



BORGOHAIN'S PITA PUTRA: A DRAWBACKS OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY

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ABSTRACT

Liberty and equality are two major boons of Democracy. These two vital aspects of human life are instrumental to sustainable development and Enlightenment. But unfortunately there are innumerable evil forces that destroy human liberty and equality. Those evil forces which we call 'corruption' exist in countless forms. India is a sixty two year old Democracy. Arising out of centuries of imperial captivity and foreign rule, the Indian nation aspired for radical change under democracy. But it could not achieve perfection. that is why it is important to examine the drawbacks of Indian democracy. The research Paper seeks to reflect on these drawbacks of Indian democracy in forms of maladministration, citizens being deprived of liberty / equality, prevalence of injustice, and widespread corruption.

INTRODUCTION

For analysis of the drawbacks of Indian Democracy, [an Assamese novel entitled *Pita putra* by Homen Borgohain, recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award (1978), (translated into English by Ranjita Biswas),] is selected, which depicts Indian democracy during the earlier years.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar submitted Indian constitute to the nation. Liberty and equality which are two major boons of Democracy. These two vital aspects of human life are instrumental to sustainable development and Enlightenment. But unfortunately there are innumerable evil forces that destroy human liberty and equality. Those evil forces which we

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Objectives:

The research Paper seeks to reflect drawbacks of Indian democracy in forms of maladministration, citizens being deprived of liberty / equality, prevalence of injustice, and widespread corruption.

Method:

For analysis of the drawbacks of Indian Democracy, an Assamese novel entitled *Pita putrid* by Home Borgohain, recipient of the Sahity Akademi Award (1978), (translated into English by Ranjita Biswas), that depicts Indian democracy during the earlier years.

***Pita Putra* drawbacks of Indian democracy**

Homan Borgohain's *Pita Putra* (1975) which presents the implementation of democratic principles into the Assamese society that was controlled by the landlords and the rapid social changes that brought turmoil and provided the youth with the open mindedness as to the principles of democracy and self determination and the Gandhian and Marxist ideologies. Starting from the pre-Independence era and even the people's ideas about the stern rule of Queen Victoria, the novel depicts two generations of the Assamese society caught in the tumultuous wake of India's transition to independence. Of the two generations, the first generation protagonist. Sivanath Phukan (born 1895/1896). a prosperous landlord of Mohghuli village, the father of three sons and two daughters, was a principled man, who was honest and truthful to his core and who did not tolerate corruption, but was orthodox and aristocratic, proud of his status and rank as a landlord, Though believed to be liberal, he was eccentric and tenacious. During the pre- Independence era, he was aware of corruption and ill-doings of Reba Mahajan and the village surveyor, Keshab Mandal and did not like them. He wanted his three sons Gourinath, Kalinath and Lakshminath and two daughters Rambha and Savitri to always remain submissive and faithful to him and not to act according to their own will. They were not allowed equal claims to life, liberty and happiness. His sons could not enjoy the liberty of thought and feeling. freedom of opinion, sentiments, tastes and pursuits. His youngest son always complained against his negligence and blamed that it was his father's negligence of him that he turned a drunkard. He was always quarrelling with his father and asking for his share of the property. He was again provoked by the contractor

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Kanakdarji (who wanted to marry Sivanath's eldest daughter, Rambha) to attack Sivanath. Sivanath was not allowing Rambha's marriage with Kanakdarji as Kanak who had become rich later, was very poor and his father was a servant in Sivanath's house. So Sivanath neglected Kanak and did not consider him his equal. Sivanath even did not allow the choices of his sons, Gourinath and Kalinath for marriage commenting that "marriage was not just a personal choice"(PP, p.89).He even disowned his eldest son, Gourinath. He believed in untouchability and the villagers belonging to the fishermen community were not allowed seats in his house as they were considered untouchables. He even disrespected the *Huchari* party as they decided to start visiting the houses from one end of the village in stead of visiting his house first. The novel unravels other agents of corruption, who were supposed to be the saviours of law. The corrupt MLA Biswa Hazarika, excise official Suren Mahanta, the corrupt OC of the Police Station, the congress president keshab Handique, who was the former village surveyor, Reba Mahajan, the grocer turned village panchayat chairman and the school sub-inspector, who were supposed to be the guardians of liberty and equality were all involved in corruption. This is how Indian democracy from the beginning has not been functioning appropriately. It mimics the modus operandi of the corrupt colonial masters. The ideology and sacrifices of the freedom fighters like Gandhi could not completely effect radical democratic man erring change in Indian society to justice, equality and liberty of the citizens.

Pita Putra exposing the drawbacks of Indian democracy has also unraveled people's awareness of the democratic principles. Situations have changed, but not towards a better humanist approach.

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