

CONSUMMATE DR. ABAN E. MISTRY SHAPING HOLISTIC HUMAN VALUES

DR. CHIRAG SOLANKI¹ & DR. NARENDRAKUMAR D. VASAVA²

1 Assistant Professor, Department of Vidyaniketan, Children's University, Gandhinagar
2 Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Children's University, Gandhinagar

Abstract

Art and literature played a significant role in India's freedom struggle. Both the art and literature acted as an instrument in India's freedom struggle against colonialism. As part of the freedom movement, many indigenous industries and enterprises were set up. Indian art and literature flourished, and soon became a source of national pride. For example, Abanindranath Tagore through his paintings helped raise the consciousness of many. Through various journals, newspapers like Harijan freedom fighters like Gandhiji, Rabindranath Tagore raised important issues on the national platform. The present paper is an attempt to understand the contribution of Dr. Aban E. Mistry, Tabla maestro in freedom struggle. Dr. Aban E. Mistry an iconic image and an icon for the youth and music lovers of the present time.

Key Words: Freedom Struggle, Art, Music

INTRODUCTION

Bharat is known for its rich art and cultural heritage. As society changes, so does the nature of art and literature. The origins of great religions such as Jainism, Buddhism, ancient and medieval times were known for their religious influence on Indian art. There are two major theories related to art and literature in the world which define different types of art. One is art for art's sake in which does not serve any social or moral purpose instead it is just created for an entertainment or just for the "sake of art." The second is "art for a social purpose" which serves the people and helps them in their struggle for a better life by evoking emotions related to oppression or some kind of injustice that they could have been facing or to increase sensitivity towards the suffering. Probably that's how Indian art and literature contributed in the country's largest movement. A movement of freedom struggle against colonialism.

Role of art and literature in India's freedom struggle:

- **Evoking emotions:** Art helped nationalist in their struggle by evoking emotions related to oppression or kind of injustice to people that they had been facing for a long time. It helped to increase the sensitivity among elite and bourgeoisie class towards the suffering of the common man by depicting their poor living condition and atrocities.
- **Raising nationalist sentiments:** The nationalistic sentiment replaced what was earlier widely dominated by the portraits and songs or *Bhajans* based on gods

and goddesses only. It influenced people through painting battle scenes between Indian and British soldiers and portraying brutalities, to people singing and writing nationalistic poetries, plays, and stories. Fiction and poetry was used for a patriotic purpose and to create a nationalist discourse.

- **Overcoming linguistic barriers:** Indian art helped in overcoming linguistic differences across the country in the form of visual and performing art. Further, nationalist literature was in the local language that helped many common people to take part in India's freedom struggle.
- **Spreading awareness:** Writers and poets such as Rabindranath Tagore, Josh Malihabadi, Muhammad Iqbal, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Mohammad Ali Jouhar, and Kazi Nazrul Islam used literature, poetry and speech as a tool to spread awareness against the atrocities by British on Indians and to provoke the thought of freedom to encourage people to fight for the country.
- **Women participation:** Women leaders like Begum Rokeya and Sarojini Naidu promoted the emancipation of Indian women and to encourage their participation in national politics. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's *Devi Chaudharani*, became an inspiration to women to take up the cause of independence. In this novel, he made a woman the protagonist and leader of the struggle. Anandamath also featured a strong woman character, and in both books, while women do take up arms, they fight while embodying the values of love.
- **Revival of cultural identities:** When the *Swadeshi* movement started gaining momentum, Indian artists attempted to revive their cultural identities which were suppressed by the British. This led to the creation of the Bengal School of Art, led by the reworked Indian styles with a focus on nationalism of Abanindranath Tagore. An example of this is the painting of 'The Passing of Shah Jahan' by Abanindranath Tagore which evoked the recent past of Indian history which was being seen to be glorious. Many other artists like Jamini Roy and later SH Raza took inspiration from folk traditions.
- **A tool of propaganda:** Literature and music played an important role and was used as a tool of propaganda. Newspapers like *Bande Mataram*, *Jungantar Patrika*, and *Harijansought* to make Indian citizens not only socially and politically aware but also unite them for one common cause. Pamphlets written and distributed across India provided critical information and served as propaganda against the British. Different music was also initiated to propagate patriotism and awakening of the mass of *Bharat*.

- **Spread patriotic feelings:** Art and literature was used to spread the message of patriotism and expose atrocities of British. In *Anandamath*, set during the famine in Bengal, Chattopadhyay highlighted various patriotic acts of and sacrifices made by his characters, ordinary people who left their homes and families to fight against subjection, and in service of the Mother. National song, *Bande Mataram*, was first published as a poem in this novel as the rallying cry of the characters that used it to give themselves courage and to urge people to fight against the British.

DR. ABAN E. MISTRY

A Tabla maestro to whom music is not only a potent stimulant for mortal existence, but the very breath of her life, Dr. Aban Mistry has scaled glorious heights as a celebrated musicologist. Dr. Alban was born on 6th May 1940 at Mumbai in a Parsi family and died on 30th September 2012. Her first appearance in the Indian classical music began with vocal at the tender age of four with initial training from her aunt, late Mehroo Workingboxwalla, followed by further training from Pt. Laxmanrao Bodas for a period of thirty long years. Around the same time, Pt. Jaisukhlal Shah offered to groom this nubile prodigy under his dexterous wings. During this period, Aban received her Sangeet Visharad, Sangeet Alankar, and Sangeet Praveen (Ph.D.) degrees.

Thoroughly imbued with the intricacies and nuances of Tabla by the age of 17, Aban infused in her style, the creative aspects of all four *Gharanas* - Delhi, Faroukhabad, Azradabad and Benaras - to evolve her pristine originality. She then mastered the concepts and techniques of Pakhawaj from the illustrious Pt. Narayanrao Mangalvedhekar, which is consistently being augmented to this day by her guru Pt. Keki Jijina.

Moreover, Dr. Aban Mistry had the distinction of being conferred with coveted titles such as Taal Mani of Sur Singar Samsad, Sangeet Setu by S.M.V. Sagar, Sangeet Kala Ratna by Sangeet Kala Kendra, Agra, etc.

As the first woman Tabla player, Aban has been listed in the Limca Book of Records. She has performed at numerous concerts in India and across USSR, USA and Europe. She is also affiliated to several universities - like SNTU Mumbai, M. S. University at Baroda, etc.

Inspired by a missionary zeal having undergone insurmountable hurdles herself, Dr. Aban and her guru, Pt. Jijina founded a music institution called SWAR SADHNA SAMITI in 1961, to facilitate upcoming artistes. Here is a talented, well read and scholarly artiste, who has dedicated her life to music.

CONCLUSION

Thus, art and literature played an immense role in India's freedom struggle. It gave birth to many nationalist artists who tried to influence public psyche through their work. It not only led to a silent criticism of colonial atrocities but also acted as a force to unite mass against colonial forces. Hence it can be stated that the music has played a very important role in the Indian freedom struggle. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, when nationalist ideas began to emerge and the music in various Indian societies entered its modern era, more and more people began to use music for patriotic purposes.

REFERENCES

- Audio, S. (2022, June 21). Retrieved June Tuesday, 2022, from <https://www.sudeepaudio.com/>: <https://www.sudeepaudio.com/>
- Bhavsar, G., & Solanki, C. (2022). Dr. Aban E. Mistry An Art Seeker : A Lady who Dedicated her Life to Indian Music. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, New Delhi.
- Khan, N. K. (1997). Community in The Parsi Novels in English: The Parsis: Madyan to. New Delhi: Creative.