

विद्यावर्धिनी संचालित.

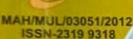
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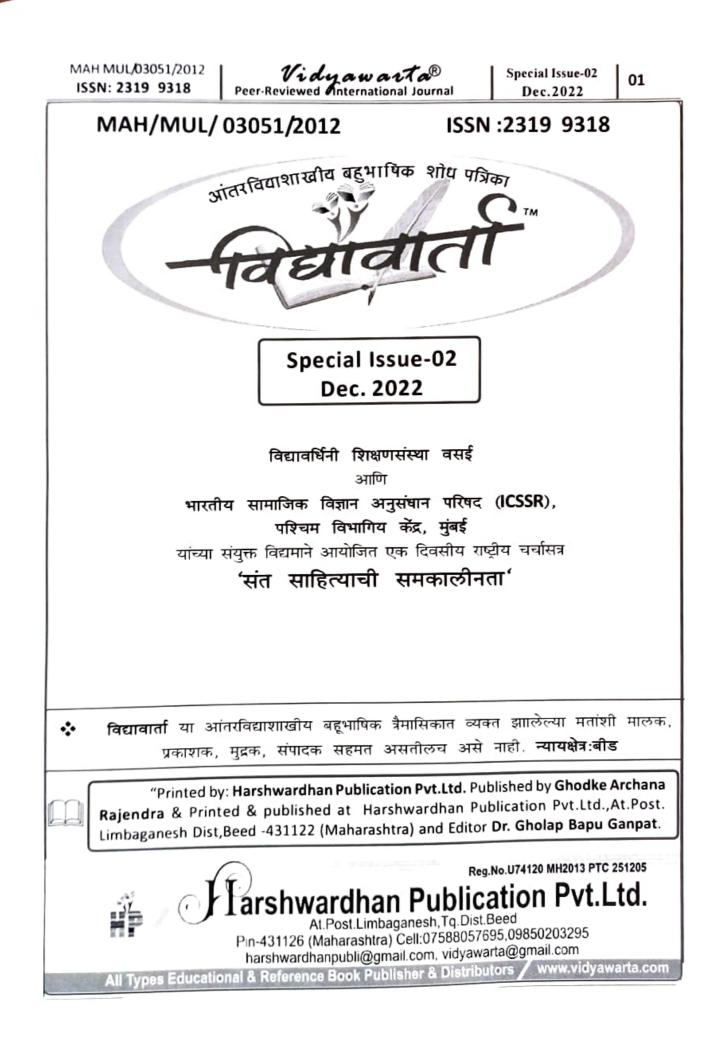
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Relevance of Saint Tukaram in Post-Truth World: A Critical Study

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Key Words: Relevance of Saint Tukaram, materialistic approach, true identification of saint, Environmental consciousness, post-truth world and Tukaram

Abstract:

Saint Tukaram revolutionary poet of the Bhakti Movement shows the path to deviated world even in the 21st century. His foresight is still relevant to get rescued from a man-made vicious cycle. In the post-truth age, when violent behaviour of individuals and states threatens the peace of society, his poems represent the epitome of pacifying violent emotions and exhorting us to abandon materialistic things for deep peace. Individuals should keep expressing their views, even if the established system does not permit them to. Under the name of development human being made incalculable interference in the environment, and recklessly neglected the sustainable approach, the poems of Saint Tukaram awaken the eco sensitivity of an ecologically troubled world. In his poems, he provides a panacea to all the problems that have been created by mankind.

Introduction

Saint Tukaram (1608-1649), a seventeencentury Bhakti Poet, in Maharashtra tried to shake the established system with his revolutionary poems and became the torchbearer of humanity. His speculative poems compel the individual to introspect about their own existence. Humanism is the focal point of his poems.

He unleashed pungent attacks against the cynical approach of the individual and established order. His extensive comments about life, environment, human vices, day-to-day chores and universal values of human beings through his Abhangs are still relevant, even in the 21st century.

The march of civilisation is intractable and has been the output of constant friction of actions and reactions. The world has been at the jerk where checks and balances are required. The present research paper highlights how Saint literature especially the poems of Tukaram could give showers of comfort to pacify the acceleration of the pace of civilization which wrongly deviated from the right path.

In the Post-Truth world, information is being exploded through the individual's hand. Artificial intelligence put extra confidence among people and their emotions purely become mechanical like a machine. In the quest for better prosperity, humans lost their humanity and got involved in the wrong activities. In this context, saint literature can bring back of tempo of human flourishment on the right track. The mythical stories and fabricated ideas destroyed the core values of humanism and resulted in a high degree of intolerance against each other. For immediate flourishment, the wrong narratives are being set through the lie, and the lies are being presented in the form of truth. In fact, the motto of the power-hungry people that do the rampant use of lie for getting individual and political mileage, this approach endangers the social stability. This research paper analyses the importance of saint literature to realize the in-depth value of humanism.

In the process of globalization, the nation becomes borderless, and the world becomes Global Village. But this process came under threat when nativist and nationalist groups of respective nations opposed the concept of globalization. It breaks the idea of

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Vasudev Kuthumkam means the 'World is one family. The majoritarian politics and nativist movement propelled the world to the verge of a narrow patch. A sense of suspicion emerged among the individual, states and nations. The saint literature underlines the values of compassion and kindness towards humanism. It brings a ray of hope to pacify the violent approach of the individual and state and it encompasses the idea of, world is one family.

Saint Tukaram gives the explanation of a real saint, one who understands the problems of the deprived people and extends his helping hands to them to alleviate their problems is a real saint. In this cynical world, many people pretext the people on the name of God. A saint is one who understands the other's feelings in a humanistic manner. He says:

Je ka RanjaleGanjale Tyasimahne jo Apule To chi Sadhu Olkhava Dev to chi Janava.

The identification of a saint should be examined on the basis of what virtues follow in his/her life. The flaunting of knowledge and materialistic things is not the real identification of the sadhu(Saint).

The thought of the environmental consciousness of saints could help the world to save the mother earth from climate change. The world is at the stage of the apocalypse. Global warming brought out disastrous changes in the human settlement. The rise in temperature, uneven rainfall, cloud bursting, natural calamity, water crisis, attack of invisible virus made the world to cripple on the knees. Even the scientists of the world failed to decode the changes that occurred in the atmosphere. Consumption of Fossil oil unleashes environmental hazards i.e. carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides. Deforestation pushed the island to the verge of a barren planet. In this context, Tukaram really understood the importance of trees and a stable environment and expresses the deep sense of

eco-sensitivity through his poems. He said, trees are our relatives, and we should respect and treat them cordially. Tukaram Says: Vrushvalliamhasoyari Vanchare, Pakshi Susvare Alvati. Yene Sukh Ruche Yekantacha Vas,

Nahi Gundosh, Angi yet.

Tukaram says that the basil plant provides fresh air, and the threshold of the house has been a healthy platform for the family. People should worship the basil plant for health purposes. This foresight of Tukaram is still relevant in the era of uncontrolled urbanization. He says:

There, the holy basil plant flourishes in its little tower of clay

The earth is freshly sprayed with water;

Squares are drawn on the ground with coloured dustgarl hung;

Such a festive setting makes Him break into dance.(Chitre, 1991)

In the post-truth world, people are more materialistic and preferred to remain in their shield. The people lost sensitivity about otherness. Association with matristic things unleashes uncontrolled sorrow. Their self-centred approach brings more unhappiness. Every individual tries to accumulate more assets and yoked their happiness with the achievement of property or asset. Tukaram explains that gaining materialistic things is not the measure to count happiness, in fact, happiness is being attained by abandoning all those things. He says I am already stripped, God has taken everything from me, I am naive, so I have nothing to lose. I lost all property. He says:

Good for me Lord my wife's a shrew;

Good that I'm stripped in public view.

I am blessed that whole world insults me;

Thank You, I've lost all property. (Chitre, 1991) The relevance of the saint literature is

forever, the universal things of life do not change. The core value of the saint literature will be a guiding light to the entire world com-

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munity. The materialistic approach exacerbates the situation of individuals more miserable and their uncontrolled desires led them towards anxiety and depression. Saint's literature inculcates the core values of life and tries to say the abandonment of all materialistic things for deep peace and stability These critical situations inclined him to walk towards the divine destination. He listed all the calamities in one abhanga: When my father died

I was too young to understand; I had not to worry About the family then.

My wife died:

May she rest in peace. The Lord has removed My attachment. My children died:

So much the better. The Lord has removed

The last illusion.

My mother died

In front of my eyes.

My worries are all over

The (Chine 1001)

SaysTuka.(Chitre, 1991) Saints' literature is an oral literary tradi-

tion. It is meant for the common man (varkari) and is popularized by the common man. It is remarkable to note that in varkari tradition there was no discrimination on the ground of caste, creed, sex, etc. In this cult, the common man's language is given more importance and Vedic monopoly is challenged.

The varkari movement advocates brotherhood, equality, simplicity and morality. It has given the Marathi language status by making it a medium of both literary and religious activities. Born in such a tradition, Tukaram willingly took all the responsibilities of it on his shoulders. He was guided by heavenly wisdom and set an example of right conduct, proper thinking, philosophy, morality, and new ethics for the common man.

Tukaram is the chief spokesman during

the Bhakti Movement, he vociferously attacked on the wrong traditions of society. His voice is more appealing and promising to the common man. BhalchandraNemade introduces Tukaram: Tukaram is the chief spokesman of the bhakti tradition of Marathi saints. His abhangas were regarded as emblems of spiritual attainment by Theosophists, Christians and Prarthanasamajists too in the early twentieth century. (Nemade, Makers of Indian Literture: Tukaram, 1980)

Political demagogues constantly have been engaged in jingoistic politics to maintain their dominance in the political spectrum. The political cauldron has been burning with a lot of discussions that how wicked mechanisms should be adopted to sustain the dominance of power. Power-hungry people muzzle the dissent of their opponents recklessly. Saint Tukaram says: When you are robbed Of the whole world And your voice Becomes eloquent Be sure

God is visiting you.(Chitre, 1991)

Saint Tukaram exhorted the people, even though the mighty system squelches your disagreement, you should not afraid. You should keep speaking against the wrong things. Your different voice conspicuously comes ahead and it helps the people to gather the courage to stand against the wrong things. Undaunted steps in the direction of freedom of speech give the scope for the stable development of society. Even four hundred years ago, he realises that agreement and disagreement are an inseparable part of social development.

Saint Tukaram revolts against miscreants who have been constantly involved in the wrong business. He says that there are no wrong things to take action against the wrong business on the street. He Says:

Unrestrained by reason or any sense of decency, You love to fight in the open streets of the

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bazar(Chitre, 1991)

Saint Tukaram highlighted the common things of life, being born in a Shudra family, he suffered a lot. His observationsare subtle and he makes a pungent comment on the established faulty order. Through his poem, he tried to awaken the understanding of the common man. In this context author BhalchandraNemade introduces Tukaram as:

Tukaram is well known among the millions of peasants of Maharashtra. Almost all of them know a few sayings or lines from his abhangas Tukaram is best loved among the saint-poets of the people of Maharashtra. The literary observers, both foreign and Indian, have noted the tremendous influence of Tukaram on the Marathi speaking people...... This reveals that the religious tradition, strengthened by Tukaram and other varkari saints, a tradition of literature and humility and other-worldliness is still a dominant force in the rural India. (Nemade, Makers of Indian Literature: Tukaram, 1980)

The revolt comes in his poems. A warrior who never retreats from his main objectives. He constantly affiliates with things. No other circumstances compel him to think about withdrawal. He beseeches the god for getting the courage to face things more bravely. He says: A warrior on the warpath does not look back. Give me that sort of courage Worldly life has alienated me from you. Bless me, God!(Chitre, 1991)

Saint Tukaram has been an adorable figure in the context of humanism. In the Posttruth world the individual prevails with avarice, violence, intolerant and insensitivity with narrow thinking, his poems are the epitome to be made the individual calm and stable. Majoritarian politics imposes a threat to the peaceful fabric of society in this context his poems sermon us that the world is one family. The reformation movement shapes civilization to the right direction, the saint literature plays a remarkable role to expedite the cycle of civilization in the right direction. This is helpful to the violent world to bring back on the right track and peaceful coexistence.

The established mechanism for maintaining power is wicked, and materialist things cannot satisfy the individual's thirst for power.

Each nation has been gripped by the narrow approach, and the world is at the edge of violence. The world is in danger of losing its peace, and saint literature could act as a catalyst to calm people's violent emotions.

Saint Literature provides the panacea to all the problems and could save the world order from the wrong deviation. The time has come to meditate on a humanistic approach and to save the mother earth from further destruction otherwise dooms day is imminently coming....

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