



ISSN Print: 2664-8717
ISSN Online: 2664-8725
Impact Factor: RJIF 8.00
IJRE 2022; 4(2): 10-11
www.englishjournal.net
Received: 19-08-2022
Accepted: 03-10-2022

Monika

Student, Department of
English, PGDAV College,
Delhi University, PT. JLN.
Government College, M.D.U.,
Haryana, India

Impact of religion on Indian literature

Monika

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26648717.2022.v4.i2a.57>

Abstract

It is a well-known fact that India and Indian Religion go hand in hand. There is nothing which is not influenced by religion in the country. In the same way, Religion has a strong impact on Indian Literature. The influence can be very well understood by the fact that Indian literature would not have been existed without religious and spiritual aspects.

The most ancient Indian Literature is 'Vedas'. The Purans and The greatest two epics, The Ramayana and The Mahabharata are the most significant piece of literature even today. The portrayal of the deities Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva has strong influence on Indian literary texts, as it shifted from Sanskrit literature to modern literature in Indian English.

Their impact can be evaluated with the simplest fact that they have their influence even till the present day.

The Ramayana and The Mahabharata are the examples of those mere classics that they are the everlasting inspiration for the Indian literature. These epics have not only guided the people of the country through their triumphs and failures but also fascinated Indian novelists, dramatists and poets.

Keywords: India, religion, influenced, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Sanskrit, literature, inspiration

Introduction

From the aspect of literature, both the epics are the two sides of the same coin. They both have different values and styles. On the one hand, The Ramayana depicts the celebration of human relationships and on another hand; The Mahabharata shows life in its hard reality which is full of tricks, strategies, temptations, sacrifices. But one factor of commonality is that both are relevant to all times and ages.

According to S. Radhakrishnan; The spirits of these two epics have formed the Indian spirit with affection for self. Sri Aurobindo has also had his own views; he said that these two epics are two giant heaps. These heaps are of moral, religious and ethical content:

The complete overview of ancient Indian culture and traditions are depicted in these two epics. Religion has always been the driving force in the life of Indians. Indians feel mental strength and poise because of these two religious texts.

The lives of Indian people is surrounded by religion in every sphere; Philosophical, personal, interpersonal and even socio-political. To argue, one can highlight that about religion and faith, other literature is also written, but in Indian Literature, it has different meaning as it has gained political connotation. Above all, it is more about the relationship shared between the individual and his God.

Discussion

In many literary works, Religion is very much there. Even in the Indian novel, the historical consciousness is also a religious one. In the late nineteenth century, in order of the exploration of history and in the search for a national identity, religious context is must.

If we mention the literature written in India during last two centuries is also about the cultural exchange between England and India. To mention the few names:

Rammohan Roy

His work was more in the form of essays, memoirs and treatises. He has written mainly about liberal humanist criticism of Indian society and Religion and imperialism also. He was going with one objective of showing the pure and true form of religion i.e. viable, admirable and ethical to Europe.

Corresponding Author:

Monika

Student, Department of
English, PGDAV College,
Delhi University, PT. JLN.
Government College, M.D.U.,
Haryana, India

That is the reason; he was an unconscious ally of the imperialists. Along with it, he is considered as the first liberal reformer. He was mainly a humanist and as religious as Kabir and Gandhi. He was an excellent Indian figure writing in English.

Rabindranath Tagore

He is an acclaimed poet and very well recognized for his short stories, memoirs, dance etc. on national and international front. He is one of the greatest lyric poets of the world. To quote the main feature of his poetry by Varghese, "its humanistic essence combine with spirituality, a love of nature and man, and the expression of the beauty and splendor of the earth. The poet's spiritual message does not, however, enjoin us to run away from the 'fret and fever of life' and seek shelter in a hermitage, but insists on our full participation in the joys and sorrows of life." (2004:13) His knowledge about Indian customs and traditions have become a driving force of his poems and short stories.

We can understand the impact of religion on Indian Literature; with one simple fact that today Indian literature has one different genre i.e. Indian Spiritual Literature from Vedic Period. The religious textbooks have become a great source of material to the new writers.

The theme of the two great epics has controlled the creative imagination of the writers.

Religious beliefs

Universal truths play a vital role in constructing a story on religious beliefs. All the archetypes, images and myths available in religious books are enough to contemporary realities into more comprehensible to Indian readers. A special mention should be given to the present Indian Era Writers such as Raja Rao, Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy and many more. They quote their illustrations from ancient epics and their concepts.

The earliest Indian Literature was written in Sanskrit such as Hindu Sacred Writings i.e. Vedas. The Sanskrit literature had its golden period from about 1500 BC to about 1000AD and reached to its highest level in the 1st to 7th centuries. Apart from religious writings, other genres also emerged. Because Sanskrit was labeled with the religion of the Vedas, other related languages emerged. All the literary work of these languages was largely dependent on two Sanskrit Epic Poems, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana.

Relationship between religion and literature

We cannot measure the relationship within a period of time as no theory of birth and death in any era can prove it. But it is a proven fact that in order to bear the ultimate being religion is the relation and literature is the relation in which humanity bears with a religion. To express the art of rhetoric, communication through divine source is really important and that is the reason why all the ancient languages of the world are being used as a tool to represent religion. It has been proved by many theories that both are the creation of the same force as they both are in the regular towards life. Both, religion and literature, will give a remedy in any state of depression but the receiver should be mature enough to absorb it.

Religion and literature in India

Indian style of writing known as Indian Literature has a prominent space in various sections of literature like Drama,

Fiction, Poetry, Novels, Short stories, and many more. The embodiment of the above mentioned sections of Indian literature is based on religion and later on it was developed by accessing the religions outside the country.

The Indian literature is very popular among the readers as it delivers and understands the mindset of the people. Writings like Puranas, panchatantra, stories of good v/s evil and many more made it more popular as it make the people close to their religion.

To mention Non Literary works like writings on Administration, law, astronomy, grammar area also very popular as they find their own perspective in it as they somehow connected to religious textbooks. Indian literature in relation to religion is very popular among readers because readers prefer to apply and adapt the writing and its style.

It all started in nineteenth century and Rabindranath Tagore's 'Gitanjali' is been an inspiration for writers and readers to inclined towards religion and religious writings.

Eventually, it moved to many authors from different parts of India who preferred to write on their own religion.

Conclusion

The purpose of both religion and literature is to enhance and emulates the humanity so that readers can have enough intelligence and intellect to have their normal life peacefully. To fulfill the above cited purpose, both religion and literature is a wonderful creation. Both of them provide a remedial measure to the society to fight against their daily struggles and discomfort. The work of Indian literature has amazing metamorphic factor as it is written in present but also have gauged future which is unbelievable and unimaginable. The history of Indian literature in context with religion is so ancient and so amazing that it is still applicable in today's scenario and will remain for future generations as well.

Indian literature can never be separated from religion even if we talk about any literary work. Religion has its influence on the Indian Literature that it has also made a transition from oral literature to written literature.

References

1. <http://www.webindia123.com/india/literature/literature.htm>
2. The Other Tongue-English across Cultures The University of Illinois Press, Chicago Mund, Subhendu Kumar; c1989.
3. <https://www.englishliterature.info/2021/09/art-and-intelligence-tagore-poetry.html>
4. Spectrum History of Indian Literature in English Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi; c1997.