

Impact Factor - 3.452

ISSN - 2348-7143

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWS ASSOCIATION'S

RESEARCH JOURNEY

Multidisciplinary International Research Journal

PEER REVIEWED & INDEXED JOURNAL

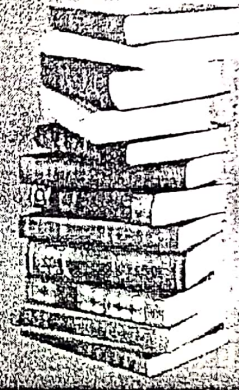
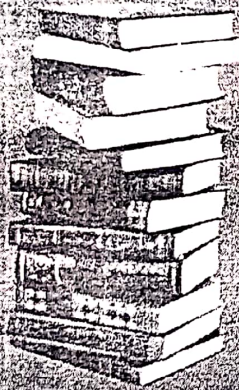
March 2018

SPECIAL ISSUE - 50

Literature: New Trends & Tendencies

साहित्य : नवीन प्रवृत्ति आणि प्रवाह

साहित्य : नव प्रवृत्ति एवं प्रवाह



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येवला. जि. नाशिक.



This Journal is indexed in :

- University Grants Commission (UGC) List No. 40705 & 44117
- Scientific Journal Impact Factor (SJIF)
- Cosmoc Impact Factor (CIF)
- Global Impact Factor (GIF)
- Universal Impact Factor (UIF)
- International Impact Factor Services (IIFS)
- Indian Citation Index (ICI)
- Dictionary of Research Journal Index (DRJI)

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Faster Phase Towards Ending of the Colour Discrimination

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The very birth of the Super Power America is not more than seven hundred years. In thirteenth century thirteen different colonies of the European ambitious people apart from ethnicity and origin came together to reap more profit from the unlimited and fertile land. But the requirement of labour and machinery was insufficient that made them move towards South Africa where cheap labour was easily available. White ambitious colonizers become successful creating utopian picture of happy life in USA. At the initial stage black people of Africa literally enjoyed life in America, but later overambitious colonizers started exploiting them. The nature of exploitation was nothing but slavery of black people. They were bounded in rotten rules, enslaved, tortured, lynched, women were raped, spat upon and pushed through back doors. They were sold and bought as commodity that scattered their families.

Such worst life in America was continued for centuries. The rebel against injustice also was continuous for centuries by black leaders, writers and also white social reformist: Fredrick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, W E B Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King, Jr, etc. Gradual reforms also were made to minimize the colour discrimination. But in the last phase of the twentieth century, the African Americans could successfully draw attention of the world towards racism. They made UNESCO organize a series of 'The World Conference against Racism' at international level by inviting many of the countries undergoing the same discrimination. Four conferences have been held so far, in 1978, 1983, 2001, and 2009 respectively.

The First World Conference against Racism was held in Geneva, Switzerland in 1978. The conference dealt with the apartheid policies of South Africa, the Second World Conference against Racism was also held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1983 dealing with the same issue, the Third World Conference against Racism was held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001 from 31 August until 8 September 2001, the Fourth World Conference against Racism was again held, in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2009.

Of all the four conferences held at international level against racism, Durban Conference of 2001 has been considered to be very fruitful and effective especially for the African Americans creating world pressure on America to introspect over the racial discrimination. It was entitled as "World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance". The conference was discussed unfair treatment of one group by another. The conference prepared a comprehensive, action-oriented document called The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) that proposed concrete measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It is holistic in its vision and addresses a wide range of issues, and contains far-reaching recommendations and practical measures. It appeals for the active involvement of

International and non-governmental organizations, political parties, national human rights institutions, the private sector, the media and civil society at large. The DDPA calls for comprehensive national action plans to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The DDPA urges governments to provide effective remedies, recourse, redress and compensatory measures to victims and to ensure that the victims have access to legal assistance so they can pursue such measures. It also recommends the creation of competent national bodies to adequately investigate allegations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia or related intolerance. The DDPA urges States to adopt measures of affirmative or positive action to create equal opportunities for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the political, economic, social and cultural decision-making spheres.

In the concluding remarks, Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary General of the Review Conference, urged all the countries to implement vigorously the recommendations. She concludes the conference with the optimistic and rigorous hope that everybody would be leaving the hall the conference hall with a sense of accomplishment with renewed and reenergized determination and purpose. Such determination and experience would sustain the work ahead of them all delivering their pledge as an urgent task of giving a concrete effect to the decisions taken in the conference for ending the age old shameful of racism.

In the closing remarks, Amos Wako, President of the Review Conference summarized the outcome of the conference as another concrete and bold step in advancing the global struggle against racism. He concluded it with the satisfaction that through the conference they could send a clear cut message of remaining integrated in the world is possible only with the respect of all individuals and communities and need of participating all those who care for it. Some of the African countries led by Nigeria and Zimbabwe and the African American NGOs, demanded at the conference that the countries responsible for the slavery and inflicting injustice on the coloured should apologize individually for the crime against humanity. They also emphasized on reparation of the same in the conference proceeding though it was not survived.

Though the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is not legally binding on any of the nations, it has a strong moral value and serves as a basis of need of eradication of all kinds of discrimination in the world. It helps bring atrocities taking place in the world in different forms. It embodies the firm commitment of the international community tackling discrimination on the basis of caste, colour, ethnicity, race, etc. It has taken the global form as no country in the world can claim to be free from racism or xenophobia. The global concern of discrimination is tackled by the UNESCO at the universal level.

The proclamation of the President, George W. Bush of the Super Power America, may be a responding step to the DDPA-2001, for the eradication of racial discrimination in America. He proclaimed February 2002 as National African American History Month, which was celebrated all over the United States of America in memory of Fredrick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. It gives all Americans a reminder of the global history of people of



African descent. It also reminds the need to celebrate the diverse heritage and culture, and continue efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, proclaimed by virtue of the authority vested in him by the constitution and law of the United States, February 2002, as National African American 'History Month. He' called upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all of the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that high light and honour the myriad contribution of African Americans.

The theme of National African American History Month, 2002 was 'The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?' The observance called the nation's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to rebuild a society that fully lives to its democratic ideals. This also includes the need of high-quality education for all the Americans, so that no child is left behind and challenged to rebuild and restore the communities.

The theme of the Commemoration Month and the subject itself were interrogative. It invites the opinions and clarifies that even on the morning of the twenty first century (2002) America could not wipe out racism completely. To maintain its status as the ultimate world class Super Power, the United States must establish and implement a domestic master plan to drive out national disasters, and establish equality irrespective of its colour. Proclamation of the month of February- 'Is Racism Dead?' needs change its interrogation into the affirmation as 'Racism is dead' to establish equality with peace and prosperity.

There is a radical passage of changes in America taking place in later years as is seen by the world. The United States Presidential Election, 2008 and 2012 there came a crucial step forward in race relation in America. The world has borne witness to American whites' generosity in electing Barack Obama, the country's first African American President. Surprisingly, Barack Obama received greater percentage of the white votes, i.e. 43%, than that of the previous Democratic white candidate for President John Kerry, 41%. It means the people of the US - comparatively a new-born country, occupied the position of Super Power in the world for its higher ambitions and innovations. The wide acceptance of the African Americans as their brethren in the form of the President for two consecutive terms proves their generosity marching towards perfect humanity.

Martin Luther King Jr., in his outstanding speech at Lincoln Hall in 1963- "I Have a Dream"- had spontaneously expected from the Americans to have Thomas Jefferson's Proclamation come true: of all men equal and his four children would not be judged by their skin colour, but the content of their character. Today, after a space of fifty years, one sees the America in changing scenario with the prophetic vision of Martin Luther King Jr. taking its substantial form in the America.

It would be appropriate quoting the promising President of the US, Barack Obama, which would help underline the change, took place in America:

...I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal; this was the moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on earth. This was the

'RESEARCH JOURNEY' International Multidisciplinary E- Research Journal



Impact Factor - (CIF) - 3.452, (SJIF) - 3.009, (GIF) - 0.676 (2013)

Special Issue 50 : Literature : New Trends and Tendencies

साहित्य : नवीन प्रवृत्ति आणि प्रवाह साहित्य : नव प्रवृत्ति एवं प्रवाह

UGC Approved No. 40705 & 44117

ISSN :

2348-7143

March

2018

moment -- this was the time -- when we came together to remake this great nation so
that it may always reflect our very best selves and our highest ideals. (Speech in St.
Paul, MN, June 3, 2008)

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