

Women's contribution in children literature

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Abstract:

In early nineteenth century many women writers gave their contribution in children literature. This research paper focused especially Indian women writers, who worked for children. Such as Sudha Murti , Suniti Namjoshi Santhini Govindan, Manjula Padmanabhan , Natasha sharmas, Subhadra Sengupta , and Kavitha Mandana. Subhadra Sengupta and Kavitha Mandana are Indian two women writers, who wrote number of books for children. They wrote number of books regarding to Indian Mughal history as like Jahanara: Diary of Mughal princess (Subhadra Sengupta 2019), Tenali Raman (Kavitha Mandana 2000). They simplified history and rewrite books for children, retelling history through these books. The objective of this paper is to focus women's role in children's literature both Indian women writers try to make history interesting for children reveal moral message by using story telling technique. Usually children do not like date and facts related to history and they can avoid read history books these two writers explored historical events in simple ways focus on retelling history and presents the true events blended with real events of recorded history with fictionalized characters . In India has a big history of different cultures. In India story is very famous and old genre of the literature, folklore is also rich and imaginative form of children literature. Subhadra Sengupta and kavitha Mandana mentioned real historical events and characters in their books and try to give moral lesson from these books. According to two writers the story telling or the narration of the stories helps in developing moral values, ethics and strong sense of moral code of right or wrong .these books show Gods and angels demons children develop moral character building of certain virtues like honesty, truthfulness loyalty, love and compassion.

Key Words : Woman writers, Contribution, simplified history, children literature, retelling history, moral lesson

Objectives:

1. The objectives of this paper to study women's role in children's literature through analyzing The books.
2. To explore historical real and fictional events which give moral lessons to children.
3. To examine Indian women writers contribution in children literature and study of historical Figures especially women.

Introduction:

Women has pillar of every century and crucial role in literature. If we go in ancient time, seems that the social status of women were different from modern women, modern women has independent capable for taking every responsibility. Independence of women is demonstrated in many ways such as her income is appreciated. Obviously her role in literature also very important. Many women writers in late eighteenth and nineteenth century England started writing for children included, Lucy Camron, Maria Edgeworth, Maria Hack, Mrs. Sherwood , and Mrs. Sarah Trimmer these all names are prominent in children literature. This paper will focus Indian women writers

who wrote children books in different ways, Subhadra Sengupta and Kavitha Mandana have written over fifty books for children because they think that, children are the best readers in the all worlds. Both of them love telling stories woven around history; plotting difficult mysteries and crazy explorations; dreaming up spectral tales and scripting funny books.

Subhadra sen gupta as children’s writer:

Subhadra Sengupta was an Indian writer. She won Bal Sahitya puraskar of sahitya Akademi in 2015. she writes almost 40 books for children. Mystery of The House of Pigeons is very famous book, which is adopts into a television Series for Doordarshan as KhojKhazana Khojher. Sen Gupta belonged from Delhi. She completed a Master’s degree in History. She started her writing in college. She was working as a copy writer for Advertising agencies. Goodbye, pasha Begum! From The puffin Book of Spooky Ghost Stories, This story is a horror story where a girl holidaying in Delhi finds herself as a slave in Mughal era. Bishnu- The Dhobi Singer and a Mauryan Adventure, the daughter of soldier in Ashoka’s army finds herself Travelling the world.

Bapu and Missing Blue Pencil (2015) - A children book of India Written for children above the age of 16 years. The Constitution of India for Children .this book wrote in 2020. Mahal: power and pageantry in the Mughal Harem, this book is about the social life of a harem in the Mughal Subhadra sen Gupta ,wrote number of books regarding to Indian Mughal history as like Jahanara: Diary of a Mughal princess(2019), Akbar :The Mighty Emperor, Mahal :power and pageantry in the Harem (2010). The Teenage Diary of Abbakka: The warrior Queen from south India (2020) these books are related to Mughal history but I would like to talking about present book, **Mahal :power and pageantry in the Harem (2010)**. this book elaborate what was exact situation in Mughal harem ,Harem is not only about women and sexual playground but there were family space also , in every Mughal empire had a luxurious fortress .people think about harem how it was possible to live in that cage where hundreds of beautiful women lived inside the mahal ,life of these women were like sexual slavery but at the same time they lived luxury life, they enjoyed their life with comfort they used to spa treatment, dress fittings , elaborate meals .women’s life of harem was totally different than ordinary women, Subhadra sen Gupta pointed out in books title these women’s were the private property of the kingdom, like gold silver and jewels in the treasury and elephants in the stables. According to sen gupta, people known only about queens, princess and concubines and educated women but there lived other women also which were total ignored. Women like, maids, cooks, tailors, musicians, dancers, astrologers and female security guards apart from this mini empire, mahal also a very warm family place where three generations lived together very happily.

They succeeded to assert their personality and build a space for themselves within the political establishment. Many of these women were trusted advisers to the king in matters both dynastic and political; they were well-informed about matters of the state and attended court daily. Harem was not only for uneducated women but included, poets, scholars such as Jahanara Begum and Zeb-un-Nissa Begum, were good poets and scholars; Mariam-us- Zamani was a successful businesswomen who owned and operated trading ships sailing to the Gulf and Africa; others managed large estates, ran charities and, in the case of Nur Jahan, powerfully ran the mighty Mughal Empire. Among them all, Nur Jahan stands out for the way she defied the men in the court and gained power. As the Mughal courtier Inayat Khan wrote with a sniff of disapproval,

‘gradually (Nurjahan) acquired such unbounded influence on his Majesty’s (Jahangir) mind that she seized the reins of government and took on herself the supreme civil and financial administration of the realm, ruling with absolute authority till conclusion of the reign.’ And we have to remember one important thing is that she was operating from behind the purdah. The women of the Mughal Empire were what we would call women of material (substance).

Subhadra Sengupta’s another book is **The Teenage Diary of Jahanara** When Jahanara was seventeen year old, Mumtaz Mahal left her. Jahanara become responsible for her for brothers further she was became the head of the harem also. Jahanara as the head of the harem was given the title of Padshah Begum .Jahanara was very close to her brother Dara Shikoh and they shared an interest in literature and philosophy. She herself became a good poet and wrote a book about the Sufi saints of the country. Wonderful thing, she was also a good businesswoman, managing the running of the port of Surat that Shah Jahan had gifted to her and trading with the West with her own fleet of ships. This diary shows us about versatile personality of begum Jahanara her contribution in Mughal Empire.and we can examine that women is very valuable in human history. This book shows that Jahanara wrote diary as events unfold around her, Jahanara record them in her diary it is 1626, and Jahanara is in Mandu, central India. Her father’s name is prince Khurram who, will become Emperor Shah Jahan after Jahangir .he lived emperor, lives in Deccan with his favorite wife Bano and their children. She recorded many thing in diary included her father’s reaction to his exile; Empress Nur Jahan’s demand that Jahanara’s brothers be sent to her court as hostages; the conspiracies in faraway Agra and Lahore as Jahangir slides into ill-health ; and her own growth as a sensitive writer and poet.

Kavitha Manadana

Kavitha Manadana wrote total eight books for children. We will discuss about these in brief way. First is **AKBAR THE MIGHT EMPEROR** This work discuss Akbar and his huge Emperor .he was combatant, statesman and intellectual and very charismatic personality in Indian history. Crowned the king of Hindustan at the age of thirteen, his empire expanded to include the utmost corners of the country. This is all about Akbar. Another famous book of kavitha Mandana is, this book wrote for children, book discuss tales of wit and wisdom. Ten year old Sulekha encounter the cocky TJ on her journey to Hampi (Karnataka) who claims that to be a progeny (descendant) of Tenali Raman, Clown of the Vijayngar court. Tenali could solve every question within some minutes he had a solution to every problem. That befell king Krishnadevaraya’s kingdom from the mundane to the bizarre. Apart from these comic tales of Tenali Raman sulekha and his friend discover rich history of the royal empire and life in sixteen century south India.

The Teenage Diary of Abbakka the Warrior Queen of South India. This story is about Abbakka , who was very brave and bold girl. She loves adventure. She always wants go to dangerous mission .she did a secret plan with her mother against the Portuguese, they try to capture the Kingdom’s valuable pepper crop. And Abbakka met to handsome enigmatic boy who come from Mangalore .she likes him immensely. This book is fictional diary. A girl, who would ready for go any lengths to protect and defend her kingdom.

Conclusion

According to many scholars, Women’s role in children’s literature had very few before decade. When we start to take review about children literature we found history of children literature. I would like mention that very limited variety of children literature and very few writers,

who worked for children. This genre was first started in India by men like Rabindranath Tagore and R.K Narayan, further Ruskin Bond was father of children's literature in India. But included some women also. The Arabian Night is famous and familiar book of us, Githa Hariharan's book When Dreams Travel came back and illuminates this story with a new look. This books writer also women. We are often located in a quasi-historical or mythological past as we travel through Hariharan's Dreams. In overlapping the locational sites of the past with that of the present.

Indian women's contribution in children's literature is very valuable in English literature. Subhadra Sengupta and Kavitha Mandana are special contributor in children literature they wrote books not only for amusement but books are collection of stories incorporating romance, fairy tales and legends, parables and fables, and both exotic and realistic adventures.

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