



PANDEMIC COVID-19 AND LITERATURE

M. D. Raghawar

Chintamani B.Ed. College, Ballarpur, Dist. Chandrapur

*Corresponding Author: rghmwr@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

The peculiar nature of the current circumstances has altered human relationship with time and every individual are trying to give meaning to his own isolation.

The defeat of the science and medicine in which the people had placed trust generated fear in the population. Yet there was no escape, virus has been spreading fast and uncontrolled, nothing could stop it and the world was in a state of sheer panic never experienced before. Actor Amitabh Bachhan wrote a few lines in Hindi, urging people to stay safe. "In times such as these, we all have our coping methods, Poetry is mine." Pandemic did not discriminate between the good and the evil but brought about the loss of all social conventions and rise of selfishness and avarice. Human reaction to the pandemic are the central themes of historical titles. The Literature showcases the impact of the Pandemic Covid-19 on population across the world. The Pandemic Covid-19 allows authors, literary intellectuals to reflect on the worldwide fear of Covid-19 and its impact on emotion, economy and existence of mankind across the globe.

Keywords : Covid-19, Isolation, Quarantine, Lockdown, Lonliness, Contagion

INTRODUCTION:

Covid-19 affected the population across the globe. It's impact on local and global consequently has impression on literature. There are free form discussion on what our societies are experiencing and how we can read and approaches these events through the lense of literature. The peculiar nature of the current circumstances has altered human relationship with time and every individual are trying to give meaning to his own isolation. Reflecting on past history and experiences, overcoming a Pandemic like Covid-19 can not be done alone. Everyone; whether infected or not, to be fully committed in keeping transmission to a minimum. There has always been literature of Pandemic because there have always been Pandemics.

In this panic situation of pandemic, major concerts and festivals such as Eid, Ramnavami, Holi etc have been cancelled. The movie industry. drama, play etc has been scrambling to respond. The premier of many major big budget movie was cancelled. Many literary

events and functions have been delayed with no indications of when they will go ahead. The television industry, actor, artists and other all related to literature, drama and art has been similarly affected. Large scale gathering over 50 people have been banned all over the world. Many people in India and worldwide have chosen to self isolate or to avoid large scale gathering. This has led to many events being cancelled or post-pond for undefined time. Many people like author, dramatist, artist, poet, educator, teacher have been facing economic problem. It is well known that literary festivals are a vital source of income for authors across the globe. This year Oxferd Literary Festival and London Book Fair and many literary events have been cancelled. All Book stores, Library, University and Educational Institutions across the globe have also been shut down. Human reaction to the pandemic are the central themes of historical titles. The Literature showcases the impact of the Pandemic Covid-19 on population across the world.

The defeat of the science and medicine in which the people had placed trust generated fear in the population. Local or global, poor or rich, VIP or common man every individual has been affected by this Covid-19 disease. The author meditates on the inevitability of death. The virus is actually testing how well we can collaborate across borders even as we try to shut it down. “The issue is not that people die from the plague, but that the people are plagued by death.”

As mankind’s oldest deadly foe, disease has provided themes to literature since literature’s very invention. The Pandemic Covid-19 allows authors, literary intellectuals to reflect on the worldwide fear of Covid-19 and its impact on emotion, economy and existence of mankind across the globe. Yet there was no escape, virus has been spreading fast and uncontrolled, nothing could stop it and the world was in a state of sheer panic never experienced before.

The virus reminds us that another way is possible – teleconferencing and skyping, zoom meetings and live-streaming instead of crisis, crossing the globe flying to meetings. By exploring the motif of the pandemic a consistent and well spread theme has been seen in literature. ‘The Scarlet Plague’, originally published by Jack London in 1912 was one of the first examples of postapocalyptic fiction novel in modern literature. The author focused his attention on behavioral response to a pandemic, showing the emergence of fear, irrationality and selfishness in a civilized and modern society. According to the author, Pandemic did not discriminate between the good and the evil but brought about the loss of all social conventions and rise of selfishness and avarice. Medieval writing, “The Canterbury Tales” by Geoffrey Chaucer, emphasized human behavior, the fear of contagion increased vices such as avarice, greed and corruption leads to both moral and physical death. In

European canon, no such work is more venerable than the Decameron, written by Renaissance humanist Giovanni Boccaccio in the late 1340’s and early 1350’s.

A later outbreak of the bubonic plague in London inspired Robinson Crusoe author of Daniel Defoe to write the ‘A Journal of the Plague Year.’ A well balanced reading diet requires both fiction and nonfiction. Richard Preston’s best seller. “The Hot Zone : The Terrifying True Story of the origin of the Ebola Virus.” In English language literature, ‘The Last Man’ by English novelist Mary Shelly was one of the first epocalyptic novels, telling of a future world that has been affected by Pandemic, a few people appear to be immune and avoid contact with the others. The Covid-19 has inspired people to pause and reflect. Much is being written about this virus that bind us, but hold us apart. Corona poetry are trending on social media.

The Poet around the globe reflecting over the challenges the virus has thrown up isolation, quarantine, sickness and loneliness. Many however also look it at as an opportunity. Irish priest., Brother Richard Hendricks poem ‘Lockdown’ is one such – It went viral, as the world resonated with it. He speaks of the birds that have begun to sing again and of skies that have turned blue again.

Actor Amitabh Bachhan wrote a few lines in Hindi, urging people to stay safe. “In times such as these, we all have our coping methods, Poetry is mine.” Aditya Jadhav, Who runs a digital marketing company and poet compose three poems – A Song, A Ballad, and A Prayer – on the three different aspects of the post Covid-19 situation. ‘A Song’ is hopeful stating that it took a calamity to make us appreciate simple things about life. ‘A Balled’ is an ode to the healthcare professionals who work tirelessly. The last in the series is an impassioned prayer to the universe to lend us strength to tide over these troubled times. Pandemics are the mass murderers. It destroy towns and leave a generation scarred. In

past devastation caused by outbreaks of Pandemic impacted many major writers – Rabindranath Tagore, Premchand, Fakir Mohan Senapati, Sivasankara Pillai and others – giving birth to haunting poems, short stories and novels.

Tagore's long poem, Puratan Bhritya (The Old Manservant) tells the aching story of a much-reviled house help who nurses his master to health but succumbs to smallpox. A moving account of the 1918 Spanish Flu which claimed an estimated 12-17 million lives in India and 100 million globally, is found in Ahmad Ali's Novel, "Twilight in Delhi".

"How deadly this fever is / everyone dying of it / the hospitals are gay and bright / but sorry is men's plight", he wrote.

"Literature regards each individual with compassion and goes deeper than what statistics or historical record can tell us. Literature may not explain away or fight off things such as Pandemics, but it does become a source of consolation, a way of sharing our common humanist concern and in its own way, provides the deepest and most insightful record of the events", says Harish Trevedi, who taught English Literature at Delhi University.

"Literature provides us deepest and insightful record of events during Pandemics and tries to provide consolation in times of need." (Times of India)

The brutality of the Pandemic-Covid-19 experienced by the people across the globe and its effect on economy, emotions, existence, will no doubt be the themes for the author. The new literature will especially be focused on these issues.

RESULTS :

- Pandemic – Covid-19 can bring forth deeply rooted fears and modify human behavior greatly causing its impact on today's and upcoming literature.
- The Pandemic-Covid-19 breaks the class-barriers, but it also leads to the ruin of civilizations, only human brotherhood and proper precaution and education enables society to survive.

- The Pandemic-Covid-19 has emotional, cognitive and behavioral impact on the minds of population and consequently has great impact on Literature and Society.

- The abiding message from the literary depictions of Covid-19 Pandemic is that every man for himself but a collective response of universal brotherhood.

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