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TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

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ABSTRACT

Like in a running race, one has to keep on moving forward to hold on to his position in today's business field. For-profit entrepreneurs typically measure performance using business metrics like profit, revenues and increases in stock prices. The main concept of business is gaining maximum profit at optimum cost. To do this better than any other competitors, a business man needs all the support he can get. Apart from a proper human resource, a major source for a grand improvement in business can only be provided by latest technological tools and concept, applicable in practice. The proper utilization of latest technology along with constant updation can create a major difference in the long term business returns. Also, the support of softwares tools is required in order to avoid human errors. In order to compete with global level market and competition, a manager has to consider more information and he needs proper technical support in running his business.

Key words: Entrepreneur, Human Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence, Business support tools, Business software, Core competence.

Introduction

Entrepreneur is the one who exercises initiative by organizing a venture to take benefit of an opportunity and, as the decision maker, decides what, how and how much of a product or service will be produced.

In these times, when a smart phone has become a basic necessity for everyone, the necessities for running a business has also expanded. Business has become more than just selling products. Gone are the days when just



convincing the customers to buy your products through smart words is enough. Even a small petty shop needs computer billing machines to convince their customers of their quality. So, managing a business, even a small or medium scale, needs current management supportive tools and a manager with updated technical knowledge to prove their sophistication in the field.

Human intelligence

Mental quality that consists of the abilities to learn from experience, adapt to new situations, understand and handle abstract concepts, and use knowledge to manipulate one's environment.

Artificial intelligence

It is the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.

Management- An Art or Science?

Management is both an art and a science. Management combines features of both science as well as art. It is considered as a science because it has an organized body of knowledge which contains certain universal truth. It is called an art because managing requires certain skills which are personal possessions of managers. Science provides the knowledge & art deals with the application of knowledge and skills.

A manager to be successful in his profession must acquire the knowledge of science and the art of applying it. Therefore, management is a judicious blend of science as well as an art because it proves the principles and the way these principles are applied is a matter of art. Science teaches to 'know' and art teaches to 'do'.

Need for technical support

In today's business world, an entrepreneur has to compete with business all over the world. The basic necessity for successful day-to-day running of a business is distinctive competency.

Every business has limited resources. The major challenge for an entrepreneur is providing maximum profit with optimum resources.

In order to satisfy the need of resources for all the business activities, one must have to allocate resources by prioritizing those activities. But the order, nature and priorities of these actions are dynamic.

The study and forecasting of the resource requirements can be done only after analysis of the resource demand and allocation for the past business practices.

Today, there are a number of software tools to provide support for the manager to make decisions regarding resource allocation and other business activities. Our country boasts of being a source for strong human resource specialised in computer programming skills and intelligence even for developed countries. Hence, there will be no shortage for such management support tools.

Smart tools

1. Accounting software

Accounting software describes a type of application software that records and processes accounting transactions within functional modules such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and trial balance. It functions as an accounting information system. It may be developed in-house by the organization using it, may be purchased from a third party, or may be a combination of a third-party application software package with local



modifications. Accounting software may be on-line based, accessed anywhere at any time with any device which is Internet enabled, or may be desktop based. It varies greatly in its complexity and cost. Eg: Net Suite, Bill.com. SAP etc.

2. Backup software

Backup softwares are computer programs used to perform backup; they create supplementary exact copies of files, databases or entire computers. These programs may later use the supplementary copies to restore the original contents in the event of data loss. Eg: Areca, Bacula, Duplicity etc.

3. Recovery software

The free data recovery software can recover accidentally deleted files as well as data from damaged or formatted hard drives. EaseUS Data Recovery Wizard Professional is a useful and advanced data recovery software. It can recover data from your hard drive, USB drives, memory cards, and other storage devices. Eg: Data recovery wizard, File salvage, Get data back etc.

4. Blogging tools

A blog is a discussion or informational website published on the World Wide Web consisting of discrete, often informal diary-style text entries. Posts are typically displayed in reverse chronological order, so that the most recent post appears first, at the top of the web page. Eg: BuzzSumo, Quick Sprout, Feedly etc.

5. Calendar

A calendar is a system of organizing days for social, religious, commercial or administrative purposes. Calendaring software provides users with an electronic version of a calendar, and may additionally provide an appointment book, address book or contact list. Calendaring is a standard

feature of many PDAs, EDAs, and smartphones. The software may be a local package designed for individual use (e.g., Lightning extension for Mozilla Thunderbird, Microsoft Outlook without Exchange Server, or Windows Calendar) or may be a networked package that allows for the sharing of information between users (e.g., Mozilla Sunbird, Windows Live Calendar, Google Calendar, or Microsoft Outlook with Exchange Server).

6. Collaborative software

Collaborative software or groupware is an application software designed to help people involved in a common task to achieve their goals. One of the earliest definitions of collaborative software is "intentional group processes plus software to support them". Collaborative software is a broad concept that overlaps considerably with computer-supported cooperative work (CSCW). Eg: Ace Project, Adobe Acrobat, Collaber etc.

7. Office suite

An online office suite or online productivity suite is a type of office suite offered by websites in the form of software as a service. They can be accessed online from any Internet-enabled device running any operating system. This allows people to work together worldwide and at any time, thereby leading to international web-based collaboration and virtual teamwork. Usually, the basic versions are offered for free and for more advanced versions one is required to pay a nominal subscription fee. Eg: Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Apache Open Office etc.

8. Customer relationship management

CRM software consolidates customer information and documents into a single CRM database so that business users can more easily access and manage it. Eg: Microsoft's Dynamics CRM platform, Hubspot, Infusionsoft etc.



9. Database

A database management system (DBMS) is a computer software application that interacts with the user, other applications, and the database itself to capture and analyze data. Eg: Oracle, FileMaker Pro, Microsoft Access etc.

10. E-commerce service

E-commerce is a transaction of buying or selling online. Electronic commerce draws on technologies such as mobile commerce, electronic funds transfer, supply chain management, Internet marketing, online transaction processing, electronic data interchange (EDI), inventory management systems, and automated data collection systems. Eg: Amazon, Flipkart, OLX etc.

11. E-mail

Electronic mail or email, is a method of exchanging digital messages between people using digital devices such as computers, tablets and mobile phones. Eg: gmail, yahoomail, rediffmail etc.

12. E-marketing tools

Emarketing, refers to advertising and marketing efforts that use the Web and email to drive direct sales via electronic commerce, in addition to sales leads from Web sites or emails. Eg: Google alerts, Hootsuite, klout etc.

13. Instant messaging

Instant messaging (IM) is a type of online chat that offers real-time text transmission over the Internet. A LAN messenger operates in a similar way over a local area network. Eg: Whatsapp, Viber, Wechat etc.

14. Invoicing

Invoicing software refers to programs that handle the tracking of billable products and services delivered to a customer or a set of customers. Some billing software also tracks work hours for billing purposes. These types of programs automate much of what used to be a time-consuming process of preparing invoices or other documentation. Eg: aplos, deltek, billquick etc.

15. Mobile device remote access

Mobile device remote access means accessing any Android phone or tablet remotely from your desktop computer or from another mobile device. Eg: Wyse PocketCloud, Team viewer, Jump Desktop, etc.

16. Project management software

Project management software is the tool used for initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing the work of a team to achieve specific goals and meet specific success criteria. Eg: Fresh Desk, Zoho, Confluence etc.

17. Remote access tool

Remote access is the ability to get access to a computer or a network from a remote distance. In corporations, people at branch offices, telecommuters, and people who are travelling may need access to the corporation's network. Eg: Ammyy Admin, UltraVNC, AeroAdmin etc.

18. Security software

Computer security software or cyber security software is any computer program designed to enhance information security. The defense of computers against intrusion and unauthorized use of resources is called computer security. Similarly, the defense of computer networks is called network security. Eg: Avast, AVG, Kaspersky, etc.



19. Social networking

A social networking service is an online platform that is used by people to build social networks or social relations with other people who share similar personal or career interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections. Eg: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.

20. Task manager

A task manager is a system monitor program used to provide information about the processes and programs running on a computer, as well as the general status of the computer. Some implementations can also be used to terminate processes and programs, as well as change the processes priority. Eg: Centrallo, MeisterTask, Todo Cloud etc.

21. Voice over ip setup

Voice over Internet is a methodology and group of technologies for the delivery of voice communications and multimedia sessions over Internet Protocol (IP) networks, such as the Internet. Eg: Viber, Skype, Google Hangouts etc.

22. Virtual private network

A virtual private network (VPN) is a technology that creates an encrypted connection over a less secure network. The benefit of using a secure VPN is it ensures the appropriate level of security to the connected systems when the underlying network infrastructure alone cannot provide it. Eg: Cisco, Juniper, SSL etc.

Implementation of technology in business

The major challenge for today's manager is how to utilize these tools as core competence strength.

The logical solution would be utilizing a proper combination of these software tools in order to formulate an optimum strategy for resource allocation.

Activities that require supportive software tools

- 1) Financial Management
- 2) Compensation Management
- 3) Customer support
- 4) Purchase Management
- 5) Asset Management
- 6) Supply Chain Management
- 7) Operations Management
- 8) Report creation
- 9) Database Management
- 10) Project Management
- 11) Marketing Management

Challenges

The main limitation for business software is that its analytical abilities are pretty restricted. Software can be used for only the purpose for which it was written. The software programmer cannot conceive all the environmental factors affecting the business. Hence the practical application of this software is possible only for day-to-day business routine, under known environmental factors.

Creating software which is flexible enough for various possible scenario is complicated enough. The scope of creating a universal software which would provide support to the manager for any situation arising is impossible.



Solutions

There are many open source tools and other software to help an amateur in running a small scale business. But, the manager of a large scale business needs all the support he can get to avoid human errors in decision making.

The possible method for optimum utilization of all the management support tools is using a combo of software of each discipline and linking them in a common database. Hence the application of each software supports one another so that the limitation of one tool can be rectified by another one.

If a manager expertised in finding a solution for all types of business problems works together with a software programming team, it is possible to create a platform to combine various business software supporting each other in order to analyse all possible business scenario and provide support for even unexpected problems.

Conclusion

In order to be a successful business man, it is not necessary to be the smartest man in the room, but make sure the smartest man is working for you. Similarly, even if it is not necessary for a manager to have complete technical knowledge, he needs to know how the technology can be used to expand the business. For that, it is necessary for the manager to be updated on the various developments in software field and have a practical knowledge about their business applications along with Out-of -Box thinking. For gaining an upper hand in the global business, an unique approach in proper utilization of technology in the day-to-day business is necessary.

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ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH AMONG THE RURAL WOMEN-AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurs are key players in any developing country particularly in terms of their contribution to economic development. Women entrepreneurs create new jobs for themselves and others and also provide society with different solutions to management, organisation and business problems. The significant role of women entrepreneurship is constantly increasing due to various global factors. Kerala Govt. has been implemented several policies and programmes for the development of women entrepreneurship. Socio economic and family background is an important factor that influence women to start their business. Now, women are engaged in income generation activity which make them economically and socially empowered. The rural women have freedom of choice which motivates them to be a part of decision making process within the family and the society. This study was undertaken to analyse the entrepreneurial growth among rural women. A survey instrument was contributed to gather data from the members of kudumbasree based on three villages in Thrissur district and data was analysed to arrive at conclusion. This study shows that some area still exists needs improvement, as identified based on the inputs gathered and data studies.

Introduction

Traditionally, entrepreneurship has been a male-dominated chase. However, several of today's most impressive and rousing entrepreneurs are women. Women have broken down the glass ceiling of the traditional

thought which has been long prevailing in the world and have emerged as successful entrepreneurs. Many factors like urbanization, technical progress, women education, etc., have profoundly changed these traditional conditions even in a developing country like India. These days, India has been the depiction of women in the top echelons of banking and financial services and many more sectors and even has emerged as powerful entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneur may be defined as a woman or group of women who initiate, organize, and run a business enterprise. In terms of Schumpeterian concept of innovative entrepreneurs, women who innovate, imitate or adopt a business activity are called “women entrepreneurs”. Kamal Singh, who is a woman entrepreneur from Rajasthan, has defined woman entrepreneur as “a confident, innovative and creative woman capable of achieving self-economic independence individually or in collaboration, generates employment opportunities for others through initiating, establishing and running the enterprise by keeping pace with her personal, family and social life.” But the situation of the rural women has not changed. Rural women increasingly run their own enterprises, yet their socio-economic contributions and entrepreneurial potential remain largely unrecognized and untapped. They are concentrated in informal, micro-size, low productivity and low-return activities. Enabling a gender responsive policies, services and business environments are crucial to stimulate the start up and upgrading of women’s businesses and thereby help generate decent and productive work, achieve gender equality, reduce poverty and ensure stronger economies and societies. Government is to introduce various projects for the improvement of rural women of India. Kudumbasree was launched by the Government of Kerala in 1998 for wiping out poverty from the State through concerted community action under the leadership of Local Self Governments (LSG). Kudumbashree is today one of the largest women-empowering projects in the country. The programme has 37 lakh members and covers more than 50 per cent of the households in Kerala. Built around three critical components –



micro credit, entrepreneurship and empowerment, the Kudumbashree initiative has today succeeded in addressing the basic needs of the less privileged women – thus providing them a more dignified life and better future.

Objective of the Study

- To know the entrepreneurial growth among rural women in Thrissur district

Research Methodology

Definition of the population:-

This study mainly evaluated the entrepreneurial growth among rural women. The population here is the members of Kudumbashree unit of three villages of Thrissur District.

Type of Research:-

This is a descriptive research where survey method is used to collect primary information from the members.

Sources of Data Collection:

Primary Data: A questionnaire is prepared and this questionnaire is used for collecting primary data

Secondary Data: Websites, Books, Related information from net.

Scaling Technique

The questionnaire comprises 20 questions. The respondent was asked to respond to each question or statement in terms of two or five degrees.

Statistical Tools Applied

The objective and hypothesis is set and chi square and fishers exact test is used for analysis.

Type of Universe

In this study, the members of different kudumbashree units are taken for data collection.

Sample Unit

Under this study, the sample unit is the members of kudumbashree unit.

Source List

Source list is also known as the 'sampling frame' from which sample is drawn. For the specific purpose of study, the name list of Kudumbashree unit under three villages situated in Thrissur district is taken.

Size of Sample

This refers to the number of items to be selected from the universe to contribute a sample. In this study, the sample size is 50.

Analysis and results

Table 1: Distribution of Demographic Variables

Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percent
Age Group		
Up to 30	6	12.0%
31 - 40	22	44.0%
41 - 50	8	16.0%
51 - 60	6	12.0%
Above 60	8	16.0%
Educational Qualification		
Illiterate	0	0.0%
School Level	34	68.0%
Under Graduate	13	26.0%
Graduate	3	6.0%



Age Group: Almost 12.0% of the sample belongs to the age group up to 30 years and 44.0% belongs to the group 31-40 years. Around 16.0% of the sample belongs to the group 51-50 years, 12.0% belongs to 51-60 years and 16.0% belongs to above 60 years.

Educational Qualification: The table shows that the majority (68.0%) of the sample have school level education. Almost 26.0% of the sample was under graduates and 6.0% were graduates. No cases of illiterate sample were noted.

Table 2: Distribution of Personal Empowerment

Personal Empowerment	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Confidence	33 (66%)	11 (22%)	6 (12%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Independence	23 (46%)	18 (36%)	9 (18%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Self-respect	18 (36%)	21 (42%)	11 (22%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mutual Respect	24 (48%)	14 (28%)	12 (24%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Family Acceptance	23 (46%)	15 (30%)	12 (24%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table 3: Distribution of Overall Personal Empowerment

Personal Empowerment	Frequency	Percent	p - value
High	35	70.0%	<0.001
Moderate	15	30.0%	
Low	0	0.0%	

The distribution of personal empowerment was studied here. The personal empowerment was classified into high (76% to 100%), moderate (26% to 75%) and low (0% to 25%). Majority (70.0%) of the sample has high personal empowerment and 30.0% of the sample has moderate personal empowerment. No cases of low personal empowerment were reported. The p-value suggests that the personal empowerment is high in Kudumbasree members.

Table 4: Distribution of Economic Empowerment

Economic Empowerment	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Employment Opportunity	11 (22%)	32 (64%)	7 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Technical Skill	7 (14%)	35 (70%)	5 (10%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)
Entrepreneurial Skill	20 (40%)	12 (24%)	18 (36%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Economic Status	9 (18%)	24 (48%)	15 (30%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)
Living Condition	15 (30%)	20 (40%)	15 (30%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table 5: Distribution of Overall Economic Empowerment

Economic Empowerment	Frequency	Percent	p - value
High	28	56.0%	<0.001
Moderate	22	44.0%	
Low	0	0.0%	

The distribution of economic empowerment was studied here. The economic empowerment was classified into high (76% to 100%), moderate (26% to 75%) and low (0% to 25%). Almost 56.0% of the sample has high economic empowerment and 44.0% have moderate economic empowerment. No cases of low economic empowerment were reported. The p-value suggests that the economic empowerment is high in Kudumbasree members.

Table 6: Distribution of Satisfaction

Satisfaction	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Co-ordination and Co-operation of Members	15 (30%)	30 (60%)	5 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Training and Awareness	25 (50%)	20 (40%)	5 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Repayment of Loan	24 (48%)	22 (44%)	4 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Proper Utilization of Fund	44 (88%)	6 (12%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)



Table 7: Distribution of Overall Satisfaction

Satisfaction	Frequency	Percent	p - value
High	45	90.0%	<0.001
Medium	5	10.0%	
Low	0	0.0%	

The distribution of satisfaction was studied here. The satisfaction was classified in to high (76% to 100%), medium (26% to 75%) and low (0% to 25%). Majority (90.0%) of the sample has high satisfaction and 30.0% of the sample has medium satisfaction. No cases of low satisfaction were reported. The p-value suggests that the satisfaction is high in Kudumbasree members.

Table 8: Relationship between Personal Empowerment and Demographic Variables

Demographic Variables	Personal Empowerment		Total	p - value
	High	Moderate		
Age Group				
Up to 30	5 (83.3%)	1 (16.7%)	6	0.465
31 - 40	17 (77.3%)	5 (22.7%)	22	
41 - 50	6 (75.0%)	2 (25.0%)	8	
51 - 60	3 (50.0%)	3 (50.0%)	6	
Above 60	4 (50.0%)	4 (50.0%)	8	
Educational Qualification				
School Level	21 (61.8%)	13 (38.2%)	34	0.109
Under Graduate	12 (92.3%)	1 (7.7%)	13	
Graduate	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	3	

The relationship between personal empowerment and demographic variables was studied. Both the p-values are greater than the significance level 0.05; the relationship between personal empowerment and demographic variables is not significant. That is, the improvement in personal empowerment is not depending on age and education, but depends on the training given by Kudumbasree units.

Table 9: Relationship between Economic Empowerment and Demographic Variables

Demographic Variables	Economic Empowerment		Total	p - value
	High	Moderate		
Age Group				
Up to 30	3 (50.0%)	3 (50.0%)	6	0.088
31 - 40	14 (63.6%)	8 (36.4%)	22	
41 - 50	2 (25.0%)	6 (75.0%)	8	
51 - 60	2 (33.3%)	4 (66.7%)	6	
Above 60	7 (87.5%)	1 (12.5%)	8	
Educational Qualification				
School Level	19 (55.9%)	15 (44.1%)	34	0.308
Under Graduate	6 (46.2%)	7 (53.8%)	13	
Graduate	3 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3	

The relationship between economic empowerment and demographic variables was studied. Both the p-values are greater than the significance level 0.05; the relationship between economic empowerment and demographic variables is not significant. That is, the improvement in economic empowerment is not depending on age and education, but depends on the training given by Kudumbasree units.

Table 10: Relationship between Satisfaction and Demographic Variables

Demographic Variables	Satisfaction		Total	p - value
	High	Medium		
Age Group				
Up to 30	5 (83.3%)	1 (16.7%)	6	0.215
31 - 40	21 (95.5%)	1 (4.5%)	22	
41 - 50	6 (75.0%)	2 (25.0%)	8	
51 - 60	5 (83.3%)	1 (16.7%)	6	
Above 60	8 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	8	
Educational Qualification				
School Level	32 (94.1%)	2 (5.9%)	34	0.112
Under Graduate	11 (84.6%)	2 (15.4%)	13	
Graduate	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	3	



The relationship between satisfaction and demographic variables was studied. Both the p-values are greater than the significance level 0.05; the relationship between satisfaction and demographic variables is not significant. That is, the improvement in satisfaction is not depending on age and education, but depends on the training given by Kudumbasree units.

Findings

- 68% of the respondents have completed their schooling only
- 66% of the respondents believe that kudubashree unit will improve their personnel empowerment
- 56% of respondents believe that their entrepreneurial and technical skill, employment opportunities and social status have increased after joining kudumbasree.
- 90% of the respondents are highly satisfied by the training given by kudumbshree.
- The improvement in personal empowerment is not depending on age and education, but depends on the training given by Kudumbasree units.
- The improvement in economic empowerment is not depending on age and education, but depends on the training given by Kudumbasree units.
- The improvement in satisfaction is not depending on age and education, but depends on the training given by Kudumbasree units.

Suggestions

- Proper and specific training should be given to members in this respect,
- Proper information should be given to women to know about the aim and objectives of DIC, SIDCO etc.
- Active participation of Kudumbasree members in gramasabhas is to be insisted.
- More kudumbasree units should be opened in all gramapanchayath, including highly qualified members.

Conclusion

The study has provided an insight on rural women entrepreneurship skill acquired by Kudumbasree members after joining in the Kudumbasree. All of the respondents are women from rural area and most of them completed their schooling. This study proves that women entrepreneurship does not depend upon the age and qualification of the women, but it purely depends upon the training that has been given to them.

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ON THE POLARIZING PROPERTIES OF METHYLENE BLUE SENSITIZED GELATIN FILM

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ABSTRACT

Anisotropic materials could selectively transmit and absorb electromagnetic radiation incident on it along certain direction. These materials could be used as linear polarizers. This paper deals with the polarization properties of a dichroic dye, methylene blue, embedded in a natural polymer matrix. The Polarization efficiency, degree of polarization and transmission efficiencies were determined.

Key words: Linear Polarizer, Methylene Blue, Dichroic Dye, Gelatin

Introduction

Polarizing filters are the essential component of camera filters and liquid crystal display devices. Polarizers are used in many optical techniques and instruments. The suns glasses and cooling films are nothing but polarizers. In addition to these, circular polarizers are useful for optical communications, optical remote sensors, and liquid crystal displays. *A linear polarizer* laminated to a retarder will act as circular polarizer. Hence the

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development of highly efficient and cost effective polarizer is essential to fulfill the demands of optical industry.

Polymer materials are vastly used for the fabrication of polarizers due to its excellent optical properties, high efficiency, ease of fabrication, availability of materials and low cost. Also they can be fabricated in desirable size and shape. The popular Polaroid sheets are fabricated by staining heated and stretched polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) with a dichroic dye or iodine.¹ Another mostly used polarizers comprises a stretched sheet of PVA having polyvinylene molecules in the presence of hydrogen chloride.² Jyothilakshmi *et al* reported the feasibility of using methylene blue sensitized PVA as a linear polarizer.³ In addition to PVA, a natural polymer Gelatin also could be used as a polarizer. Mordant pure yellow azo dye in a matrix of gelatin is proposed as media for stable polarization effects.⁴ Gelatin film dyed with Chrysophenine also shows polarizing properties.⁵ The polarization effects in these films is due to the anisotropy and the anisotropy photoinduction in these films is the result of trans-cis-trans transformations by light. However, to obtain high effect during the anisotropy photoinduction, the concentration of dyes in the film must be as high as possible. High dye concentration in the solutions leads to the formation of molecule associations in a solid state and plays an important role in the photo-induced effects.⁶

Beena *et al* proposed the viability of using methylene blue sensitized Gelatin (MBG) as linear polarizer. This paper details with the optimization of dye concentration to have highest polarization efficiency. The base material of the proposed polarizer, Gelatin is a biopolymer derived from the cartilages of animals. As everyone is concerned about the environment, the fabrication of a biopolymer based polarizer will be of great interest. Being a natural polymer, the disposal of damaged goods also could be done in an eco-friendly manner.

Materials Used

The constituents of the polarizer described in the current work are gelatin and Methylene blue. Gelatin is a heterogeneous mixture of single or multi-stranded polypeptides, each with extended left-handed proline helix conformations. The hydroxyproline hydroxyl groups and the peptide carbonyl groups of gelatin are hydrogen bonded to water molecules forming both intra- and inter-chain links. Thus, the triple helices are coated by a cylinder of hydration with their grooves filled with solvent molecules and this coating maintains the collagen's conformation and mechanical properties.

Methylene blue (MB) is a heterocyclic aromatic compound and a basic dye of thiazine group. The absorption maxima of MB, if pure, reside at 668 nm and 609 nm. On exposing to light of suitable wavelengths (especially red light), methylene blue absorbs it and is converted to triplet state. According to the mechanism, the photo-excited dye is reduced by transfer of electron or hydrogen. The semi reduced dye radical is either reoxidised to the ground state by oxygen or is not regenerated, but is transformed to the leuco form.⁷ MB is a dichroic dye having dichroic ratio greater than one and hence the absorption band could be considered as a parallel transition. From the linear dichroism studies of MB in a nematic liquid crystal mixture shows that the polarization band is located around 664 nm. It is also reported that the dipole moment in the excited state is higher than that in the ground state due to the intermolecular charge transfer during S_0 (ground state) to S_1 (first excited singlet) state.⁸ For the present work, Gelatin supplied by MERCK and MB supplied by Spectrum reagents and chemicals Pvt. Ltd. is used. Food grade gelatin also showed similar results.

Fabrication of Polarizer Films

7% Gelatin solution was prepared at 60°C, cooled to room temperature and then sensitized with MB solution. The preparation temperature of



Gelatin solution is crucial to avoid the precipitation of dye molecules at higher dye concentration. MBG solutions were prepared by varying MB concentration ranging from 2×10^{-4} M to 17.5×10^{-4} M. Films were casted on microscopic glass slides of dimension 75mm x 25mm x 1.35mm using gravity settling method at room temperature.

Compared to other coating techniques (dip coating, spin coating, doctor blading, gel casting, gravity settling, spraying etc), gravity settling method is easy to setup and economic. Films could be prepared on any size or thickness and it could be prepared on plastic sheets also. Viscosity of solution and humidity of the place determine the drying period. In this particular case, a film of good optical clarity is obtained in 15-18 hours. It is observed that the films are of uniform thickness (50 μ m) except at the edges of the glass plate. The prepared films are named as Mc (M2, M4, M6, M8, M10, M12, M14, M16 and M18), where Mc indicates MBG film with MB concentration $cx10^{-4}$ mol/l.

Experimental

The polarizing properties of MBG films were evaluated by exposing it to a polarized He-Ne laser beam (5mW) and analyzing the intensities of out coming wave using a phototransistor detector. The intensity was measured in terms of current. In this method, the laser source act as a polarizer and the MBG film act as the analyzer. The MBG film is mounted on a rigid rotatable stand having graduated scale. The experiment is done by rotating the MBG film and monitoring the intensity of the out coming laser beam. If MBG is having any polarizing effect, there will be two positions of intensity minima and maxima for one complete rotation (ranging from 0°-360°). The Maxima are obtained when the polarization axes of both polarizers (here laser and MBG) are parallel and minima correspond to crossed positions of polarizers. To optimize the dye concentration the experiment was performed with MBG

films of various MB content. From the obtained data, polarization efficiency, degree of polarization and transmission efficiency are determined. Effect of heating was also studied.

Material sensitivity to red light was studied by real time transmittance measurements by using 5mW He Ne laser as incident light and gelatin film as reference plate. Relative transmittance was calculated from the real time transmittance.⁷

Result and Discussion

1. Real Time Transmittance Measurements

The material sensitivity to red light was determined by monitoring the real time transmittance and is defined as the increase in transmittance on laser exposure. If the material is highly light sensitive, the transmittance will increase at low exposures. This is because, even at low exposure, the dye molecules get excited and initiate photochemical reaction, and then it is converted to the leuco form. Fig 1 is the plot of relative transmittance Vs exposure time for various MB sensitized samples. At low MB concentrations (M4 and M6), high value of transmittance was observed for short exposure time. This is because, at low MB concentrations, the number of MB molecules was less and hence the given exposure is sufficient to excite all dye molecules. Real time transmittance (sensitivity) decreases with MB concentration and obtained the lowest value for M14. Above this concentration, the films were less sensitive to laser and very high energy is required to undergo photochemical reactions. A fall in transmittance observed at high concentrations (M8 and above) is due to the lack of sufficient exposure energy provided to excite all the MB molecules.⁷

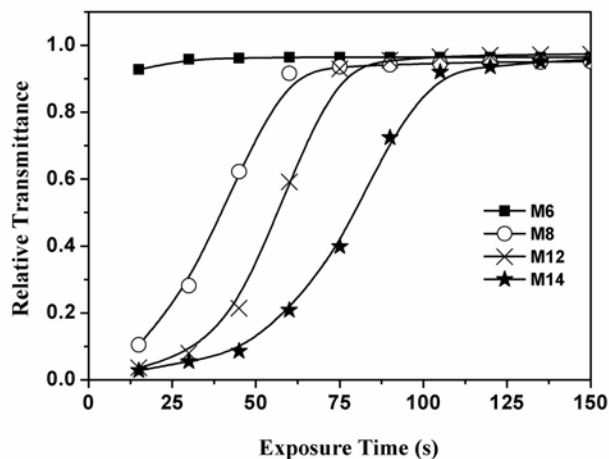


Fig. 1: Plot of relative transmittance with time

In all cases, the transmittance remains constant after certain exposure. The energy corresponds to constant transmittance is known as saturation energy. At this exposure all the dye molecules are converted to leucoform. Due to photobleaching, the transmittance increases and the absorption decreases. The number of leuco molecule increase with increase in exposure energy.

2 Polarizing action of MBG Film

In order to find the feasibility of using MBG as a linear polarizer, the MBG film is mounted on a rotating setup and illuminated with polarized beam from a 5mW He-Ne laser and the transmitted intensity variation is noted for each 10° rotation of the film. In this case laser beam is polarized and the MBG film acts as analyzer. If MBG has any polarizing effects, alternate minima and maxima will be observed twice in one complete rotation of MBG film. From the initial studies it is found that MBG film has polarizing effect.⁹

In order to use the fabricated polarizing films for different applications, an optimum methylene blue concentration is to be found out. The polarizing

properties of MBG films were evaluated by exposing it to a linearly polarized laser and analyzing the intensities of out coming wave. The plot of variation of intensity with angle for M14, M12, M10, M8 and M6 samples are shown in figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

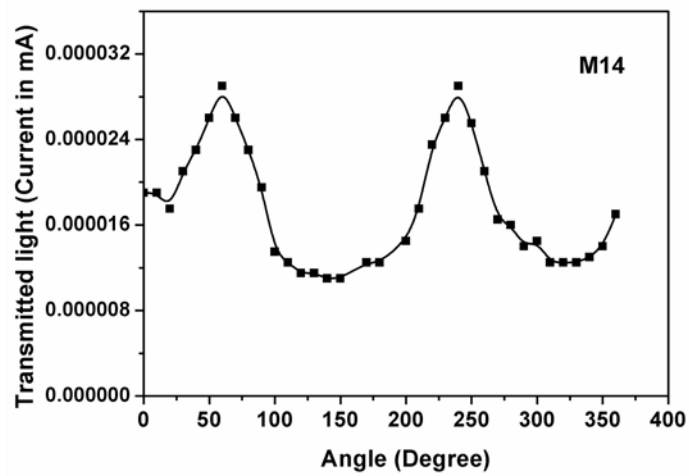


Fig. 2: Plot of transmitted intensity on rotating the M14 film over 360°

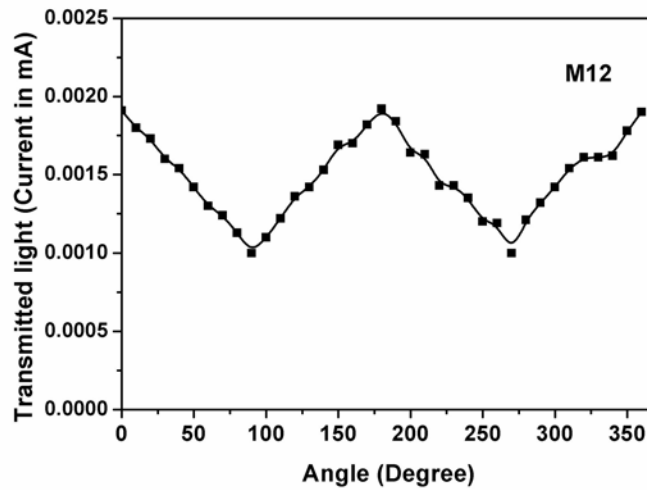


Fig. 3: Plot of transmitted intensity on rotating the M12 sample

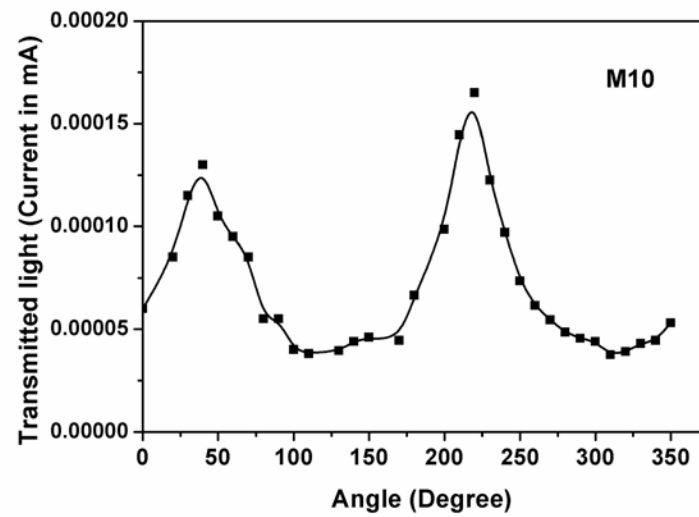


Fig. 4: Transmitted intensity Vs angle for the M10 sample

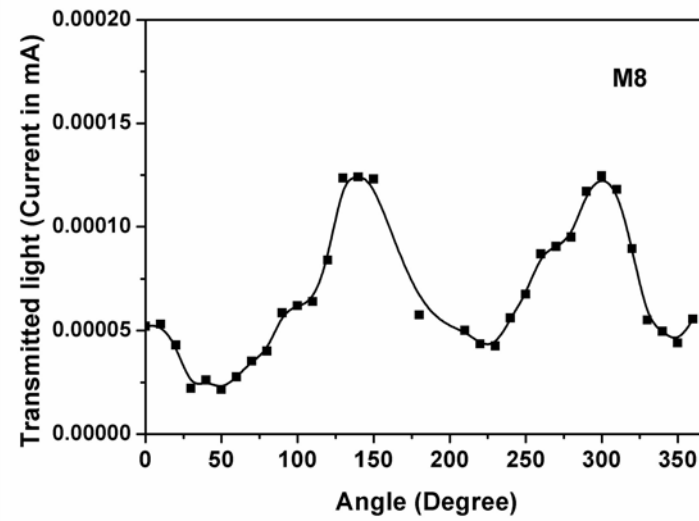


Fig. 5: Plot of transmitted intensity of M8 sample.

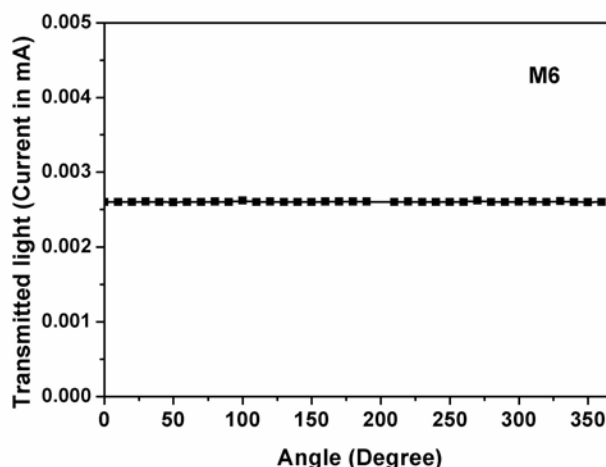


Fig. 6: Transmitted intensity of M6 sample.

MBG films of various dye concentrations were exposed to laser beam and its viability as a polarizer was checked. In the case of M8, M10, M12 and M14 the transmitted intensity was found to vary between a maximum and a minimum twice. Hence these films could be used as linear polarizer. M6 and other lower concentration films did not show any variation in the transmitted intensity over 360° rotation. Unsensitized gelatin films also showed constant transmitted intensity. From this, it is concluded that dye concentration has a great role in the polarization action of MBG film. Due to the high dye content, M16 and M18 films showed high absorption and hence very low transmittance.

The polarizing property of MBG films can be explained by the induced anisotropy. Gelatin can form a specific triple-stranded helical structure, which is not observed in synthetic polymers, at low temperatures. When this gelatin is sensitized with a dichroic dye such as methylene blue, the dye molecules are placed in these helical structures. When MBG films are irradiated with linearly polarized light, the exposed part of the film become anisotropic (mainly dichroic as the variation in the refractive index of gelatin is very small) where the optic axis is parallel to the electric vector of the



incident light.^{1-2, 10} The polarizing efficiency was found to increase with dye concentration. This is due to the fact that the MBG films become anisotropic when exposed to linearly polarized light. As the dye concentration increases, the dye molecules get closer and closer and the absorption of light increases and polarizing efficiency increases.

3. Degree of Polarization

The degree of polarization was calculated as the ratio of $(I_{\max} - I_{\min}) / (I_{\max} + I_{\min})$, where I_{\max} and I_{\min} are the maximum and minimum intensities on rotating the polarizer through 360° . From this percentage, degree of polarization was calculated and plot is shown in Fig 7. Highest degree of polarization was obtained for M12 film and the obtained value was 0.9.

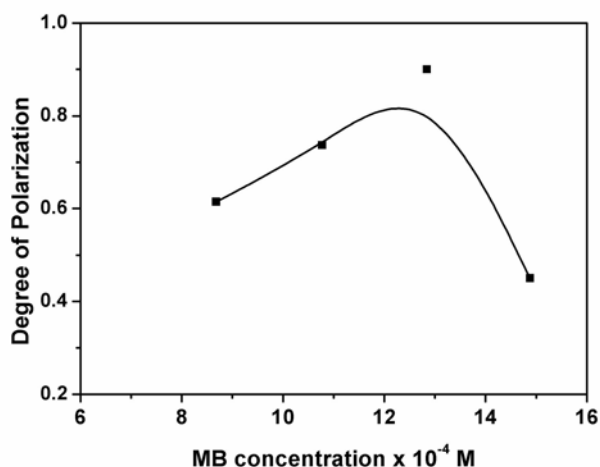


Fig. 7: Plot of degree of polarization for various concentrations

4. Polarization Efficiency

Polarizing efficiency is determined as the ratio of I_{\max} to I_{\min} and is plotted in Fig 8. Films with MB concentration 12.8×10^{-4} Mol/l (M12 film) shows highest efficiency of 19.

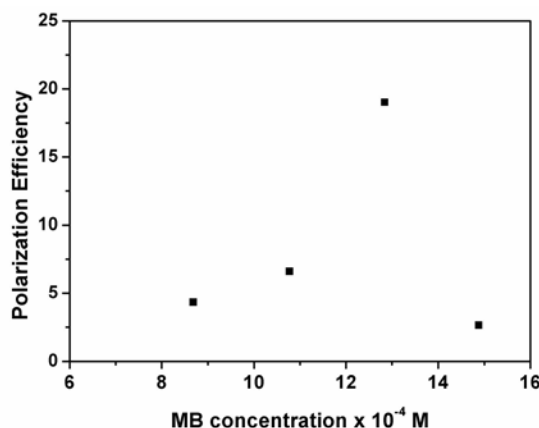


Fig. 8: Plot of polarization efficiency for various concentrations

5. Transmission Efficiency

Transmission efficiency is termed as the percentage of out coming light from the polarizer. It is calculated as the ratio of I_{\max} to the intensity of incident laser beam. The transmission intensity vs MB concentration is plotted in Fig 9. It is observed that the transmission intensity decrease with MB concentration. More than 50% transmission efficiency was obtained for films with lower dye concentrations (M8 and M10 films). The transmission efficiency was limited to 30% for M12 sample which showed highest polarization efficiency and ideal polarizing behavior.

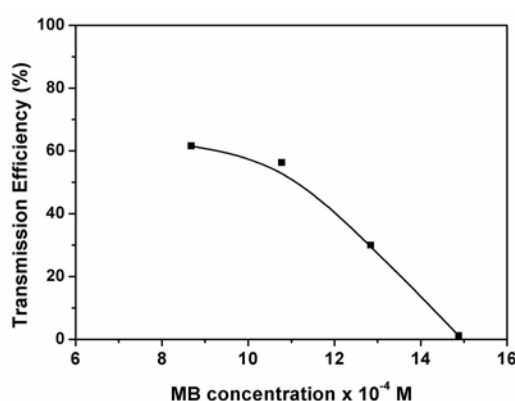


Fig. 9: Plot of transmission efficiency with concentration



6 Heating and Aging Effect

MBG films were heated to 100° C in a laboratory oven for 5 minutes and the polarization efficiency was determined. The heated films show better polarizing efficiency compared to the unheated films. This may be due to the increased cross linking in the gelatin matrix. The thermal treatment of MBG may results in anisotropy which leads to the increased polarizing efficiency.

The aging effect of these films was studied on different days after its preparation. The polarizing efficiency was found to decrease on aging. The MBG film lost its polarizing properties within 2 weeks from the date of preparation. This is due to the humidity sensitivity of gelatin and the dark photochemical reactions inside gelatin. Gelatin as a hydrophilic biopolymer interacts with water and undergoes drastic changes of its physical and mechanical properties depending on the moisture content.¹ The content of water in the MBG films will cause a decrease in cross linking and there by anisotropy decreases. This leads to the decrease in polarizing efficiency. A sharp decrease in the polarizing efficiency was observed on the days of higher humidity. Methods has to be adopted to improve the shelf life of the polarizing film.

7 Conclusion

The fabrication of an eco-friendly polymer based polarizer was detailed in this paper. Films were fabricated using a cost effective technique known as gravity settling method. When the MBG film is exposed to linearly polarized red light, two positions of alternate maxima and minima were observed on analyzing the transmitted intensity over complete rotation of the film. It indicates the feasibility of using MBG film as a linear polarizer. Methylene blue concentration was optimized as $12.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{M}$ for highest polarizing efficiency of 19. This corresponds to a transmission efficiency of 30%. The polarizing efficiency of the films was found to increase on heating. But on storage, the efficiency was found to be decreased and the shelf life is limited to two weeks.

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UNVEILING THE POLITICS OF ALTERNATIVE SEXUALITY: EXPLORATIONS IN MAHESH DATTANI'S *ON A MUGGY NIGHT IN MUMBAI* AND *DO THE NEEDFUL*

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ABSTRACT

The sexual mores of a society fix hetero-normativity as the right way of sexual life and any aberration from it as queer and unnatural. So the concept of queer as well the lives of the queer is often bound with a shroud of taboo and shame. However, the poststructuralist notion of an incoherent and unrealizable centre opens up a theoretical possibility for the queer to question the prioritization of hetero-normativity. The destabilized centre radicalizes and destabilizes the notions of gender, sexuality and identity. Mahesh Dattani, the contemporary Indian English playwright makes a daring attempt in making the excluded - the homosexuals, the hijras and the people with ambiguous gender identities - his main characters. This paper is an attempt to look at how Dattani unveils the politics of alternative sexuality against the backdrop of the somber atmosphere of his stage play *On A Muggy Night in Mumbai* and his radio play *Do the Needful*, which is a romantic comedy.

The sexual mores of any society is decided and legitimized by the culturally constructed norms. Such norms over the past many centuries have fixed hetero-normativity as the right way in sexual life and any aberration from it as queer and unnatural. So the concept of queer as well the lives of the queer is often bound up with a shroud of taboo and shame. However, the poststructuralist critique of the notion of centre and its assigned function of controlling the endless differential play of interrelationships opened up a

theoretical possibility for the queer to question the prioritization of heteronormativity. The poststructuralist context of an incoherent and unrealizable centre makes a fertile ground for choices of alterity. The destabilized centre radicalizes and destabilizes the notions of gender, sexuality and identity. Hence, it is high time to lift the shroud of taboo and secrecy that wounds the queer.

The concept of gender as a biological aspect has been deeply rooted in society. Michel Foucault's notion of gender as a product of power relationships and Judith Butler's argument that gender is a performance, form the key aspects in defining gender as a social concept, a product of social construction and practices. Gender categories associated with sexual pleasure and desire are often socially and culturally moulded. In contrast to this, the constructionists argue that identity is fluid and is culturally constructed. For them the same sex sexual activities possess different meanings in different historical contexts.

Human beings create their own world adding order and meaning to it using the praxis which may sometimes alter the very realities of their own bodies and physiology. In this regard sexuality is not an object or a thing but a group of social relations which human interactions foster and legitimize. According to Marx, "Society does not consist of individuals, but expresses the sum of interrelations, the relations within which these individuals stand" (*Grundrisse* 265). Praxis depends greatly on socio-historical realities. The interrelations and activities that exist at a particular moment of time in a given society determine the broad range of behaviour of the individuals of that society. This behaviour gets altered with changing interrelations between individuals over a period of time. Heterosexuals and homosexuals are involved in certain roles which pertain to their specific societies. However they also share something in common with different roles known in other societies. For instance, homosexuality in the modern times and ancient times



have one feature in common that people were involved in the same sex sexual intercourse. But the symbolic, social, economic and political meaning and functions vary as the time changes.

The inconsistencies in sexual orientation make a more precise picture of sexual identity as a social construction. Family plays a key role in channeling socially accepted sexual identities in order to respond to the need of society. Hence family establishes its control over the sexual habits of society's members. The picture of homosexuality as a deviant form of sexual behaviour becomes firmly fixed in individuals from very early ages. Similarly family also keeps special attention to bring up boys and girls strictly according to the gender norms defined by society for being a boy and for being a girl. In such a situation individuals who find it difficult to locate themselves within the boundaries of heterosexuality and those who cannot stick to the gender norms of society are considered perverse. The location of queer is purely outside the social context and thus does not form a necessary factor for the formulation of social theory. According to Michael Warner, social theory has "an endless capacity to marginalize queer sexuality in its description of the social world" (*Fear of a Queer Planet* ix). Sexuality as is often thought is not apolitical; it has its internal politics, inequities and modes of oppression. As a concrete institutional form, it is a product of human activity. Conflicts of interest and political maneuver play a key role in shaping sexuality at a given time and place, making sex political.

Mahesh Dattani, the contemporary Indian English playwright stands worth mentioning for his daring attempts at bringing the issue of queer onto the Indian stage. He makes the third-gender and the sexually marginalized his main characters. This paper is an attempt to look at how Dattani unveils the politics of alternative sexuality against the backdrop of the somber atmosphere of his stage play *On A Muggy Night in Mumbai* and the romantic comic atmosphere of his radio play *Do the Needful*. If he presents the issue

of alternative sexuality with intense seriousness of the situation in the former, he meticulously embeds the tensed situation between the brisk mood of the wedding arrangements and the cheerful and easy-going life of the characters in the latter. In both the plays Dattani makes an ardent attempt to lift the ill-fated cloak of the gender subalterns and to achieve a distinctive identity for them.

On A Muggy Night in Mumbai is a stage play which locates the notion of gender and sexuality in a poststructuralist context. In the play Dattani brings together a group of homosexuals who are confined to their respective style of gay living amidst the awfully adverse social ambience of the society. The characters Kamlesh, Ed, Sharad, Bunny, Renjit, Kiran and the security guard of the flat are pathetic victims of the gender patterning of the society. The very first scene of the play speaks about gay relationship between Kamlesh and the security guard which fixes the entire mood of the play. Kamlesh pays the security guard for having sex with him. He asks the guard whether he enjoys what they do or whether he does it for money. Though the guard initially says he enjoys it, soon he alters his reply and tells him that he does it for money. Before moving deep into the play, the playwright creates an additional incident with Kamlesh and the guard to point out the stereotypical attitude of society. The guard changes his reply as he wants to keep his homosexual identity a secret as it is against the social norms. Dattani throws light on how the individual feels fettered by stereotyping in society. Society becomes oppressive by defining the roles that each individual has to play.

The play centres on Kamlesh and his attempt at recovering from the break-up of his relationship with Prakash (Ed). They broke their relationship because of the heterosexual patterning of the society and its pressure on Prakash to transform himself into a heterosexual. He takes the advice of a psychiatrist and is preparing to marry Kamlesh's sister Kiran. He takes the



name Ed along with his new sexual identity. Kiran is indeed supportive of her brother's homosexuality, but is unaware of his former relationship with Ed. Kamlesh favours the marriage as he wants the joy of Kiran who is a divorcee, and also of his former partner Ed. Kamlesh is anguished due to his break-up with Prakash. He attempts a new relationship with Sharad which too fails because of his obsession with Kamlesh.

In the course of the play Kiran comes to know about the former relationship of Kamlesh with Ed through a photograph. She is shattered when she finds out that both the men whom she loves so dearly have deceived her. Ed on this occasion reveals that his main motive behind the marriage was to continue his relationship with Kamlesh. As Kamlesh becomes his brother-in-law it is not difficult for him to meet Kamlesh and at same time to live with his beloved Kiran. On realizing that Kiran is greatly disappointed with the relationship of Kamlesh and Ed, Ed attempts suicide by jumping from the flat. But he is grabbed back by his group of friends during which a fight takes place between Ed and Kamlesh. The play closes when this small fight ends and everyone leaves for their places. The playwright cleverly creates a situation to reflect on the repression of sexuality which points out that society is never tolerant to alternative sexualities. The central concern one confronts here is how it affects the individual's psyche and imposes upon one a bluffed life.

Bunny, a television actor is another homosexual friend of Kamlesh who lives happily with his wife and children. He knows that he is lying to himself and he admits that the person whom his wife loves does not exist. He lies to millions of people when he appears in his serials. Renjit, is another homosexual friend of Kamlesh. He has flown to London as he finds the place more favourable to his erotic pleasures. He has been living there comfortably with his English lover for twelve years. Dattani makes Sharad and Deepali as

characters who accept their alternative sexuality and gender. Despite being a gay Sharad is also an effeminate man.

Through the characters of Prakash and Bunny the playwright vividly presents sexuality as a cultural construct. Despite their homosexuality they embrace hetero-normativity to lead a proper life in society. The psychiatrist represents the so called normal man in society who adheres to the stereotypical attitudes. They confine within the circle of a set of actions which are registered as moral. Such definitions of moral conduct displace the alternative genders and sexualities in society. The desire of the gays to transform into straight and their disguised straight lives is greatly backed by their hunger to lead a contended and normal life as that of heterosexuals. Under the social presumption that the queer is the deviant “Other” in the hetero/homo binary, people with alternative sexualities and genders are doomed to be marginalized. Such circumstances compel the people like Prakash and Bunny in the play to be false hetero denying their own selves. The play also highlights the plight of Kiran who is a straight, but who becomes a pathetic victim of society’s aversion towards alternative sexuality.

Do the Needful a romantic comedy is a radio play. The story of the play revolves around two families, the Gujarati Patels and the Kannadiga Gowdas who arrange a marriage alliance between their wards. The marriage sounds tremendously strange in the context of Indian society where endogamy rules matrimony. As the play unfolds it reveals that the Patel son Alpesh is a gay and is in a relationship with another man Trilok and the Gowda girl Lata is in love with a man Salim, who is not acceptable to her family. All the game behind the choice of exogamous marital relationship is thus an attempt of the desperate families to set their children “straight.”

Tension hangs around the entire play because of the protagonists’ strange relationships which the society cannot tolerate. But unlike *On A*



Muggy Night in Mumbai, Dattani manages to detain the play from gliding completely into the distressed lives of the characters. He cleverly entwines the joyful mood of wedding arrangements which indeed form a comic relief for the listeners/readers. Alpesh and Lata get ample opportunities to know each other while the parents are deeply engaged in discussing the marriage. The boy and the girl discover that both of them are indeed not interested towards the marriage. The only trouble that haunts them to withdraw from the proposal is that they cannot say no to their families.

However, in the course of time, Lata discovers Alpesh's homosexuality when she finds him with Mali (a local boy) in a baffling context. She meticulously plots a solution out of Alpesh's Hindi expression: "Teri bhi chup, meri bhi chup" (CP 142) (your silence and mine as well). Though Alpesh is initially reluctant, they decide to get married to please their families as well as to continue their secret relationships. Soon the play shifts to the splendid wedding receptions arranged by the Gowdas and the Patels. The party takes place grandly but the bride and the groom are seen lost in each of their own worlds thinking about their secret partners. At the end of the play, after the marriage Alpesh and Lata leave for outing. But once they come out of the flat they leave in two directions to meet their respective secret partners and plan to meet together in the evening to get back to their place. The situation makes us ponder the hollowness and meaninglessness of the so called moral values which in fact deny a proper life for the people.

In both the plays mentioned above Dattani makes us reflect about the repression of sexuality, which points out that society is never tolerant and that the central issue is how it creates a dire effect on an individual's psyche and forces one to play a game of deceit. The playwright brilliantly brings the same theme against the contrasting backdrops of the melancholic lives of the gays in *On A Muggy Night in Mumbai* and the cheerful and easy-going attitude of the characters in *Do the Needful*. In *On A Muggy Night in Mumbai*

all the characters are well packed with experiences that are beyond the expectations of society. The muggy night in title of the play implies the damp and warm life of the queer, which they try to overcome by hiding their queer identity. The hypocrisy often fails when trauma creeps on them out of their distresses.

In *Do the Needful* the heaviness of the tension of Alpesh because of his homosexuality and the apprehensions of Lata in the pursuit of her love with Salim are submerged in the cheerfulness of their parents in making the wedding arrangements. Dattani hardly lifts the curtain of the protagonists' emotions. When Alpesh and Lata tie knot it becomes merely an act of satisfying their parents and society. Dattani ends the play with a happily married boy and girl, who are free to live according to their respective interests. The play remains completely unspoken about the uncertainty that brims the life of Alpesh and Lata. The question how far would the couple successfully carry out this prank in society and in their families remain unanswered. But the hilarious ending of the play leaves the listeners/readers with light hearts rather than leaving them filled with perplexity and emotional embarrassments.

Dattani makes both these plays a means to prove how man creates and adds order and meaning to the world which sometimes even alter the very realities of their own bodies and physiology. Through his characters he unveils sexuality as a product of social relations which human interactions foster and legitimize. Hetero-normativity being the socially recognized sexuality, characters like Kamlesh, Prakash, Sharad, Bunny and Alpesh become perverts in society. Dattani seems to understand the emotional crisis that burns these gender subalterns. He makes them his heroes to make the society aware of the meaninglessness of gender and sexual norms. In a cultural context where homosexuality is not a subject worthy of discussion, the playwright boldly brings it to the stage to enlighten the society about the



pathetic plight of the sexually marginalized. He does it fantastically against the contrasting backdrops of the two plays. In both the plays the playwright presents the disquieting enigma of alterative sexuality which stubbornly asserts itself for validation. It is not about licentiousness that he speaks, but it is all about human identity and sexuality.

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BACTERIA ASSOCIATED WITH CYANOBACTERIA

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ABSTRACT

Cyanobacteria are noted for their interactions with bacteria which may be pathogenic, saprophytic or symbiotic. In the present investigation, special attention was taken to study the bacteria associated with cyanobacteria. Aquatic cyanobacteria collected and isolated from various habitats, freshwater, estuarine and marine environments were analysed for associated bacteria. It was observed that while some species of cyanobacteria exhibited specificity in bacterial association, certain species welcomed several variety of bacteria for association. Bacteria belonging to nine genera were found attached to the various cyanobacteria.

Introduction

Bacteria are normal component of both internal and external surfaces of higher organisms. They act as decomposers and transformers of organic matter to vitamins and aminoacids, besides being served as direct food sources for higher organisms. Thus they play a ubiquitous role in energy transfer and nutrient flux at all trophic levels. Several bacteria are able to degrade pollutants and some are indicators of faecal contamination. Many human pathogens such as *Vibrio Parahaemolyticus*, *Vibrio cholerae* and *Aeromonas* are components of aquatic microbial ecosystems. The presence of *Vibrio* in aquatic environments is a serious problem in aquaculture industry. (Hipolito, 1996). Nick et al (2016) studied the bacteria associated with cyanobacteria and observed diverse bacterial community associated with cyanobacteria.

Several bacteria are found attached to various photosynthetic microflora including cyanobacteria. Many workers have studied the inhibition properties of photosynthetic microflora on various species of *Vibrios* (Austin and Day, 1992). In the present work, associated bacteria associated with marine, freshwater and estuarine species of cyanobacteria are discussed

Materials & methods

In the present investigation, special attention was taken to study the bacteria associated with cyanobacteria. Aquatic cyanobacteria collected and isolated from various habitats, freshwater, estuarine and marine environments were analysed for associated bacteria. For analysis of freshwater samples, nutrient agar medium was used while Zobell's agar was used in the case of marine samples. Isolated bacteria were further subjected to morphological and biochemical tests and identified using Bergy's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology (Buchnan and Gibbons, 1974).

Media used for isolating the associated bacteria:

Nutrient Agar Medium

Peptone	:	5 g
Beef extract	:	3 g
Sodium chloride	:	5 g in 1000ml freshwater
Agar	:	20g

The pH was adjusted to 7.2 before autoclaving.

Zobell's Agar Medium

Peptone	:	5 g
Yeast extract	:	1 g
Ferric phosphate	:	0.02g
Seawater	:	1000 ml
Agar	:	20 g

The pH was adjusted to 7.2 before autoclaving.



Tests used for identification of bacteria:

Gram staining

Bacterial cultures 12-18 hrs old were taken and smears were prepared on clean glass slides for staining. The primary stain ammonium oxalate-crystal violet was added to the fixed smear and allowed to stand for one minute. Then the slides were rinsed in a gentle running water and allowed to dry. The slides were flooded with mordant, Lugol's iodine solution and allowed to stand for one minute. The slides were then rinsed gently in running water. Flooded the slides with the decolouriser (acetone- alcohol) and allowed to stand for 30 sec. Rinsed in gentle running water and kept for drying. The counter stain Safranin O was added to the smear and allowed to stand for one minute. Then the slides were washed, air-dried and observed under an oil immersion microscope. Gram +ve bacteria appear in violet colour and Gram -ve in pink colour.

Spore staining

Smears were prepared using 60-72 hrs. old bacterial culture. The slides were flooded with malachite green and allowed to react at room temperature for one minute. Then the slides were heated for steaming by using a Bunsen's burner periodically until the rise of the steam from the slide. The slide was then waved over the flame as the steaming ceases without allowing it to boil or dry. The slides were thus steamed for about three minutes replacing the malachite green as it evaporates from the slide.

The slides were then allowed to cool for five minutes and rinsed with water. The slides were then flooded with Safranin counter stain. The stain was allowed to react for one minute. The slides were washed with water and allowed to air dry and slides were observed under oil immersion microscope. Bacterial endospores appeared as green oval shaped structures within pink vegetative cells.

Oxidase test

Small pieces of filter paper were soaked in 1% aqueous tetramethyl para phenylene diamine dihydrochloride and the papers were dried. A small portion of the culture was placed on the test paper with a clean platinum loop and the colour change (purple colour) within 15 seconds was observed.

Catalase Test

On a clean glass slide a smear of the bacterial culture was prepared. A drop of hydrogen peroxide solution was added on the smear and the reaction was carefully observed. Effervescence or bubbling was noticed in the case of cultures producing catalase enzyme.

Marine Oxidation Fermentation Test (MOF)

Hugh- Leifson's medium was prepared with specified composition, melted and distributed in culture tubes having aliquots of 5ml each and plugged with cotton, autoclaved and slants were prepared . The test culture was inoculated in the hard agar and by stabbing and streaking on the slope , taking care not to allow air bubbles in the agar medium, incubated for 48hrs and observations were made.

Oxidative reaction

Change of pink to yellow colour in the slope area.

Fermentative reaction

Change of pink to yellow from the slope to the bottom of the butt i.e; the entire tube.

Alkaline reaction

Change of pink to deep pink at the slope.



MOF medium

22 g dehydrated medium in 1000ml water.

1% dextrose: 2% Agar

The pH was adjusted to 8

Mannitol- motility test

The medium was prepared and about 3-4 ml was distributed in test tubes for about 3-4ml. The tubes were sterilized in an autoclave and left for setting in a vertical position. After setting, clear test tubes were selected and inoculum from the culture was stabbed straight to the bottom. The tubes were then incubated at room temperature for 48-72 hrs.

Yellow colour in the medium shows the utilization of the mannitol. No colour change is negative. Motile bacteria diffuse from the culture and the medium become dense. Non- motile forms grow at stabbing line only with shaft margin.

Mannitol motility agar

Mannitol	:	10g
Beef extract	:	3g
Peptone	:	5g
NaCl	:	15g
Phenol	:	0.1g
Tap water	:	1000ml
Agar	:	4g
pH	:	7.2

Arginine hydrolysis

Incubate cultures in Arginine broth for 24- 28 hrs and add a few drops of Nessler's reagent. A brown colour indicates hydrolysis.

Arginine broth.

Tryptone	:	5g
Yeast extract	:	5g
Di potassium hydrogen Phosphate	:	2g
L-arginine monohydrochloride	:	3g
Dextrose	:	0.5g
Water	:	1000 ml

Results and discussion

On examining the cyanobacteria collected from various environments it was observed that different bacteria were attached to cyanobacterium. They were isolated and identified using standard methods according to Bergy's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology

The bacteria found associated to these selected freshwater and the marine cyanobacterial species examined are given below. It was observed that while some species of cyanobacteria exhibited specificity in bacterial association while certain species welcomed several variety of bacteria for association. Bacteria belonging to nine genera were found attached to the various cyanobacteria.

Genera isolated from freshwater samples

Bacillus, Coryneform, Neisseria, Aerobacter, Acinetobacter, Alkaligenes, Micrococcus, Staphylococcus, Vibrio, Pseudonomas, Enterobacteriaceae, Pasteurella.



Genera isolated from marine samples:

Bacillus, *Coryneform*, *Neisseria*, *Aerobacter*, *Acinetobacter*, *Alcaligenes*, *Micrococcus*, *Staphylococcus*, *Vibrio*, *Pseudomonas*, *Enterobacteriaceae*.

Bacillus was the most common and dominant bacteria seen associated with cyanobacteria from both habitats. The other common genera include *Coryneform*, *Neisseria*, *Aerobacter* and *Acinetobacter*.

The **percentage composition** of various bacteria found attached to different species of cyanobacteria:

	Marine cyanobacteria(%)	Freshwater cyanobacteria(%)
<i>Bacillus</i>	35.82	38.46
<i>Coryneform</i>	19.04	15.38
<i>Neisseria</i>	2.99	5.76
<i>Aerobacter</i>	1.493	13.46
<i>Acetobacter</i>	2.99	3.84
<i>Alcaligenes</i>	11.94	3.84
<i>Micrococcus</i>	5.97	5.77
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	4.48	1.92
<i>Vibrio</i>	10.45	1.92
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	1.49	5.77
<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	2.985	1.92
<i>Pasteurella</i>	-----	1.92

In Cochin backwaters, several indicator bacteria namely coliforms, *E.coli* and *Streptococcus faecalis* are present in sediment and water samples. Shome *et al.*, (1995) studied the bacterial flora associated with mangrove macroflora of Andaman. They found the following bacterial species: *Aeromonas*, *Vibrio*, *Escherichia*, *Enterobacter*, *Corynebacterium*, *Staphylococcus* and *Micrococcus* and reported that most species were Gram

+ve. It is known that certain cyanobacteria can produce and release a wide variety of biologically active organic substances. In addition to toxins, cyanobacterial exudates showed antibiotic effects (Bloor 1990). A broad spectrum antimicrobial substance was found produced by *Nostoc muscorum* during the post exponential phase of growth. The antibiotic inhibited the growth of bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The antibiotic property of such organism is nature's device to protect the organisms from harmful bacteria. However many works have shown that bacteria influence the growth of other organisms. The results provided further evidence for species-specific associations between cyanobacteria and heterotrophic bacteria, which are useful for understanding interactions between *Microcystis* and their associated bacteria. Interactions between bacteria and cyanobacteria have been suggested to have a potential to influence harmful algal bloom dynamics.

In the present work, the bacteria attached to the various species of cyanobacteria were studied. Many cyanobacteria exhibit tolerance of salinity. There are some species which are found distributed either only in marine or freshwater habitat. The distributional pattern of cyanobacteria in marine and freshwater environment was found to be similar. In the present study, several species belonging to twelve genera were found distributed. All the genera were found associated with one or more species of cyanobacteria. The genera of bacteria associated varied from one as in *Anabaenopsis* and *Anabaena*, to four as in *Chroococcus*. In *Anabaena* and *Anabaenopsis*, the attached bacteria was *Bacillus*. In *Chroococcus*, the bacteria found attached were *Bacillus*, *Coryneform*, *Staphylococcus* and *Vibrio*. The role of bacteria in the metabolism of cyanobacteria is still a matter of dispute. In *Dermocarpa* sp. and *Gloeocapsa* sp., the number of genera was limited to two. From the study, it was found that twenty nine cyanobacterial species showed single dominant attached bacterium.



In freshwater species of cyanobacteria, most of the species were found attached with single genus of bacterium, the *Bacillus*. The percentage of the genera of associated bacteria varied from 1.92 % for *Vibrio* to 38.46% for *Bacillus* in freshwater. In the marine environment, the associated bacterial flora varied from 1.49 % for *Pseudomonas* and *Aerobacter*, to 35.82% for *Bacillus*.

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**SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTIONS: IMPACT ON RURAL
SOCIETIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SUSTAINABILITY
THROUGH PARTICIPATION, EMPOWERMENT AND
DECENTRALIZATION**

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ABSTRACT

In a competitive world of today, the gulf between the rich and the poor is increasing. This is more glaring in the developing economies as they are predominantly primary producing countries. Their development is possible only through the development of social work interventions which grew out of humanitarian and democratic ideals and its values based on respect for equality, wealth and dignity of all people. The study is significant because the production, distribution and consumption of social work goods and services improve the quality of life among the rural poor village communities that have significant population of SC, ST, OBC and minorities. The central problem of a developing economy is the prevalence of mass poverty which is the cause as well as the consequence of their low level of development. Mass poverty is the result of low resources base of the poor who own a very small portion of total assets in the form of land, capital, house properties etc. A rural social work intervention is described as a generalist who brings to bear a broad range of methodologies and skills in practice. The rural social worker need to understand both the positive and negatives of working in small rural communities. Rural sustainability can be defined as a continuous search for development strategies to maintain and produce rural healthy communities in which economic, socio- cultural, political and environmental values are compatible and which respond to any imperatives in which dimensions, at least in the long run. Economic growth and reduction in inequality are both indispensable to a successful attack on rural poverty.

This study is encouraged to do serious research on the economic endeavors undertaken in villages through participatory planning. It is a practical research in the selected 20 villages in Kerala regarding the impact of social work interventions on food security, improvement of health status, education, gender mainstreaming, empowerment and decentralization. It also studies its effects on some rural societies thereby helping the state to reduce regional imbalance which are as essential factor for economic development. The major findings were with respect to overall awareness level of the villagers about the social work intervention carried out in the villages, it was evident that 81 percent of the respondents are not fully informed of the different welfare programmes but they are aware of the activities such as Kudumbasree and MGNREGA etc. With respect to the respondent's involvement in microenterprises, it was identified that 65.6 percent of the respondents are not part of micro enterprises. The income generating activities under individual and group initiatives to meet the livelihoods of the poor are massively promoted by this income generating microenterprises. Keeping in view of the objectives of the study and the characteristics of the respondents, a comprehensive questionnaire was prepared covering all the selected variables of the study. The researcher used SPSS to analyse the data collected.



Introduction

This present study is encouraged to do serious research on the economic endeavors undertaken in villages through participatory planning. It is also propose to make a practical research in the selected 20 villages in Kerala regarding the impact of social work interventions on food security, improvement of health status, education, gender mainstreaming, empowerment and decentralization. It also studies its effects on some rural societies thereby helping the state to reduce regional imbalance which are as essential factor for economic development. In this study the researcher has used descriptive research design. Descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe “what exists” with respect to variables or conditions in the situation. And this design was used in order to describe the situation which exists in the area where the project is implemented.

A rural social work intervention is described as a generalist who brings to bear a broad range of methodologies and skills in practice. The rural social worker need to understand both the positive and negatives of working in small rural communities. Rural sustainability can be defined as a continuous search for development strategies to maintain and produce rural healthy communities in which economic, socio- cultural, political and environmental values are compatible and which respond to any imperatives in which dimensions, at least in the long run. Economic growth and reduction in inequality are both indispensable to a successful attack on rural poverty. In fact, it leads to two inter connected vicious circles - one of affluence and other of poverty, thus any attempt to break the vicious circle of poverty without tampering with the vicious circle of affluence will not affect the cumulative process or halt the widening gap between the rich and the poors. Indeed, rural progress depends entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people including the

weaker sections into common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of the administration. The introduction of Panchayati Raj signified the beginning of a new era of participatory development and laid the foundation of 'democratic decentralization'.

Decentralization policies and legislation in India

Decentralization is the transfer of power and authority from the central/state government to the local level government, and to non-government and private organizations. Decentralization enables rural poor people to: a) share in decision-making that affects their daily lives; b) evaluate the outcome of their own decisions; c) minimize chances of misunderstanding; d) understand the difficulties and complexities of administration, planning and management; e) accept responsibility for failure; and f) develop a sense of belonging and commitment to civil society. The introduction of Panchayati Raj signified the beginning of a new era of participatory development and laid the foundation of 'democratic decentralization' to:

- promote people's participation in rural development programmes;
- provide an institutional framework for popular administration;
- act as a medium of social and political change;
- facilitate local mobilization; and
- prepare and assist in the implementation of development plans

Objectives of the study

Specific objectives:

- 1) To study about the nature of goods and services produced through social work interventions in the targeted areas.
- 2) To assess the consumption of goods and services produced through social work interventions.



- 3) To analyze the changing consumption behavior of the targeted community towards accessing their rights.
- 4) To explore the socio economic impact of social interventions on rural societies in Kerala.

Research Methodology

The universe of the study includes all men or women above 18 years of age residing in the different parts of Kerala State in India. The researcher chose 180 respondents from 20 villages of seven districts in Kerala State by using the purposive sampling method.

The researcher collected the data from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected from the 180 respondents from 20 villages of seven districts in Kerala State.

The secondary data was collected from the secondary sources like books, articles, previous studies and interest. Keeping in view of the objectives of the study and the characteristics of the respondents, a comprehensive questionnaire was prepared covering all the selected variables of the study.

Data Analysis and interpretation

The researcher has analyzed the data using the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS). The study would assess the socio-economic status of the respondents inclusive of age, monthly income, job, education status, sex wise differentiation and religious differentiation.

Table 1: Awareness about the different welfare schemes carried out in the villages

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Fully informed	98	54.44
Heard about	81	45
Not informed	1	0.55
Total	180	100.0

The figures in the table above gives an overall awareness level of the villagers about the social work intervention carried out in the villages. 98 of the respondents takes part in the Grama Sabha and are well fed with the information of the different welfare programmes. 81 of the respondents are not fully informed but they are aware of the activities such as Kudumbasree and MGNREGA etc. The students, elderly and some business people are included in this category.

Table 2: Participation in the welfare programmes

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Yes	148	82.2
No	32	17.8
Total	180	100.0

The table depicts the participation of the villagers in the social welfare programmes. 82.2 percent of the respondents are direct beneficiaries because they or any of their family members partake in the programmes. 17.8 percent are indirect beneficiaries.

Table 3: Initiation of the programmes

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Panchayath representatives	95	52.8
By the people of locality	53	29.4
Self initiation	32	17.8
Total	180	100

The initiations by the Panchayat authorities are appreciated by 52.8 percent of the respondents. 29.4 percent responded that the programs implemented are the initiation of some socially goodwill people. Again 17.8 percent of the respondents have the experience of taking up the responsibility and initiating the village programmes.



Table 4: Involvement in microenterprise

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
No	118	65.6
Yes	62	34.4
Total	180	100.0

The above table represents that the respondents involved in micro enterprise. 34.4 percent of the respondents are engaged with microenterprises. 65.6 percent of the respondents are not part of micro enterprises. The income generating activities under individual and group initiatives to meet the livelihoods of the poor are massively promoted by this income generating microenterprises.

Table 5: Opportunity to manage a group

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Always	70	38.9
Sometimes	88	48.9
Rarely	22	12.2
Total	180	100.0

Majority of the respondents (48.9%) have received opportunities to manage a group in their villages. 38.9 percent of the respondents always stood managing the group and taking responsibilities. 12.2 percent of the respondents never had an opportunity to lead a group.

Table 6: Opportunity to share ideas and suggestions in group

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	172	95.6
No	8	4.4
Total	180	100.0

The above table shows that the respondents get an opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions in the group. A good majority, 95.6 percent of the respondents were able to express themselves in the group. Only a few (4.4 %) are still finding it difficult to respond positively to group activities.

Table 7: Awareness about Human rights

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	159	88.3
No	21	11.7
Total	180	100.0

Awareness about one's own rights is an important indicative of empowerment. 88.3 percent of the respondents are confident enough that they have known their rights. But there too, 11.7 percent falls back by not acquiring knowledge about their rights.

Toilet facilities

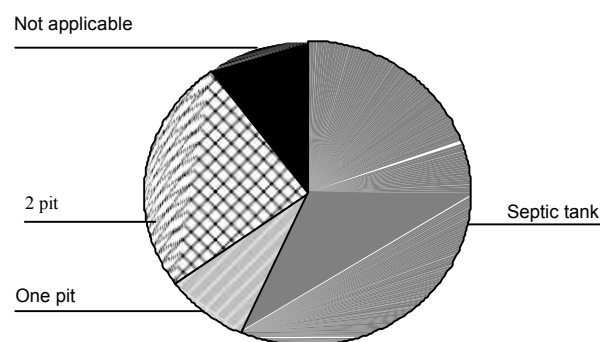


Fig. 1: Toilet facilities of the respondents

The above diagram shows that majority of the respondents (56.7 percent) has toilet facility built septic tank and 25 percent it is two pit toilets and for 8.3 percent it is one pit. To the rest of the respondents (10 percent), it is not applicable because they do not have toilet facilities. The most important source of water contamination in developing countries is human faeces, due



to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities. Today, about 2.4 billion people do not have access to even a simple latrine. As a result, human waste heavily pollutes many rivers and lakes in developing countries.

CONCLUSION

If this country has to come out of poverty trap and develop fast, sustainability, empowerment and decentralization, will have to be accorded top priority at all levels and all above all programmes. The planning process is the first step to bringing about transforms in the implementation of Government programmes. The findings of the present study indicated the scope for social work intervention to be made at the foremost level. Social work plays an important role in the development of the society in the scenario of sustainable development and empowerment of rural population.

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ഭക്ഷണത്തിന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയം വി.കെ.എൻ.കൃതികളിൽ

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മനുഷ്യജീവിതവും ചരിത്രവും സംസ്കാരവും സാഹിത്യലോകത്തിൽ പുനഃസൃഷ്ടിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഒന്നാണ്. ജീവിതത്തിനു മുമ്പേ നടക്കുന്ന അപൂർവ്വം ചില ധിഷണാശാലികൾ ബാഹ്യമായ മാർഗ്ഗത്തിനപ്പുറം കടന്നുചെന്ന് ഇരുണ്ട ആസക്തികളെയും തൃഷ്ണകളെയും മാസ്മരിക സൗന്ദര്യത്തോടെ ആലേഖനം ചെയ്യും. ഈ ധിഷണാശാലികളിലൊരാളാണ് വി.കെ.എൻ. ഈ കലാകാരന്റെ ചരിത്രബോധം പ്രസിദ്ധമാണ്. ചരിത്രത്തിന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കൃതികളിലെ മുഖ്യഘടകമാണ്. വിതയ്ക്കുന്ന വിത്തുകൾക്കൊപ്പം, മണ്ണിലൊളിച്ചുകിടക്കുന്ന പൂർവ്വവാസനാ വേരുകളും ആർത്തലച്ചുവളരുന്ന പ്രാപഞ്ചിക പ്രതിഭാസത്തെ വി.കെ.എൻ. കാണിച്ചുതരുന്നു. 'കോമിക് ജീനിയസ്' എന്ന് വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ നർമ്മം ശുദ്ധനർമ്മമല്ല. നർമ്മത്തിനു പിന്നിൽ തന്ത്രങ്ങളുണ്ട്. ദൽഹി രാഷ്ട്രീയം മാത്രമല്ല കൊച്ചി രാജ്യചരിത്രവും അദ്ദേഹം വിചാരണ ചെയ്യുന്നു. മനുഷ്യനെയും അവന്റെ വികാരങ്ങളെയും കൂടുതൽ സത്യസന്ധമായി അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. "പിതാമഹൻ, ആരോഹണം, സിൻഡിക്കേറ്റ്, ജനറൽ ചാത്തൻസ് തുടങ്ങിയ നോവലുകൾ ഹാസ്യാത്മകമായ വെട്ടിത്തിരിവുകൾക്കിടയിലും ഗൗരവപൂർണ്ണമായ ചരിത്രസത്യങ്ങളുടെ വെളിപാടുകളായി മാറുന്നു.¹ - എന്ന് ശ്രീ.കല്പറ്റ ബാലകൃഷ്ണൻ നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. വി.കെ.എൻ - ന്റെ ഭാഷ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയത്തെ സ്വയം വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു.

ജീവിതത്തെ മാത്രമല്ല ഭാഷയെയും കീഴ്മേൽ മറിച്ചിട്ട് കാമനകളുടെ അടിവേരുകൾ കെട്ടു പിണഞ്ഞുകിടക്കുന്നത് അദ്ദേഹം കാണിച്ചുതരുന്നു. മനുഷ്യന്റെ പ്രാഥമികാവശ്യങ്ങളിലൊന്ന് എന്ന നിലയിൽ നിന്ന് 'ഭക്ഷണ'ത്തെ വി.കെ.എൻ. അടിയോടെ മറിച്ചിടുന്നു. 'മാന്യൻ' എന്ന വാക്കിന്റെ പൊള്ളത്തരം ബോധ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. മാന്യതയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച മൂല്യവിശ്വാസങ്ങളെ എഴുത്തിലൂടെ തകർക്കുന്നു. മോരിന്റെ പര്യായം, ലഞ്ച്, സമ്മാനം, അക്ഷരശൂന്യർ, ആയിരം തലൈവാകി, കാലഘട്ടം, ദോശ, ആതിഥ്യം, തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ട്, നിദ്ര, ചോറിനുവേണ്ടി, നിലനില്പിടം - തുടങ്ങിയ കഥകളിൽ പുരുഷരുചികളുടെ വ്യാകരണം ഭക്ഷണത്തിലൂടെ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. 'പയ്യൻ കഥ'കളിൽ തീൻമേശകൾ സമൃദ്ധമായ പെണ്ണുടലുകൾക്ക് സമീപം തന്നെ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നു. ഊൺമുറികൾ കിടപ്പുമുറികളിലേക്ക് തുറക്കുന്ന വാതായനങ്ങളാണ്. തീൻമേശകളുടെ സമൃദ്ധി ഉടലിന്റെ സമൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കൊപ്പം നിൽക്കുന്നു. "ആധുനിക പരിഷ്ക്കാരത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായ ഹോട്ടലിന്റെ ആകർഷണത്തിനു പിന്നിൽപ്പോലും നിലകൊള്ളുന്നത് മനുഷ്യന്റെ ആദിമവാസനകൾ തന്നെ"² യെന്ന് ഡോ.പി.കെ.തിലക് നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. മുന്തിയ ഹോട്ടലിലെ ഇരുട്ടിൽ മാന്യന്മാർ ഭക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ദൃശ്യം നോക്കി



നിൽക്കെ അവരുടെ ആർത്തിയാണ് കഥാകാരനു മുന്നിൽ തെളിയുന്നത്. ഈ ആർത്തി തന്നിലൂടെയാണ് അയാൾ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു.

ഭക്ഷണവിഭവങ്ങളുടെയും ഭക്ഷിക്കുന്ന രീതികളുടെയും സമൃദ്ധമായ സമ്മേളനവും ആസ്വാദനവുമല്ലാതെ മറ്റൊന്നാണ് ജീവിതാസ്വാദനം എന്ന് നാം അർത്ഥം കുറുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതിനു വേണ്ടി 'വേഷം' കെട്ടുന്നതിനെ വി.കെ.എൻ. അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നില്ല. 'മോരിന്റെ പരായം' എന്ന കഥയിൽ മുന്തിയ ഹോട്ടലിൽ ഉച്ചയൂണിനെത്തിയ ഹാജി, 'വേഷങ്ങളെയും ഭക്ഷയെയും വിമർശിക്കുന്നു. ഉടുത്തതുണി അഴിച്ചിട്ടാൽ തന്നെ ഉഷ്ണം ബാക്കിയാവുന്ന കാലത്ത് കുപ്പായത്തിനു ചുറ്റും കറുത്തനാടകൊണ്ട് കെട്ടിയ സുന്ദരക്കുട്ടപ്പനെ ഹാജി കളിയാക്കുന്നു. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് സംസാരിക്കുകയും പാശ്ചാത്യരെ അനുകരിച്ച് വേഷം ധരിക്കുകയും സായ്‌വ് ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ ഫോർക്കും സ്പൂണും ഉപയോഗിച്ച് ശബ്ദമുണ്ടാക്കാതെ ഭക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനെ ഈ ഹാജി തന്റെ തനി നാടൻ മട്ടുകൊണ്ടും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടും ഭക്ഷണരീതികൊണ്ടും നേരിടുകയും വിജയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായി വിശപ്പ് വിശപ്പുതന്നെയാണ്; ആർത്തി ആർത്തിയും. മുകൾപ്പരപ്പിൽ കാണിക്കുന്ന വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾക്ക് ഹാജി മാർക്കിടുന്നില്ല. അതാണ് സ്വാഭാവികത്തിന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയം. എന്റെ ഭക്ഷണം എന്റെ രീതിക്കു എവിടെവെച്ചായാലും ഞാൻ കഴിക്കുമെന്നും എന്റെ സംസ്കാരത്തിന്റെ ആത്മവിശ്വാസം നിങ്ങൾ മാനിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും വി.കെ.എൻ. ഈ കഥയിലൂടെ സമർത്ഥിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. മലയാളിയുടെ മോരിന് പകരം നിൽക്കാൻ ഇതര സംസ്കാരത്തിലുള്ള ഒന്നുകൊണ്ടും കഴിയില്ല എന്ന ബോധം വിളമ്പുന്നവനെ നിലംപരിശാക്കുന്നു.

രുചി ഒരു പ്രശ്നമാണ്. എന്റെ രുചികൾ എന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയമാണ്. സമ്പ്രദായങ്ങളും അസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങളും 'പയ്യ'ന്റെ തീൻമേശയിൽ മൊത്തത്തുചുകുന്നു തീറ്റപ്രായമായി കിടക്കുന്നു. പയ്യന്റെ രുചിഭേദങ്ങൾ അനന്യമത്രെ. "രണ്ടിഡ്ഡലി ചട്ണിയിൽ മുക്കിത്തിന്നു, രണ്ടെണ്ണം പൊടികുട്ടിത്തിന്നു, രണ്ടെണ്ണം മുളകുരച്ചുകുട്ടിത്തിന്നു, രണ്ടെണ്ണം പഞ്ചസാര ചേർത്തുതിന്നു, രണ്ടു കാപ്പി കുടിച്ചു. ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക് ശാപ്പാടിന് പഴയരിച്ചോറ്, വെണ്ടയ്ക്ക് സാമ്പാർ, ഇളവനും പച്ചമുളകും ചേർത്ത ഓലൻ, വഴുതനത്തടയും ഉള്ളിയും ചേർത്തുള്ള മെഴുക്കുപെരട്ടി, കടുമാങ്ങ, പപ്പടം, മോര്, മൂന്നരയ്ക്ക് ചായ, പലഹാരം - ഉഴുന്നും അരിയും മുളകും ഉള്ളിയും ഉപ്പും പരുന്നൊയരച്ച് മുരിങ്ങയില ചേർത്തു നിർമ്മിച്ച അപ്പമായിരുന്നു, തളരുവോളം ചായ കുടിച്ചു."3 (നിലനില്പിന്മേല) നഗരത്തിലെ മുന്തിയ ഹോട്ടലിൽ അവൻ ഇങ്ങനെ ലഞ്ച് ഓർഡർ ചെയ്ത് വമ്പത്തികളുടെ വമ്പിനെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തും: "സ്പാനിഷ് സൂപ്പ്, തന്തുരി റൊട്ടി, ചിക്കൻ കാശ്മീരി, റോസ്റ്റ് ലാംബ്, ഫ്രഞ്ച് സലാദ്, രണ്ടു തരം പായസം, കോഫി"4 (ലഞ്ച്). ജയിലിൽ മുത്താരായി നിന്ന് വെപ്പുകാരൻ കുഞ്ഞിരാമൻ തയ്യാറാക്കിയ വസുമതി അരിയുടെ ചോറ്, പൊരിച്ച ആകോലി, തേങ്ങയരച്ചുവച്ച മത്തി, തീയൂൽ, പപ്പടം, അച്ചാർ, പുളിശ്ശേരി, തൈര് - എന്നിങ്ങനെ ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണം ആസ്വദിച്ച് ആ നള പാചകത്തെ ഭക്ഷ്യവിശാരദപ്പട്ടം നൽകി നമിക്കുന്നു. (കാലഘട്ടം). ഭക്ഷണത്തിന്റെ അത് തയ്യാറാക്കലിന്റെ വിശദാംശം

ങ്ങൾ എപ്പോഴും നൽകുന്ന വി.കെ.എൻ. സൊസ്യാലനത്തെയും സൊസ്യാലനത്തെയും ഈ ചേർക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. "സാധനം കണ്ടാലല്ല, പയ്യൻ തിന്നുന്നതു കണ്ടാലാണ് അപരന്റെ വായിൽ വെള്ളമുറുക. അത്രയ്ക്ക് മനോഹരം"5 (ലഞ്ച്) വൈദ്യഗ്വ്യത്തോടെ ബ്രാഹ്മണസദ്യ (അവിധലും തെരും തോരനും കടുമാങ്ങയും മറ്റും) രചിക്കുന്ന പയ്യൻ ബ്രാഹ്മണനു മുമ്പിൽ വച്ച്, മുന്തിയ ഹോട്ടലിൽ, തന്റെ രുചികൾ ഒരു പ്രൊഫഷണലിനെപ്പോലെ പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. മഷ്റും സൂപ്പ്, ക്രാബ് ഇൻ ബട്ടർ, മുഗളായി കോഴി, റുമാൻ റൊട്ടി - എന്നിങ്ങനെ വിഭവങ്ങൾ കേട്ട് എട്ടുകാലി വർഗത്തിനും രക്ഷയില്ലാതായി എന്ന് സരസമായി പറയുന്ന ബ്രാഹ്മണൻ വി.കെ.എന്റെ ജനാധിപത്യാദിരുചികളുടെ അനന്യ സ്വഷ്ടിയാണ് (തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ട്). ദൽഹിയിലെ കിങ്സ്റ്റൺ റസ്റ്ററന്റിന്റെ 'മാന്യത്വ'ലേക്ക് ഇല്ലിക്കുന്നൻ പാവുമുണ്ടും ഷർട്ടുമണിഞ്ഞ് എത്തി കാഴ്ചക്കാരെ മുഴുവൻ സ്തബ്ധനാക്കിയതു പോരാഞ്ഞിട്ട് 'തകർപ്പൻ ആംഗലം' ഉപയോഗിച്ച് ബ്രാഹ്മണൻ വിളമ്പുകാരനെ നിലംപൊത്തിക്കുന്നു. തെരും ചോറും കൈകൊണ്ട് കുഴച്ചു വാരിയുണ്ണുന്ന ദൃശ്യം അക്ഷരാർത്ഥത്തിൽ രജപുത്രവേഷക്കാരെ രംഗത്തുനിന്ന് നിഷ്കാസിതരാക്കുന്നു. മലയാളവും ഇംഗ്ലീഷും, നാട്ടുതനിമയും ആർജ്ജിത സംസ്കാരവും ഒരുപോലെ ആയുധമാക്കുന്ന മിടുക്കാണ്, വി.കെ.എൻ. ദക്ഷണക്രമത്തിലൂടെയും ദാഷാക്രമത്തിലൂടെയും കലാവിദ്യയാക്കുന്നത്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പയ്യൻ കഥാപാത്രം വലുതും ചെറുതുമായ ദക്ഷ്യവിപണന വിതരണ സ്ഥലികളിൽ തന്റെ സ്വത്വത്തെ ആവിഷ്കരിച്ച് കസറുന്നു. വിളമ്പിടങ്ങളിൽ അവൻ ചിലപ്പോൾ മാടമ്പിയായി മാറി, വരേണ്യനെ അവർണനാക്കുന്നു; അവർണനായി തെളിഞ്ഞ് വരേണ്യനെ നിലംപരിശാക്കുന്നു. തെക്കനായി നിന്ന് വടക്കന്റെ ദക്ഷ്യശീലങ്ങളെ ആഘോഷിക്കുന്നു; വടക്കനായി നിന്ന് തെക്കൻ രുചികളിലേക്ക് കുപ്പുകുത്തുന്നു. പയ്യന്റെ ദക്ഷണം പയ്യന്റെ പ്രതിരോധവും ആക്രമണവുമായി പരിലസിക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ച. "പട്ടാളം മാതിരി വിപ്ലവവും അതിന്റെ വയറിന്മീതെയാണ് മാർച്ചു ചെയ്യുന്നത്."6 (ലഞ്ച്).

രാഷ്ട്രീയ സമവാക്യ രചനയിൽ വിശിഷ്ടനുള്ള സ്ഥാനം വി.കെ.എൻ. എന്ന കലാകാരൻ കണ്ടെത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. വിപ്ലവകാരിയെ ഒളിവിൽ നിന്ന് രാമൻകുട്ടിയുടെ ചായക്കടയിലെത്തിക്കുന്നതും പോലീസുകാരനെ അതേ കടയിലെത്തിക്കുന്നതും ഈ വിശിഷ്ടതയെയാണ്. പല്ലുതേയ്ക്കാതെ, കുളിക്കാതെ, ഒളിവിൽക്കഴിഞ്ഞ വീട്ടുകാരോട് നന്ദിപോലും പറയാതെ മൂന്നാം ദിവസം, 'വൈരുദ്ധ്യാധിഷ്ഠിത ഭൗതിക സിദ്ധാന്തത്തിൽ ചുട്ടെടുത്ത ദോഷകണക്കെ കുഴഞ്ഞുവീണ്' പയ്യന്റെ മനസ്സ് വിപ്ലവത്തിൽ നിന്ന് വിശിഷ്ടന്റെ പ്രലോഭനത്തിലേക്ക് പാളി (ദോശ). ദോശയുടെയും ചമ്മന്തിയുടെയും രുചിയിൽ, വിശിഷ്ടന്റെ വിളിയിൽ പോലീസുകാരൻ വിപ്ലവകാരിയിലെ ആസ്വാദകനാണ് കാണുന്നത്. പതിനെട്ടു ദോശയും അതിനൊത്ത ചമ്മന്തിയും കഴിച്ച വിപ്ലവകാരിയായ പയ്യൻ പോലീസുകാരനും ദോശയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നു. ദോശ തിന്നുന്നതിൽ വ്യാപൃതനായ പയ്യൻ തന്റെ ഒളിജീവിതത്തെ വിസ്മരിക്കുന്നു. അറസ്റ്റു ചെയ്യപ്പെടും മുമ്പ് വീണ്ടും രണ്ടുദോശ തിന്നാനുള്ള



അനുവാദം അയാൾ വാങ്ങുകയോ നിരൂപാധികം അയാൾക്ക് നൽകുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. വിശപ്പിന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയം ഇങ്ങനെയുമുണ്ടെന്ന് നന്മനിറഞ്ഞ മനസ്സോടെ കലാകാരൻ ഊറിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

'അന്നദാതാവായ പൊന്നുതിരുമേനി' എന്ന് വി.കെ.എൻ.മാത്രമേ 'അന്ന്'ത്തെ വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കൂ (അന്നപൂർണ്ണശ്വരിയല്ല!). ഭക്ഷണം രചിക്കുന്നതും വിളമ്പുന്നതും 'അവളു'മാരല്ല; അവളുമാരുടെ വളയിട്ട കൈകളുമല്ല! അടുക്കള നളലോകമാണ്. അവൾ രതിയിലൊപ്പമെന്ന കണക്ക് ഭക്ഷണത്തിലും ഒപ്പം. ലിംഗ സമത്വത്തിന്റെ ടേബിൾ. അവളുടെ കൈകൊണ്ട് വിളമ്പിക്കിട്ടാൻ അവന് ആകാംക്ഷയില്ല. മറിച്ച് അവളെത്തന്നെ രുചിക്കാനാണ് അവനിഷ്ടം. "വിശപ്പു കലശലായിട്ടുണ്ട്. തടിച്ചി ഒന്നു വന്നു കിട്ടിയാൽ മതിയായിരുന്നു."7 (ആയിരം തലൈ വാകി). തടിച്ചിക്ക് ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുന്നത് നോക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലും അവന് ലൈംഗികോത്തേജനം നൽകുന്നു. വറുവൽപാകമായി ജനം നടന്നുപോകുന്നതിൽ സ്ത്രീലിംഗത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ചില ഇളംവറുവലുകളെ പിടിച്ചു ഭുജിച്ചാൽ എന്തുരസമായിരിക്കും എന്നാണ് പയ്യന്റെ ആത്മഗതം. വാ നിറയെ കവിൾ നിറയെ ശബ്ദത്തോടെ നേത്രപ്പഴം തിന്നുന്ന തടിച്ചിമദാമ അവനിൽ അശ്ശിലസൂചന ഉണർത്തുന്നു. സ്ത്രീയുടെ പദവി ഈ കഥാലോകത്ത് എവിടെയാണ്, എത്തരത്തിലാണ് എന്നു സംശയം തോന്നാം. ശ്ലീലാശ്ലീലങ്ങളിലേക്ക് വഴുതുന്ന ആദിമചോദനയുടെ ആവിഷ്കാരം ഇങ്ങനെയല്ലാതെ ഇതിൽക്കൂടുതൽ സത്യസന്ധമായി ആരവതരിപ്പിക്കും? "റൊട്ടികൊണ്ടു മാത്രമല്ല മനുഷ്യൻ ജീവിക്കുന്നതെന്ന സിദ്ധാന്തം പാഠപുസ്തകത്തിലൊതുങ്ങുന്നു."8 - എന്ന് കലാകാരൻ ദർശനത്തെ മറിച്ചിടുന്നു (വീർപ്പിൽ ഒരു സ്ഥലം). ശാരിരികവും ബുദ്ധിപരവുമായ വേലയ്ക്ക് റൊട്ടി വേണം, ബട്ടറില്ലെങ്കിലും എന്ന് ചിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. പയ്യന്റെ അദ്വൈതം, തീൻമേശാസ്വാദനവും പെണ്ണുടലിനെ ആഹരിക്കുന്നതും തമ്മിലാണ്. ഈ പ്രപഞ്ചം തന്നെ വലിയൊരു ഭക്ഷ്യശൃംഖലയാണല്ലോ. അവൾ തന്നെ ഭക്ഷണവും പാനീയവുമായിത്തീരുമ്പോൾ അവൾ അവനിലേക്ക് കുറയുന്നു. ഗാഢമായ ഒരു ബന്ധത്തിനുശേഷം അവനിലെ ഒരു അംശത്തെത്തന്നെ അപഹരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണ് അവൾ മറയുന്നതും. ഭക്ഷണം നിർണ്ണായകമായ ഒരു ഘടകമായി, വീക്ഷണമായി വർത്തിക്കുന്ന ഈ കഥാപ്രപഞ്ചത്തിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് ഉണ്ടുവിശദിച്ചപോലെ തോന്നും; വീണ്ടും ഉണ്ണാൻ പോകുന്നതുപോലെയും.

വർത്തമാനകാല ഇന്ത്യയിൽ നാം ആഘാദത്തോടെ വായിക്കേണ്ടുന്ന കഥയാണ് 'ആയിരം തലൈവാകി.' അഞ്ചു ബ്രാഹ്മണരടങ്ങുന്ന കേരള മന്ത്രിസഭ ഡൽഹിയിൽ മറ്റൊരു ബ്രാഹ്മണനായ നെഹ്രുവിനെ കാണാൻ പോയതിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള വാർത്ത ഹിന്ദുപത്രം റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്ത് വായിച്ച് കല്പാത്തിയിലെ ബ്രാഹ്മണർ ബേജറാവുന്നു. കാഴ്ചിരി ബ്രാഹ്മണനായ നെഹ്രു വിളമ്പിയ മത്സ്യവും പലതരം മാംസവും മുട്ടക്കറിയും ഇ.എം.എസ്. കഴിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടാവുമോ എന്ന് ശങ്കിക്കുന്നു. കേന്ദ്ര സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഭരണഘടന തീർപ്പുകല്പിച്ചതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ചർച്ചയെക്കാളേറെ ഏലങ്കുളം ബ്രാഹ്മണൻ മാംസം കഴിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടാവുമോ എന്ന ആധി അവരെ നിശ്ചിതമാക്കുന്നു.

ബദരാക്കുന്നു. ഇത് കണ്ടിട്ട് “പടച്ചവൻ തന്നെ വിപ്ലവം കൊണ്ടുവന്നാലും ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഒന്നും സംഭവിക്കില്ല” എന്ന് പയ്യൻ ആണയിടുന്നു. എന്തൊരു പ്രവചനം!

കാശ്മീരി ബ്രാഹ്മണനായ നെഹ്രുവിന് പലതരം മാംസവും മത്സ്യവും മുട്ടയും കഴിക്കുകയും വിളമ്പുകയും ചെയ്യാമെന്നിരിക്കെ കേരള ബ്രാഹ്മണന് അത് നിഷിദ്ധമാകുന്നതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് വി.കെ.എൻ.എത്രയോ മുമ്പേ ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഭക്ഷണം ബ്രാഹ്മണത്വത്തെ നിർണയിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നും വിപ്ലവം ജനങ്ങളുടെ രുചിയെ പരിഷ്കരിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നും പടച്ചവൻ വിചാരിച്ചാൽപ്പോലും ഒരുവന്റെ സ്വതന്ത്രചിന്തയെ ഉണർത്താൻ പറ്റില്ലെന്നും ഈ കലാകാരൻ ഒരുക്കുന്ന തീൻമേശകൾ നമുക്ക് കാണിച്ചുതരുന്നു. ഇത്തരത്തിലൊരു കഥ എഴുതാനും വായിക്കാനുമുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം പോലും ഇന്ന് ‘ജനാധിപത്യം’ നമുക്ക് നൽകുന്നുണ്ടോ?

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Table 1 Damage location accuracy

Sl.No	Predicted location(m)	Actual location(m)	Error (%)
1	1.54	1.53	0.002
2	1.98	1.67	0.006
3	1.87	1.61	0.224

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