling's encounter started as he entered Westward Ho. It was too remorseless and swinish. He was crystal clear about his growing year of seventeenth year, that to go under lot of pressure, always a suspected fetish behavior from seniors and other boys. But he was quite sure to have preference from boys as he already knows to pick up things according to moments through experiences of the past. Kipling's personal space being infringed upon and felt vulnerable, and experience discomfort and distress, a significant boundary has been crossed even a health interaction can become a traumatic experience. Being friendly and well known with Cromwell Price afterward revealed to Kipling that he was protective and rumored about such unhygienic food compound; he lied so that the boys obey and never doubts or challenges him and can go to bed without any turmoil. Kipling portrayed his schooldays in Stalky and Co. in which he is in Beetle character Roger Lancelyn Green says: "In the light of, what Beetle and Bard has since given us we can scarcely regret that his gig-lamps and short-sightedness kept him out of the army. (276)"

At the end of first term Kipling's parents were not able to reach for Easter's holiday and Kipling had to stay with other boys of his age whose parents were unable to come and reading for army under the usual fear of 'Big boys', the senior.

At the end of my first term, which was horrible, my parents could not reach England for the Easter holidays, and I had to stay up with a few big boys reading for Army Exams. And a batch of youngsters whose people were very far away. I expected the worst, but when we survivors were left in the echoing form-rooms after the others had driven cheering to the station. (16)

But the weariness soon became affectionate. He was thankful to Cromwell- Price who with his wittiness had built a bridge of harmony between these two stages. The unlikely dubious elder boys turned into condoning, caring and easy-going brothers. And let these youngsters wander and do their own without any barrier; even helped them and showed lightness in conversation and were active while sharing their hobbies. Kipling as a child didn't find any burden and adored his hostel life. This side of school put Kipling in a good state and was merciful. Kipling was given holiday and went with his father to visit Paris exhibition 1878.

Here he grew a great love for France and took a lot of interest in French literature. He regards the exhibition as improvement as a whole, where knowledge and apprentice was found. He was in charge of India exhibits, and twelve-year-old found the city boundless, bounteous, and propitious. He found culture there and fell in love with the city forever. He found gratification in French reading and began with 'Jule verse'. English don't take French a favorable art these days, as knowledge of French expresses affection towards glorification and immortality.

Kipling's love for France and French language made him wrote a four-line poetry;

I hold it truth with him who sung  
Unpublished melodies,  
Who wakes in Paris, being young,  
O' summer, wakes in Paradise. (17)

He finds the remembrance of France attraction and wrote these lines in love of Paris which he regards as paradise.

My first year and a half was not pleasant. The most persistent bullying comes less from the bigger boys, who merely kick and pass on, than from young devils of fourteen acting in concert against one butt. Luckily for me I was physically some years in advance of my age, and swimming in the big open sea baths, or off the Pebble Ridge, was the one accomplishment that brought me any credit. I played footer (Rugby Union), but here again my sight hampered me. I was not even in the Second Fifteen. (17)

The ragging part came in first and a half year of school and was abhorrent. The most domineering in a long haul came from older boys who used to kick and pass on, and even young students used to kick in one butt and pass on. Kipling was lucky enough as he had a physical growth which helped him to swim in big open sea of which he gained praises and he sees it as a triumph which returned him his belief. But one disadvantage still pulls him back was his eyesight.

"I played foots (Rugby union), but here again my sight hampered me. I was not even in the second fifteen". Kipling got disappointment as he did not get selected in his school rugby team as his horrible past experiences dwell him in such



favorable circumstances. The horrified happening in the past shattered the future of Kipling and he cannot pursue the course he wants to put on psychological injury too.

The growing up into fourteenth year gave Kipling a different confidence and peace in himself.

After my strength came suddenly to me about my fourteenth year, there was no more bullying; and either my natural sloth or past experience did not tempt me to bully in my turn.

I had by then found me two friends with whom, by a carefully arranged system of mutual aids, I went up the school on co-operative principles. (17-18)

The experiences of Kipling led him to a confidence. When he grew to fourteenth year he came to the phase of big boys, but he never thought of ragging back to new comers as his inertia and former quondam didn't permit him to do so.

Kipling found two good friends with whom he was comfortable and went to same school. Stalky, M Turk and Beetle came together before thirteen years of age but day by day the triple alliance grew stronger. He again states that three of them in their childhood were abused by the seniors as they sturdiest subdued them and once knocked out the closet of the poor fellows. They worked under pressure and were troubled by the big rogues.

Turkey one of Kipling's friends possessed an absolute different attribute, he had an audacity and a fearlessness to speak and his words were so profane that Kipling quotes as "dipped in Irish blue acid". He speaks like a general and was interested in Army troops ruling Ireland that time. L. Rosenthal and V. Rodic say: "... This can be seen in the relationship between the public school and the army. In the first half of the nineteenth century generally speaking, British army officers had a public-school background because they were members of the landed gentry."

Stalky, on the other hand was a boy of action. For attacks, revenges, fight etc they depended on stalky, their commander in chief and chief of his own staff too. The triplet as fought as 'the man his wife', they are faithful to each other and had a bound of sincerity among themselves. Their bond even carried out of the place too.

I think it was his infernal impersonality that swayed us all in our wars and peace.

He saw not only us but himself from the outside, and in later life, as we met in India and elsewhere, the gift persisted. (19)

This friendship continued far-on and due to this fiendish character of stalky in later life Kipling met his friend in India and their gift of friendship lingered.

Kipling even in his last term was physically abused,

But my revenge was ample. I have said I was physically precocious. In my last term I had been thrusting an unlovely chin at C--- in form. At last, he blew up, protested he could no longer abide the sight, and ordered me to shave. I carried this word to my House-master. He, who had long looked on me as a cultivated sink of iniquities, brooded over this confirmation of his suspicions, and gave me a written order on a Bideford barber for a razor, etc. I kindly invited my friends to come and help, and lamented for three miles the burden of compulsory shaving. There were no ripostes. There was no ribaldry. But why Stalky and Turkey did not cut their throats experimenting with the apparatus I do not understand. (19)

Kipling regards his revenges his counter plays profuse, because once in his last term he was physically used. The fifteen--sixteen years ago a boy in his growing state, the period of puberty and teenager, Kipling grew hairs on chin and of which he was assaulted and forced to cut the deformed chin at C... in form. He neglected, denied and finally blasted of rejection to do so and bear the sight. He even complained this to the housemaster but was in vain. Kipling for this was kept an eye and was seen as bread driven of injustice, agonized over the consent dubious for a razor etc. This was painful and Kipling cried his heart out, lamented with no one giving an ear and did the shaving with compulsion. There was no comeback, no obscenity of this thing. The pain was unbearable and it kept a deep mark in Kipling's mind all through his life. He repeats this incident and the shaving of 'unlovely chin at C--' these all things through end of this second chapter of autobiography. The razor or the device used to cut was vexatious and hurting and he wondered why Stalky and Turkey didn't get hurt of using such apparatus.

"We will now return to the savage life in which all the prodigious events 'transpired'." (19)

The untamed living in which one have to face this enormity aroused once one returned to the life of hostility. One of an erratic habit Kipling grows is smoking and if caught red handed by the prefects was punished.

Oddly enough 'fagging' did not exist, though the name 'fag' was regularly used as a term of contempt and sign of subordination against the Lower School. If one needed a 'varlet' to clean things in a study or run errands that was a matter for private bargaining in our only currency--food. Sometimes such service gave protection, in the sense that it was distinct

cheek to oppress an accredited 'varlet.' I never served thus, owing to my untidiness; but our study entertained one sporadically, and to him we three expounded all housewifely duties. But, as a rule, Turkey would tidy up like the old maid to whom we always compared him. (20)

The verbal abuse continued to the lower school. 'Fatigue' shortly used as 'Fag' –a regularly used word as a term of subjection and as term of perversion to the small kids and no doubt it was a sign of disrupted all the time. Even if anyone tries to help or tries to be his own or complete a task separately; one has to bargain with seniors and the only exchange was food.

We can see a clear picture of hostel ragging that Kipling faced. Snatching of food, not allowing juniors to be their own and behaving unmannerly grew obvious frustration in Kipling's life. But when he had grown up, he doesn't have to face any such things and even he himself doesn't allow do so with others. As Kipling and his friends worked as maids and faced disrespect.

Kipling's living in hostel was quite hard; as the surroundings over there were full of filth, windy dormitories, not any sort of lock in the rooms and the school building looks like cheap lodging houses which were really unhygienic and contagious. Kipling being into it was also aware that the boys there had to face the most. The boys even have to work harder than all others chose to be in to army.

Kipling now explains himself as a grown man with dazzling physique and regards himself as a egghead with love for language and literature. He found a good and proud house master under whom he developed the skill of elocution; he got opportunity to talk more and more and use words as 'power'. He repeatedly speaks of the 'C--' thing which puts a deep impact in his growing up s also in his readings of great works,

C---- taught me to loathe Horace for two years; to forget him for twenty, and then to love him for the rest of my days and through many sleepless nights. (22)

The physical abuse with 'C--' thing drag Kipling to dislike the Roman poet Horace at earlier part, and then forget him (the works, poem, teachings, critics, prose, poetry and drama written by Horace) and finally grew up and love Horace for rest of his life specially in the sleepless nights. 'The Sleepless nights' recalls him of his physical and mental abuse where his only solace was books and reading gives him pleasure and forget his pain for few time.

In the second year at school Kipling started writing his own and used to write some humorous fine line poem with a rhyme scheme like aabba- called 'limericks'. Robert Moss says in his work Rudyard Kipling and the Fiction of Adolescence:

The first thing the students of Kipling learns is that his subject has been the victim of critical neglect; the second is that this neglect occupies two or three shelves in the library and that essays, biographies and full length studies of Kipling are there in abundance. (9)

## Conclusion

Authors express their inner feelings and experiences of their life through autobiography. Readers perceive about author's life and biographical facts by it. Kipling's autobiography "Something of Myself" is record of his bitter experiences of childhood, the feelings which inspired him to write on children's issues. In this way this chapter gives a detailed account of Kipling's childhood struggle. Analysis of starting two chapters in 'Something of Myself' of Kipling's childhood gives a frame of his mental and physical struggle. First chapter had been explained Kipling's life's six years in 'House of Desolation' where he faced mental and physical torture by his caretaker. And the second chapter had been depicted sufferings in boarding school. So, the work clearly depicts struggle of the author in his childhood.

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